

Roadside Memorials

While roadside memorials provide comfort for families, they present issues for state officials.
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**Law Enforcement Profile**

Edmund Mosca, the state's longest serving police chief, talks about "the old days" and how he will soon blaze a new trail in his career.
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Things you should consider if you are the victim of a home invasion.
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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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I-95 Considered Main Drug Trafficking Pipeline

Keeping Fairfield County Communities Safe from Drugs a Never-Ending Battle for Law Enforcement

By **BILL BITTAR**
Correspondent

Traffic on I-95 routinely moves at a crawl in lower Fairfield County as state residents and New Yorkers make their daily commutes to and from their jobs. But some of the private cars and trucks putting along in the northbound lanes are there for a different reason.

Hidden compartments inside the vehicles are used to store crack, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, allowing the drivers to deliver their illegal cargo from the Big Apple to New England without detection. In fact, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has identified I-95 as one of the main drug pipelines for transporting drugs across the Connecticut border.

Bridgeport Police Lt. Christopher LaMaine, who heads up his department's Tactical Narcotics Team, said that about 95 percent of the illegal drugs sold in Fairfield County come from drug traffickers in the New York City area, with the remainder coming largely from sup-



Bridgeport Police Lt. Christopher LaMaine, head of the Tactical Narcotics Team, displays plastic bags containing illegal drugs taken from the streets, including crack-cocaine, heroin and marijuana. (Photo by Bill Bittar)

pliers in Hartford and Waterbury.

"Drug use and abuse is prevalent throughout New England, and no county is exempt from it," said Special Agent Anthony Pettigrew, DEA spokesperson, in a telephone interview from his Boston office. "Any time there's drug trafficking in cities and neighborhoods, we work to rid communities of it."

Apparently no town is immune. Most of the drug arrests in Fairfield County – more than 40 percent in 2004 – are made in Bridgeport, its most populous city. But numbers can be deceiving. LaMaine estimates that about half of its arrestees hail from surrounding towns that make up the wealthier suburbs.

"Last week I stopped a man buying crack, who is an executive at a Madison Avenue advertising firm, clean cut, from Easton," LaMaine said.

The number of drug offenses in Bridgeport peaked in the early- to mid-90s, before seemingly being cut in half, according to LaMaine.

"We have a considerable drug prob-

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Yellow Dot Program Offers Seniors Protection in Emergencies

By **LEISA TAYLOR**
Correspondent

The difference between life and death, for some senior citizens, could be a fist-sized yellow dot displayed on their car.

The round yellow decal, the symbol of the Yellow Dot Program, notifies first responders to an automobile accident that the driver has vital personal and medical information in the car's glove compartment. "It's a life-saving program," said Angela DeLeon, creator and founder of the program. "I tell the seniors, 'You would do this for your kids and you would do this for your loved ones. So this is something you have to do for yourself.'"

The Yellow Dot Program (YDP) concept is simple. A yellow dot sticker is affixed to the lower left-hand side of the car's rear windshield. In the event of an accident, emergency personnel who see the decal know to look inside the glove compartment for a yellow information form. A photograph accompanying the form ensures that emergency responders can correctly identify the victim.

The form itself provides personal information as well as emergency contacts, hospital preference, medical history, allergies, medications, and physicians' names and num-



Sean Fitch of American Medical Response explains the Yellow Dot forms to Sylvia Spivack of Bridgeport. (Photo by Leisa Taylor)

bers. A person's medical history and medications can be vital for first responders.

"There was a woman in Norwalk who had a pump in her body for a very severe back problem," said DeLeon.

"Her pain medication was pumped into her body. The woman told me, 'If I were ever in an accident in my car and someone did not know I had this pump, they could give me certain medication and I could die (from the interaction between the medications).' This woman said she feels so much more comfortable having the yellow dot."

The YDP is sponsored by TRIAD, a combination of three groups who work together to protect senior citizens from physical and financial harm. In Bridgeport, People's United Bank teamed up with seniors and the local police to hold a recent registration program at the Beardsley Zoo. About 100 senior citizens took advantage of the opportunity.

Officer Nick Ortiz of the Bridgeport Police Community Service Division took pictures of the seniors with the assistance of Trooper David Gutierrez of the Connecticut State Police. Volunteers also came from other organizations, including American Medical Response.

"This program takes the burden off seniors to remember everything in case of an accident," said Sean Fitch, a paramedic with American Medical Response. "The form has all the victim's information, and when we have this

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SCAM of the Month

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Correspondent



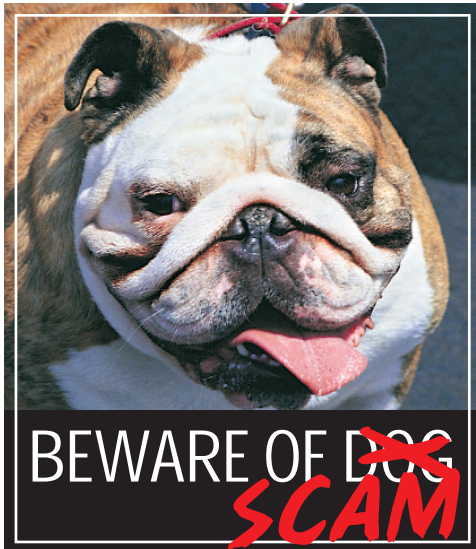
It's Not 'Beware of Dog' – It's 'Beware of Scammer'

Con artists operating overseas are taking advantage of puppy lovers across the country.

The American Kennel Club, along with the Council of Better Business Bureaus, is issuing a warning to everyone in the market for a new puppy. Slick Web sites, classified ads, and e-mails are tools being used by fraudulent breeders offering cheap—or even free—puppies. However, instead of getting a new friend, you get conned out of your hard-earned money.

The scammer often claims to be connected with a religious organization, and is being relocated to another country. He claims that is why he needs to find the dogs new homes. The deal offered is that for “a small shipping fee,” usually around \$500, he will send the dog to your city. All you need to do is pick up the dog at the airport.

“The consumer can be taken by the sincerity of the scammers, who’ll say that they don’t care about the money—they just want to find good homes for their beloved puppies,” warns Steve Cox, a vice president with the Council of Better Business Bureaus. “But then the fees for shipping the pet mount up, and the consumer can lose hundreds of dollars



before realizing he or she has been conned and will never get the puppy.”

The bogus e-mails and advertisements usually offer very popular and very expensive English bulldogs. Some con artists even claim the dogs were rescued from war-torn countries. Bulldogs can sell for as much as \$1,500 or more, so the offer of getting one for much less entices bulldog lovers to send the money.

The Justice Journal contacted one breeder, identified by investigators as “a

Nigerian scam artist.” We called the overseas number and spoke with a man who claimed to be “Minister George Hopkinson.” In broken English, he said he had a bulldog that was rescued from Bosnia. For just \$450, he could ship the dog to the United States. He asked for a credit card number to seal the deal.

“This is wonderful thing you do, saving this dog from certain death,” Minister Hopkinson told us. When asked how we could be sure we would receive the dog, Hopkinson replied, “I am man of faith—you can trust me. My organization goes to great lengths to save canines in need.” He went on to say he would e-mail us a picture of the dog.

This is the conversation that followed:

Stinchfield: Investigators here in the United States say you are a scam artist.

Hopkinson: I don’t understand this word, scam artist.

Stinchfield: Someone who takes advantage of people, a con man. Meaning we send you the money and I never see that puppy.

Hopkinson: I promise the gorgeous, sweet dog is real. I am a minister.

Stinchfield: Well, I am a reporter doing a story on puppy scams, and I am

told you are running one of them.

Hopkinson: You seem to be a very evil man. I am not doing business with you. Good day, sir.

The so-called “Minister Hopkinson” then hung up the phone. We never received the picture of that “gorgeous, sweet” and most likely nonexistent puppy.

American Kennel Club spokesperson Lisa Peterson points out, “Because of the emotional investment in buying a dog, consumers are more vulnerable to being taken advantage of, and letting their guard down.” She recommends everyone do his or her homework when buying a dog from any breeder. “A dog is a major investment—a living, breathing being that will rely on you for 10 years or more. Take time to educate yourself on the hallmarks of a legitimate and responsible breeder,” Peterson says.

