

Ex-Suitor Couldn't Accept Slain Coed's 'New Life'

By JAMES FERON

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POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y., Feb. 19—Anthony Acevedo shivered in the cold outside police headquarters this morning after the 2 A.M. arraignment of his 20-year-old brother, Louis O. Acevedo 3d, for second-degree murder.

"The victim was Shelley Sperling of Mahopac, a freshman and an honors student at Marist College. She would have been 18 next Tuesday.

"They were high school sweethearts," Anthony said, "but Shelley had found a new life at college and Louis just couldn't cope with it."

According to the police, Louis had waited for Miss Sperling outside the Marist College cafeteria about 5 o'clock last night. Recognizing him as she came out, Miss Sperling raced back inside past hundreds of students and was phoning the campus police when she was shot and killed.

"She had been told to phone for help if Louis ever confronted her on campus," said Fred Lambert, director of student life at Marist. "The security guards were told to be on the watch for him, but there was always the chance he could slip by, as he did last night."

Nearly five months ago, Louis Acevedo, also of Mahopac, a sophomore at Dutchess Community College here, was charged with having assaulted Miss Sperling with a brick, fracturing her skull and her hand as she sought to protect herself. They had met near the waterworks at Marist College campus, apparently to attempt to resolve their differences.

"Shelley wanted it to end, but

Louis wouldn't have it," a friend of the victim's said today.

Mr. Acevedo was charged with felony assault and was released in \$10,000 bail. Last Friday, his case was adjourned and he remained free in the same bail. A more recent grand jury indictment for attempted murder in the same case had not yet come before the court.

"What makes me bitter," Anthony Acevedo said, "was why nobody followed through with psychiatric help after that first incident, and why nobody said anything when they knew he had a gun."

Among those who said they knew he kept a gun was Gerry Bendix, his roommate. Mr. Bendix shared classes with Mr. Acevedo at Dutchess Community College as well as part-time employment at Wassaic Development Center, an institution for the retarded.

"We're therapy aides there," Mr. Bendix said. "We work with patients, play cards with them, try to do the things we consider normal." He said Mr. Acevedo was a "fine" roommate but never talked with him about his problems.

Anthony Acevedo, who is 27 years old, said that their parents had broken up several years ago and that his father remarried within a few months.

"Another brother, Michael, and I were out of the house by then, but Louis went through it all," he said. Last year, the

Anthony lives in Wappingers Falls, just south of here.

"Louis and Shelley used to come up for weekends when



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Shelley Sperling

they were still in high school," he said. "This past year Louis has been coming alone, but we also talked about stereo equipment, not about Shelley."

On the Marist campus, Gerald Kelly, housemaster of Sheahan House, said Miss Sperling was quiet but not withdrawn, "a serious student who nevertheless had become a focus of a group of special students enrolled in a three-year program."

"She had many friends," Mr. Kelly said, indicating as others did, that no one person had replaced Louis. "Shelley's life really had become centered here. She could have pulled out after the first assault, but she chose not to."

Renee Bernard, Miss Sperling's roommate for the last night at an impromptu memorial service: "I did not know her for long, but she never bore a grudge against Louis."