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MARCH 2007

FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

SSUE 1. VOL. 2

'East End Killer' Extradited, Charged with Four Deaths

By CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM
Correspondent

When Emanuel Lovell Webb arrived in Connecticut on February 14, clad in wrist and leg shackles, it was one extraspecial Valentine's Day for two detectives: Heitor Teixeira and Robert Sherback, detectives with the Bridgeport Police Department Cold Case Unit. Since 2000, they had been tracking the suspect dubbed the "East End Killer."

Webb, 40, was extradited from Georgia to Bridgeport and arraigned in Superior Court on February 15 for the murders of four Bridgeport women. Judge Earl Richards ordered Webb held in lieu of \$4 million bond and continued the case. The judge had denied a motion from a public defender to reduce bail to \$1 million.

Webb had been sitting in a Georgia jail cell on a parole violation when he was charged last year with the strangulation of 34-year-old Elizabeth "Maxine" Gandy, back in 1993. He has since been charged in the deaths of Sharon Cun-



ningham, 39, Minnie Sutton, 37, and Sheila Etheridge, 29. All had been found dead in separate locations in Bridgeport's East End between 1990 and 1993.

In 1994, a Special Homicide Task Force was formed to investigate the murders, but it was disbanded after a short time, with few clues uncovered. The cases remained cold until last year when the two Bridgeport detectives

matched Webb's DNA to evidence found at the crime scenes. At each location, DNA from either semen, blood or saliva had been left behind, according to court records.



Emanuel Lovell Webb

The suspect's identity had been revealed when Webb's DNA was sent to the FBI by Detectives Teixeira and Sherback. Neither DNA technology nor nationwide profiles were available during the time of the murders. According to the arrest affidavit in the Gandy case, a check of the DNA that had been found under Gandy's fingernails directly matched Webb's DNA

stored in the Combined DNA Identification System.

"When we were looking at some unsolved murders we sent evidence up to

the lab and got two hits," said Det. Teixeira. "Then we looked further and found out there were more women killed with similarities to the others. We checked them out and got two more hits. We developed Webb as a suspect and then reinterviewed the witnesses. After we did a timeline, we found out he was incarcerated in Georgia." The two detectives traveled to the D. Ray James Correctional Facility in Folkston, Ga., and charged Webb with the murder of Gandy.

Before moving to Georgia, Webb had lived in Bridgeport. He worked in construction and as a security guard in Fairfield. Webb lived with his sister, Bernice Snead, and a girlfriend in the center of a 10-block radius where all the killings had taken place.

The four homicide victims have been described as drug users and three of them were said to have frequented the same bars and after-hour clubs in the East End, as did Webb. Additionally, there are still half a dozen other unsolved murders of women in the same area of Bridgeport

(See "East End Killer" on page 13)

Family Finds Healing through Forgiveness and Remembrance

By TEALE CALIENDO

Correspondent

Your daughter dies in a motor vehicle accident. If ever a grieving father were justified in demanding punishment this is the time.

"You want to be angry and you are," John Taccone said in a recent interview. "You want to be sensitive and you are. You want to be forgiving and you are. You want to be evil and you are. But when push comes to shove, I thought...if this is truly an accident...the kid didn't mean to do it. He didn't wake up that morning and say I'm going to kill somebody. But (my) willfully wanting to hurt him and put him away in jail, all it does (is connect) me to this kid, thereby making him my responsibility."

This is the story of the Taccone family of Trumbull and how it is coping with



Sara Taccone

one of the worst heartaches any family can face; the loss of a child.

On June 28, 2003, a warm summer

night, it seemed as if everyone in Trumbull had turned out for the annual fireworks display. It was all part of Bridgeport's Barnum Festival.

Trevor (*The Justice Journal is withhold-ing his last name*), the teenage driver of the car that would become involved in the accident, had dreaded dealing with the traffic jam when the fireworks were over. He had been anxious to get to the open road and to a friend's house.

He noticed a bunch of kids on foot and decided to give them a lift. Trevor recalled, "After people filled up the inside of my car, the rest utilized the surface space...by jumping on the trunk... (later) I looked in the rearview mirror and saw my friends jump off... Assuming everyone was off the car, I continued to my friend's house. The road took a pretty sharp curve, and as I was navigating it, I heard a blood curdling scream."

It was the scream of 16-year-old Sara Taccone. She had just fallen from the trunk and had struck her head on the curb. "Sara lay motionless...in a pool of blood. The image will haunt me forever," said Trevor.

For nearly a week, Sara fought to live, but on July 4, 2003, she died from her injuries. A life lost. Another possibly ruined.

John Taccone recalled that when he read the accident report, three words jumped out at him. "He (Trevor) was quoted as saying, 'Oh my God.' I don't know if I can make it clear enough but by him saying that...(it) made him a human being to me."

So, John and his wife, Sheila, agreed to a sentence that would allow Trevor "youthful offender" status to a charge of manslaughter in the second degree and

(See "Forgiveness" on page 17)

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SCAM of the Month:

By GRANT STINCHFIELD

Correspondent



'Free' or 'Discount' Vacations Could Cost You Plenty

Tired of the snow, sleet and chilly temperatures? How about an all-expenses-paid trip to Jamaica, Mexico or Florida to cure the winter blues? Sounds like a tempting offer -- so tempting you might even consider it. Thousands of people do and nearly all of them regret that decision.

The "fabulous" vacation offer usually comes in the form of an official-looking certificate notifying you that you are one of the "select few" chosen winners to receive "the vacation package of a lifetime." You read through all the fine print and come to the conclusion: the offer is legitimate — there is no way to lose. Wrong. There are plenty of ways to lose and lose big.

Sometimes, the "hot" offer is not even for a vacation -- it is just for a relatively small "freebie."

A Connecticut couple honeymooning in Las Vegas, Heidi and John Dascanio, were caught in a vacation scam nightmare. A man approached them offering free show tickets as long as they sat through a "15 minute" presentation. Six hours later, the Dascanios felt drained and exhausted. "It was a grueling afternoon, we felt like hostages with no food



or drink," Heidi said. It seemed as though the only way to end the ordeal was to sign up for a vacation club package costing \$1800.

The Dascanios now realize they should have just walked out. "We were on our honeymoon and weren't thinking straight," Heidi says with a laugh. "They just beat us down we were so exhausted."

Heidi and John are like thousands of Americans who lose an estimated \$12 billion each year on travel-related scams.

The Dascanios paid \$1800 for what they thought would be five-star accommodations in the Caribbean. When they tried to redeem the package, nothing was available. They ended up back in Las Vegas at a two-star hotel. Heidi now regrets to say, "We could have booked that trip for half of what we paid for it."

Consumer experts call it "bait and switch." The huckster lures victims in with sleazy pitches that make you believe you are getting a free or wholesale-priced vacation package. Sadly, those offers turn out to be concocted by bogus promoters who take their "marks" money without providing the trip that was promised.

Other con artists advertise rock-bottom prices -- but hide exorbitant fees until the deal is sealed. All of them promise "luxurious accommodations" and services, but deliver far less. Some victims ostensibly destined for the waterfront, end up in hotels 15 miles from the beach. Their "free" rental car can actually cost them \$400 in fees and taxes.

"Unfortunately, too many 'winners' turn out to be big 'losers,' " warns Connecticut's Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. He says travel scams rank near the top of all complaints received by his office, noting that consumers need to be wary of all types of marketing ploys. The

offers can come in person, by mail or over the phone. They all end up asking for a credit card number.

The Better Business Bureau is making it a point to warn potential victims about the growing number of travel-related scams. The warning comes at the time of year when many consumers are planning their spring break and summer vacations. "We urge travel planners to verify the reliability of the business that is offering travel services or accommodations, and obtain in writing all travel package details before you pay any fee, no matter how small," says Steven Cole, president of the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

Cole warns there may be hidden restrictions such as blackout dates at some resorts, or extra fees for other travel dates. As happened to the Dascanios, "You end up paying more than you would if you made your own accommodations," Cole says.

The reality is new charges will be added every step of the way. For Heidi Dascanio, that dream vacation turned out to be what she calls, "one of the worst experiences of my life."

She now wants everyone to know that con man who promised her a "bargain" trip ended up taking her and her husband for a ride.

The Federal Trade Commission has some advice on how to protect yourself:

Be wary of "great deals" and low-priced offers.

Don't be pressured into buying. A good offer today will usually be there tomorrow.

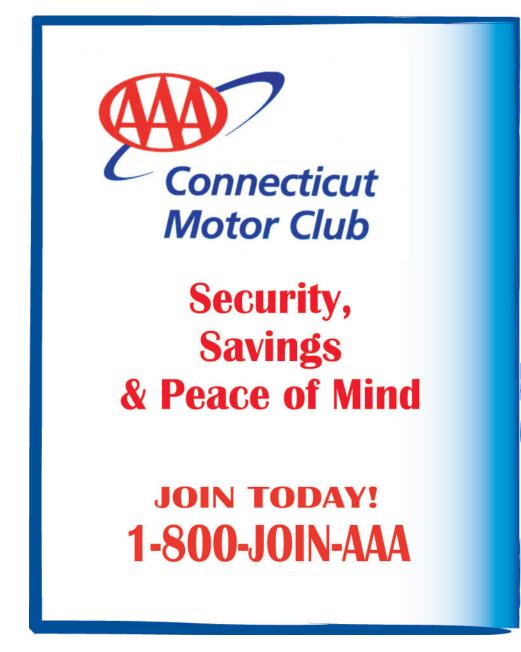
Ask detailed questions. Find out what the price covers and what it doesn't. Ask about additional charges.

Make sure everything is in writing.

Above all, take your time and do your homework.

And remember that sage advice: If it's too good to be true, it probably isn't.

(Contact Grant at g.stinchfield@thejusticejournal.com)





Concerned Parents, Officials, Target 'Social Networking' Internet Sites

By CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM

Correspondent

"It's 10 p.m. -- do you know where your kids are?"

It was not too long ago that parents could feel secure in the knowledge that their kids were at home -- safe from predators lurking in the shadows of the night. However, how safe will they be this evening as they log onto the family computer?

If your kids are like most, they regularly visit YouTube, Facebook and MySpace -- video sharing and social networking sites that are probably as familiar to them as the floor plan of the local mall. So what do parents need to know about these sites?

With the 100-millionth account created just last summer, MySpace is one of the most popular social networking sites for middle- and high school-aged kids. It offers an interactive network for making new friends through personal profiles and blogs -- using email, photos, videos and music. Although its corporate history is somewhat murky, MySpace was valued at \$327 million when purchased by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation in July 2005. There is also a MySpace International and sites are in the works for China and the UK.

Two sections of MySpace -- About Me and Who I'd Like to Meet -- set the stage

for introductions. Other sections, which contain more specific details about members, may or may not be filled out. There is also a section for user's friends and a list of up to eight top friends with links to their profiles -- though some users have found a way to bypass the restriction by using third-party tools. Minimum age

requirement is 14 and all users under the age of 16 are automatically limited in profile information. However, parents should keep in mind that kids

have been known to lie about their ages.

MySpace continues to deal with a number of incidents that have some questioning the site's safety -- from a variety of scripting programs, which install malicious software, to adult sexual predators preying on minors. Due to concerns about predators, subscribers are now required to use a valid email address and the site has partnered with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and law enforcement. MySpace is developing technology to detect potential predators, requiring those found guilty of sex crimes to register all their email addresses with the national database. Additionally, in that partnership, News Corporation's Sentinel Tech has contributed a monolithic initial database of the nation's 550,000 registered sex

Not everyone is convinced these meas-

for introductions. Other sections, which contain more specific details about members, may or may not be filled out. There ures will work. "MySpace sex offender database is a false security blanket that ignores and distracts from the real prob-



"There are things we must learn to become more safe on the road and the same is true for the

Internet,"

- Natalie Carrignan, Westport Public School System

lem -- sexual predators not yet caught and convicted trolling for victims, or who lie about their ages and identities," said State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. "The website and its parent company need to stop making excuses and introduce age verification as well as raise its minimum age to 16."