A responsible breeder should be more concerned about your home and ability to provide for the puppy than about collecting money right away. Beware of any breeder who seems overly concerned with getting paid. It took “Minister Hopkinson” only a few seconds before he started asking for a credit card number.

(g.stinchfield@thejusticejournal.com)

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CONSUMER ADVOCATES OFFER TIPS FOR PEOPLE BUYING DOGS FROM A BREEDER:

Make sure you get everything in writing. Be especially wary of a breeder who asks you to wire money.

Don't be fooled by a slick Web site. Con artists are known to produce very professional-looking Web sites. Ideally try to meet the breeder and the puppy in person.

Always check a breeder's references and credentials first. The AKC recommends you first contact the national organization for the breed (parent club).

Take your time. Beware of breeders who claim they have multiple breeds ready to ship immediately. It's highly unlikely that your perfect puppy will be available for shipping on the very day you call.

Report a scam. If you are suspicious about any dog-related scam, you can contact the AKC with questions and concerns at 919-233-9767 or info@akc.org.

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Amy Gilligan Case Inspired 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

By DAVID SCALES
Correspondent

Amy Gilligan was born in Litchfield and lived in Newington. She was a church going woman, well respected in the community and praised for her humanitarian work which may have led to the beginning of the nursing home industry.

Her case is also believed to have been Joseph Kesselring's inspiration for the smash Broadway hit "Arsenic and Old Lace," which later became a Hollywood film.

Her home, 'Sister Amy's Nursing Home for the Elderly' in Windsor, was incredibly popular. When a resident died, there was almost always someone else waiting to get in. She was a celebrated humanitarian unique for brewing all sorts of remedies to help people with their aches and pains.

But her special blend of medicine was mixed with arsenic and a craving for money. She is considered a 'Black Widow' according to retired UConn criminology professor Dr. Jim DeFronzo.

"They kill husbands or family members for assets or insurance policy payoffs," Dr. DeFronzo said. "In the case of the home she would get them in and then try to convince them to make her loans or their other assets available to her. If she killed them she would not only have the \$1,000 lump sum they paid

for lifetime care while in the home, but any loans made would not have to be repaid."

Even her husbands paid with the highest coin. Conflicting expert accounts say she killed anywhere from two to five husbands. Their bodies were exhumed and found full of arsenic, driving the body count of nursing home residents and husbands up to as many as 19 or 20.

The killings began in 1907 and continued until 1917, when relatives of the deceased patients reported the increasingly frequent deaths of patients listed in

obituaries to police. The home was searched and bottles of arsenic were found mixed in with other medicines.

Gilligan said she used it to poison rats. Gilligan was arrested on charges of murder and sentenced to life in prison in Wethersfield, but was later seen talking to herself and declared insane. Gilligan was transferred to a mental institution in Middletown where she eventually died at age 59.

Psychiatric studies say there are several reasons why women become serial killers. Some are motivated by profit, like

the "Black Widow" Gilligan, and others sometimes have emotional motives such as betrayal or revenge. There are those who have been diagnosed with an extreme mental illness but there are almost no incidents of a female serial killer acting alone with a sexual motive like many male serial killers.

Women who kill are sometimes part of a group, according to DeFronzo. The most frequent is a two-person team, but there have been groups of three or more. A common pairing is a woman who kills along with her boyfriend or husband. The boyfriend or husband is the dominant member of the team, and his motivation is primarily sexual. The woman may be psychologically dominated so she goes along with it.

"Women sometimes act as the lure at a fair or carnival to help get someone out of their car or something," DeFronzo said. "The victim doesn't suspect a woman putting them into danger and goes along with her."

One such pair was Canadian killers Paul and Karla Homolka or the "Ken and Barbie" killers. Karla, acting on Paul's wishes, drugged her 15-year-old sister Tammy, who Paul raped and killed. The pair later videotaped the rape and murder of three other teenage girls they abducted. Paul received life in prison when Karla testified against him. Karla was imprisoned and released in 2005. She lives in Canada under a new identity.

State Serial Killers Considered 'Notorious' by Researcher

While Connecticut ranks 30th in a study of states producing serial killers, a study by retired University of Connecticut Professor Jim DeFronzo has singled out two of the state's cases in his research as notorious.

While they may not have sparked national headlines, their deeds chilled the state and left many victims in their paths. One killing spree took place 100 years ago, and the other case finally ended two years ago with the state's first execution in 45 years.

Both cases, as do most involving killers with multiple victims, beg the question for authorities and researchers alike: "Are serial killers born that way or are they products of their experiences and their environment?"

In the 100-year-old case, the motive was clearly money and the body count could have been 20 or more. In the more recent case involving Michael Ross, the killer claimed to be driven by a mental illness he could not control and he was forced to kill eight women.

Childhood Events and Abuse Likely Shaped Michael Ross' Behavior

Serial killers aren't born, they're made. That's the consensus of some experts, and Connecticut native Michael Ross—who raped and murdered eight women—was one of them, according to retired UConn criminology professor Dr. Jim DeFronzo.

Born on a chicken farm in Brooklyn, CT, Ross had a childhood none would envy. In the study conducted by psychiatrists, Ross was apparently sexually abused and suffered extensive childhood trauma. At five years old, Ross was given the job of strangling deformed or weak chicks. This method would carry over into his career as a serial killer.

Ross eventually left to attend Cornell University in New York. An intelligent student, Ross had the makings of a solid future. He had typical relationships with women, but when they failed, he vented his anger on them and other women. Ross killed two women in New York before graduating and returning to Connecticut in 1981. He was expecting to take over his family's chicken farm, but his parents decided to sell it. Ross then turned to selling insurance.

"He began killing women in Eastern Connecticut," DeFronzo said. "The victims were young women from Danielson, Griswold, and Norwich. He'd see them in a park or walking along Route 6. He once picked up two 14-year-old girls hitchhik-

ing and killed both of them."

Between 1982 and 1984 eight women died, all manually strangled by Ross.

But the grizzly murders quickly ended when a blue Toyota was seen parked where one of the bodies was found. The police searched through state vehicle records and narrowed it down to Ross.

"One of the police went to interview him and during the course of the conversation he just confessed," DeFronzo said. "He asked the officer, 'Do you think I killed them?' The officer said yes, and then he just confessed."

Ross was diagnosed as a sexual sadist and was executed in 2005 by lethal injection.

"There are some people who think they may have a biological component in some cases," DeFronzo said. "Whether it's true or not, the most common proven ingredient seems to originate from physical or emotional or sexual trauma and abuse, in childhood. As the kid gets to six to ten they're going to be accused of torturing or killing small animals or accused of being violent towards smaller children."

DeFronzo says when such children reach sexual maturity during teen years they begin to discover what makes them sexually excited and that may include fantasies of killing or torturing women. When psychiatrists examined Ross, they said he experienced gratification in the act of killing. Often potential serial killers seek out conventional or violent pornography to help them build fantasies about what they'll do to women. If the behavior continues without intervention, killings usually start in the late teens or early 20's.

"The first time or two they may not be that skilled at it," DeFronzo said. "If they aren't caught early, they get more experience and develop a method of doing things to keep them from getting caught. Some serial killers have stopped not because they were caught for the act but a similar offense. They're taken off the streets for a few years, but they may not stop unless they are caught for the killings."

New research methods and improved psychological testing can help identify potential serial killers and help treat them especially during childhood and possibly foster care. Perhaps the most frightening aspect of serial killers is they can be anyone working in any job and remain undetected until it's too late.



"...I am a Serial Killer"

"My name is Michael Ross, and I am a serial killer responsible for the rape and murder of eight women in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island. I have never denied what I did, have fully confessed to my crimes, and was sentenced to death in 1987. Now, however, I am awaiting a new sentencing hearing—ordered by the Connecticut State Supreme Court—that will result either in my being re-sentenced to death or in multiple life sentences without the possibility of release. The crucial issue in my case is, as it has been from the beginning, my mental condition at the time of the crimes—the infamous and much maligned "insanity defense." For years I have been trying to prove that I am suffering from a mental illness that drove me to rape and kill, and that this mental illness made me physically unable to control my actions. I have met with little success."

