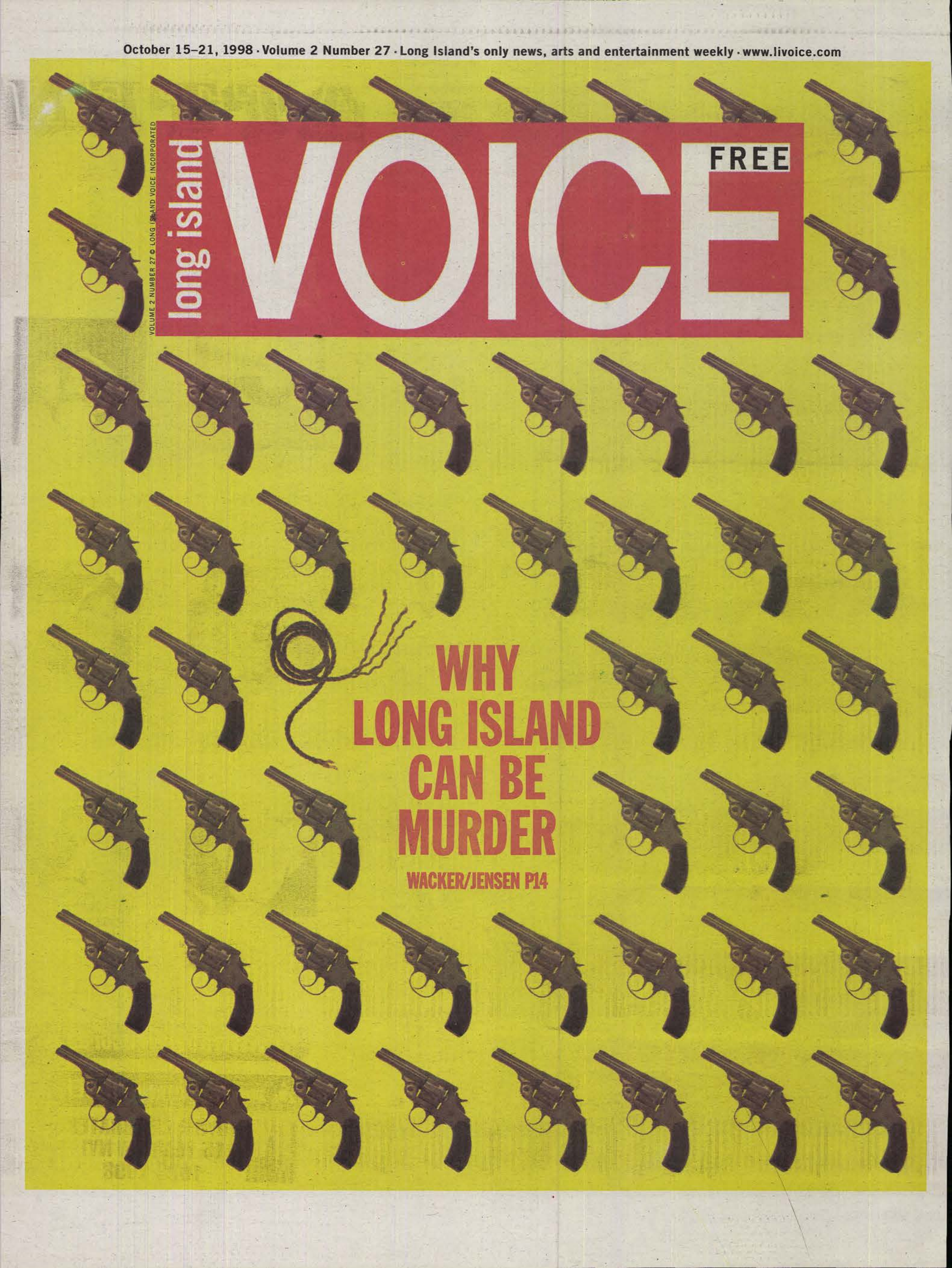


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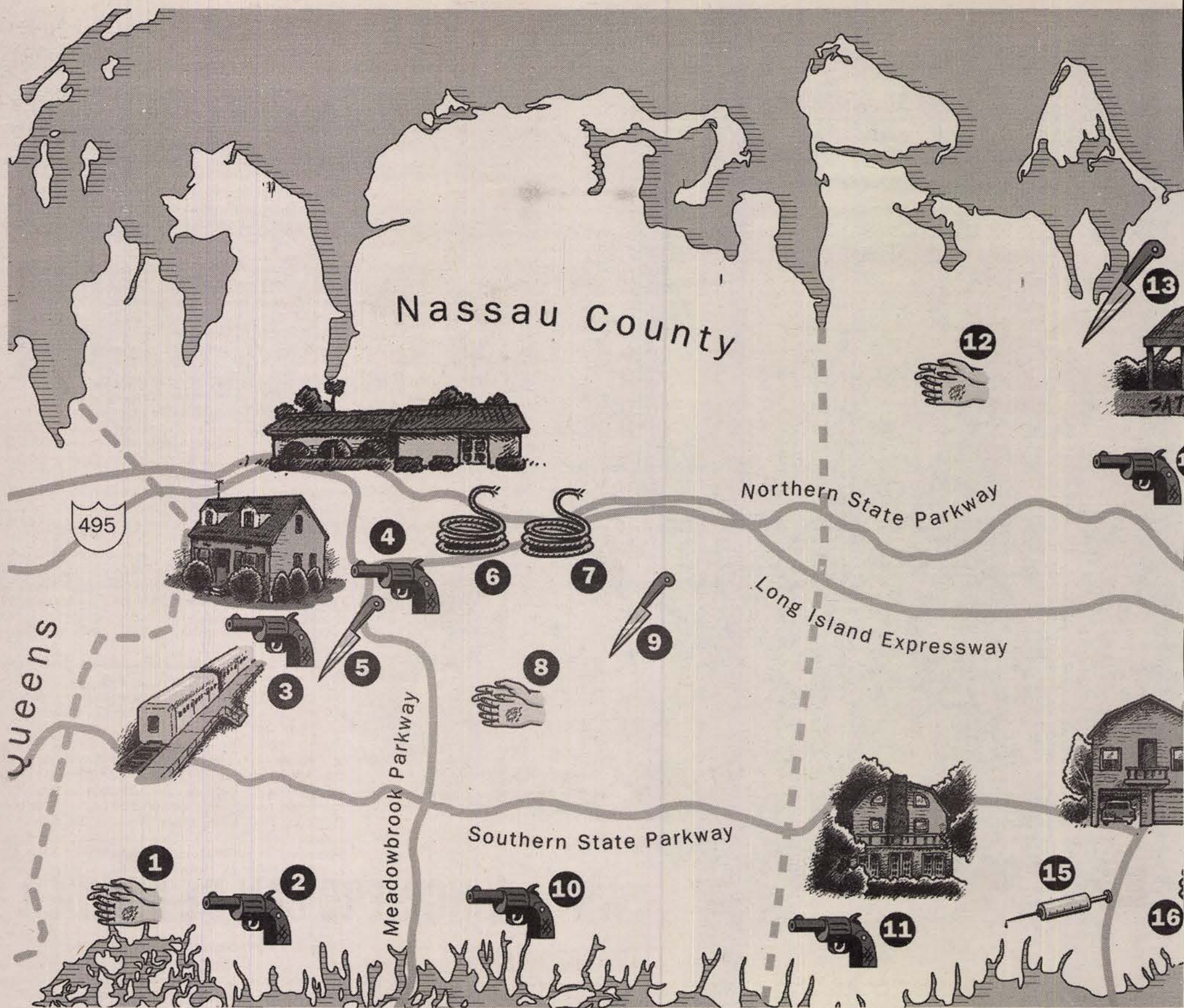
VOICE

FREE



**WHY
LONG ISLAND
CAN BE
MURDER**

WACKER/JENSEN P14



A TRUE-CRIME TOUR

BY BILL JENSEN

Martin Tankleff woke before dawn, his 17-year-old eyes bloodshot from a recent nose job. He took off all his clothes and walked down the hall of his family's rustic ranch house overlooking the Long Island Sound in Belle Terre. He was pissed, mostly because he hated the car his parents forced him to drive to school. "That crummy old Lincoln" was not the chick magnet he wanted in wheels. His parents had millions. They could afford to buy him a nice red Italian sports car. But no, they forced him to drive the '78 Lincoln.

