

But the book is dedicated to the parents of Harvard grad student Joan Webster, 25, who Burke believes was killed by Paradiso on his boat, the Mala Femmena, which is Italian for evil woman.

"Paradiso was probably the worst kind of predator because he preyed on innocent women," said Burke, a defense attorney. "For the most part, Paradiso's victims were unknowing and once he had them in his car he had absolute control."

Burke theorizes that Paradiso, now 65, was driving a gypsy cab at Logan International Airport on Nov. 28, 1981, when he picked up Webster, who was flying back from a Thanksgiving weekend at home in New Jersey.

He believes Paradiso used a pellet gun that was found in the waters where the Mala Femmena was moored in South Boston to bully Webster onto the boat and then fatally beat her with a whiskey bottle. Webster's remains were found in 1990 in a wooded area in Hamilton. Paradiso was never charged with her murder.

"I think it will keep our daughter alive in the minds of people," said Webster's mother, Terry. She and her husband, George, have been friends with Burke for more than 20 years.

"I am glad that he wrote it because it might give some judges pause on granting parole," Webster said.

She is referring to a 1974 court decision that placed Paradiso on parole for about nine months while he appealed his conviction for the murder of Connie Porter, 19, in Andover the year before. During that period, four young women were found murdered along Interstate 95 in Mass., Burke writes.

Paradiso, who is jailed at the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater, did not respond to two written requests for an interview. His girlfriend from that period, Candy Weyant, of Revere, also declined to comment.

His brother, Michael Paradiso Jr., described the book as "garbage."

"My brother got railroaded," said Michael Paradiso, who lives in Georgia. "I believe my brother to be truthful."

He described Paradiso as being "very ill." When asked to describe what's wrong, Michael Paradiso responded: "nothing."

Paradiso's daughter, Angela, said she considers the Webster case a mystery.

"My opinion is they never found who killed Joan. Nobody really knows. I feel bad the girl is gone," said Angela Paradiso, who was born to her father and has not seen him in 17 years.

Burke, who won convictions in more than 25 murder cases, said Paradiso is one of the worst criminals he's ever prosecuted.

"He's at the top of the list in terms of criminals in terms of what he's done to so many innocent women," Burke said.

**CAPTION: TELLING TOME:** Attorney Timothy Burke, above, contends in his book, 'The Paradiso Files: Boston's Unknown Sins' that Leonard Paradiso is linked to the deaths of at least seven young women. Paradiso, top right, with his boat Mala Femmena, or currently behind bars for the murder of Marie Iannuzzi, 20, of East Boston in 1979. STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK WHITEMAN

#### SIDEBAR:

##### Webster's horrific final moments

\*\* Author and former prosecutor Timothy M. Burke describes a meeting at the Charles Street Jail with convicted killer Robert White. White wrote to Burke after Leonard "The Quahog" Paradiso described the death of Harvard co-ed Joan Webster to him in prison.

"Tell me what Paradiso said to you about killing Joan Webster," the D.A. said.

"Lenny sez he picked her up at the airport around ten thirty that night. He asked her where she was coming from and she say that she was going to school in Cambridge."

"Did he tell you how he was able to pick her up?"

"He don't say directly, but later he sez something 'bout drivin' a cab. Lenny sez he starts feeding her some (expletive) about fish companies and a boat. He tells her he's gotta get some papers outta his office first and then he would take her to Cambri-

"Did he say where he was working or where he kept this boat?" the prosecutor began as he envisioned the Mala Femmena.