From the website, <http://www.ccadp.org/michaelross.htm>

Gun Violence in Connecticut Considered 'Steady' by State Police

By CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM
Correspondent

At the mere mention of the word *guns*, strong passions are evoked on either side of the debate over rights and restrictions. In one corner is the Second Amendment, and in the other, the grim reality of gun violence across our nation.

How big is the problem in Connecticut?

"Gun violence is steady or at the same levels," said Lt. J. Paul Vance, spokesman for the Connecticut State Police. "But media attention to the shootings is more intense and gives the impression of more shootings—especially in the large Connecticut cities."

Media coverage of recent events, including the shooting on the campus of Virginia Tech, where 32 people were killed by a mentally unstable student, has brought this issue to the forefront. The incident, classified as the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, was carried out with two legally purchased handguns, according to authorities.

Most college and university campuses, including Virginia Tech, have a strict ban on carrying guns.

"Fairfield University does not permit guns on campus," said Dr. Susan N. Birge, assistant vice president/director of counseling and psychological services. "This is articulated clearly in the Student



Handbook where it states that all weapons are prohibited on university property. A university committee works closely with the Department of Public Safety to stay abreast of the most effective emergency response measures."

Five years ago, Fairfield University

was itself the site of an episode involving a mentally unstable alumnus who held 26 students and one teacher hostage over a seven-hour period before releasing them all without harm.

While gun rights advocates argue that people—including students—need to be

armed in order to protect themselves from such occurrences, lawmakers cite these happenings as a reason to enact legislation to limit the use of firearms.

On a national level, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) recently announced plans to introduce a federal bill requiring states to send critical mental health information to the federal government, to better allow them to screen out those who don't qualify to own firearms.

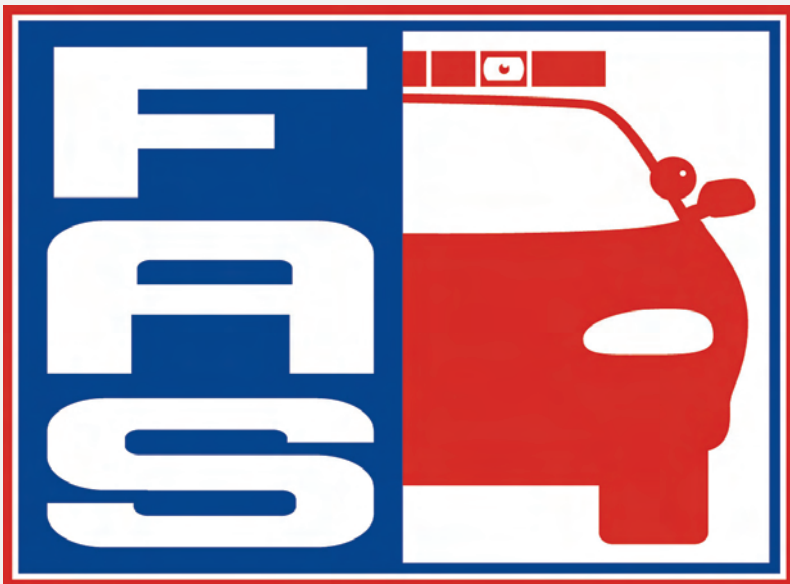
Last month, the Connecticut House of Representatives passed a bill requiring gun owners to report guns that are lost or stolen. The measure, which becomes law October 1, makes it more difficult for criminals to traffic illegal guns. Gun owners who fail to report their lost or stolen firearms to police within 72 hours could face penalties ranging from an infraction to a felony. The main amendment containing the changes passed on a 91-59 vote, the majority of support coming from Democrats, including House Minority Leader Lawrence J. Cafero Jr. (R-Norwalk.). The measure sparked a strong negative response from the National Rifle Association.

Similar laws are already on the books in New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, and Rhode Island, and comparable measures are pending in California, Illinois, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

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State has 836,000 Guns Registered

How many people in Connecticut own firearms?

"There are currently 123,993 permits in Connecticut, with 836,000 guns registered," said Lt. Vance. "In Fairfield, there are 1,539; in Bridgeport, 3,130; Darien has 354, and in Milford there are 2,038. This gives one an idea of the average gun stats for these communities. We don't have the numbers on stolen guns at this time."

How do people obtain stolen guns?

"People buy them from licensed gun dealers in what appear to the dealers to be legal sales, then turn them over to gun traffickers, who tell the purchasers that if the police come inquiring about the gun they can tell them it was lost or stolen," said Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, in a public statement.

What are the specific state laws regarding firearms, and who regulates them?

The Special License and Firearms Unit is responsible for the issuance of state pistol permits, oversight and regulation of firearm sale transactions, and issuance of licenses to professional bail bondsmen, private security companies, private investigators, and bail enforcement agents.

The unit is located at Connecticut State Police Headquarters in Middletown. There is also a satellite office at Troop G in Bridgeport that processes pistol permit applications and renewal paperwork. The unit is responsible for investigating violations of state law relating to the purchase, sale, and transfer of firearms, and violations of statutes relating to the various professional licenses it issues.

According to the state's official Web site, in order to get a state permit to carry pistols and revolvers, residents must first obtain a local permit. Those interested

(Continued on page 18)

Facts at a Glance

* 40 percent of all U.S. homes have guns.

* 81 percent of Americans say that gun control will be an important issue in determining which Congressional candidate to vote for.

* 91 percent of Americans say that there should be at least minor restrictions on gun ownership.

* 57 percent of Americans say that there should be major restrictions or a ban.

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Roadside Memorials Provide Comfort for Families, Problems for State

By **BILL BITTAR**
Correspondent

Connecticut's roads and highways are dotted with roadside memorials erected in honor of people who lost their lives in automobile accidents. Erected by families and friends of the victims, these informal monuments can range from simple, crudely fashioned wooden crosses to elaborate, floral shrines with cards, letters, poems, and personal belongings.

The memorials provide a sense of peace for loved ones and serve as dark reminders about the dangers of speeding and drinking and driving. But the size and placement of these structures may also pose unintended threats to the safety of motorists by distracting drivers or obstructing their view.

When highway employees throughout the U.S. remove roadside memorials for safety reasons, they sometimes receive angry phone calls from family members who are upset over what they see as an insensitive attitude on the part of transportation department workers toward their grief and loss. But Connecticut Department of Transportation Spokesman Kevin Nursick says this is not the case.

"Obviously, the last thing we want to do is upset anyone," Nursick said. "We understand that a loss of life is a very tragic thing. By no means are we heartless here at the DOT."

Items removed

Nevertheless, Nursick said roadside memorials are not permitted in state right-of-ways alongside Connecticut highways and state-owned roadways, adding that any item that is not sanctioned by the state must be removed.

"We don't wake up in the morning with the mission of looking for roadside memorials to remove," Nursick said. "It's not our intention, if there is a roadside memorial, to make removing it a top priority on our list after a fatal accident. But if there is a safety concern or there are complaints, we obviously have a duty to remove it right away."

When highway employees remove a memorial, Nursick said DOT's "rule of thumb" is to try to contact the owners, so they may pick it up at one of the department's offices if they want to. The DOT holds onto memorials and unsanctioned signs for up to 30 days, according to Nursick.

The main concern of transportation departments throughout the country has been the safety of motorists traveling along their roadways. One example of when a roadside memorial may have played a role in a horrific accident took place in Wisconsin five years ago, when 10 people died following a 50-car pileup on Interstate 43, according to the Journal Sentinel. The Wisconsin DOT found that roadside shrines along that stretch of highway were too distracting to motorists and removed them, angering families and



"It's a difficult situation," Nursick said of issues surrounding Connecticut's policy banning roadside memorials. "It's a balancing act, and we're doing the best we can."

sparkling action by the state legislature.

Since there are no federal guidelines on how to handle conflicting issues between roadside memorials and safety concerns, several individual states have come up with their own policies. While states like Wisconsin and Delaware have drafted rules on shrines and limits on how long they can be up, other states—including North Carolina, Oregon, and Utah—do not allow unsanctioned memorials at all. Only Alaska and West Virginia have statutes that encourage memorials, according to USA Today.