He went into the bedroom where his mother, Arlene, 54, was sleeping. He was carrying a barbell and a kitchen knife. He whacked her in the head before slicing through her neck. Then he walked down the hall, to the office in the den. He attacked his father from different angles with the heavy barbell, bludgeoning 62-year-old businessman Seymour Tankleff so viciously that blood from his head splattered the walls.

Martin left the room and took a shower. Then he washed off the knife and placed it back next to a quarter of watermelon on

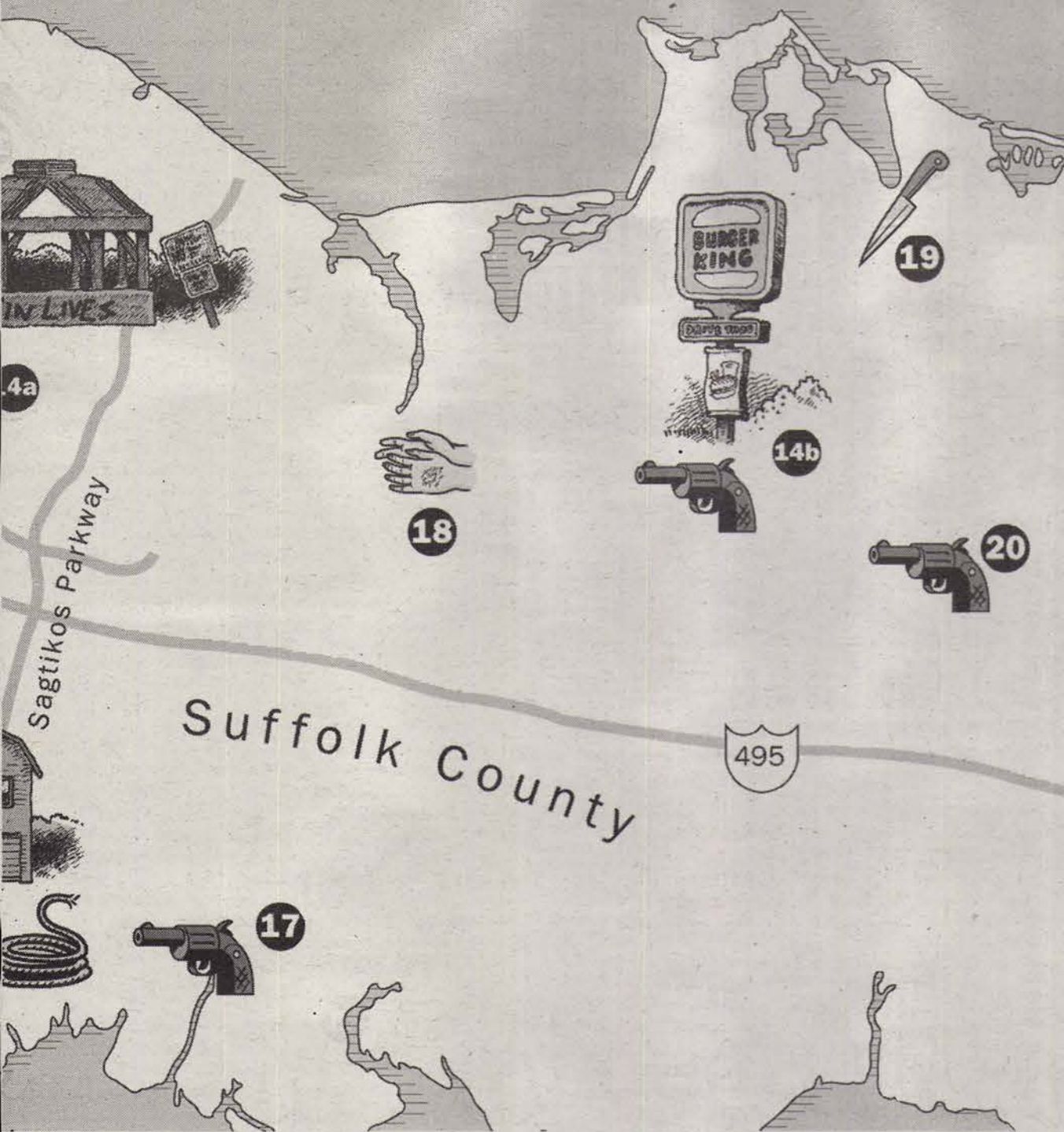
the kitchen counter, cleaned up the barbell and called the police. He screamed frantically that someone had murdered his parents.

