



SEARCH ALL

All [Local News](#) [Directory](#) [Jobs](#) [More »](#)



SPONSORED BY:

HOME NEWS SPORTS TRAFFIC ENTERTAINMENT LIFE&STYLE HOMETOWNS MULTIMEDIA OPINION OBITUARIES BUY/SELL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Westchester Rockland Putnam New York Business Crime Politics Education Environment World/Nation Data Central

[Comment, blog & share photos](#)
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND **The Journal News**

Painful process begins anew

BY **BOB BAIRD**
JOURNAL NEWS COLUMNIST • MARCH 19, 2009

[Read Comments\(1\)](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#) [Share](#) [?](#)

Text Size: [Normal](#) | [Large](#) | [Larger](#)

The letter from the state Division of Parole a couple of weeks ago marked the resumption of a painful process for Lois Bohovesky of Pearl River.

It reads much like the one she got in 2005 and again in 2007, telling her that the two men convicted of killing her daughter, Paula, in 1980 will get another shot at walking out of prison.

Without saying it, the letter signals Bohovesky that it's time once again to gather signatures, resolutions of support and - most painful of all - testify before a panel of parole officials to convince them that Paula's killers should spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

Although they resent having to carry the burden of fighting every two years to keep the killers in prison, Bohovesky and her son, Peter, consider it something they have to do over and over, depending on the public for support.

The public has responded with hundreds, perhaps thousands of signatures on petitions asking that parole be denied.

Lois Bohovesky says she had no idea what would be necessary back in 2005, when the two men convicted of Paula's murder first became eligible. By 2007, she was more assured, saying she knew how the process worked and knew what she had to do.

But the nagging question has always been, "what happens when I'm gone?"

County Legislator John Murphy, who had represented Pearl River for almost 40 years and whose daughter Jennifer was a classmate of Paula Bohovesky's, is trying to ease that concern for this year and into the future.

Paula was a bright, beautiful and multi-talented 16-year-old honor student at Pearl River High School when she passed up an opportunity for a ride home from her after-school job at the Pearl River Library at 7 p.m. on Oct. 28, 1980.

She wanted to walk home that evening, stopping to buy a soda along the way. It may have been a bit darker than she expected, since clocks had changed the previous weekend, returning to Eastern Standard Time. And her parents, who thought she was working until the library's 9 p.m. closing, had no way of knowing their daughter's life was slipping away at the rear of a driveway of a vacant house just a few blocks from where they waited.

There was a search that evening, but it wasn't until morning when Paula Bohovesky's lifeless body was found.

How she got there horrified Pearl River and all of Rockland.

While she had been at school and the library, Richard LaBarbera and Robert McCain spent the day drinking at a local bar, although they say they didn't know each other previously and would eventually point accusing fingers at each other.

Walking past the bar, Paula caught McCain's eye and he followed her a short way before bashing her head with a chunk of concrete he found. He then sexually assaulted her and beat her further while LaBarbera watched. Thinking she was dead, LaBarbera took his turn sexually assaulting her. When she moaned in pain, he stabbed her repeatedly. The medical examiner testified that either the beating or stabbing were capable of causing her death.

HOW TO HELP

Petitions calling upon state authorities to block the parole of Paula Bohovesky's convicted killers are available in several retail stores in Pearl River. Until another Web site is up and running, petitions are also available at County Legislator John Murphy's personal Web site, www.legislatorjohnmurphy.net

LoHud.Com Text Alerts

Get breaking local news as it happens from LoHud.com. Enter your phone number below:



[Continue](#)

- » [Modify existing alerts](#)
- » [School closings, delays and early dismissal alerts](#)
- » [4INFO | Get this tool](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Related Articles

- [Facing the invisible wounds of war - 03/22/2009](#)
- [Navy SEAL provided model of courage, determination - 03/08/2009](#)
- [Family thankful for fundraiser where bald is beautiful - 03/05/2009](#)
- [Push is on for New Orleans field of dreams - 03/03/2009](#)
- [An illusion of savings? - 03/01/2009](#)
- [Getting the message - 02/26/2009](#)
- [Bonding over the First Amendment, history and lots of ink - 02/24/2009](#)
- [Lives in budget balance - 02/15/2009](#)
- [Car dealer repays gift of life - 02/08/2009](#)
- [Tour highlights scouting - 02/05/2009](#)
- [Cancer Society in planning mode - 02/03/2009](#)
- [Controversies dog Spring Valley mayor - 02/01/2009](#)
- [Baird readers share memories - 01/29/2009](#)
- [Guardian of our liberties - 01/27/2009](#)
- [Tappan man beats odds to get tickets to history - 01/25/2009](#)

More Columnists Headlines

- [Westchester executive knows just where, when to show up \(2\)](#)
- [Facing the invisible wounds of war \(2\)](#)
- [The road to New York state's financial hole is paved with CHIPS](#)

Latest Headlines

- [Syracuse makes Sweet 16](#)
- [Last shots, Peekskill falls short in state final](#)
- [The lowdown: A look at the week ahead in local sports](#)

In 2007, the Parole Board issued findings similar to 2005 after hearing from the Bohoveskys and later, separately, from McCain and LaBarbera.