Though Connecticut has no immediate plans to establish its own guidelines for allowing informal roadside memorials, Nursick said the state has been following the news on states that do. "We're keeping an eye on things to see how they pan out," he said.

Other alternatives

Although Connecticut does not allow unsanctioned roadside memorials, there are some programs people may use to honor a loved one's memory. The DOT has three programs that promote public involvement in highway beautification activities: Adopt a Highway, Adopt a Spot, and Adopt a Ramp.

Business groups and nonprofit community organizations who adopt a section of a highway in the Adopt a Highway program are required to pay a litter pick-up company to maintain the site, according to Nursick. The DOT recognizes a group's maintenance of the section of highway by erecting a sign there with the organization's name on it. Those who want to adopt a highway ramp or a spot in a less-busy state-owned roadway do not have to pay a company for litter pickup and may clean their areas themselves, put up signs, or do their own plantings—with the approval of the DOT's district office.

"Examples of things that would not be allowed for Adopt a Spot would be invasive plantings and trees or shrubs that block sightlines," Nursick said.

While those wishing to honor the memory of someone who died along a section of highway are welcome to take

advantage of these programs, Nursick said most do not. "We really don't see individuals doing either," he said. "It's usually companies or organizations."

More information on these programs may be found on the DOT's website: www.ct.gov/dot.

A balancing act

There was a time after the 9/11 terrorist attacks when the Connecticut DOT came under fire by state residents who were angry over the removal of roadside memorials reminding people of the infamous day. But since Nursick started at

the DOT three years ago, he said he has not witnessed any public uproar over the practice.

"Roadside memorials have not been too much of an issue," he said. "I think most people understand it's a difficult situation, so there are no hard feelings."

While Nursick said the DOT gets occasional phone calls from people complaining about a memorial or asking what the department's policy is, Connecticut citizens do not seem any more passionate about the topic on either side. "Based on the people I have talked to, it's pretty much even," he added.

States that do embark on drafting a policy allowing memorials may run into a number of problems and issues of liability due to gray areas, according to Nursick.

A Dec. 2, 2005, article published by the Salt Lake Tribune seems to illustrate that point. According to the story, an atheist group called the American Atheists sued the Utah Highway Patrol to force it to remove roadside memorials of troopers who died in the line of duty, because the group claimed the cross-shaped memorials represented a state sanctioning of religion.

"It's a difficult situation," Nursick said of issues surrounding Connecticut's policy banning roadside memorials. "It's a balancing act, and we're doing the best we can."

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Limitations on Child Sexual Abuse Cases Eliminated

By **ATTY. WILLIAM M. BLOSS**
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder



Atty. William M. Bloss

Victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse finally have achieved a major victory in their quest to bring their assailants from long-ago crimes to justice.

The previous 20-year statute of limitations on some sexual offenses, including those against children, had long been considered out of date, and victims' advocates urged the legislature to revise it to allow a much longer period for legal action against sexual offenders.

Although an initiative to scrap the existing statute and replace it with one that reflects the current state of investigative techniques in these cases passed the House of Representatives, it nearly died in the Senate as this year's session wound down. But the state Senate rose to the occasion and voted to make a positive difference in the prosecution of these cases.

Sections of the original House bill dealing with the statute of limitations were included in two additional bills including the newly enacted Jessica's Law. Both laws, Public Act 07-4 and Public Act 07-143, which include provisions in the original bill, have been signed into law by Governor Jodi Rell. The bills essentially remove the statute of limitations, so long as the crimes are reported to authorities within five years of their occurrence. This provision advances important interests for victims, while protecting persons who might be accused of the crimes. Child sexual abuse now joins murder and certain classes of arson that have no limitations period.

The reasoning behind the move to extend the statute of limitations largely stems from advances in science, especially in DNA testing. A vital protection in the new laws is that the statute of limitations is dropped only in cases



Commentary

There can be no question of the destruction caused by sexual abuse. It is hardly surprising that victims of child sexual abuse suffer long into adulthood.

where a suspect has been identified through DNA evidence.

While some evidence in such cases was not considered to be useful in an earlier era, it has been demonstrated repeatedly in more recent cases that samples obtained while investigating sexual assault cases even decades ago now can be analyzed and compared to recently obtained DNA samples. Providing DNA samples is now mandatory for persons convicted of state and federal felonies.

Ongoing law enforcement efforts to build databases of DNA samples are giving police vastly expanded opportunities to apply DNA evidence collected recently to bring about resolution of crimes that were reported long ago.

Media attention has focused on the resolution of long-dead "cold" cases that are revived and solved long after they had been relegated to the "unsolved" file. Investigations into many such cases are being revived with positive results in terms of proving guilt. But just as importantly, DNA evidence has also been used to prove that a suspect has been unjustly accused or even imprisoned.

There can be no question of the destruction caused by sexual abuse. It is hardly surprising that victims of child sexual abuse suffer long into adulthood.

It has been well over a decade since the 1991 extension of the civil statute of limitations for sexual abuse crimes against children. The civil law changes were initially met with some skepticism, but the predictions of opponents that the extension would flood the courts with untimely and stale claims have not come to pass. With so much more evidence and advanced techniques now at their disposal, the bill's backers argued

that there was no reason why the criminal statute should not be extended as well.

Many of the victims of these long-ago crimes have waited patiently for the legal system to give them their day in court. These victims were often so young at the time of the crime that they did not possess the wherewithal to speak up, and see the issue through a lengthy police and court process.

But many have come forward as they entered adulthood, bringing confidence and knowledge with them. It may not be possible for society to protect the young and innocent from everything that can come their way during childhood, but there is no valid reason to prevent them from seeking and finding fair justice as adults.

Although advances in science are giving us new hope for the rights of victims, we also must diligently protect the rights of the accused. Due process is every bit as important as a victim's right to find justice, but since extending the statute of limitations applies only in certain narrow circumstances, in which scientific evidence provides important information on the identity of the perpetrator; in the abstract it is hard to envision a wrongful prosecution or conviction. Of course, the law must be applied and enforced fairly, and the positive experience with the civil statute of

limitations suggests that it can be.

Cases will still follow the approved procedures, judges and juries will still weigh evidence and arrive at conclusions regarding the guilt or innocence of the accused. As noted above, in some cases DNA evidence may well exonerate the accused rather than lead to prosecution and punishment.

Regardless, the system ought to work. The victims -- as well as the accused -- will be able to resolve issues that in many cases have dominated their lives since childhood. There have been many scientific advances in the past few decades, and for the victims of sexual abuse, few can be more important than the advances in DNA evidence.

The combination of efforts by the legislature, the governor, the judicial system and victims' advocates has shaken off the procedures of the past, and has brought the interests of victims, and indeed those of society at large, up to par with the evidentiary advances provided by modern science.

Atty. William M. Bloss, a Guilford resident, specializes in significant personal injury cases as well as complex civil and criminal litigation in both state and federal courts. He represented Common Cause and Connecticut Citizen Action Group in federal litigation that led to the overhaul of the state primary election system and has served as both Special Master and arbitrator in state and federal courts. He was appointed to the federal court's Criminal Justice Act Committee and is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

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
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Letters to the Editor

JOIN IN ON NIGHT OUT

Thank you for the excellent article on "National Night Out" in the June 2007 edition. This August 7th, over 35 million people in more than 11,000 communities will join forces to promote crime prevention, neighborhood camaraderie and police-community partnerships. We salute The Justice Journal for helping us to spread the word about this extraordinary campaign. You guys put out a great publication!

*Matt A. Peskin, Executive Director
National Association of Town Watch*

RENEWED LICENSE GETS JUSTICE!