The double murder was quintessentially a Long Island crime: a spoiled rich kid killing his parents because they made him drive a crummy car. Martin Tankleff's handiwork fit the pattern of domestic terror in other ways, too. A surprising number of murders in paradise feature young folks who kill members of their own families, quite frequently over money. Then, because they've been brought up right, they try to blame it on someone else.

The twisted nature and sheer volume of tabloid crimes on Long Island have made merely growing up here enough to earn a true-crime merit badge. And yet, thanks to our fine schools and excellent and ever-expanding network of shopping malls, you never really feel scared.

Friends killing friends over drug deals, sons killing parents for inheritances, husbands killing wives 'cause they're angry. It's funny how the Amityville Horrors always seem to happen to somebody else. Heck, we've had nationally ranked serial killers

Long Island Sound



like Joel Rifkin and Robert Shulman in our midst. But you don't run into any more fearful prostitutes than you used to at the mall, do you?

Even when Colin Ferguson shoots up the 5:33 as it coasts into the Merillon Avenue station, we say, "Well, I never ride that train."

You can keep thinking that way if it makes you feel better. But like my Dad once told me when I asked him why he looked both ways when turning onto a one-way street: "Count on the asshole, 'cause there's always one out there." Here's where they've shown up before:

1. THE MURDER OF KELLY ANN TINYES Kelly Ann Tinyes, 13, planned to go ice skating with friends the night of May 20, 1992. She loved to go ice skating. She was baby-sitting her 8-year-old brother when she got a call around 3 p.m. and left her house. According to testimony, Tinyes entered the Tudor-styled house of the Golub family on the same block in Valley Stream, where she was beaten, strangled and mutilated with a World War I bayonet. The next day, her naked body was found covered in bags and stuffed in a basement closet. Robert Golub, a 21-year-old bodybuilder with no job, was convicted and is serving 25 years to life. A victims' rights group had tried to raise money to purchase the house and raze it in favor of a park but were unsuccessful. Inexplicably, the Golub family refuses to move from the house, and the two families have had several run-ins in recent years, from car-bumping incidents to the trading of threats. *81 Horton Rd, Valley Stream*

2. THE ADVENTURES OF HENRY HILL Henry Hill's mob turncoat story was chronicled in the book *Wiseguy* and the Scorsese film *Goodfellas*. Hill recounts that he lived on St. Marks Avenue in Rockville Centre and his girlfriend Robin Cooperman lived in a basement apartment at 250 Lakeview Ave. that the boys referred to as "The Batcave." It was the place where they cut the drugs and prepared packages for sale. The famous "go get your shinebox" scene in *Goodfellas*, where Tommy and Jimmy whacked Billy Batts as Hill looked on, was based on Hill's account of events that took place at a bar called The Suite, which was located on Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills. Hill was arrested outside his home on May 11, 1980. *19 St. Marks Ave, Rockville Centre*

3. THE LIRR MASSACRE On the 5:33 out of Penn Station on the evening of Dec. 7, 1993, former Adelphi student Colin Ferguson rose from his seat in the third car, pulled out a 9mm Ruger, walked down the aisle and systematically shot 25 passengers at point-blank range, killing six and wounding 19. He was subdued by two passengers when he was returning to his seat to reload. At the top of his "Reasons for This," a handwritten list found in his pocket, Ferguson had written "Adelphi University's racism." He is serving 315-2/3 years at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, 68 miles north of Albany. *Merillon Avenue station, Garden City*