According to Blumenthal, MySpace could confirm the ages of minors by requiring information from a parent or guardian, and age verification for users 18 and older would be easy by simply using

publicly available data. "Our coalition of states continues to grow," said Blumenthal. "I will continue to help lead this powerful and growing coalition in pressing MySpace to introduce age verification. We will consider every available option including possible legal action."

Because some kids have used this site

as a means to spread gossip, many schools across the nation have blocked or restricted access to MySpace and other sites on school

computers.

facebook.

"Ŝtudents are encouraged to use school equipment and Internet access to do legitimate school work, which includes Google searches, research, or the dozens of databases to which we subscribe but not of a personal nature -- this includes My Space and Facebook," said John Dodig, principal of Staples High School in Westport. "Our computers are blocked to these sites but we recognize it's a huge part of students' life and a whole new way of forming extended families and communities in the virtual world. Our policy does not state or imply that there's anything wrong with these sights -- just that students can't use them here.'

Dodig added that Staples High School has run workshops for parents who want to find out more about the

(Continued on page 15)

www.NetLingo.com Top 20 Internet Acronyms EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW:

1. POS - Parent Over Shoulder

2. PIR - Parent In Room

3. P911 - Parent Alert

4. PAW - Parents Are Watching

5. PAL - Parents Are Listening

6. ASL - Age/Sex/Location

7. MorF - Male or Female

8. SorG - Straight or Gay

9. LMIRL - Let's Meet In Real Life

10. KPC - Keeping Parents Clueless

11.TDTM - Talk Dirty To Me

12. IWSN - I Want Sex Now

13. NIFOC - Nude In Front Of Computer

14. GYPO - Get Your Pants Off

15. ADR - Address

16. WYCM - Will You Call Me?

17. KFY - Kiss For You

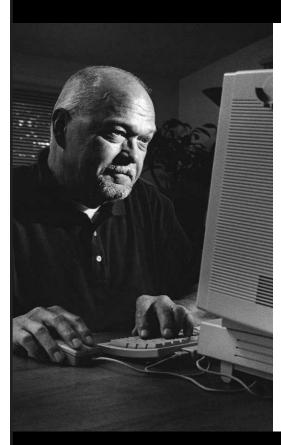
18. MOOS - Member(s) Of the Opposite Sex

19. MOSS or MOTSS - Member(s) Of The Same Sex

20. NALOPKT - Not A Lot Of People Know That

See page 15 for additional Internet acronyms

MEET 10-YEAR-OLD BECKY'S 12-YEAR-OLD INTERNET FRIEND.



The internet is a great place to buy cars, sell collectibles and stay informed. But for child molesters, it's a new, effective and more anonymous way to sexually exploit children. To reduce the risks, you need to know the potential dangers and report them. At the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, we've created the CyberTipline to help fight back. And it works. Since 1998, we've dealt with more than 120,000 leads and we've worked tirelessly with law enforcement to help bring these predators to justice. To report child sexual exploitation, call the police. Then call us at 1-800-843-5678 or contact us at www.cybertipline.com. Child molesters may hide behind cute screen names. But together we can expose them for what they really are.



1-800-THE-LOST www.cybertipline.com

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE OUT THERE.

Detective Refuses to Give Up on Attempted Murder and Rape Case

By DAWN A. MICELI Correspondent

This was a case that hit home for the young female detective -- a particularly brutal sexual assault that nearly left the victim dead. The single, 20-something woman did not die -- and neither did Det. Kerry Dalling's resolve to put someone away for the heinous crime. "It just weighed on me because he really hurt her, he really brutalized her," said Dalling, a 10-year veteran on the Fairfield Police Department. "I guess I was empathetic to her because she was about my age and single like me."

The case eventually went cold as all leads bottomed out. One year after the Jan. 3, 2003, Overlook Avenue home invasion, there appeared to be nothing more to follow up on. Dalling was further separated from the case during a two-month activation in the Air Force National Guard.

Then, three years later, an unrelated case started a series of events that led to a teenager being linked to the sexual assault cold case.

A late-night call to the Fairfield P.D. reported a possible burglary in progress at a neighborhood apartment complex on Black Rock Turnpike. The suspect was 22-year-old Anas Hourani, a native of Syria who had moved to the United States at the age of 3 with his father. Initial interviews with the young man proved disconcerting. "He told us initially that he was looking for an apartment and that the property was for his dad," said Det. Sgt. Suzanne Lussier. That statement proved false, Sgt. Lussier said, although police had little recourse but to release Hourani because the complainant was unwilling to press

Still, something about this case unnerved Det. Dalling, who had since returned to active duty on the force and was present during the interview process. "If it had just been a burglary in progress I probably would have dismissed it," she said. Nevertheless, certain details became sticking points for the detective: Hourani had been peer-





22-year-old Anas Hourani is being held and charged with attempted felony murder, first-degree sexual assault, first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, first-degree unlawful restraint and fourth-degree larceny.

SAIRFIELD

ing in the kitchen window

of a young woman's apartment -- and that apartment was in the same neighborhood as the brutal rape case the detective had worked on three years earlier. In fact, Hourani lived within a couple hundred feet of both apartment complexes.

Background checks on Hourani revealed several incidents of a "sexually deviant nature" recorded by the Fairfield P.D. as well as arrests in the Bridgeport area. Det. Dalling thought back to the 2003 case: A home invasion late at night in which the attacker entered through the first-floor kitchen window of a young, single woman's apartment and proceeded into the victim's bed-

Finding her asleep, the assailant used a 36-inch commercial tie-wrap to

choke the woman, rendering her unconscious.

Those familiar with the case recalled it as an extremely violent attack, one that left the victim with no recollection of the assault because of the trauma she sustained. When the victim awoke, she ran out into the street naked and was in an appar-

ent state of shock, police said. A neighbor called police and the woman was taken to a Bridgeport hospital, where DNA evidence from her attacker was recovered.

For Det. Dalling, the similarities were too many to ignore and were further exacerbated by an FBI "anger-retaliatory profile" she conducted that seemed to silhouette Hourani. "It just appeared that this kid acted on anger—he was just full of rage. At that point, he just became a little interesting to me."

Knowing that there was DNA evidence from the 2003 case, Det. Dalling took a shot at securing some from Hourani. Detectives told Hourani they were investigating burglaries in the area and asked whether he would be willing to undergo DNA testing to eliminate himself as a possible suspect. Det. Dalling noted that Hourani could have said no, but, as she explained, "I think he just felt that he could outsmart us and he just kept talking and talking."

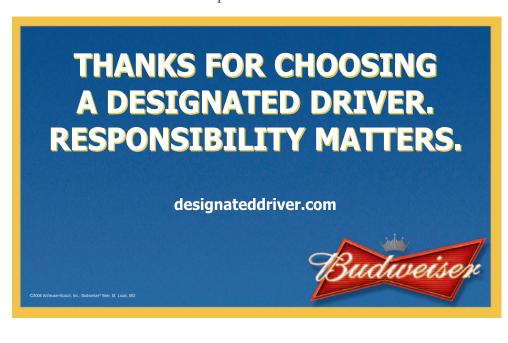
Hourani's DNA was sent to the state's Forensic Laboratory in Meriden. Also on hand at the lab, which is part of the Public Safety Department's Division of Scientific Services, was the sexual assault kit that had been taken from the 2003 brutal rape case. Det. Dalling noted that there wasn't much evidence at the scene -- a characteristic of many crime scenes. Elaine Pagliaro, the assistant director of the forensic lab, revealed that DNA is present in only 30-40 percent of crime scenes. More specifically, semen is recovered from only a third of all rape cases. "And that seems to be a national number," said Pagliaro, "so that's a relatively small number."

In this case, there was semen. Time would tell whether Hourani's DNA matched that of the attacker from the 2003 case. But with requests coming in from all of the state's police agencies, Hourani's DNA sample fell into the queue, which has an average wait time of several months.

Three, four, five months later, Det. Dalling was getting anxious because police had learned that Hourani was planning to leave the country on Feb. 1, 2007. Since police had nothing to arrest him on in either case, their hands were tied along with their chances of conviction -- so it seemed. "Once we learned that he was going to leave, we did ask everyone to step it up," Det. Dalling said.

There is a type of nuclear DNA testing, called Y-STR, that can lock in a paternal match through an exact pairing of the Y-chromosomes. In

(Continued on page 14)



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Citizens Police Academies Take You 'Behind the Badge'

police Aca

By DAVID SCALES Correspondent

Some civilians think a police officer's life is a fascinating mix of drama, danger and challenge. It is -- and much more. For anyone who wants to know more about how police do their job, or want to take a more active role in police and community relations, participating in a "Citizen's Police Academy" (CPA) with their local department can provide insights into training, procedures and the person behind the badge.

The concept is to build a partnership between the people and the police. In most academies, participants may even be given the opportunity for a "ride-along." Lt. James Olencki, the coordinator for the Greenwich Police Department's CPA since its inception four years ago, said over 200 people have gone through the program and that it has greatly improved community relations.

"It focuses on giving them an overview of a lot of the functions the police department provides," Lt. Olencki explained. "Frequently, many members of the community aren't aware of the quantity of services that we have available to them."

The Greenwich program lasts 11 weeks. The first week begins with a basic introduction and in the last week, there are reviews of the discussed topics. The nine weeks in between acquaint students with use of force, the special response unit, motor vehicle accidents, crime prevention, narcotics investigation and many other subjects.

While the program is designed to improve community relations and familiarize citizens with standard procedures, it is not all about reading manuals, learning the correct way to fill out a parking ticket, and memorizing the radio code for going to lunch. According to Lt. Peter Gantert of the Danbury Police Department, police training has become much more "high tech," and participants who take part may handle a dangerous situa-

"We have a firearms training simulator, which is like a big video game, and it projects on a wall," Lt. Gantert said. "With the simulator, they're able to see how tough it is for cops to make a decision in a splitsecond, and it is about the closest you can get to a live situation." Students also get to use real

department's firing range. The Greenwich Police Department will be adding a feature to its upcoming academy as Sgt. John Brown of the department's marine division will cover the nautical aspects of law enforcement. He is developing a curriculum to

firearms as they try a mini-

qualifying course on the

include procedures regarding search and rescue, safety inspections and boating accident investigations.

"We're dealing with a recreational community 98 percent of the time out there," Sgt. Brown said. "They are there for recreation and not to break the law whereas on land we'd have everyday speeders and all kinds of things. Law enforcement is different out here on the water than the land but we do handle the same kind of calls."

Participants will get to examine the tools of the trade used to protect a waterfront town with almost a billion dollars worth of boats tied to the docks. Sgt. Brown notes the area they cover is roughly 32 miles of shoreline, with Greenwich being roughly 42 to 48 square miles.

Sgt. Brown promises participants

in the Danbury citizen academy can will have an unforgettable experience even get an idea as to how an officer when he takes them out in groups of five or six in the division's pri-

> mary vessel -- a jetpropulsion aluminumhulled 34-foot patrol boat built in 2002

and running twin MR440 turbo diesel engines. While the top speed is "classified," he says it will do well above 30 knots (about 35 miles per hour). The

boat carries full

medical gear and has limited firefighting capabilities. It features various types of search & rescue gear, and is equipped with night vision, underwater cameras and infrared vision. The boat cost \$370,000.

After almost 24 years on the force, Sgt. Brown said he thinks his current assignment is the best job he has ever had. "Not too

many guys go off to work in shorts, a golf shirt and a gun belt," he noted. "I

Mattonut Steper

work with a great group of guys down here and when we go out in the morning, it can be as flat as a mirror, or if a storm comes through, you can have six-to-seven foot seas -- which can be harrowing. In the summer it's a beautiful thing.

Lt. Pantert said he hopes Danbury's program will continue to promote understanding and future dialogue between police and the citizens they protect. "We've had people come in who didn't like the police officers and had problems with them. Afterward, they say 'I understand why you did it."

Residents interested in attending the Greenwich Citizen's Police Academy must first complete an application and undergo a background check. Applications for the town's CPA beginning April 4 will be accepted now through March 26. The CPA will be in session from 6:30 to 9:30 each Wednesday evening and applicants must assure they will attend all 11 classes. Applications are available at police headquarters or via www.greenwichct.org/PoliceDept

Danbury has 10-week CPA programs twice a year. For more information, contact Officer J. Mortara, Community Affairs Unit, 797-4644.