I was getting my license renewed at the AAA Club in Hamden when I saw your publication THE JUSTICE JOURNAL....many Connecticut high schools have a law course....ours at Lyman Hall is entitled "Consumer/Street Law"....is there any chance that we could be on your distribution list....one copy per edition would be helpful....30 copies for classroom use would be outstanding....I have your May, 2007 copy...let me know and thanks for publishing the JJ

*Bill Paquette
Chair, Business Ed Dept.*

HOW TO PREVENT STOLEN SATELLITE DISHES

I am a detective in the Bridgeport Police Department. I read the piece about the stolen satellite dishes. One way to stop it is to attach the LNB and the dish with security screws. The screws can be like the locks for mag rims where you need a special key to remove. This way the if the dish has to be moved for any reason, it can only be done by someone who has the key. Just an idea.

*John Tenn
Bridgeport Police*

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:
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From the Editor's Desk

Weltanschauung



"Weltanschauung [velt-an-show-uung], the German term for a 'world view,' that is, either the 'philosophy of life' adopted by a particular person or the more general outlook shared by people in a given period." (Oxford University Press)

Each of us has a "weltanschauung" based on our personal and/or group experiences. Mine has been tremendously affected by family, friends, careers in journalism and teaching, and of course, events occurring in other parts of the world as well as in my own back yard.

In the summer of 2006, I welcomed the opportunity to become a part of the launch of The Justice Journal, a publication "Fighting Crime in Connecticut." Since then, as an editor, I have worked with a dedicated team of people including the publisher and the general manager, our many writers, our proofreader, production partners, and others. The partnership with you—our readers—has been most enjoyable and gratifying.

My "world view" of crime fighting and the justice system, in part, comes from covering the civil disturbances in Hartford in 1969 for WTIC-AM-FM-TV3. We were not allowed to use the word "riot" for fear of making matters worse. I hunkered down under what was reported as sniper fire, took refuge in a circle of police cars near a fire station as people threw rocks at firefighters and police as a building burned, and did reports on how to deal with the tear gas that was being fired into neighborhoods. I also covered a series of still-unsolved child abductions and slayings from New Canaan to Northern Connecticut. For Channel 8, I covered seemingly countless murders and trials including the still-unsolved Barbara Gibbons/Peter Reilly case, the Martha Moxley and Penny Serra murders in Greenwich and New Haven, respectively, and the Black Panther trials in New Haven during which the National Guard was called in to assist police in dealing with the disorders—including the bombing of Yale's ice hockey rink. As an interim news manager for Channel 30 in 1999, I supervised coverage of the slaying of Father Robert Lysz—a parish priest beaten to death in his Bristol church, allegedly by a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic drifter.

On September 11, 2001, my wife and I were on a United Airlines plane headed west from Bradley Airport at the same time other United and American Airlines planes were being hijacked. For a while, our family did not know if we were on a hijacked plane or one about to be hijacked. As all of that unfolded, we just enjoyed our flight and knew nothing of what was going on back east. It took us four days to find a way home from Chicago.

My "weltanschauung" is also the product of being related to law enforcement professionals. My older daughter became a police officer, and later married a fellow officer. They both became sergeants.

As I look back on what The Justice Journal has accomplished since last summer, I look forward to moving over to become a member of its Advisory Board. I will be contributing in other ways as I metaphorically relinquish the keys to our newsroom, knowing this publication is in excellent and dedicated hands.

My "weltanschauung" is in good shape. I am confident we can and will do what must be done to protect ourselves in our back yards and elsewhere in this world --and The Justice Journal is part of the reason I see things that way.

Kenn Venit

Letter from the Publisher



A little more than a year ago as Ted Holcomb and I were formulating the plans for the launch of The Justice Journal we met with Kenn Venit with the hope of convincing him to join the paper as managing editor. I had known Kenn for some time and had long admired his journalistic experience and professional qualities. I knew his attention to detail and demand for the highest standards of editorial integrity would get us up and running quickly, and establish a professional level of standards and practices from day one.

I also knew that for a guy who claims to be "semi-retired" Kenn is one of the busiest people on the planet. He teaches journalism at two universities in Connecticut, is an active media consultant and is very busy in a variety of groups. Plus he's a very proud and active father and grandfather.

Despite his demanding schedule Kenn agreed to work with us for a limited amount of time to get us started. He's done that and done it well and now Kenn feels its time to move on.. Through his efforts we have gained a great deal of immediate respect and acceptance from our readers and the law enforcement community.

We feel fortunate to have another well known and seasoned journalist, John C. Peterson, agree to be interim editor and work with us to further build our organization and expand our coverage throughout the state.

John has worked closely with us as a consultant and member of our Advisory Board since our first issue. He brings an exceptional level of experience and professionalism as a reporter, editor and newspaper publisher. Before he became a consultant 12 years ago he was president of the New England Newspaper Group, a subsidiary of Capital Cities/ABC, with 650,000 circulation.

Early in his career he was a reporter for The Day of New London and managing editor of The Norwich Bulletin. He is a member of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame and past president of a variety of professional and community organizations.

Kenn has our eternal gratitude for getting us this far and we're not going to let go of him so easily. He will be taking an active role on our Advisory Board so we can continue to benefit from his wisdom and counsel.

A job well done Kenn, and thanks again.

Doug Johnston

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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 Comcast 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.



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 Gerstein, recently 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 treasurer.



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 studies 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.



LEISA TAYLOR received a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin, with an undergraduate degree in journalism. She practiced law for ten years in Texas before moving to Trumbull in 2000. Prior to her legal career, she was a reporter and editor for a small-town newspaper in Texas. Leisa is the author of The God of Human Blood, a look at murder in biblical times. She is currently a videographer for Channel 17, Trumbull's public educational access channel.



BILL BITTAR a freelance journalist, has been reporting in Fairfield County for the past 11 years with his last two staff positions as associate editor of the Fairfield Minuteman and as a reporter covering Monroe and Easton for the Connecticut Post. He has won several awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and from the Suburban Newspapers of America and holds a masters degree in journalism from Northeastern University.

Middle East Expert Probes Source of Terrorism

By CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM
Correspondent

There was a time, not too long ago, when the notion of terrorism was just a vague image of something bad that happens to other people in faraway countries. September 11, 2001, changed all that for Americans. Still, many were left mystified, trying to comprehend why a group of Middle Eastern terrorists would travel to the U.S. to inflict terror and harm upon them and wondering what they had done to deserve such wrath.

That is the question Alfred Gerteiny of Westport, delves into in his latest book, *The Terrorist Conjunction—the United States, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, and al-Qa'ida*, available in hardcopy.

Some of the questions asked and answered by the author include:

What is terrorism—is it a new phenomenon, and how does it express itself?

Is terrorism intrinsic to Islam?

What is jihadism?

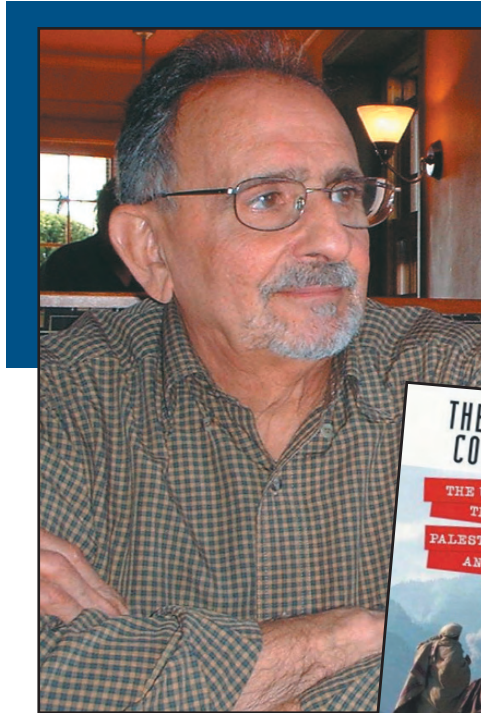
In the names of what other religions has terrorism been practiced?

Why do many Muslims hate Americans?

How can anyone in their right mind commit homicidal suicide?

Does the international community bear any responsibility for the growth of transnational terrorism?

Was the invasion of Iraq legitimate, and did it reduce the threat of terrorism?



Would a settlement of the Israeli-Palestine problem bring about an end to transnational terrorism or jihadism?

The author, who lived for many years in the Middle East, has studied these questions for four decades and does not shy away from the tough questions. In fact, he welcomes them.