4. TERROR AT SEA CREST DINER At 12:30 a.m. on May 29, 1982, five gunmen entered a party at 1 Montclair Road in Plainview and terrorized about 20 people. They forced them to take off their

clothes and raped two women before leaving with \$8,000 in jewelry and cash. The gang then headed west on the Northern State Parkway, exiting at Glen Cove Road. They entered the Sea Crest Diner on Glen Cove Road at 1:15 and forced most of the 75 patrons into a back room. Diners were forced to strip, and some were ordered to have sex with each other. Two men were shot in the buttocks and one woman was raped. The five attackers were sentenced to a total of more than 4,000 years in prison and remain behind bars. *Sea Crest Diner, 4 Glen Cove Rd, Old Westbury*

5. THE PSYCHO KILLER Two weeks after escaping from Central Islip State Hospital in 1961, 38-year-old Yugoslavian immigrant Mate Ivanov went out to get the relatives who had committed him. He entered the Mineola home of brother-in-law Peter Gregov, a 39-year-old waiter, his wife Veronica, 35, and their three children, ages 17, 15 and 11, and stabbed each member of the family 20 to 30 times with a kitchen knife. He also killed the family poodle. He placed a coin—one a dime, the others pennies—next to each body, a death custom to provide money for the dead's passage to heaven, and left. Ivanov was released in July, 1974, and deported to Yugoslavia. *342 Herricks Rd, Mineola*

6. THE WESTBURY KIDNAPPING On the Fourth of July, 1956, baby Peter Weinberger, just 33 days old, was snatched from his carriage on the backyard patio of his parents' Westbury home. In his place was a ransom note demanding \$2,000 in small bills. The killer told them to leave the money by a lamppost at the corner of Albemarle Road and Park Avenue. The police had to place two packages because Albemarle and Park intersected twice. While cops staked out the area, reporters descended on the neighborhood, creating a mad scene. The kidnapper never showed. On July 10, Morris Weinberger, the child's father, got a call from the kidnapper telling him to leave the money near Exit 26 of the Northern State Parkway in Manhasset. Again, the kidnapper didn't show. He called back later in the day, now asking for the money at Exit 28 in Albertson. He didn't show again. Handwriting analysis led to Angelo LaMarca, 31, a Plainview auto mechanic who had once been arrested for building a still in Suffolk. On Aug. 24, LaMarca led the police to the body. Baby Peter had died of exposure near Exit 37 of the Northern State in Plainview. LaMarca, who did the crime because he was in debt after buying a refrigerator and storm windows, was electrocuted at Sing Sing in 1958. *Albermarle Rd, Westbury*

7. THE RAPE OF CONNIE FRANCIS After receiving a standing ovation from a packed Westbury Music Fair performance on Nov. 7, 1974, the singer retired to her room on the second floor of the nearby Howard Johnson's motel. Around 4 a.m. the next day, an attacker, a white towel covering the bottom half of his face, entered the room through a sliding glass door. "Scream and I'll kill you," he said as he covered her mouth with his hand and raped her. He tied her to a chair and covered her with two mattresses before leaving with a floor-length mink coat and diamond rings. Francis sued the motel chain for negligence because she alleged a lock on the sliding glass door was defective. She eventually settled for \$1.5 million. "Since November of 1974," Francis wrote in her 1984 autobiography *Who's Sorry Now?*, "the very word Westbury evoked vivid and terrifying memories. Westbury appeared in many of my nightmares." Francis made a triumphant return to the Music Fair on Nov. 12, 1981. Her attacker was never caught. *Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 120 Jericho Tpke, Westbury*

8. NEW YORK'S MOST PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER Joel Rifkin crashed his pickup truck into a utility pole at the corner of Old Country Road and Washington Avenue in Mineola on June 27, 1993, capping a low-speed chase with police. As the cops handcuffed the 34-year-old unemployed landscaper from East Meadow, they were hit by a strong odor coming from the truck's bed. A body was inside. He had killed the woman in his mother's car and put the body in a wheelbarrow outside his home. Rifkin confessed to killing 17 women, most of them prostitutes he picked up in Manhattan. He scattered their dismembered bodies across the tri-state area. He was planning to dump the body in his truck near Republic Airport in Farmingdale. He's serving more than 200 years in Attica. *Rifkin lived at 1492 Garden St, East Meadow*