(Contact David at: d.scales@thejusticejournal.com)



Bury Police Departs

17,000 killed in senseless act

Authorities search for answers on a day of sadness

A nation is in mourning as thousands were suddenly killed yesterday all across the country by people who had been drinking and driving. Traffic was backed up in all 50 states making it difficult for emergency vehicles to reach the victims. Hospitals in every city remain overwhelmed with thousands of critically injured patients. 's the help of N 'onal Guaas v

simply are not enough resources to meet the demands of this catastrophe. The president spoke early this morning at an emergency press conference expressing his condolences to the friends and families of those who were lost. One official in DeBeau County called this "the most devastating moment in American history." In some places, entire families were killed, leaving many to wonder how something like this could happen in our country today. In a show of support, long lines of volunteers have formed at the enters to vo to of blood and tie

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If this were today's headline, would you notice? Last year, drinking and driving actually did kill about 17.000 people. It injured half a million more. But because it happened over a year rather than in a single day, it's not always front-page news. If you

drink, find a safe way home. And do your part to keep drunk driving out of the headlines.



"Cyber-bullying" May Lead to Death:

Harassment Via Computer Puts Children at Risk

By PAMELA FALCIGNOCorrespondent

Connecticut law makes it a crime to harass another through electronic means.

Modern methods of electronic communication permeate our society. Computers, cell phones, pagers, I-pods, Blackberrys and Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) all provide instant ways to

send messages. Like most technologies, they can be used for good or bad.

"Cyber-bullying" is defined as harassment toward another through electronic devices -- a dangerous use of technology. In broader terms, this "online social aggression" can include threats, sexual remarks, hate speech and online verbal abuse.

Children, pre-teens and teens are

... WHERE SHE

FEARS HIM TODAY

especially at risk as they can be targets by both peers and adults. A cyber-bully can be someone known to the target or anonymous. Cyber-bullying can also be an extension of in-school bullying activities. In some cases, harassment and threats have led targets to suicide. In other cases, when the victim retaliates, the consequences can also be fatal.

Two situations, with the names changed, illustrate typical occurrences of cyber-bullying:

Case 1: Joanne saw some girls bullying Jessica at school and reported the bullying to the office. By the time Joanne got home from school, she had 35 angry messages in her e-mail inbox and even more angry text messages on her cell phone. Now on a daily basis, Joanne gets many e-mail and text messages using vulgar and insulting language.

Case 2: A group of girls at his school had been taunting Alan through IM, teasing him about his small size, daring him to do things he couldn't. They dared him to commit suicide. He discussed this with them. The girls thought it was a big joke. One afternoon, Alan got his grandfather's shotgun, loaded it and killed himself. He had deleted everything from his computer, except for one message: "The only way to get the respect you deserve is to die."

Director of Crises Services at Stamford's Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut, Dr. Deborah Matthews, says behavioral signs of a victim can vary depending on the age. They range from regressive behavior, crying, trouble sleeping, moodiness, even school avoidance. Cyber-bullies can be "meaner" and more "vicious" than bullies in person. "They can reach more people and the impact on the victim could be considerably greater," says Dr. Matthews. Statistics from ConnectWithKids.com states that 60 percent of teens have been victims of online bullying.

According to the Connecticut Commission on Children Policy Direction for 2007, the state Department of Education is directed to establish a uniform method of reporting bullying incidents and provide funds to school districts to plan and implement best practices for preventing such bullying.

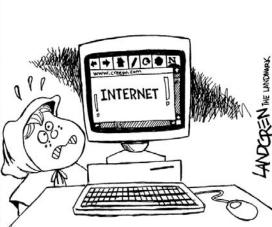
Children, however, may not be comfortable telling an authority figure about their victimization. It is "embarrassing," Dr. Matthews explains, for the child to tell the parent they are having trouble handling the situation. Should a parent decide to call the school, it can be "mortifying." she adds.

be "mortifying," she adds.

One of the programs at the Child Guidance Center provides services to victims of crimes. Dr. Matthews sug-

(Continued on page 13)





Letters to the Editor

Timing is Everything

I read with great interest the article on the Wilton Task Force for Underage Drinking. I just participated in a panel discussion last night with a group of educators and town officials on just this same issue and we are in the first phase of forming such a group as Wilton. Can I impose on you to send me about a dozen copies of this issue so I might pass them out to the panelists? If not can you send me a copy of the article via e-mail as well as the commentary by Attorney Richard Bieder? As they say in policing - timing is everything.

Thank you in advance, Chief Paul Jakubson Madison, CT

Wilton has an Impact

Thank you for your recent article on our Underage Drinking Task Force in Wilton. It was our hope that our experience here in Wilton would have an impact on other town's efforts, which to our great pleasure has occured. There has been interest from other towns in our work because of your article. Your publication is performing a

great service by helping communities address public safety issues through communication and cooperation both within communities and among communities.

Catherine Pierce, LCSW Director Social Services Wilton, CT

Loss of Innocence

As the mother of young children, I read with interest the article on school violence and what we can do about it. What I find frightening is the idea that school violence is so random, not able to be protected against in any consistent proven way (such as escape from the building as quickly as possible) and that the proper response depends completely on what type of violence experienced.

I appreciate the alarm you are sounding...but also am saddened at the loss of innocence that our society has placed on the young. The suggestions for empowering us as parents were helpful and I will be contacting the school right away!

Ashley Hunter Bethel, CT

Empower Ourselves

Once again, I find myself wanting to thank you for the excellent job of keeping us aware, but balancing our awareness of the unthinkable... with empowerment. It is so overwhelming in today's world to watch the news, read the paper and hear of the randomness of violence...we need to empower ourselves. Thank you for allowing us to see that WE need to act, we are only victims if we think we are. By giving us alternatives, and showing us examples... we are able to respond more consciously.

Thank you for providing this service. Sarah Bradley Stamford, CT

Executive Tackles Perpetrator

I really liked the article "Bank Executive Tackles Perpetrator." Hats off to Justin Quagliani. We need more citizens like him to help prevent crime. While I agree his actions were extremely bold and dangerous, the article made me think about what I might do "safely" should that happen to me.

As a new reader of your newspaper, I think it would be helpful to get more stories from the police about citizens like Mr. Quagliani who have helped prevent crime. Maybe something like "Top Crime Stoppers of the Month." That would not only be interesting but would give ideas to local citizens on what they can do to help prevent crime. I realize that some may want to remain anonymous but it would still be interesting nonetheless. Anyhow, keep up the good work. I like your newspaper and what it offers to our community.

Max Anderson Norwalk, CT

Editorial Policy:

The Justice Journal encourages original letters to the editor pertaining to subjects and issues raised by the writers.

We reserve the right to publish or edit letters for taste, length and clarity. Make sure to include your full name, address and a daytime telephone number so that we can verify who you are. All letters through the mail must be typed and should not exceed 250 words in length. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Please send your letters to:

The Justice Journal Editor 21 Charles Street, Suite 114 Westport, CT 06880 Or email: Editor@thejusticejournal.com

Notes from the Editor's desk:

Are Media to Blame for Violence in America?



Many Americans blame the media, especially broadcasting and cable, for causing much of the violence in our society. To some extent, it is the old debate on whether society reflects media, or media reflect society. Of course, it is both.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin and FCC Commissioner Michael Copps reportedly want to ask Congress for authority to regulate violence on television, similarly to how the FCC supposedly regulates indecency on broadcast media. They also want to extend such regulatory authority to cable and satellite channels.

A Connecticut-based national media trade daily e-newsletter, Cynopsis, recently noted, "The proposed regulation raises many questions including defining violence in general, defining violence as it applies to children, whether or not the regulations would include all television or exclude news and documentaries, and would 'Saving Private Ryan' ever be allowed on television again?"

At the very least, the proposal would focus attention on the causes of violence and what could or should be done to prevent it.

We also note, The First Amendment to the Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." The Declaration of Independence states," We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Violence in our society certainly impacts our "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." While legal experts debate the First Amendment issues raised by the possible FCC move to expand its authority, and researchers analyze the data as to the effects of media on society regarding violence, please use your freedom of speech to be heard on this proposal. After all, do you want to reflect society or have society reflect your views?

Kenn Venit Managing Editor

Letter from the Publisher:

Let's Hear From You

Welcome back readers-we have been hearing good things from you about The Justice Journal.

When we began planning for our first issue, we heard from naysayers on more than one occasion. They told us that our biggest

challenge would be public apathy-that rallying citizens together to help protect our communities was a nice idea that would go nowhere fast.

I understand that because our lives are so busy, it's a lot easier to look the other way or not look at all when we see a problem. It's convenient to believe that somebody else will take care of it and go on with our lives. But when we keep hearing about criminals taking over our streets and predators victimizing our kids, it begins to sink in that we need to put an end to it, once and for all.

So, I'm happy to report that some of you are not so apathetic and are stepping up and taking responsibility. I say this with confidence based on the amount of feedback coming in through your mail and email-it's been overwhelming.

So keep it coming! I look forward to hearing from more of you in the future. Your imput is a valuable asset to our publication.

Sincerely,

Doug Johnston

Submit Articles:

The Justice Journal will consider story ideas or the submission of manuscripts from qualified writers. Contact the editor for requirements.

The Justice Journal Editor 21 Charles Street, Suite 114 Westport, CT 06880

Or email: Editor@thejusticejournal.com



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Meet The Writers:



GRANT STINCHFIELD is an investigative reporter for an NBC-owned TV station and has been a contributor to MSNBC. Among his special areas of reporting are consumer fraud (especially identity theft) and unsolved murders. He has won four Emmy awards and has had 16 nominations. Other honors include Mothers Against Drunk Driving Journalist of the Year, Associated Press Investigative Reporting Award, Connecticut Safe Kids Achievement Award, and the

International Association of Firefighters Achievement Award.



TEALE CALIENDO was an educator who changed careers to become a reporter. She has been in Connecticut journalism for more than two decades. After a distinguished career in radio news in Connecticut, she joined WFSB-TV Channel 3 and became Shoreline Bureau Chief. After years as a corporate communications executive, Teale founded a communications consultation company, which she continues to head, while also continuing writing as a free-

lance reporter. Teale is a licensed justice of the peace, and among other responsibilities, enjoys performing marriage ceremonies.



DAWN A. MICELI has worked for various newspapers and other publications throughout Connecticut for a decade and a half. She served as managing editor of an award-winning newspaper, responsible for the layout and editorial content of the 65-page weekly publication, and now is on the staff of an alumni magazine for a Connecticut school. Dawn is an adjunct associate professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University, teaching courses focusing on writing and reporting. Dawn

also appears live on WTIC-TV FOX61 hosting Connecticut Lottery Corporation's mid-day drawings.



PAMELA FALCIGNO is a freelance journalist who specializes in stories about law enforcement. Among her assignments has been covering the National Association of Fugitive Investigators Conference in New Orleans, where she interviewed people associated with producing the FOX TV program, America's Most Wanted. Pamela is involved with public affairs programming on two local public access television channels, one on a Charter Cable system, the other on a Com-

cast Cable system. She earned her bachelor's degree at Albertus Magnus College, majoring in communications/political science.



DAVID SCALES is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines across Connecticut. He earned his master's degree in journalism as well as his bachelor's degree in mass communications at Quinnipiac University. He is a contributor to the book, Helping Your Children Cope with Your Cancer: A Guide for Parents and Families. David's hobbies include writing fiction and SCUBA diving.



JOHN PALMER, a Norwalk native, has written for several Connecticut daily newspapers, including the Norwalk Hour, the Advocate of Stamford, and the Connecticut Post. He was a public safety officer at Sacred Heart University and is an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor. John is completing a program for certification as an emergency medical technician. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Connecticut State University and is working

toward his master's degree in education at Sacred Heart University.



CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM is a freelance journalist who writes for newspapers and magazines nationwide. She co-authored Womens Glasnost, with Tatyana Mamonova, in 1994 and served as an editor on The Terrorist Conjunction, by Dr. Alfred Gerteiny, soon to be published by Praeger Security International. Her screenplay American Jihad is currently in post production.



