

New witness comes forward in 1954 murder case

CLEVELAND (AP) — A former nurse has come forward to say a convicted murderer confessed to her that he killed the wife of Dr. Sam Sheppard in 1954, a newspaper reported today.

Kathie Collins was a supervisor at a Cleveland-area home

stranger

THAN FICTION

health care agency when she got to know Richard Eberling, the *Plain Dealer* reported.

She told the Cleveland newspaper that Eberling told her in 1983 he killed Marilyn Sheppard, hit her husband on the head with

a pail and knocked Sheppard out, then escaped with Mrs. Sheppard's ring.

Collins, 34, said she did not know until recently that the Sheppards' son, Sam Reese Sheppard, was trying to clear his father's name by linking Eberling to the killing. Dr. Sheppard was convicted, but later acquitted, of killing his wife. He died in 1970 still under wide suspicion.

The case was the basis for the

TV series "The Fugitive."

Collins said she told a Cleveland homicide detective what she knew seven years ago. She said the detective brushed her off and didn't follow up.

"I feel guilty in a way," she said. "I should have made someone listen to me. I could have solved this case 10 years ago."

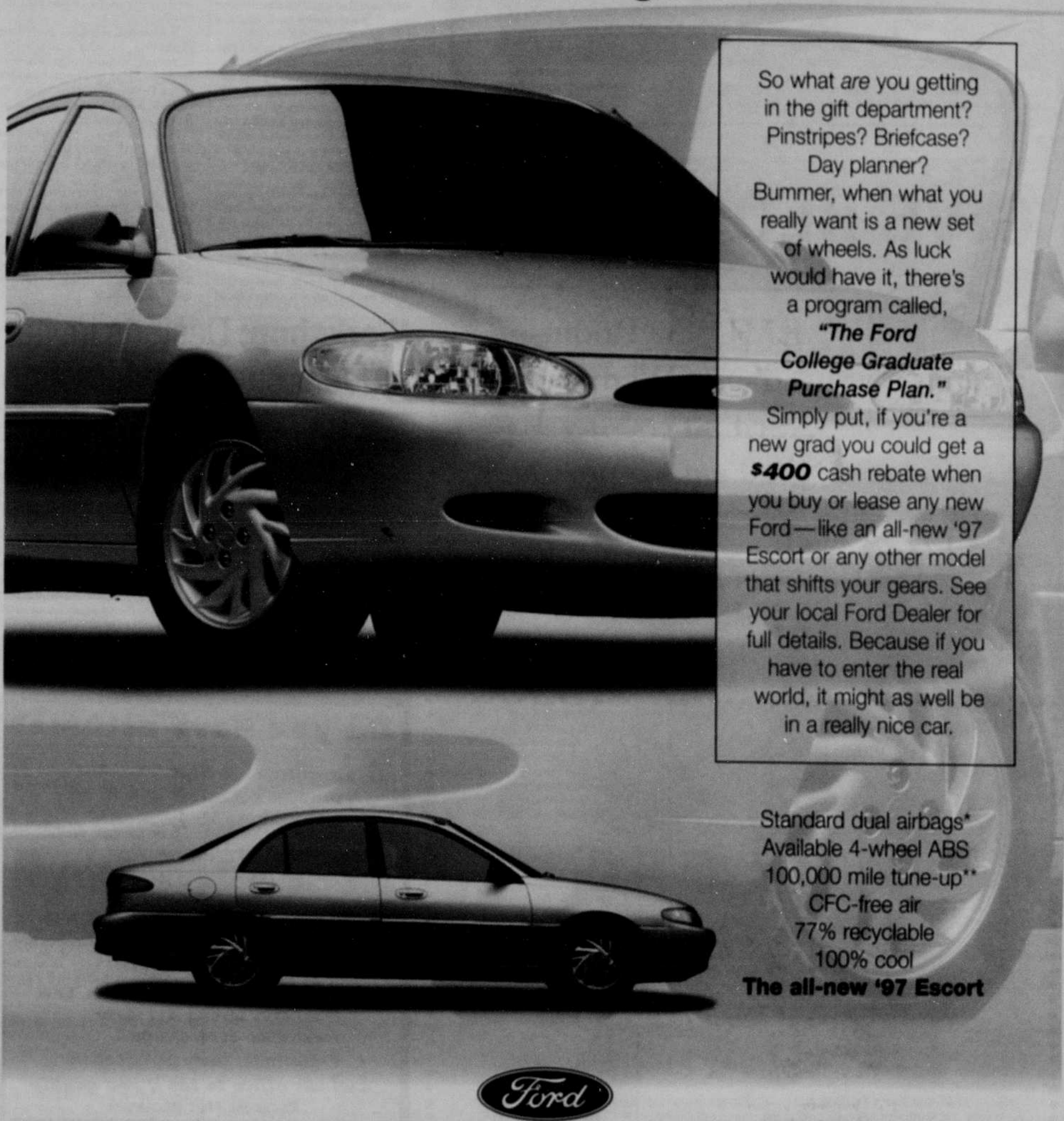
Carmen Marino, the assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor handling the renewed investiga-

tion, confirmed today that Collins met with investigators, but he did not know what she said.

Eberling, 66, of Westlake, is serving a life sentence for the 1983 murder of a Lakewood woman.

Collins, formerly of the Cleveland suburb of North Olmsted, now lives in Florida. The newspaper did not identify the community and she could not be reached to comment.

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