9. THE OTHER PROSTITUTE KILLER After his arrest on April 6, 1996, postal employee Robert Shulman confessed to killing five streetwalkers, dismembering four of them and dumping their bodies. Police said Shulman frequented the Jamaica section of Queens and would bring the women to his one-bedroom apartment in a house on Glow Lane, where he would murder them and dismember the bodies. Shulman was the second serial killer to be educated in the East Meadow School District, following closely on the heels of Joel Rifkin. Shulman will be the first Long Islander to face the death penalty since it was reinstated on Sept. 1, 1995. Jury selection in his trial has been delayed—Shulman fractured three ribs falling over the toilet in his Suffolk County jail cell on Oct. 8. *11 Glow Lane, Hicksville*

10. THE BALLAD OF AMY AND JOEY Middle-aged auto-body guy has sex with underage girl. She shoots old guy's wife in head. Old guy's wife is scarred for life but she stands by her man. Girl goes to prison. Three made-for-TV movies later, old guy leaves Massapequa and is out in Hollywood with his own public-access >

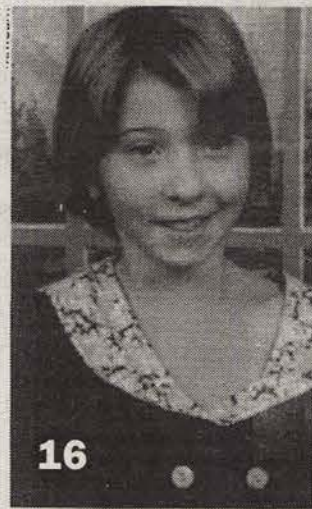
TV show while young girl sits in Albion, doing five to 15 years. Her next parole hearing is June, 1999. You can visit Complete Auto Body and Fender Inc. on Merrick Road in Baldwin, where they first met, and the Freeport Motor inn and Boatel Motel, on the Woodcleft canal, where, on July 2, 1991, the beauty and the beast did it in Room 256. *Adam Road West in the Biltmore Shores section of Massapequa*

11. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR Armed with a .35-caliber rifle, 23-year-old Ronald (Butch) DeFeo Jr. entered his family's house, climbed up the circular staircase on Nov. 13, 1974 and shot his parents and four siblings in the back as they slept. The drug addict's motive: life insurance money. DeFeo, who is serving six consecutive life sentences at the Green Haven Correctional Facility upstate, still claims he's innocent. In December, 1975, George and Kathy Lutz bought the house for \$80,000 but only stayed for 28 days. They claimed the house was haunted with a floating pig's head and really scary voices. More frightening, James Brolin starred in the movie version. The house number was changed by the village to keep gawkers away. They even played with the idea of moving the house downtown and turning it into a bed and breakfast or a museum until cooler heads prevailed. *112 Ocean Ave, Amityville*

12. THE NEWLYWED MURDER On Christmas Eve, 1987, Matthew and Lisa Solomon ate lobster and drank champagne. They made love on the living-room floor. He fell asleep, she woke him up and was upset. She tried to leave the house and he tried to stop her. He claimed she was missing and headed search parties in the community for six days. But he knew where she was the whole time. The 23-year-old sheetmetal worker had strangled her, stuffed her in plastic garbage bags and left her on the side of the road, where her lifeless body froze in the chilly December air. Solomon is serving 18 years to life in the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NY. *17 Miller Pl, Huntington Station*