CINDY SIMONEAU a freelance writer, formerly was assistant managing editor, section editor, and bureau chief for the Connecticut Post. She is consulting editor for a major daily newspaper, and adjunct professor of journalism and English at four universities in Connecticut. Cindy is a past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and is currently the



MEG BARONE is a general assignment, freelance journalist who has worked for numerous news organizations, including the Associated Press and the Connecticut Post. Her articles have appeared in nearly 40 news publications throughout the country and she has won several awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. Since 2003, Meg has served as a judge for a statewide essay contest sponsored by the School for Ethical Education. She earned a degree in liberal stud-

ies from Southern Connecticut State University. In her spare time, Meg is an artist whose eggshell mosaics have been displayed at the White House three times.

Miss Connecticut Fights Crime Without a Badge

By MEG BARONECorrespondent

The 2000 film "Miss Congeniality" features actress Sandra Bullock portraying undercover FBI agent Gracie Hart posing as a contestant in the Miss United States Pageant. Hart uses her beauty and her badge to protect other contestants from a madwoman bent on harming them in this fictional farce.

As with Bullock's character, the reigning Miss Connecticut, Heidi Voight, is a crime-fighter, although she has no badge and she does not rely on her beauty -- which is obvious and substantial -- to get things accomplished. Rather, Voight employs several unique tools in her efforts to fight real crimes -- most especially those of a sexual nature committed against women, and some against men.

Armed with her rhinestone-studded crown, her intellect, her communication skills and a powerful personal story about sexual assault, Voight, 24, a senior majoring in theater at Southern Connecticut State University, is attempting to change laws and attitudes toward victims of sexual crimes. She wants stronger penalties for sex offenders, legislation broadening victims' rights and no statute of limitation for reporting childhood sexual abuse.



Miss Connecticut, Heidi Voight

"We live in a victim-blaming culture. There are so many myths and misconceptions out there, such as, 'She could have stopped [the rape] if she wanted to.' We need to get out there and educate people to the realities of sexual assault," Voight said. She explained that victims are immediately questioned and scrutinized, sometimes more harshly than the perpetrators of the crime.

Voight won the title of Miss Connecticut last June and represented the state at the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January. All contestants in

the Miss America Scholarship Program, from the local to the national level, are required to adopt a platform issue of their own choosing to promote during their year-long reign. Some have advocated for improved literacy and increased art and music education budgets. Others have worked to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and fought against underage drinking. Few have tackled the issue of rape and in such a public way, sharing their own personal stories.

Voight's platform, "Educate, Empower, Eradicate: Stop the Violence," seeks to address the issue of sexual assault through prevention while advocating for victims' rights. Someone is sexually assaulted in America every two and a half minutes, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. RAINN's calculation is based on the 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. "I want to give voice to those who suffer in silence and shame so that they might be treated with respect and compassion," she said.

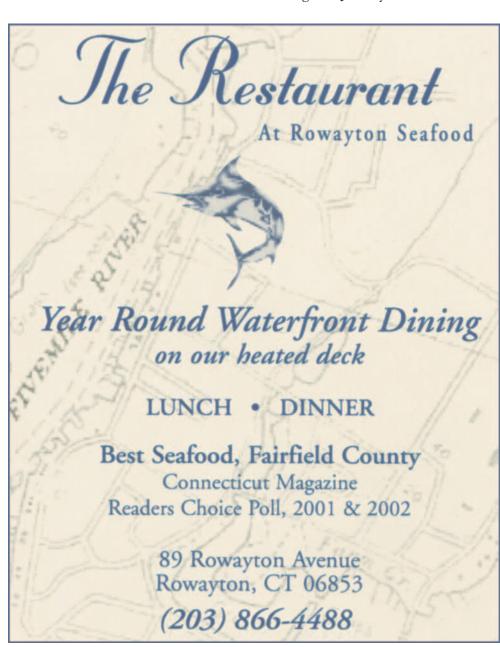
Voight was repeatedly sexually abused

as a child over a period of years, and then at age 15, she suffered a "date rape." She notes, "It was a different method, different nature of the crime, but still the same feelings of violation and shame and guilt, so it just opened the floodgates...I was so scarred. When I finally did come forward, it was such a huge step to have taken. I remember the first time I said it [out loud] it took me 10 minutes just to say the words that it happened."

A decade ago, Voight was an angry, defensive young woman, controlled, at least mentally, by the two men who had robbed her of a childhood and adolescence. Today, she is no longer a rape *victim*, but a rape *survivor* who is using the power and attention of her Miss Connecticut title to help victims heal and to motivate others who are struggling to see they, too, can succeed.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal described Voight's effectiveness, noting, "Her leadership is very powerful. Her personal involvement adds a compelling element. She can speak with authority that's unmatched."

(Continued on page 9)





Photos By Catherine Fiehn ©



ABOVE: Shilo, an eight-year veteran of the Greenwich Police Department who retired in February. BELOW: Sgt. John Thorme and Shilo prepare for patrol.



'K-9 Officer Shilo' Retires

Shilo, a German shepherd, proudly served eight years as a K-9 police officer with the Greenwich Police Department. In February, the 9-and-a-half-year-old dog retired from the force. Shilo's distinguished record includes tracking down 63 people including burglars, lost children and elderly residents.

With his partner, Sgt. John Thorme, Shilo helped recover hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and property from drug dealers. Following Shilo's retirement, Sgt. Thorme became his owner by paying \$1 for him to the town of Greenwich. They have begun a new life together -- off-duty.

The purpose of a K-9 police officer is to help enforce the laws of the land. In addition, as statistics have proven, K-9 officers are a psychological deterrent to criminals and offer an alternative to deadly force, resulting in fewer injuries and fewer assaults on human officers.

As part of its patrol division, the Greenwich Police Department began its first K-9 Unit in 1989 with Officer Richard Cochran and his K-9 partner,

Yogi. They worked together until 1994, and were succeeded by Officer Stanley Ouimette and K-9 Officer Shadow, before Shilo joined the force in 1999.

Tyro, a 19-month-old shepherd, has now succeeded Shilo, with Officer Michael Macchia serving as his partner. Last December, Macchia and Tyro graduated first in their class from the Connecticut State Police Academy's 16-week K-9 program in Meriden.



New Partners, Officer Michael Macchia and K9 Officer Tyro, prepare to take their first shift together.

Miss Connecticut—

(Continued from page 8)

Voight is a Connecticut certified rape crisis counselor and community educator for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services. "My greatest strength would definitely be my tenacity, my determination as a person. Every time I've been knocked down I've been able to get back up and I think that counts for a lot."

SCSU Theater Professor Sheila Garvey said Voight takes difficult situations and transforms them into opportunities. "There's no accounting for courage. She's got courage. She's using her crown to give back and that just makes her a very, very special individual. She's not afraid to tell people and face her past. I've seen this woman transform of her own will and passion."

"Heidi exemplifies someone who uses a privileged position, i.e. being Miss Connecticut, and personal experience to benefit others. By using her crown as a platform Heidi shows other rape victims that they are not alone and they can survive sexual violence," said Nancy Kushins, executive director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CSACS). The organization served 4,326 victims -- 85 percent of them female, in 2006. That figure does not reflect the number of sexual crimes committed in the state each year, Kushins said. In fact, sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes, according to the National Crime Victimization Sur-

Voight said the fight against victimization and re-victimization by public attitudes and the criminal justice system needs to be more public and vocal. "There are so many flaws in the system that need to be rectified. What I want to

focus on is what we can do to collectively ensure that we won't perpetuate the victimization and that they'll be treated with the utmost respect and compassion and sensitivity. There is a universal commonality shared among all victims of crime, but the victims of this crime have a special set of needs."

Voight addressed legislators at the State Capitol during the 2006 session on the need for the Compassionate Care Act, which would ensure that all rape victims treated at a state-funded emergency facility have access to emergency contraception. The controversial proposal was tabled for lack of support but Voight said she will continue to back the efforts of CSACS and others to get it passed.

The controversy stems from Connecticut's four Catholic hospitals that receive state funding but refuse to provide the option of emergency contraception -- as Voight puts it, "even so far as notification that this option is available to rape victims. They don't want it in their vocabulary at all." Voight claims opponents are falsely equating the use of emergency contraception with abortion.

"Heidi understands the reality that rape victims face and knows that proposals to transport victims to another [non-Catholic] facility or send them to a pharmacy to access emergency contraception are not options for someone in crisis," Kushins said.

Although Voight's reign as Miss Connecticut ends in June, she said she plans to continue her crime-fighting efforts through her work with CSACS, and with her own initiative called "Beauty and the Badge." That is a series of events in partnership with the Connecticut State Police. She describes it as

being "a natural extension of my platform because my platform is as much working with the criminal justice system as it is about approaching the issue of sexual assault as a public health problem."

Sexual assault is not the only crime on Voight's agenda. She also speaks out against violence in all its forms and underage drinking, which can cause serious health and safety consequences.

Just before the holiday season in December, Voight took part in a press conference at State Police headquarters in Middletown to announce the kick-off of the Stop Another Needless Tragic Accident (SANTA) campaign, focusing on underage drinking and DUI. "I spoke about the correlation between underage alcohol consumption and the occurrence of date rape because the two are very closely linked, especially on college campuses."

Voight also speaks to municipal officials about the "culture of violence" prevalent in society today, which has a profound impact on young people.

"Why is it any wonder that these kids are engaging in this level of violence when they're surrounded by it on all sides in video games and music and movies and in the media? They are being desensitized to it."

Through "Beauty and the Badge," Voight participated in a press conference recently announcing the launch of a new program in which State Police and others were given stuffed animals to keep in the back of their cruisers to give to children at crime scenes, traumatic accidents and during domestic violence situations to help comfort and calm them.

"It's such a positive step because what that's helping to do is soften the image of the police officer in the eyes of the child in a day and age where children are being taught, especially in inner cities and urban communities, that police are their enemy or someone to be feared. That goes right back to music, video games where you rack up points by shooting cops. We're trying to combat that and that's one great way to start is with the little ones," said Voight.

BLOOPERS & BLUNDERS:

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



WHERE'S JOHNNY?

Here is another story of robbers leaving something behind that eventually led to their arrest.

The police had an eyewitness to the robbery of a drugstore in New Jersey. He was just a 6-year-old boy, but he gave the police a thorough description of the man and woman who had robbed the drugstore and fled in a flash. It was easy for the boy because he knew them pretty well. They had fled so quickly they left him behind -- their own son!

well. They had fled so quickly they left him behind -- their own son! The boy told the police his parents' names, and they were arrested at a nearby motel.

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL THE JUSTICE JOURNAL PAGE 10



Norman Pattis Attorney

VERSUS

Cornelius P. Kelly Senior Assistant State's Attorney, Bridgeport



NBC Dateline and Perverted Justice's To Catch a Predator: A Case of Entrapment?

By NORMAN PATTIS Attornev

Sex sells -- but the price is now far higher than many purchasers reckon. The long arm of the law is reaching deep into the secret recesses of desire. Is that a good

I am, frankly, ambivalent.

law mandating the missionary position between consenting adults. Such a law would be silly and offensive. The United States Supreme Court's recent decision declaring unconstitutional the prohibition of sodomy between consenting adults was a now carry it amid the gore accumulated good thing. The Government has no business policing desire.

But what about sexual desire for chil-

I recall one of the first cases in which I defended a person accused of possessing but how to do so, and why. Are we treating child pornography. It struck me as inconceivable that a person could lust after a we as titillated by the prosecution of these child. One potential defense is that the im- cases as are the offenders we prosecute?

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tain the pictures were of children. She told

imagined the conversation with my client.

"The Government has told me the pictures are of children," I might say. What if the client asked what I thought? I could As far as I am aware, there is as yet no not simply take the Government's word for it. I made an appointment to review the evidence. It has been many years since then, particular trap were there willingly. This but I can still see the face of a girl no more than 5 years old as she mounted a man. I to do something he was not ready, willing wish I had never seen that image. I will and able to perform. practicing law.