While few authors have examined in depth the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its decisive role in contemporary transnational

Book Review:

*The Terrorist Conjunction--
The United States, Israeli-Palestine
Conflict, and al-Qa'ida*

Alfred G. Gerteiny, Ph.D.

Praeger Security International

Publication Date: May 30, 2007

terrorism, Gerteiny analyzes state and anti-state forms of terrorism, and makes a distinction between terrorism carried out in pursuit of national liberation and the theologically driven jihadism that is fueled by it.

As he gauges the U.S. government's reaction to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and Israel's unhindered expansionism at the expense of the Palestinian people, carried out under the cover of U.S. protection, Gerteiny draws from historical perspective as he makes his conclusions.

The author writes: "My criticism of the U.S.-Israeli policy nexus in the Middle East is offered humbly and with good intentions; it seeks to promote a healthier environment for reaching a just peace between two savaged peoples—the Palestinians and Israelis—both with legitimate rights and grievances, by exposing some of the more vexing factors in the ominous, dark cloud spreading over relations between the Muslim world and the West."

Recognizing the role the United States plays in this conflict, Gerteiny believes most Muslims perceive the U.S. government's strategy in the Gulf region, Afghanistan, and Iraq as a new crusade against the Muslim world that could soon involve Iran, Syria, and the entire region.

The author reflects upon the U.S. Middle East policy and the current U.S. Administration's insistence on isolating itself from neighbors and allies—ultimately threatening the spread of democracy, the survival of Israel in the Middle East, and the future prospect for peace with the Muslim world.

Gerteiny also stresses the enormous positive social, cultural, and scientific contributions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims to Western civilization and to global human progress in his book. Yet, he cites the overwhelming influence of both Evangelical and Jewish pro-Zionist organizations on U.S. policies as a major contributing factor to the growth of violent religious fanaticism, here and elsewhere—particularly its confusion with legitimate patriotism and nationalism.

The author writes: "The festering enmity between Israel, the Palestinians, and its neighbors, the unending emigration of Christians from the Middle East, the attacks on U.S. embassies and assets, and particularly the ignominious use of American civilian airliners in the criminal attacks on the New York World Trade Center, and also on the Pentagon, have sadly confirmed other observers' and my own well-founded assumptions."

Gerteiny's hope is that *The Terrorist Conjunction* might stimulate a productive dialogue on the root causes of terrorism and result in a more impartial evaluation of how to better deal with it in the future.

(c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)



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About the Author:

Dr. Gerteiny was born in Heliopolis, Egypt. He completed graduate studies at the Institut d'Études Des Relations Internationales in Paris and at The Hague's Academy of International Law. With specialized coursework at The Near and Middle East Institute, Columbia University, he received a Ph.D. from St. John's University and was a Fulbright Scholar.

Working over the years with the United States government in various capacities, Gerteiny has also participated in panels, seminars, and lectures at academic institutions including NYU, UCLA, Yale University, and the Georgetown University Center for Strategic Studies, to name just a few. In addition, he was a university professor for 26 years, specializing in the Middle East, Islam, and Francophone Africa; European diplomatic history and culture; and U.S. military history. His special research areas include Arab culture and history; Arab nationalism; Palestinian-Israeli conflict; terrorism; Islamic Republic of Mauritania and adjacent Sudanic states; and Islam in West Africa.

Gerteiny on the media:

"I find that the American media, despite its claim of being free, is paralyzed by an obsession with the bottom line and by fear of economic retribution."

On politics he states:

"U.S. politicians hunger for funds to finance their perpetual political campaigning and to preserve their privileges and lucrative grip on power."

Gerteiny has been a political commentator on Africa and the Mid-East for CBC and CBC-TV (Canada) and a member of the national screening committee (Mid-East and North Africa) for Fulbright grants. Since 1992 he has been president of Cross-Cultural Consultants LTD of Bridgeport, CT. He lives in Westport.

Other books by the author include: *Historical Dictionary of Mauritania*, Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, NJ, 1981, and *Mauritania*, Frederick A. Praeger, NY, 1967; Pall Mall Press, London, U.K., 1968; reissued on the Internet by Questia Media, Inc., Houston, TX, 2000.

Citizen Assistance Needed to Crack Region's Cold Cases

By **BILL BITTAR**
Correspondent



A man climbing into a car on the side of a roadway; a stranger walking in a neighbor's yard; or a driver speeding away from the scene of an accident may appear minor at first glance, but to investigators any of these scenarios could prove to be the missing puzzle piece needed to solve a case of a missing person – or even a homicide.

State Police spokesman, Lt. J. Paul Vance, said all of investigators' cold cases are kept open, ready to heat up again when a new lead provides the spark it needs. He added that reading up on an older case can sometimes have its advantages. The public's observations and input can be critical to the development of these cases.

"It gives you a fresh look at a case," Vance said. "Many times a question is asked that leads us in a different direction." When detectives methodically uncover new leads their patience often pays off. For example, Vance recalled how a lengthy investigation into the 1997 abduction and murder of 13-year-old Maryann Measles of New Milford led to eight suspects being charged in 2002.

Right now the Western District Major Crime Squad is hoping for similar results in four cases currently listed

"Someone may have heard something in conversation... Someone may have personal knowledge of a case," State Police Spokesman Paul Vance explained. "But they should leave it to investigators to decide if something is important. You may have that piece that is going to ultimately solve the case."

as "open" on its website. Headquartered in Litchfield, the western division also has 11 other cases which are considered cold.

Among the unsolved open crimes are the murder of Floyd W. Ellis, 36, whose body was discovered in Webatuck Creek in Sharon on Sept. 24, 2004; the fatal shooting of Mark F. Rebong, 28, on I-84 in Danbury on Jan. 17, 2000; and the murder of Mary Badaracco, 38, of Sherman, who disappeared in August of 1984. The fourth one is a missing person case, involving James Garris, then 80, who disappeared from the Sarah Pierce Assisted Living Community in Litchfield on July 7, 1999.

Gunned down on the interstate



On Jan. 17, 2000, Mark F. Rebong of Newtown drove onto I-84 from exit 9 and headed west. He was on his way to the Hilton Hotel in Danbury, where he was employed as a night manager. He

maneuvered his black 1999 Jeep Cherokee off the interstate at exit 2A/B sometime between 10:30 and 11:15 p.m. Vance said police were later called to respond to the scene of an accident at the same location, only to find Rebong

sitting behind the wheel of his Cherokee, dead from a gunshot wound.

"It was pretty unique," Vance said of the highway shooting. "It's not something we encounter."

State troopers collected evidence from the crime scene, and a week later stopped drivers on the exit ramp to question whether they had seen anything. The Connecticut license plate number on Rebong's Cherokee was 329NCR.

"Because of the location, someone traveling to or from New York may have made an observation several years ago and did not think it was significant, but it can help us," Vance said.

The forensic and reconstructive services expertise of Dr. Henry Lee and the Connecticut State Police Forensic Laboratory has been utilized. State police investigators feel they have exhausted all leads, according to Vance.

On Oct. 17, 2000, then-Governor John G. Rowland announced a \$50,000 reward – the highest amount the state can grant – for information that could lead to apprehension of the killer or killers. And friends and family of Rebong raised another \$50,000, making the total reward \$100,000.

"We put a lot of work into this to try to develop a suspect," Vance said. "And we work actively on it on a regular basis."

(Continued on page 14)



Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Swears in New President



Chief Kevin J. Hale, Ansonia Police Department, was sworn in as the 2007-2008 President of CPCA on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at its Annual Meeting by Ansonia Mayor James Della Volpe.

Chief Hale said, "I am honored for the opportunity to serve as president for the next year and look forward to working with Connecticut's chiefs to advance the cause of law enforcement throughout the state. It is a privilege to follow up on the initiatives of Chief Harry Rilling, past president, but there is still so much more to do including working with the legislature to continue to strengthen the laws concerning public safety across the state."

www.cpcanet.org

"I let my kids and their friends drink at my house, but I take their keys. I don't think there's anything wrong with that."