13. THE ACID KING The Northport stoners were hanging out as usual at the Gazebo in Cow Harbor Park on the muggy night of June 16, 1984: Jimmy Troiano, 18, Albert Quinones, 16, and Ricky Kasso Jr., 17, the latter known as "The Acid King." People were surprised to see Gary Lauwers, 17, there. Lauwers owed Kasso some drug money. But Ricky was being nice to him. The group walked away from the harbor and onto a dead end before trudging up the hills into the woods. They started a fire and listened to Ozzy. Ricky started messing with Gary, convincing him to cut the sleeves off his jacket to feed the fire. When Gary had enough, Ricky kned him in the groin and stabbed him repeatedly. "Say you love Satan!" Ricky yelled. "I love my Mother!" Lauwers answered as the knife plunged into him again. The boys dragged the body into the bushes and hid it under some leaves for a makeshift grave. Kasso hanged himself in Suffolk County jail two days after his arrest. Albert Quinones testified for the state and was granted immunity. James Troiano was later acquitted. *Whispering Pines in the Azitakea woods off Woodhull Rd in Northport*

14. THE SUFFOLK SNIPER Suffering from what police called "a Rambo complex," Peter Sylvester had a plan. The 24-year-old wanted to murder a topeless dancer who was a rival to his stripper friend. But he also wanted to get away with it. So he would create his own monster that would terrify Suffolk, randomly shooting people at will. On July 22, 1994, Sylvester fired a shot into the North Shore Restaurant in Commack, hitting 50-year-old Garden City accounting firm partner Steven Chaifetz in the chest and killing him. The Suffolk Sniper was born. He took aim at an Amoco station on Jericho Turnpike in East Commack, slightly injuring one man and critically wounding a woman who was cleaning tables at the Burger King on Route 347 in Stony Brook. The biggest manhunt in Suffolk County history led police to Sylvester, who confessed to the three shootings, as well as to the rape and sodomy of a 15-year-old Nesconset girl. He is now serving 35



16

CHILDHOOD'S END Beers, above, was held for days in a coffinlike loft built by Esposito, right, a family friend

chamber where len for 16 days. kept in a coffin-

er so idyllic would have it The shooting of a Long Island housewife explodes anything like KATIE story of teenage prostitution and romantic of its with sexual predators.



3

Death Ride

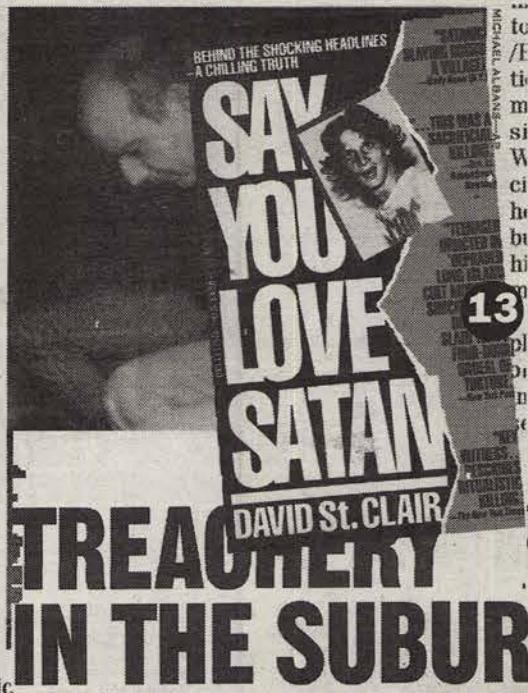
Messacre on the LIRR: A gunman kills five and wounds 19 others. But these slayings could lead to tougher gun control.

Feeding the beast: A few of the cases that thrust Long Island into the national imagination.

years to life. *North Shore Restaurant, 1095 Jericho Tpke, Commack and Burger King, 2488 Nesconset Hwy, Stony Brook*

15. THE ANGEL OF DEATH When a startling number of "code blue" emergencies popped up during Richard Angelo's nursing shift at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, his coworkers began to kid him, calling him "the kiss of death." Little did they know that in an attempt to be a hero, the 25-year-old nurse injected Pavulon and Anectine, potentially lethal drugs, into patients in the intensive care unit so he could revive them. Angelo was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of Anthony Greene, 57, of North Babylon, who was suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and Milton Poultney, 74, of Lindenhurst, who was recovering from gall bladder surgery. He also was convicted of second-degree manslaughter in the death of John Stanley Fisher, 75, of Amityville, who was in stable condition after being admitted due to signs of a stroke, and the criminally negligent homicide of Frederick LaGois, 60, of Babylon, who was awaiting prostate surgery. In all, there were a total of seven victims. Gerolamo Kuchich, 75, of Yugoslavia, was the only victim to live. *Good Samaritan Hospital, 1000 Montauk Hwy, West Islip*