> Why not prosecute folks who use children in this way?

> As always in the context of criminal law, the question is not whether to prosecute, sex offenders as a new class of witches? Are

household. I watched Dateline and saw sometimes-tense standoff with a videographer and a reporter.

The show was offensive. There is no doubt that all of the men caught in this was not entrapment. No one was compelled

What vicarious need did watching these arrests serve? We live in a culture that has transformed sexuality into nothing more than a commodity, a cheap thrill that never satisfies for long.

But with children, you say? Well, let's ask Madison Avenue about the images it with it all, we can change the channel, go portrays of sexualized young women. What to a movie, flip the pages of a magazine. twisted sensibility made an idol of Jon But there, too, in a hundred different ways Benet Ramsay? Oh, this speech is protected, you say? It is well that it is. However, of prurient pleasure. I wonder if we have what should we do with those who are bent ever paused to consider whether one can beyond recognition by these forces?

The federal government thinks it has the answer. In May 2006, the Justice Department initiated a program called Project Safe Childhood. The goal is cooperation between state and federal law enforcement to combat effectively the use of children for sexual ends. Who can argue against apple pie?

A 2006 case in Avon illustrates the perils of this brave new world. A man was prosecuted by state prosecutors for the poswhisked to a psychiatrist. A year or so later, at sentencing, the psychiatrist told the judge the defendant was remorseful, and opined that there was little risk of the man's offending again. The judge sentenced him to probation. A sick man had been treated and cured. Case closed?

The federal government moved in under apparent cloak of the Project Safe Childhood. The defendant must go to tisblog.com He also does prison. He now faces the prospect of federal charges and significant incarceration. for Was state-court justice not good enough? What federal question other than a teasing of the Commerce Clause to the breaking wife own and operate point justifies what amounts, in effect, to existential double jeopardy? Shall we incar- used and rare book store in cerate smokers for the harm their second- Bethany.) hand smoke yields?

ages were not, in fact, minors. I called the prosecutor and asked whether she was cer- from Florida. I had a chance to watch lems, as the war on drugs reflects. Lock up evening television, a rare event in a busy one wave of young drug dealers after another and what have you done? Merely I was prepared to leave it at that, but I men lured to a home by promises of sex changed the hands through which drugs with a minor. The men came from all walks and money are exchanged. The economy of of life. All were apparently arrested after a addiction remains constant, and that is because what feeds the narcotics trade is not dealers, but buyers. That is a lesson we learned when we repealed prohibition against alcohol. We have yet to apply the lesson to drugs.

> Will we be any more successful in prosecuting twisted desire? I have my doubts. Instead, what we are doing is drumming up hysteria. Cops pose as young teens on Myspace.com and other Internet facilities. "Come hither," they beckon. We can watch the arrests on television, too. We cannot get enough. Lust is so easily kindled.

> Moreover, when we are finally sated daily we are bombarded with easy images unleash half a dragon?

> But who has time to think? Why relate consequences to actions? After all, we want what we want when we want it. Buyer be-

(Attorney Norman Pattis is a criminal defense lawyer, appeals attorney and civil litigation lawyer. He has successfully fought against discrimination and reverse discrimination and is known as a strong civil rights advocate. Pattis has tried more than 100 cases to verdict. and argued scores of appeals in courts throughsession of child pornography. His lawyer out the United States. He served on the staff of did the sensible thing. His client was Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming and as a faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Pattis has spoken to various bar association groups and is a frequent legal commentator

on television and radio. He is a contributing writer for the Connecticut Law Tribune, and writes for his website, http://www.normanpatoccasional opinion pieces throughout the United States. Pattis and his Whitlock Farms Booksellers, a

By CORNELIUS P. KELLY Senior Assistant State's Attorney

All of us have watched in amazement and utter disbelief the endless parade of men parking themselves in kitchens they believe to be the homes of 14-year-olds only to be met by Chris Hansen, the Dateline reporter of NBC's To Catch a Predator. In some cases, these individuals go on to explain that their purpose in being there was not to engage in sex, but to be a friend or confidant to a wayward 14-year-old. When confronted with transcripts of their sexually explicit chat room conversations with a volunteer from the group known as Perverted Justice, which orchestrated the rendezvous, many cower in shame while others are simply indignant claiming that they have done nothing wrong. They all have excuses. Some state that the chat was taken out of context. Others claim that it was a mistake. Still others proclaim that it was the first and last time they will ever engage in this conduct. Finally, there are those who apologize for their indiscretions.

As the grilling and ridicule continues from Hansen most choose to leave, only to find their path of escape blocked by police officers waiting outside with cameras rolling. Since its inception in 2004, To Catch a Predator has become one of the most popular prime time television shows.

As a prosecutor who handles child abuse cases, I am guided by the words of Maria Montessori who stated, "All adults stand accused...the society responsible for the welfare of children has been put on trial. There is something apocalyptic about this startling accusation; it is mysterious and terrible like the voice of the Last Judgment: 'What have you done to the children I entrusted to you?"

The individuals depicted in the Dateline series are intent on harming our children. Their message is clear by their sexually charged online conversations. Their message

is clear from their conduct in traveling hours, and in some cases across state lines, to meet their 14-year-old paramour. Moreover, their message could not be any clearer when they arrive with alcohol, condoms and sexually explicit material. These individuals must be held accountable for their conduct and behavior. Yet, many in our community find the actions of *Dateline*,

group Perverted Justice, offensive. Many critics claim their tactics of public humiliation are unfair and fall outside the lines of ethical journalism, and that their tactics border, if not cross over, that entrapment line.

The practices employed by *Dateline* and Perverted Justice in reaching out and confronting these individuals are on solid legal ground and should be applauded.

Entrapment is a legal defense by which a defendant may argue that they should not be liable for their criminal conduct. To be successful, the defendant must show that the police induced an otherwise unwilling person to commit the crime. When one is predisposed to commit the crime, offering opportunities to commit the crime is not entrapment.

A Perverted Justice volunteer will be in a local chat room and will wait until they are Instant Messaged (IM) by an individual. They do not IM first. Invariably what follows is a sexually explicit dialogue initiated by the individual, not the volunteer. It is during these conversations that this individual will engage the young person in sexually explicit conversations. In many cases, the individual suggests the topic of arranging a meeting. The volunteer will then ask for this individual's phone number. Another volunteer posing as a child will call to verify the identity and intent of the individual. At this point, Perverted Justice will turn the transcripts over to police authorities in the hope that an arrest will be made.

In the Dateline segments, Perverted Justice will ask the individual to come to a specific location where the sting takes place. My understanding is that this same protocol was followed in the To Catch a Predator segments.

At the outset, Perverted Justice is not a law enforcement agency or a governmental entity that is subject to scrutiny under an entrapment defense theory. Perverted Justice has stated that if a police department sent around female police officers posing as prostitutes and knocked on the doors of ordinary citizens offering sex, this would constitute entrapment. Perverted Justice does not do the knocking but waits for the knock on the "online" door.

There has been some discussion about the fact that Perverted Justice has been paid for its time and efforts on the Dateline segments by NBC. Coupling that with the direct police involvement, I suppose a somewhat strained argument could be made that maybe, just maybe, Perverted Justice was acting as an agent for the government and an argument could be made for entrapment.

This would fail, however, as the defense

would have a very difficult time establishing known as the exploitation and abuse of chilthat the defendant did not have the predisdren. It takes on many forms including the position to commit the crime. The comuse of the Internet to solicit children for sexments initiated by the individual online, ual purposes. Cases involving the online along with their behavior and conduct at the solicitations of minors on the Internet need sting house, clearly demonstrate not only to be vigorously pursued and prosecuted. their predisposition to commit the crime, The tactics utilized by Perverted Justice but their inclination and willingness to carry and Dateline's 'To Catch a Predator' do not out the crime as well. To date, in cases constitute a violation of these individuals involving the Dateline stings, no entrapment constitutional rights. When all is said and defenses have been successful. As one done, I believe both Perverted Justice and Dateline can answer Maria Montessori's defense attorney has stated, "The people

who are out there trolling and looking, by question individually by stating, "I am doing

the language that they use, most of them my best to save them." And, yes, they are.

Cornelius Kelly has been with the State's sort of seal their own fate." Other defenses, such as role-playing or fantasy and that the Attorney's Office in Bridgeport since 1990. He crime to be committed is a factual or legal primarily focuses his prosecutorial duties in the impossibility, have been raised but have been area of child sexual and physical abuse. He received his doctorate of jurisprudence degree in Some have commented that *Dateline* and 1987 from The University of Bridgeport School of Law. In 2004, Kelly worked directly with the Perverted Justice should not be in the business of administering justice -- that the task group known as Perverted Justice in the successof bringing these individuals to justice ful prosecution of a Bridgeport man seeking to should be left to law enforcement authorihave a sexual liaison with an online 13-yearties. We have a problem in our society old female.

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JOIN IN ON THE DEBATE... If you are not in favor e-mail: no@thejusticejournal.com. If you are in favor e-mail: yes@thejusticejournal.com. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON "TO CATCH A PREDATOR"? If you are unsure e-mail: whatever@thejusticejournal.com.

RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE JUSTICE JOURNAL

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Law Enforcement Profile:

By CINDY SIMONEAU Correspondent

Fairfield Police Chief Leads Partnership with the Community

Fairfield Police Chief

David Peck

For Fairfield Police Chief David Peck, into the houses away from the day-to-day where people in each neighborhood are the top law enforcement job is more than just overseeing an active department of dedicated officers -- it is taking the lead in a partnership with the department and the community. Peck, who worked his way up through the ranks of the department, since taking over as chief in August, has been busy trying to instill that partnership anywhere and everywhere he can.

"I've spoken to and met with every group I can. I want them to know we all need to work together," said Peck, in an interview at his Reef Road office.

Among the community outreach efforts at the top of Peck's list is the ongoing conflict between Fairfield Beach area residents and the Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University students living in off-campus, rented housing in the area. Among permanent residents' concerns have been late-night, loud parties; students drinking in the streets and on lawns outside homes; parking problems; and some students urinating on lawns. While university officials have worked with the police and homeowners to strengthen awareness among students to the laws, there is still tension surrounding the situation.

"I'm taking a different approach than the past. In the past, we did not have a unified, single message we were delivering to residents and students about what behavior is expected and enforcement," said Chief Peck. "This year we got together and developed an action plan based on historical data about beach activity."

"Internally, we trained all officers about how to interact with students and homeowners. Externally, we met with students and year-round beach residents, university representatives and a group put together by the First Selectman [Kenneth Flatto] to develop one plan we would follow. Then, we put that plan into effect, and there has been nothing but positive feed-back since we started," Chief Peck

The plan includes weekly reports to residents about any violations in the area and enforcement action taken. Chief Peck points out that he believes there is a small percentage of young people causing problems, and that violators do not even rent in the beach area, or attend universities, but come there looking for a party.

Most important, we have followed up on the plan with consistent enforcement. People violating the laws or acting inappropriately face action all the time. There's not one set of rules for one night and another set the next," Chief Peck noted. "While the calls for fall remained about the same to start, enforcement action is double that of the past."

Fall is a busy time in the beach neighborhood, with students -- many moving off campus for the first time -- settling

it is the upcoming spring that Chief Peck feels will be the real test of the plan. The warmer weather, combined with the ending of the school year, usually sees a marked increase in the number of calls to the police department.

Among the other partnership efforts Chief Peck hopes will continue is the successful Citizen Police Academy (CPA) program under the direction of Capt. Robert Comers. The

March class has about 25 residents participating in a 10-week program of training by a variety of police officials from the local level to the state and federal officers. "There has been a renewed interest in this program, and many who participated in the past have been very helpful to us as more active and aware citizens. Among those who have completed training are Representative Town Meeting members and other town officials, as well as average citizens."

"During the weekly training classes they become more aware of the situation we face, and become more alert observers or resident experts in police enforcement," said Chief Peck. An application is required to participate in the Citizen Police Academy, which he says has sort of taken the place of the Neighborhood Watch programs of the past. "We would still like to have Neighborhood Watch,

scrutiny of university officials. However, aware of the usual, daily happenings on

their street. However, there is less and less interest in these groups. Perhaps it's just a reflection on lifestyle, but it certainly is no less needed now than it was in the past."