That July, the board's ruling on LaBarbera, who had been on parole at the time of the Bohovesky murder, spoke of a likelihood he would return to crime if released. Mentioning his good disciplinary record in prison, it went on to say "The Parole Board finds more compelling the brutal, senseless and merciless nature of your murder of an innocent teenager with so much promise."

Adding that "prior efforts at rehabilitation and leniency were not beneficial," it concluded "You are a dangerous predator."

At the time, LaBarbera was at the medium security Arthur Kill Correctional Facility on Staten Island. He is now confined at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Washington County, a maximum security prison, a possible indication that he has had discipline problems since his last parole appearance.

In denying parole to McCain in August 2007, the board said, "This panel respects your right to continue to maintain your innocence. However, records indicate and you readily admit you made admissions" about having a role in Bohovesky's death. More compelling than his accomplishments in prison programs, the board's decision said, was "the particularly heinous nature of this crime." His release, the board said, "would so deprecate the seriousness of the crime as to undermine respect for the law."

At the time, it was comforting to hear the Parole Board speak about the killers in such harsh terms, thinking it indicated the officials realized the two men should never be loose in society again.

But now it's two years later and there are new hearings scheduled and once again Lois Bohovesky and her son will head to Manhattan and make their case.

She's circulating petitions asking that parole be denied again, and so is Murphy, who is also president of Camp Venture and Loeb House. He's recruited another Pearl River fixture, Bill Schule, founder and former head of BuddyBall Sports for children with disabilities, to build a Web site for the cause.

"People will be able to go there in a few days and either download a petition to carry around or sign one electronically," making it easier for people to show their support.

Murphy, who, like Lois Bohovesky, is in his late 70s, is also planning to create a small nonprofit organization to cover the costs of the Web site and of printing, gathering and mailing the petitions to Albany. Murphy hopes that will keep the Web site operational to help Peter Bohovesky and others to carry on the effort to block the killers' parole even after he and Lois Bohovesky are gone.

Right now, that effort is moving quickly, with Murphy offering his personal Web site as a place for the public to turn until the new one is up and running. He's also asking the county, five towns and all the villages to pass resolutions urging the denial of parole. Those resolutions and petitions impressed parole authorities last time, Lois Bohovesky says.

She and her son are now girding for their victim's impact statements on April 3.

As in their two previous visits, Lois Bohovesky will tell how her thoughts are seldom far from Paula and the life she might have had - as an artist, actress, mother and aunt.

She recalls her own childhood, when family gatherings meant all the cousins seeing each other. "There was a whole tribe of us," Bohovesky smiles. But now, when she has family and friends to dinner, Peter's daughter, Abigail, is the only child. "There should be empty chairs," she says, for the children Paula never got to have.

She's now introducing Abigail to the theater, just as she did with Paula. "I want to make memories," she says, something she's done for children for decades as founder and driving force of the Hudson Vagabond Puppets.

She believes the men who killed Paula should stay in prison for life, a recognition that there's no parole from death for her daughter.

Reach Bob Baird at rbaird@lohud.com or 845-578-2463. His column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

In Your Voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY



duffout2 wrote:

I hope these two animals die in prison, and from the looks of things , they in all likelihood will. Two thumbs up for the parole board!

3/19/2009 10:44:32 AM

Peekskill shows its mettle

Exceptional Seniors Hockey Game: North players finish off as winners, 11-3

Featured Video

Sort by: Industry (Default)

LoHud.com careerbuilder
Top Job Videos

Banking
Hudson City Savings Bank

Health Care
Methodist Church Home

Restaurant
Panera Bread

Health Care
O'Toole Nancy

Nursing
Visiting Nurse Service

View more details

Playing

Find More Videos!

ADS BY PULSE 360

[Get Listed Here](#)

Announcing SEROQUEL XR®

(quetiapine fumarate). See PI and Learn About New Seroquel XR®.

www.SEROQUELXR.com

My Teeth Are Now White

Read the trick, discovered by a mom, to turn yellow teeth white.

CathysTeeth.com

Exclusive: Colon Detox Cleanses Reviewed

Scientific study of the top free cleansing products on the market.

ColonReview.com

[Recommend](#) [New post](#) [Reply to this Post](#) [Report Abuse](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

9999characters left



Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com Cars: Cars.com Homes: Homefinder.com Apartments: Apartments.com Shopping: ShopLocal.com

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Traffic](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life&Style](#) | [Hometowns](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Buy/Sell](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

Gannett New York network: [Press & Sun-Bulletin, Binghamton](#) | [Star-Gazette, Elmira](#) | [The Ithaca Journal](#) | [Poughkeepsie Journal](#) | [Rochester Democrat and Chronicle](#) | [WGRZ-TV, Buffalo](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2009 The Journal News, a Gannett Co. Inc. newspaper serving Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties in New York.