

**Staten Island Advance (NY)****NAME ON BLOODY HAMMER MIGHT LEAD COPS TO KILLER BLUDGEONED WOMAN STILL UNIDENTIFIED**

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A cryptic name scratched into the wooden handle of a bloodstained hammer may be the clue that will lead police to the killer who savagely beat, strangled, handcuffed and burned a woman, then left her body in the weeds along a South Beach road.

But before authorities can track down her killer, they must determine the dead woman's identity.

She was found Sept. 20, just after dawn. A passerby spotted her in the brush opposite 777 Seaview Ave. She had been savagely beaten and strangled, her hands cuffed behind her back. In a final burst of rage, her killer then doused her with turpentine and set her afire.

If police do not determine her identity soon, she will suffer yet another blow. Without an identification, the woman will be laid to rest in an anonymous grave in the city's mass burial ground on Hart Island.

"We're reaching out to the public to try to reach this girl's family so she can receive a decent burial," said Lt. William Quinn, commander of the Crimes Against Persons Squad. "We've been at it for a month-and-a-half now. We're running out of time."

The latest clue released by police could lead them directly to the woman's killer -- the name "**Loyd L**" scratched into the wooden handle of a hammer found under the woman's body.

The hammer, the type used in auto body shops to bang out dents in cars, appears to be the weapon that was slammed into the back of the woman's head over and over the night she died.

"We think it's someone who was in a rage, because she has 17 blows to the back of her head," Quinn said.

Police found the hammer the day the body was discovered, but withheld the information on the name, hoping to use it once they knew the woman's identity.

Investigators have reached out to Island auto body workers, but so far have been unable to determine who or what **Loyd L** is, Quinn said.

They are now making the information public, and hoping someone will recognize the name. Investigators are even taking their plea to television audiences tomorrow, when Detective Bruce Carroll will appear on Channel 7's Crimestoppers show at 6 p.m.

Two nationwide alerts have been issued, but no missing persons reports have been filed on anyone matching the woman's description.

Because no one has stepped forward to identify the woman, police believe she could have been a recent immigrant whose relatives are still in her homeland and have no way of knowing her fate.

Investigators also are still hoping to hear from any tattoo artists who may recognize as their own work the red and blue scorpion tattoo on the woman's right buttock.

The woman was white, between 21 and 23 years old, with brown shoulder-length hair and brown eyes. She was five feet, five inches tall and weighed about 115 pounds.

When she was found, she was wearing a black dress with pink trim, black flowered underpants, and white low-cut sneakers. She was also wearing an 18-inch gold chain, and a 20-inch gold rope chain. On her right finger, she wore a ring watch with a brown expansion band. She also had a pack of Newport cigarettes and 30 cents.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call a confidential hotline at 667-1436. Carroll is assigned to the case.