In addition to the citizen awareness efforts, the chief said the department is working to protect younger citizens through drug and alcohol awareness. The department is continuing its successful drug and alcohol aware-

ness efforts through the DARE program. 'We have the same issues as other suburban communities where young people complain they have nothing to do and nowhere to go meet. I grew up in this town, my children have grown up here and we all feel the same way. As a result many teens gather for parties in whichever home has a parent away, or who allows them to drink.

The Fairfield Police Department has sent letters to all 180 of the surrounding liquor dispensing locations putting them on notice the department has zero tolerance for those violating the law. With two public high schools and two private ones in town, Chief Peck said he feels there are large groups of young people here looking for somewhere to go and something to do.

The chief's partnership approach also extends to the department itself. "We need to work together as a team. I've told

works alone. We have started developing new leaders for the future of the department...Most important, I feel, I am empowering them to do what they are trained to do."

Peck joined the department as a regular police officer in 1979. He earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Housatonic Community College and a bachelor's degree in law enforcement administration from the University of New Haven. In addition, he is a graduate of the FBI National Training Academy in Quantico, Va., and is currently president of the Connecticut Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates. His professional affiliations include the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Connecticut, the Fairfield Police Benevolent Association and board of directors of the Fairfield Police Athletic League.

the officers that no one, including me,

Peck is the department's eighth chief. He is already changing the management view of the department by extending the chief's meetings beyond the four captains to allow others to attend and discuss enforcement issues or advance other ideas. "Police work is often based a lot on tradition. Some of that system is good, but some just needs changing. Instead of every idea coming through some sort of chain, I want officers to feel free to stop me and offer their thoughts and suggestions. I've heard some great ideas since I started in August."

Chief Peck also credits the sevenmember Board of Police Commissioners with supporting his and the department's initiatives within the political realm and the community. "We are fortunate to have a good commission that works hard on police oversight, hiring and firing issues and traffic activity."

At 50, Peck does not view the chief's job as one for the next 25 years of his life. His three-year contract ends in April 2009 and he plans to look at the job as one year at a time. "My wife, Lyn, and I are looking forward to someday enjoying our retirement. I'm happy I've spent my career with the Fairfield Police Department, but it won't be my whole life," he said. The Pecks have two children, a daughter Erin, 22, a graduate of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, who is pursuing graduate studies, and a son, Doug, 20, a current undergraduate college student.

Whenever the chief decides to retire, he said he hopes to leave a legacy of the police department and the community partnering on every issue of safety. "We need a cross-section of people working together to make a community work," he noted.

Elks Honor Fairfield's Finest On February 27, the Fairfield Elks Lodge honored the Fairfield Police Depart-

ment for maintaining law and order in the community.

'We decided to honor the Fairfield PD because their mission is to foster and work in true partnership with the community and thereby raise the expected level of public safety for residents and visitors alike," said Elks Lecturing Knight Jane Celon.

The Fairfield Elks have also donated \$1000 to support the PAL Program this year.

In accordance with Governor Jodi Rell's proclamation declaring National Law and Order Day, State Rep. Thomas Drew (D-Fairfield) presented four proclamations to each division of the Fairfield PD.

Additionally, Fairfield First Selectman Ken Flatto awarded certificates for defending the community.

The town must be on the right track with Money magazine listing Fairfield as the Ninth Safest Place to Live in the United States.

Pictured L-R are: State Rep Tom Drew, Det. Sgt Edward Greene, Det. Peter Bravo, Jane Celon, Sgt Diane Krahm, Sgt Jeffrey Bloch, Elks Exalted Ruler James Vezina, Captain Gary MacNamara, Chief David Peck.

(Contact Cindy at c.simoneau@thejusticejournal.com)

'Ghost Bandit' Admits to Robbing 15 Connecticut Banks

Michael Gola, 33, formerly of New Britain, and nicknamed by law enforcement authorities as the "Ghost Bandit," will be sentenced May 10 for a series of bank robberies. He pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson in Hartford to robbing 15 banks in Connecticut, and a total of 13 banks in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Police in Bridgeport, Darien, Newtown, Windsor, Mystic, Cromwell, Plainville, Bristol and Westbrook were among those who assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States attorney for the District of Connecticut, said, "In recent years, the number of bank robberies in Connecticut has been on the rise. These crimes not only injure banking institutions and their customers, but also pose a grave risk to public safety."

O'Connor's office reports the majority of Gola's bank robberies took place in the spring and summer of 2004. Each time, he entered the bank and handed the teller a note in which he demanded money in large denominations. These notes also stated that Gola had a gun, even though he never actually showed a weapon. Gola, who admitted in court that he committed these bank robberies while addicted to prescription narcotic drugs, obtained \$54,368.82 from the robberies. His plea agreement requires him to make full restitution to the 28 banks he robbed. Gola faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 for each count.

Cyber Bullying —

(Continued from page 6)

gests three steps for parents to consider: 1) Understand the child's position as a victim. 2) Help them problem solve and not blame their child for how they handled the situation. 3) In the event cyber-bullying is taking place during school, parents need to contact school officials to find out what they can do internally to make it stop.

Much of the harmful activity is occurring on "social networking" sites. A report from the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use states while there are many "positive aspects" about social networking, these sites can also be used "aggressively against others." One such website, MySpace.com, has a means for reporting cyber-bullying activity.

In addition, the report states that educators and parents may conclude young people are protected online because of filtering software, but ultimately this provides a "false sense of security" and does not prevent cyberbullying. Parents are advised to stay in the loop, talk to their kids about cyberbullying, keep computers in high traffic areas and learn the "online talk." For example, "POS" means "parents over shoulder." Cyber-bullying.org provides a quick introduction to the common lingo used in text communication.

Parents can find a wealth of information online or through their local school to help determine if their child is the target of cyber-bullying and what actions they can take. Helpful sites include:

www.childguidancect.org www.csriu.org www.cyberbullying.org www.connectwithkids.com

(Contact Pamela at p.falcigno@thejusticejournal.com)

GET INVOLVED

Join the debate in every issue with our point/counterpoint column, "Versus"



'East End Killer' Extradited —

(Continued from page 1)

during that period of time -- and police say Webb is a possible suspect. However, according to prosecutors, there are no DNA samples to test in any of those

Webb had moved to Georgia in 1994 to be with family members. He found work in construction, but was soon arrested in the death of Evelyn Charity. Webb told authorities he accidentally strangled her during rough sex and then stabbed and robbed her to make it appear like a botched robbery.

Webb later pleaded guilty to reduced charges of involuntary manslaughter, rob-

bery and motor vehicle theft. "So, that was one more woman he killed and he could have easily struck again,"

Det. Teixeira noted.

Webb was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released on parole in 2001. Officials in Georgia said Webb's parole was revoked for illegal drug use, and failure to report a residency change when he had moved back to Connecticut after being released from prison.

Under Connecticut extradition law, the state has only 180 days to try Webb.

(Contact Chandra at c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)

BLOOPERS & BLUNDERS:

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



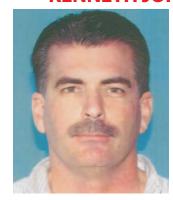
SHOPLIFTER CAPTURES SELF AT KNIFEPOINT

In California, a man tried to steal several kitchen knives from a department store. He found it is not a good idea to stick several unsheathed knives into your pants. He was caught by the guard. He tried to fight his way past and stabbed himself in the process. Couldn't he have found a less painful way to catch himself?

WANTED:

BY THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

KENNETH JOHN FREEMAN



Sex: Male Race: White DOB: June 21, 1962 Place of Birth: Virginia Height: 6'2" Weight: 250lbs Eyes: Hazel Hair: Brown Skintone: Medium Scars/Tattoos: None

Charges: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT - FIRST DEGREE RAPE OF A CHILD

FREEMAN is wanted by the U.S. Marshals for Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution and by the Benton County Washington Sheriff for Failure to Appear. FREEMAN jumped bond after his arrest by the Richland, WA, police for three counts of Rape of a Child in the First Degree. FREEMAN is also wanted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the Production and Distribution of Child Pornography. FREEMAN is a former law enforcement officer with extensive firearms and tactical training. He is a bodybuilder whose weight and muscularity varies. The USMS is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information directly leading to his arrest.

If arrested or whereabouts known contact the nearest United States Marshals Service office or call the United States Marshals Service Headquarters at 1 (800) 336-0102.

For more information see the U.S. Marshals Service website www.usmarshals.gov

Detectives refuse to give up—

(Continued from page 4)

other words, a match means exclusion of everyone else except the men in a particular family. In Hourani's case, such gender specificity broke it down to two suspects: Hourani and his father (a much-younger toddler brother was ruled out for obvious reasons, as was Hourani's father).

On Jan. 18, 2007, Anas Hourani was served an arrest warrant. He was later taken into custody by the Fairfield police and charged with attempted felony murder, first-degree sexual assault, first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, first-degree unlawful restraint and fourth-degree larceny. He is being held on a \$3 million cash bond at the Bridgeport Correctional Center, Inmate #347560. His first court date came and went on February 6, and his next was scheduled for March 13. His attorney, Gary Mastronardi, did not return phone calls for this story.

Rather than the term "cold case," police prefer instead to label such cases as "inactive." Some departments, like Bridgeport's, maintain "cold case squads," in which detectives focus solely on "inactive files." For Fairfield detectives, the numbers don't warrant such segregation. And with the Hourani case seemingly resolved inso-

far as charges have been brought, the department now has just two unsolved cases to work on -- the 1986 dumping of a woman's body in town, and the early 1980s baby homicide case that appears to be something of a ritualistic nature. According to Det. Lt. Dan Gombos, both have been "reactivated" due to recent events.

With the Hourani case, that reactivation and eventual closing came about because of a string of occurrences -- as most seemingly do. "It was a combination of a detective with a strong drive to solve the case, an involved community and technology confirming it," said Capt. Gary MacNamara, further noting that all three pieces of the triangle are usually necessary for success. Lt. Gombos adds that there is often one more piece: "The fourth factor is a little bit of luck."

Luck or not, the case has made an impact on Det. Dalling, who is not through with it yet because of court appearances. "This was definitely the most significant case I've ever been on," she said. "What started off as a little snowflake rolled into a huge snowball. Fortunately, it worked out great."

(Contact Dawn at d.miceli@thejusticejournal.com)

Events & Notices:

Saturday March 24

MADD Connecticut sponsoring "Skate for Leah" Sat. March 24 6PM - 9PM at the Louis Astorino Ice Arena. \$5 per person.

Saturday March 24 and Saturday April 7

Amber Alert Kids ID Sessions. Sat. April 7 10AM - 4PM at the Prospect Fire Dept. Sponsored by the Rotary Club. Contact Bob Vetter @ 203-748-1105. Sat. March 24 10AM - 2PM Children's Day at Danbury Hospital.

Now Thru March 26

Registration for Greenwich Citizens Police Academy is now open through March 26. Applications available at Police Headquarters or online at www.greenwichct.org/policedept. Participants must be residents of Greenwich, CT.

Saturday April 28

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Rally will be held Saturday, April 28 at 11AM in the lobby of the State Capitol. For more information, contact Mary Hamilton at 888-833-4764.

www.missingkids.com

Missing and Exploited Children -- Get involved in the Poster-Partner Program. Receive E-mail alerts about children who become missing in your area. Go to www.missingkids.com, then to Help Now, and click onto Get Involved.

