

# Former 'Lolita' Amy Fisher sets Long Island on its ear



After a name change and a new \$15,000 face, the former "Long Island Lolita" returns to the media spotlight, writing columns under the name that made her infamous: Amy Fisher.

Fisher's column runs in *The New Island Ear*, a 64-page free weekly that launched May 23 covering "entertainment, lifestyle and news." Just 17 when she shot and wounded lover Joey Buttafuoco's wife in 1992, Fisher is now a single mother and fledgling columnist for the 40,000-circulation *Ear*.

Hiring Fisher as a writer was the idea of Bill Jensen and Robbie Woliver, managing editor and editor in chief, respectively, of the *Ear*.

"She's so iconic when it comes to Long Island," Woliver said. "If you do an Internet search, she's ranked as the No. 1 Long Islander, ahead of Walt Whitman and Teddy Roosevelt."

Since her release, Fisher refuses to do interviews, so why does she stay on Long Island if she craves anonymity? It's included in the terms of her probation, which ends in January, Woliver said.

The response to Fisher's first cover piece for the magazine (which runs in excerpt below) has been phenomenal, Woliver said.

"Out of thousands of letters, we maybe got six that are negative," he said. "People have really opened up to her, responded to her with their own life stories. She has, I believe, rehabilitated her image a bit. Here's her chance to tell her side of the story."

On July 2, Woliver was receiving "an e-mail a minute" in response to Fisher's story. "It's hard to get work done," he said. "It's getting international attention; it just doesn't stop."

Woliver says Fisher's future general-interest columns will focus on subjects such as dating older men, traffic congestion and home buying. Fisher will also interview Mark McGrath from the pop group Sugar Ray and novelist James Patterson.

Her debut column (also excerpted below) about cyberdating ran July 3. Fisher met her fiancé and father of her child on Match.com, a dating/online chat service.

## Judging Amy: My Story

There I was, sitting in class, proud of myself for trying to put my life together and become a benefit to society instead of a pariah. I was 24 and reinventing myself in college with a new name and a different look. It was great to be in this atmosphere, working toward my degree, among 18-year-olds who were on schedule with their lives. They didn't know who I was; they were just kids back when my face was all over the news.

Every day I sat quietly in that classroom, hiding behind my Jackie O glasses, confident that I wouldn't be recognized. And then one day my English professor assigned the topic: Write about an infamous Long Islander. I sat horrified. But weeks later, when the reports were given, I had to laugh . . . many, of course, picked



AP file photo

**Amy Fisher, shown leaving prison in May 1999, later spent \$15,000 for cosmetic surgery.**

more wrong. I, on the other hand, chose Jessica Hahn. I got an A.

Let's go back to the beginning. I'm the first to admit it: I screwed up! I was a misguided, reckless 16-year-old who committed felony assault and landed in jail by age 17. That was 10 years ago. I've paid my dues, grown up, and have spent every day since trying to be "the perfect human being." I'm an adult now, thank heaven, and still can't figure out why I did what I did when I was younger, and why society thinks I'm a static cartoon character like Scooby-Doo, frozen in time, never changing.

To a large degree, I began the hardest journey of my life when I emerged from ball-and-chain-land three years ago. I thought I would simply shout "free at last" and my adolescent mistakes would become a distant epilogue. I couldn't have been more wrong.

## Change for a Single: Cyberdating Tips

It's cyber-courtship. John's talking to Andy. Andy tells John he's 28 years old. So John tells Andy he's 28 as well. They're getting to know each other. Talking about Long Island. Andy starts talking about the gay clubs he frequents. John says he's been there too. Andy likes the photo John has online. Although, it's really a model from a magazine. They're about to make a love connection. The thing is, I'm John. And God knows who Andy really is. The fact that I was pretending to be someone else for research does not negate the reality that false identities are commonplace online. That's the problem with cyberdating. You never know who is really at the other end of the mouse.

But for those of us who have found a lasting relationship online, cyberdating can be a good alternative to the current dating scene. Does finding the person of your dreams seem like a never-ending journey through smoke-filled bars and deafening nightclubs? Going out at all hours of the night hoping some attractive person will look your way? Most of us pretend we like this manner of meeting someone, but the reality is, we are just looking for someone to settle down with so we don't have to endure any more nights of headaches and hangovers.