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Connecticut's Longest-Serving Police Chief Still Blazing Trails After 47 Years on the Job

By JOHN C. PETERSON
Interim Editor

If you knew what makes Connecticut's longest serving police chief tick, you might not be that surprised to see the potted tomato plants in the solarium-like lobby of police headquarters.

It's been 36 years of the unusual for Edmund H. Mosca as he has led the Old Saybrook Police Department, plus another interesting 11 years as he rose quickly through the ranks to become the state's then-youngest police chief at age 33.

It started back in 1960—what he calls “the old days,” when he was a supernumerary looking to supplement his day job and support his growing family. There was no formal training and no requirements other than being able-bodied. Tests and standards were a long way off, and he thought the five dollars he earned for babysitting a basketball game or school dance was good money.

Officers shared cars in those days, but putting mileage on them was strongly discouraged. Back then a red light that hung on a Main Street pole was a signal for officers to call the station. In those days the phone also rang in the chief's house, and he might respond if no one else was available.

International Recognition

Ed Mosca, like police work, has come a long way. This year he will reach a new high in his very distinguished career when he's sworn in for a three-year term as vice president at-large of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a group representing 22,000 members in 86

Profile

countries. It's the first time anyone from Connecticut has held office in that organization in almost 60 years. That a chief from a force of 22 sworn officers in a quaint Connecticut town would rise to this level is rare. But people who know Ed Mosca know he can do big things.

The walls and shelves in his office are testimony that Mosca has experienced a great deal of “firsts” and made a lot of history in his years as a chief. Autographed photos of presidents, governors, senators, congressmen, and high-ranking law enforcement officials dot the walls, along with letters from many of them thanking him for his efforts and acknowledging his expertise and accomplishments.

The office also reflects plaques and commendations noting the last 30 years of service he has given to a variety of state, national, and international associations—committee work and key leadership roles in organizations such as the Law Enforcement Council of Eastern Connecticut, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, and Police Association of Connecticut. He's been appointed by four different governors to serve on a



Edmund H. Mosca, Chief, Old Saybrook Police Department

variety of state initiatives, and he's been especially active on the Municipal Police Training Council.

Nationally he's been recognized as a leading authority on law enforcement and the needs of local police departments. He has testified extensively at the state level and has appeared before panels of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He also testified for a U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

“Committed, dedicated passionate”

People who know him use words like “committed,” “dedicated,” and “passion-

ate” to describe him. He's a walking encyclopedia of pending legislation at the state and federal levels.

As a local chief he's seen it all, including what he calls the big one, the day “unlike any other day.” That was the day two years ago when two of his officers were wounded in a shootout at a local motel. One was shot in the head and the other in the back and foot. While it was a difficult time for him and the department, it was also an event which underscored his philosophy and convictions as a police chief. “They were a product of their training. Everyone performed the way they were trained,” Mosca said.

“You train for these incidents and hope they never happen. But if they do, you pray you get it right,” he explained. In reconstructions of the shooting incident, a variety of other law enforcement agencies concurred the response of the officers was textbook perfect.

“My responsibility is to be sure they are properly equipped and trained and they're as safe as they can be,” Mosca added. The officers recovered and returned to duty. The assailant recovered from his wounds and accepted a plea bargain for a 20-year sentence, a term which Mosca called ridiculous, given the circumstances of the incident and the fact that the accused was a convicted felon and career criminal with a long history of violence.

“We have to be the best at what we do; I couldn't live with it any other way,” he said.

Longevity of chiefs tenuous

The longevity of police chiefs might be tenuous at times and prompt some of

(Continued on next page)

Were Those Really ‘Good Old Days?’

Those “good old days” left a lot to be desired when you look at the 47-year career of Ed Mosca, Connecticut's longest-serving police chief.

When he started there were no radios, and officers shared cars. There was no Miranda warning to advise people of their constitutional rights and no restricting search warrants. There were no hiring standards or tests. Training was limited to insights others on the force might share.

When he went to school right across the street from where the police station stands today, there was no paid police force. The population of the town was less than 3,000. State police handled the town, and there was a constable who directed traffic at the school. Interstate 95 had not been built. In the late 1950's as the town grew and became a regional center, the police department evolved to five officers, but there was no daily full-time coverage.

Officers had a great deal of leeway as they enforced the law. Each town had its own trial court which preceded the state's circuit court system.

Working conditions were difficult and dangerous. There were no labor laws or unions, so officers would work 13 days on and receive one day off. If your relief didn't show for some reason, you stayed working. That's just the way it was.

The going rate for covering a dance or sporting event was \$5, and Mosca thought that was good money in those days.

Mosca was hired part-time as the sixth officer in 1960. The next year, amid a controversy over whether the town's second traffic light should be installed, it was suggested the money would be better spent if a full-time position was created. For the same money, that officer was available for other coverage when he wasn't directing traffic.

“It was me or the traffic light,” Mosca quipped. He rose quickly through the ranks. Detective in 1963, sergeant in 1966, lieutenant in 1968, and in 1971, at age 33 with controversy about his age, he became the youngest police chief in the state.

In the mid-1960's things started to change. Standardized training was created, and strict hiring requirements started to evolve. Today the standards are so strict that departments have a difficult time finding people who can endure the rigors of the selection process.

Mosca has been at the front of much of that progress in Connecticut, which he says has been a national leader in developing high standards for police officers and their training.

“A better educated and more professional officer will make better decisions, and that's what we must strive to do,” Mosca concluded.

Chief Mosca Career Highlights

Old Saybrook Department of Police Services:

- Joined Old Saybrook Police Department in 1960
- Promoted to Detective in 1963
- Promoted to Sergeant in 1966
- Promoted to Lieutenant in 1968
- Promoted to Chief in 1971
- Graduate of the FBI National Academy 99th Session - 1974

State of Connecticut Gubernatorial Appointments:

- Police Officers Standards and Training Council, 1995 to present Vice Chairman
- Chair, Municipal Police Training Council, 1991
- Acting Executive Director, MPTC, 1989 (10-Month Term)
- Chair, Municipal Police Training Council, 1985
- Municipal Police Training Council, 1980
- Connecticut Justice Commission, 1978
- Connecticut Communications Coordinating Committee, 1972-1973

New England Association of Chiefs of Police:

- Host Chief, Annual Conference, 2001, 2007, 2008

Connecticut Police Chiefs Association:

- Nominating Committee, 1984-1997
- Legislative Committee, 1985-1993
- Police Chiefs Selection Committee, 1986-1993
- President, 1983
- Critical Issues Committee Chairman, 1981-1985
- Judicial Liaison Committee
- Education Committee, 1979-1985

Police Association of Connecticut:

- Executive Committee 1979 to present
- Life member and permanent member
- Treasurer 1979-1999.
- Legislative Committee 1986-1999, Chairman

Law Enforcement Council of Eastern Connecticut:

- Member 1979 to present
- Served as Chairman for 3-year and 2-year terms

Awards, Recognitions, Community Accomplishments:

- Longest serving police chief in the State of Connecticut
- Middlesex County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, 2003
- Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship Award, 2003
- Old Saybrook Rotary Club President, 1980
- Rotary Club, Active Member 1972 to present

Law Enforcement Profile—

(Continued from previous page)

them to be tactful and not rock the boat. Whether the issue is lobbying for air-conditioned cars or arguing for power windows in cruisers, that has not stopped Mosca. A chief's responsibility to the department and the community demands that you do the right thing, no matter how expensive or unpopular it might be, he believes. While he explains, a concrete truck passes through the department's driveway to contribute its load to a new communications tower at the rear of the property. It's part of a \$2.6 million project that took six years to pass. It will eliminate "dead spots" where there is no coverage and will host a townwide communication system for all municipal agencies.

"No one wants to spend that kind of money, but it was my job to show officials and the voters it was necessary," Mosca added.

Forty-seven years of law enforcement has given Mosca a front row seat on life and the things people do to themselves and each other. "I think I've seen it all, a few times over," he observes, shaking his head. There have been six homicides on his watch. One that remains unsolved for 20 years still dogs him. It involves a 20-year-old woman whose body has never been recovered. Department members are convinced they have identified her killer, but after traveling the country for clues, they lack the evidence prosecutors feel they need for a conviction.