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email to: info@thejusticejournal.com or mail to: The Justice Journal 21 Charles Street, Suite 114 Westport, CT 06810

MISSING:

FAMILY ABDUCTION

HANAN TARRAT



DOB: Jan 2, 1995

Missing: Dec 20, 2003 Age Now: 12
Sex: Female Race: Asian
Hair: Black Eyes: Black
Height: 4'2" (127cm)
Weight: 80lbs (36kg)

Missing From: New Britain, CT

EXPLOITED C H I L D R E N' www.missingkids.com

IBTSAM TARRAT



DOB: Aug 29, 1992
Missing: Dec 20, 2003 Age Now: 14
Sex: Female Race: Asian
Hair: Brown Eyes: Black
Height: 5'0" (152cm)
Weight: 95lbs (43kg)
Missing From: New Britain, CT

SHIMA TARRAT



DOB: Oct 29, 1997
Missing: Dec 20, 2003 Age Now: 9
Sex: Female Race: Asian
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown
Height: 3'8" (112cm)
Weight: 40lbs (18kg)
Missing From: New Britain, CT

ABDO TARRAT



DOB: Dec 23, 1962
Sex: Male Race: Asian
Hair: Black Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'10" (178cm)
Weight: 155lbs (70kg)

Hanan's photo is shown age-progressed to 11 years, Ibtsam's photo is shown aged to 13 years and Shima's photo is shown aged to 8 years. They were allegedly abducted by their father, Abdo Ali Tarrat. A felony warrant was issued for the abductor on Jan. 7, 2004. They may also be traveling in the company of three male children. They are believed to have left the country and traveled to Yemen. Hanan, Ibtsam, and Shima all have pierced ears. Hanan's nickname is Hana, Ibtsam's nickname is Basmh and Shima's nickname is Shroti.

Social Networking Websites—

(Continued from page 3)

Web and see what students can do online. According to program organizers, it has been an illuminating experience.

"We all eventually drive cars and we will all use the Internet," said Natalie Carrignan, director of Instructional Technology for the Westport Public School System, who along with three other coordinators, conducts a series of workshops for parents of students grades K-12. "There are things we must learn to become more safe on the road and the same is true for the Internet."

According to Carrignan, the two-hour workshop was designed to increase parents' awareness of a variety of Internet safety issues and to provide them with resources to help keep them up to date and start conversations with their kids. In addition to Internet awareness, the course also addresses cyber-bullying and Internet lingo.

"Parents come for a variety of reasons, including understanding what their own children are talking about or asking what they wanted to be able to do online, or to gain more details about dangers they had heard about in the news," said Carrignan. "We received a lot of positive feedback from the parents." Six workshops were conducted last year at Staples High School and will continue to be offered.

When it comes to older kids, Face-book is the place to network. The site was

originally developed for Harvard University students, faculty and staff; but since its creation in 2004, it has expanded to include members ranging from high school students to corporate transplants. The name is derived from the hardcopy facebooks provided to incoming students and staff as a getting-to-know-you tool. The site's revenue, supported by advertising, was rumored at about \$1 million per week in 2006.

Similar to MySpace, Facebook includes user profiles and information sharing through photos, email and friend lists. Yet, there have been concerns regarding its information-sharing policies and complaints about misuse -- including data mining and surveillance.

In fact, Facebook's privacy agreement states: We may use information about you that we collect from other sources, including but not limited to newspapers and Internet sources such as blogs, instant messaging services and other users of Facebook, to supplement your profile. Another clause reads: We may share your information with third parties, including responsible companies with which we have a relationship.

With any online social activity, there is always the opportunity for abuse by predators -- such as those concerns raised by Connecticut's attorney general. For that reason, *The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act* (COPPA) became law. It requires websites to explain privacy poli-

cies on the site and get parent or guardian consent before collecting or using personal information including name, address, phone number and social security number. The law also prohibits a site from requiring a child to provide more personal information than necessary to play a game or enter a contest.

In Connecticut, Senate Minority Leader *Pro Tempore* John McKinney of Southport (R-28), and state Sen. Louis C. DeLuca of Woodbury (R-32), who heads the Republican Senate Caucus, have introduced a bill titled, The Internet Child Protection Act. It targets the increasing number of child sex crimes committed using the aid of the Web. The proposal calls for the creation of an Internet Predator Task Force Unit within the State Police to focus solely on Internet sex crimes. The act would also establish an Internet safety course to teach elementary and middle school students how to protect themselves from potential dangers.

"My approach is to attack problems in many different ways," said Sen. McKinney, whose district includes Easton, Fairfield, Newtown and Weston. "I want stricter penalties, but we also need to do a better job of getting to kids about the potential dangers. My hope is to be able to catch predators in the act. There are stings set up by law enforcement and

media which have proven to be very effective in chat rooms."

The act would also mandate that a sexual predator enticing a minor between the ages of 13 and 15 over the Internet would have a mandatory minimum 10-year prison sentence for a first offense, and special probation with electronic surveillance using a geo-positioning system (GPS). A pedophile convicted of using the Internet to lure a child 12 or younger would face 25 years in prison for the first offense and a life sentence for the second offense.

Would police need special training? "Absolutely," said Sen. McKinney. "Our resources within public safety need to be more involved in computer-related crimes so they would have specific training in Internet sex crimes and how to identify criminals. I think part of the explosion of sexual predator activity is the fact that the Internet provides some kind of an anonymous outlet. Obviously you're not going to catch everyone, but the more you can do from a law enforcement perspective, the more it will have a deterrent effect."

Sen. McKinney said he hopes to have the bill voted on before the session ends in June.

(Contact Chandra at c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)

www.NetLingo.com 50 More Internet Acronyms EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW:

1. 2NITE - Tonight

2. AEAP - As Early As Possible

3. ALAP - As Late As Possible

4. AWGTHTGTTA - Are We Going To Have To Go Through This Again

5. B4YKI - Before You Know It

6. BOHICA - Bend Over Here It Comes Again

7. BRB - Be Right Back

8. BRT - Be Right There

9. CWYL - Chat With You Later

10. C-P - Sleepy

11. CYT or SYT - See You Tomorrow

12. E123 - Easy as 1, 2, 3

13. EM? - Excuse Me?

14. EOD - End Of Day

15. F2F - Face To Face

16. FOAF - Friend Of A Friend

17. HAK - Hugs And Kisses

18. ILU or ILY - I Love You

19. IMNSHO - In My Not So Humble Opinion

20. J/C - Just Checking

21. KOTL - Kiss On The Lips

22. L8R - Later

23. LD - Long Distance

24. LMK - Let Me Know

25. LOL - Laugh Out Loud

26. NAZ - Name, Address, Zip

27. N-A-Y-L - In A While

28. NM - Never Mind or Nothing Much

29. OLL - Online Love

30. OSIF - Oh Sh** I Forgot

31. OTP - On The Phone

32. QT - Cutie

33. RN - Right Now

34. ROTFL - Rolling on the Floor Laughing

35. RU - Are You ...?

36. RUMORF - Are You Male Or

37. SITD - Still In The Dark

38. SMIM - Send Me an Instant Message

39. SMEM - Send Me an E-Mail

40. SO - Significant Other

41. SOHF - Sense of Humor Failure

42. SWDYT - So What Do You Think?

43. TOM - Tomorrow

44.TS - Tough Sh**

45.TTFN - Ta-ta for Now

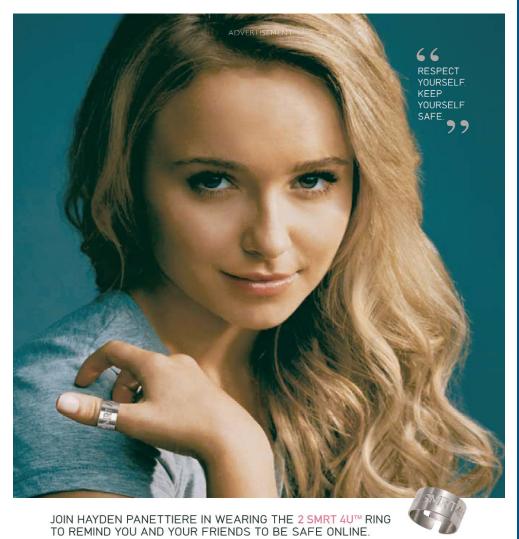
46. U-R - You Are..?

47. WFM - Works For Me

48. WTH - What the Heck

49. WUF - Where Are You From?

50. WYRN - What's Your Real Name?



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By CAPT. GARY MACNAMARA Fairfield Police Department Special to The Justice Journal



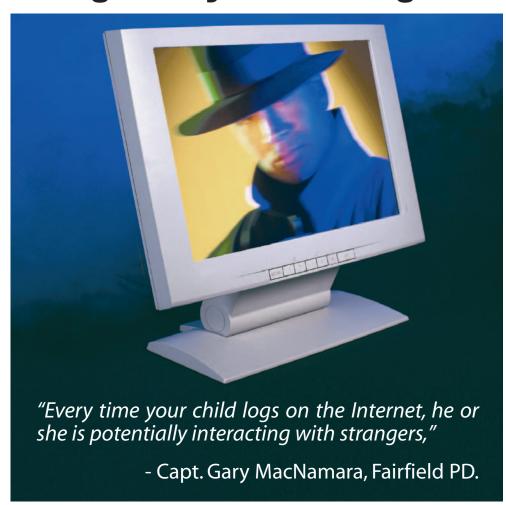
Cyber-Stranger Danger May Be Lurking in Your Home

What if one night after dinner, your son or daughter goes upstairs into their bedroom, while you stay downstairs watching the news or cleaning off the table. Moments later, there is a knock at the front door. Your child runs down, answers it, and you hear your child and this unknown person proceed upstairs. For the next hour, you can hear conversation and activity in the room. Eventually the subject leaves and your child returns downstairs.

Would you allow that to happen? Wouldn't you wonder who it was that was just upstairs? What they were doing? Has the visitor been here before? Wouldn't you ask your child? What if your child told you they did not know who it was, and that they had just met? Would it concern you? *It should*. Would you let it happen again?

What if it weren't a knock on the door? What if your child was just logging onto the Internet? Would it make a difference? It shouldn't. Every time your child logs on the Internet, they are potentially interacting with strangers. In addition, if that computer is located in their bedroom, you are allowing them unsupervised interaction with strangers -- cyber-strangers. Just as you would not let a stranger in your house to interact with your child, you should not allow it on the Internet. Moreover, if you never talk to your children about such dangers, you are not providing them with information to keep them safe. Think it's not a problem? Think again.

According to <u>WWW.I-SAFE.COM</u>, in the United States, more than 48 million children ages 5 through 17 regularly use the Internet. Children must be protected from Internet dangers by learning the skills to act responsibly and possessing the tools to be better cyber citizens. A recent I-SAFE survey revealed that a startling 73 percent of fifth- through 12th-graders in the United States believed there was a need for kids and teens to learn about Internet safety.



Twenty-five percent have either met "face to face" with someone they first met on the Internet or are willing to do so. Nearly 30 percent say that if their parents knew what they were doing on the Internet, their parents would disapprove, restrict their computer use, or even take away the computer.

In recent months, we learned through news stories and media coverage the problems "social networking sites" such as MySpace and Facebook have created for our children. The websites detail how you can create a private community where you can share photos, journals and interests with your growing number of mutual friends. What we also learned was that children were becoming the victims of predators, who tempted some

kids to a face-to-face meeting.

The risk of cyber predators reaching your children is growing. According to the I-safe website statistics, 20 percent of high-school students (grades nine through 12) have met face to face with someone they first met online. Some 19 percent of middle-school students (grades five through eight) have met face to face with someone they first met online. And 10 percent of middle- and high-school students have met face to face with a stranger from the Internet who was not their own age. Seven percent of middle- and high-school students have been asked by Internet strangers to keep their relationship a secret. Thirteen percent of middle- and high-school students know they have been fooled about the age of someone they met on the Internet. Some 27 percent of middle- and high-school students know someone who has made friends with a much older (at least five years older) person on the Internet. Finally, 29 percent of middle- and highschool students have chatted or used IM with someone on the Internet they have never met face to face.

Aside from MySpace and Facebook, there are AOL chat rooms and more than 200 other social networking websites. In fact, anytime you or your child logs onto the computer, there is the risk of exposure to inappropriate material, harassment, computer crimes, threatening or even cyber-bullying. Depending on their age, users may engage in cheating, misuse of computer system informa-

tion, identity theft, or even gambling. There have even been instances where future college or job offers have been adversely affected by prior activity on the Internet.