16. THE ORDEAL OF KATIE BEERS Family friend John Esposito, 43, had brought 10-year-old Katie Beers to the Spaceplex amusement center in Nesconset on Dec. 28, 1992 to play video games. She vanished, and Esposito claimed she disappeared. After combing the surrounding area, police focused their suspicions on the self-



TREASONERY IN THE SUBUR

employed contractor. When he cracked on Jan. 13, 1993, admitting that he kidnapped Katie, police found an elaborate 6-foot-by-7-foot bunker Esposito built for her. Her neck was chained to the wall inside a soundproof box 3 feet high, 2 feet wide and 7 feet long. The TV provided the only light in the coffin-like structure. To seemingly prolong her torture, Esposito also installed a closed-circuit system so Katie could see the police walking through the house. But her screams and bangs were futile. Katie's saga also unearthed the Cinderella-like abuse she received at home, living in a roach-infested house and being forced to run errands for her godmother on the streets of West Islip. Esposito received 15 years to life. *1416 Saxon Ave, Bay Shore*

17. THE DINER KILLER "Don't take any chances—your first chance may be your last," the Suffolk County district attorney's office warned storekeepers in the summer of 1959. "A mad killer is on the loose." Three bodies had been counted in a week-long murder spree. Hans Hachmann, owner of John's Delicatessen in Islip, was the first victim, found dead with two bullets in his chest in a back room of the store. The killer had taken \$100. Five nights later, the killer entered Diane Diner at 85 E. Main St. in Smithtown and killed counterman Lawrence Kircher. Two nights after that, he hit Bailey's Rest, a diner on Montauk Highway in Westhampton Beach, where he tied up and shot 50-year-old waitress Irene Currier execution style. The man responsible for the week of mayhem, Francis Henry Bloeth, was paroled in 1981 and published reports say he is living in Syracuse, where he works as a word processor. *John's Delicatessen, 472 West Main St, Islip*

18. THE MURDER OF JOHN PIUS On April 20, 1979, 13-year-old John Pius had a flat tire on his bike. His father replaced the tube, and John told his dad he was going up to the grounds of Dogwood Elementary School, five blocks from his house. After 30 minutes, his father went looking for him. He found his battered body in the woods behind the school. Eight months later, four boys told police Pius had seen them stealing a mini-bike frame. They dragged him off his bike and began to beat him, shoving pebbles in his mouth to silence his screams. According to Robert Bresnic, the 16-year-old who pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was released in 1993, Peter Quar-

tararo, 15, of 34 Colgate Drive, Smithtown, shoved the rocks down John Pius' throat. Quaratararo and brother Michael, 14, then dragged the body into the woods. The two brothers were recently denied parole. Thomas Ryan, 16 at the time, another youth at the scene, is serving 25 years to life. *The woods behind Dogwood Elementary School close to Jericho Tpke, Smithtown*

19. MARTIN TANKLEFF Martin Tankleff was convicted of the Sept. 7, 1988 killings of his parents and is serving 50 years to life at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. *33 Seaside Dr, Belle Terre*

20. A DAUGHTER'S REVENGE Cheryl Pierson, 16, was the junior varsity cheerleading captain at Newfield High School in Selden when she offered a thousand bucks to the kid who sat next to her in homeroom. She wanted Sean Pica to kill her father. On the morning of Feb. 5, 1986, Pica hid behind a tree in front of Cheryl's house with a .22-caliber rifle. When James Pierson came out of the house to leave for his construction job, Pica shot him once in the head and four times in the back. Cheryl Pierson confessed, claiming her father had been sexually molesting her since she was 11 and that she feared that the 41-year-old widower would soon start molesting her 8-year-old sister. She served three months of a six-month sentence and was released in January, 1988. Her boyfriend picked her up from jail in a limo and gave her an engagement ring. Sean Pica is still serving eight to 24 years at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock. *293 Magnolia Dr, Selden*

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