So, what if you are a parent and you wanted to keep your kids safer while on the Internet? What should you do? Well, what would you do on a trip to New York City with your kids? Do you get off the train, tell them to have fun and meet back in a couple hours to head home? No? Why? Because parents know there are areas of a big city that are not appropriate, based upon their age and your parental values. Therefore, you minimize the exposure to the areas inappropriate, yet still take advantage of those parts of the city that have educational and social value.

The Internet is no different. There are areas that based upon a child's age, maturity level or you own social values, they can and should go to. There are also areas of the Internet that they shouldn't go to. So how do you accomplish this? It's not easy, but you can start by thinking of a car seat belt.

The seat belt in your car is designed to keep your children safe while driving. In order to ensure they use it you have to reinforce the need. You have to show the risk, talk about it and at times verify they still wear it. Why? We know through experience that driving a car does come with risks of injury or at times even death. A seat belt can help minimize the risk of being injured. Nevertheless, you have to use it. Not one time, but every time you drive. You can't predict when you might need it. Accidents can happen day or night in all kinds of weather. You can't put it on as you start to get into the accident, and it certainly does no use putting it on after the accident. The only way to get its full benefit is to use it every time you drive.

The same thing is true for the Internet. The only way to minimize the risk of injury or victimization for your kids while on the Internet is to practice using their Internet seatbelt.

First is to learn all you can about the safety features your Internet service provider offers. Can you block certain areas? Learn the dangers. Where do your children go online? Where do they have access to the Internet? Attend classes. Many police departments and PTA's offer free training sessions. Use the services of such websites such as I-Safe.com for more assistance. Use the Internet with your child to see where they go and what they can be exposed to.

Second, communicate -- with your kids, fellow parents, teachers and anyone else you can to share all they know with all you know. Talk of the risk and benefits of the Internet. The information you

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Forgiveness and Remembrance-

(Continued from page 1)

possession of marijuana. Police found marijuana in his car the night of the accident, but he was not charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Being designated a "youthful offender" meant that Trevor would not go

jail -- he could have done serious time.

During sentencing in March 2004, Judge Richard Damiani commented about the Taccones' compassion, noting, "I don't think if I were in your shoes I could do what you did today...(It) is an expression, of love that we

do what you did today...(It) is an expression...of love that was a fitting tribute to your daughter. The beauty of that young girl -- you can see where it came from, from the family."

Addressing Trevor, the judge said, "If it wasn't for their beauty and their love, you'd be going to state's prison...You're a very lucky young man."

Trevor then told Sara's family, "You have given me a second chance...I promise I will not let you down. I promise I will succeed. I realize I have the responsibility to do twice as much good in this world -- the good I would have provided and the good I know Sara would have brought to the world...I will dedicate my life to the memory of your daughter."

Judge Damiani sentenced Trevor to probation for five years, twice-weekly drug testing and 50 hours of community service each year. He was also prohibited from driving until he is 21 -- because of an almost unbelievable coincidental incident that had happened just four months after Sara's death.

John explained, "Sheila was cut off by a speeding car...Trevor was behind the wheel and never noticed who he had cut off... I started to get angrier and angrier... I've got another daughter who was going to get her license the following year, but that, and the thought of him (Trevor) being on the road, was just overwhelming."

Many of Trevor's community service hours are spent addressing high school students about the potentially deadly dangers of reckless driving and driving while impaired. As Judge Damiani noted: "You have a message to convey to young people. You can make kids understand... one minute you're happy, having a good time, and in a split second -- tragedy. You've got to get the message through."

Judge Damiani also ordered Trevor to contribute \$5,000 of his own money to the Sara Taccone

Foundation for the Arts.
Sara's family established the foundation to celebrate her love of the arts and performing. She had been a member of the drama club at Trumbull High School and had appeared in the musical, "The Pajama Game." The Foun-

dation is dedicated to helping area students achieve their artistic goals.

Every year, John Taccone, a Broadway stagehand, invites the cast of a hit Broadway musical to a workshop at Trumbull High School.

"It's amazing, trust me," he said. "It's a soul-satisfying day for all — and it is for all. I mean the kids get something that money can't buy. The cast actually gets so much out of working with the kids that they're elated, and, of course, Sheila and I get to see these performers perform on Sara's stage. I can't tell you on a personal level how much that helps us emotionally. It seems like it's an honor and a tribute to Sara, and a way... just to keep her alive."

This year, the cast of "Mary Poppins" agreed to work with the students.

Sara is also remembered for her inherent sensitivity. That day in court when Trevor was sentenced, a family friend related an anecdote that exemplified Sara's kindness.

"She was kind and compassionate at a time when most children are still self-centered," Diane Mone said, recalling an incident when Sara was only 6-years-old. "When playing in my backyard, she announced to me she had a new friend. She reached in her pocket and pulled out a feather, not a very pretty one either. I asked why she'd chosen a feather for a friend -- it couldn't talk to her, it couldn't play with her. But, she tucked it back in her pocket and told me because it had lost its bird and didn't want to be alone."

How would Sara feel about everything

that has transpired since her death? Her father thinks, "She would absolutely love it. I believe she guides us. We are trying to follow the course she would want us to take. Everything is about her perspective on life. She was a cool kid," he recalled, smiling as he said that.

As for Trevor, he is now 21 and attend-

ing college.

To contact the Sara Taccone Foundation for the Arts: <u>info@sarataccone.org</u> Donations may be sent to 4 Daniels Farm Road #428, Trumbull, CT 06611.

(Contact Teale at t.caliendo@thejusticejournal.com)

Remembering Sara With Music



A CD containing songs dedicated to Sara Taccone, performed by friends and local artists, will be available later this year with all proceeds going directly to the Foundation.

One song comes from friend David Lowell and his band from Atlanta, The Affordables. It's their take on the Beatles' *Dear Prudence*.

Another song, *Pure Love,* was written and performed by the group Borealis. The group's members were Sara's friends and classmates from Trumbull High School.

For more information: http://sarataccone.org/index.html



Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Visor Alert Program

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association along with the state DMV and the State Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired have a program aimed to better alert police officers to hearing impaired drivers.

The program provides bright green visor envelopes for hearing impaired drivers to place their license, registration and insurance information.



In Connecticut about 1 in 5 drivers is hard of hearing or deaf and the program is designed to help police officers better communicate with drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The envelopes are available at all Connecticut Police Departments and from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

www.cpcanet.org



RIIRGI AR RARREOUF

A woman in Connecticut came home to find two men cooking and drinking beer in her kitchen. When she asked who they were, they told her they were burglars. They said they would give her stuff back if she would not tell on them! They would not let her use the phone, but they did not try to hurt her.

Eventually, her sister came over and asked who the men were. When they told her they were burglars, she ran out of the house and called the police

The burglars ran out, but the police found them hiding in the neighborhood on top of a garage, too drunk to make a good escape!

AAA CT MOTOR CLUB FACTOIDS:

CT AAA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- THIRTY PERCENT of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 51 percent on weekends.
- **CONNECTICUT STATE LAW** requires children up to the age of 7 and less than 60 pounds to be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system while riding in a motor vehicle.
- A STANDARD DRINK is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 72-proof distilled spirits, all of which contain the same mount of alcohol -- about .54 ounces.
- THE 6.2 MILLION motor vehicle crashes in 2005 cost an estimated \$230 billion annually in property and productivity losses, medical and emergency bills and other related costs, equaling \$792 per every American, every year.
- **ABOUT THREE IN EVERY TEN** Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

What If ...? —

(Continued from page 16)

share may at times be scary, but scary information may not mean it's bad information.

Third, establish rules with your children -- as you would with anything else. Where is the computer located? When can they go online, for how long, and who they can and can't communicate with. No face-to-face meetings, no releasing of personal information, no photos, and always tell an adult if anyone ever asks to meet or makes you feel uncomfortable.

Fourth is trust. As a parent there is a certain level of trust we need to establish with our children. Set the rules and help your children follow them. All children are curious and the Internet can be a normal extension of that curiosity as long it does not go over the line and expose them to inappropriate items or predators. Allow them to use the computer only under the rules you establish.

With trust comes the fifth step: verification. Trust, but verify. Pay attention to what they do online. Do they shrink the screen when you walk by? Learn how to review sites visited so you can see where their Internet travels have been taking them. If you begin to feel that they are going to inappropriate sites, downloading inappropriate material, chatting with strangers or you just feel that your child may be conducting risky behavior, take

prompt action. Begin by reviewing the necessary precautions with your child. If you still believe they may not be following the rules, you may want to look at some of the programs and devices that assist in monitoring, either openly or surreptitiously, to see what your child is doing online.

Finally, if you do have concerns, or locate information indicating that your child may be the victim of a predator, you can and should contact your local police department. Don't erase the screen or shut off the computer until police have a chance to investigate. Changing anything may erase valuable information the police may need. If the displays are offensive it is okay to shut the screen off until investigators have a chance to look at them.

Understand the Internet is a lot like electricity. It provides valuable resources when handled safely, but it can hurt and even kill you if handled incorrectly. Electricians follow the same safety procedures each time they handle electricity -- it's not taught to them once and forgotten.

Learn and teach your children the safe ways to navigate the Internet, and take steps to ensure they are following those steps -- not one time, but every time they use the Internet.

(Send questions or comments to: g.macnamara@thejusticejournal.com)

MISSING:

ENDANGERED MISSING

LISA WHITE



AGE PROGRESSED



DOB: Feb 2, 1961 Missing: Nov 1, 1974
Age Now: 46 Sex: Female Race: White
Hair: Blonde Eyes: Blue Height: 5'0" (152cm) Weight: 100lbs (50kg)
Missing From: Vernon, CT

Lisa's photo is shown age progressed to 44 years. Lisa was last seen walking along Prospect Street in Vernon, Conn., at 8 p.m. on Nov. 1, 1974. The last time she was seen, Lisa was wearing green pants and a blue jean jacket. She has a chicken pock mark on her forehead.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Bridgeport Police Department 1-203-576-7671

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Due Process of Law: Know Your Constitutional Rights!

"Aside from all else, 'due process' means fundamental fairness and substantial justice."

Vaughn v. State, Black's Law Dictionary, 6th Edition, page 500.

The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees all citizens "due process of law." What does that really mean to you? Find out beginning next month in The Justice Journal when a special feature, Due Process of Law, provides insights into our system of justice.

Commentary and answers to your questions about legal issues will be provided by one of Connecticut's premiere trial attorneys, Richard T. Meehan Jr. of Bridgeport's Meehan, Meehan & Gavin. (www.meehanlaw.com)

Meehan is a Nationally Certified Criminal Trial Specialist, and a Charter Fellow of the American Academy of Trial Counsel, as well as a former Adjunct Law Professor. He has handled some of Connecticut's highest profile criminal and civil cases. He can be seen as a law commentator on local and national TV, including CourtTV's The Best Defense with Jami Floyd and Courtside with Ashleigh Banfield and Jack Ford.

Rich is a frequent contributor to the blog, Cool Justice (www.cooljustice.blogspot.org). He writes a weekly column on legal issues for the Norwich Bulletin and his opinion pieces have been featured in our own VER-SUS debates.

It's no secret that TV programs about justice, and courtroom novels, fascinate us. But what do real life lawyers do and think? What is hearsay? Why would a lawyer not have a client testify -- if the client is innocent? How do you defend the guilty? Why should courts throw out critically important evidence if police did not get a search warrant for it? How do you get called for jury duty? How are jurors selected? How do jurors decide how much to award in damages? What is the penalty for DUI? What is malpractice? Here's your opportunity to go inside the legal system!

E-mail your questions to: Dueprocess@thejusticejournal.com

DISCLAIMER. This column is offered for general informational purposes. Responses to reader inquiries are necessarily generic in nature and are not intended to constitute the rendering of specific legal advice regarding any specific situation or circumstance and should not be relied upon without consulting with your own attorney.

Please support these businesses. They have joined the fight to make our communities safer!

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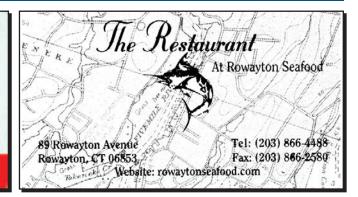
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