Justice a two-way street

Mosca is proud of the talent and experience that drives the Old Saybrook Police Department and is quick to point out the road of justice is a two-way street. It's important to solve crimes, but it's equally important to be sure innocent people are not swept up in the process. An example he cites happened several years ago when a year-old child died, and it appeared to be a clear case of abuse. The circumstances were highly unusual, and the activity of the adults involved was questionable. It was a highly emotional case, but as detectives pursued the facts, they were able to prove it was an unfortunate accident and not a deliberate act.

"You feel good about those, too," Mosca commented. That personal satisfaction from doing your job well and helping people has been a tremendous reward and a big part of Mosca's career, he says.

At 68 years old, Mosca plans to slow down eventually, but not for a while. He walks three and one-half miles before work every day and has embarked on a new weekend career of landscaping a new home with two acres of needy lawn, shrubs, and flowers. He was ready to retire last year until he was recruited to run for the vice presidency of the international chiefs' group. His wife and town officials agreed it would be a great opportunity for him and the town and

would also allow more time to develop the next generation of management within the department. He's excited about the opportunities ahead.

Proud of family

He says he's proudest of his family. He and his wife Dolores have five children and 11 grandchildren who all live nearby and keep him on the go with their school and sports activities. He tries hard not to miss any event, he says.

So what's the story about the tomatoes in the lobby? Every year the local Garden Club decorates town buildings. When discussing the plan for the police department, someone joked about tomatoes. Mosca said, "Hey, why not?"

"You wouldn't expect to see that in a police department, would you?" he quips when asked why they occupy a prime spot beside the doors.

So there they grow, straight and tall, just like that communications tower and so many other monuments to Ed Mosca's determination.



Chief Mosca stands beside a 1966 model police cruiser that he drove during his early years on the Old Saybrook police force. (Photos by John Peterson)

Events & Notices

24th Annual National Night Out Event

An educational and social crime prevention event sponsored by Target with assistance from the Bethel Police Department. Tuesday August 7th, 6-9pm Bethel Target Store. 7 Stony Hill Road, Bethel. Located in the back, left parking lot. Free giveaways, and kids activities.

Amber Alert Kids ID Sessions sponsored by the Danbury Rotary Club

Friday July 27th 11-4pm at New Milford Town Hall. Saturday July 28th 10-4pm at New Milford Town Hall. No fee, for more info or to volunteer call Bob Vetter at (203) 748-1105

Red Cross New Canaan Chapter CPR-Adult, Infant & Child

Aug 7 & 8, Tuesday & Wednesday 6-10pm at 51 Main Street. Fee is \$80. Adult CPR only Aug 7th- Call to register, 966-1663.

Standard First Aid Course sponsored by the Red Cross New Canaan chapter

Learn bandaging, splinting and treatment for sudden illness. It is recommended that participants possess a CPR certificate before taking this course. Aug 9th, Thursday 6-9pm at 51 Main St., New Caanan. Fee is \$45. Call to register, 966-1663.

Car Seat Clinic- Fairfield County Safe Kids

Have your child's seat checked by a nationally certified car seat technician. Saturday Aug 11th. Hosted in conjunction with the New Milford Police Dept. at Splash Car Wash- Rte 7 New Milford, CT 10am-1:30pm For more info please contact Officer Dzamko of the New Milford Police Dept. 860-355-3133. Saturday, Sept 8th. Hosted in conjunction with Danbury Hospital and the Danbury Police Dept at Greentree Toyota 87 Federal Road, Danbury, 10am-2pm.

Safe & Sound Class

Dealing with issues of car safety and home safety for children from birth to age 5. Thursday July 19- 7pm Greenwich Hospital. Call (203)863-3655. Thursday, Aug 16- 7pm Greenwich Hospital. Call (203)863-3655. Wednesday, Aug 29- 6:30pm United Church/South King St. Danbury. Call (203)739-6831

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Preparing for the Unexpected Goal of Fitness Training Program

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

While most of us are just rolling out of bed in the morning, officers at the Darien Police Department are hitting the deck with abdominal crunches and slurping down power shakes as part of a new health and fitness program initiated by Chief Duane Lovello to pick up where an earlier workout program had left off.

Even though officers may spend much of their on-duty time sitting at desks or behind the wheel of cruisers, police work is inherently riddled with unknowns.

"You never know who you could be facing," says Chief Lovello. "Your worst has to be better than their best. I think people have certain expectations of police officers—not at all unreasonable—that physical agility is a part of the job."

Surprisingly, according to the chief, there are no other police departments in this area that offer fitness programs to their force.

A couple of years ago, Officer Nick Aranzullo, Capt. Gary Pavia, and Sgt. Kane Winn began a program with Personal Trainer Traci Barnum at the Darien Equinox. Aptly named SWEAT, it was based on a class Barnum had created more than a decade ago at a Westport gym.

"She didn't have everyone standing in line doing jumping jacks—it was a physically demanding class with routines that seemed to mimic tasks a police officer might be called upon to perform at a moment's notice, requiring an unusual degree of stamina," said the chief, who attended classes twice weekly. "An officer may not have to run long distances, but he or she may have to sprint 100 yards or run up a flight of steps. We wanted our exercises to better reflect what an officer is needed to do."

In order to properly mimic police tasks, Barnum knew she needed to think outside the gymnasium box.

"We went to local parks and to the Noroton train station parking lot—which made perfect outdoor gyms," Barnum said. "One hundred walking lunges, followed by four sets of sprints up a steep hill—this type of training is great for athletes as well as for police officers in pursuit."

But when their trainer moved to the West Coast at the beginning of the year, Chief Lovello decided he wanted to create an even better program for his force.

He asked the Town for assistance, and his request was granted when the authorities offered enough funding to get Darien's finest up and running.

They all agreed that the program could be moved from the Darien Equinox to the department workout room. So after a bit of upgrading, the Darien Police Department had themselves a professional gym. The chief phoned Barnum, and she recommended another personal trainer named Jill Redfern.

"You hear about boot camp programs,



Chief Duane J. Lovello

but this is boot camp for cops," said Lovello. "In the first program we only worked out, but it later evolved into a discussion, and we decided that more needed to be done than just exercise alone."

It wasn't a far leap to diet and nutrition—a more holistic approach to fitness. Nutritionist Andrea McDonough was called in to work with Redfern. Questionnaires were distributed to all 46 men and five women officers to get a better idea of what each needed to improve their individual lifestyles. While most were only out of shape, others needed to drop weight, and some wanted to improve their health.

"We began having lectures on diet, nutrition, and fitness—all 51 had to go through it, but it was well received and we finished up all the presentations at the beginning of June," said Lovello. "We wanted a wellness approach to healthier living. A lot of the officers didn't know where to begin, so we needed to have someone teach them the basics—it's not just for fitness buffs, but fitness is a component of the job."

After he began offering incentives, such as having the nutritionist come in on specific days and offering a blog where officers could ask questions, more and more became interested.

Their diet and nutrition program also needed to be specific to the realities of police work.

"It's definitely not your garden variety nutrition program," said Lovello. "Officers have a limited amount of time on duty, so if they have to eat fast food the choices may be limited. So we tell them if they go to Duchess or Subway this is what they can eat to eat healthy."

It turned out to be trickier than first imagined because, as much as a person may want and need to change, old habits die hard—especially for overweight officers.

"Losing weight is a very uphill battle—we have to change a mindset," said Lovello. "We will also need to make adjustments along the way for officers who work different shifts, but I'd rather see this as voluntary—find out what it will take, absent a collective bargaining approach."

(c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)

Garner Programs Helping Mentally Ill Inmates

By **TEALE CALIENDO**
Correspondent

"They actually call me Mama Marmora because I am almost like an adoptive mother to them," laughed Stacey Marmora, a residential unit manager at the Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown, where she's worked for 14 years.

"I try to give them jobs and the respect they deserve as long as they give me respect in return." Now don't get the idea working or living at Garner is easy, it's just that it's better than it used to be a few years back.

"Our disciplinary reports, Class A, those considered the most dangerous or most serious, have been cut in half (and) we have not had a level one serious assault on staff in over 14 months," said warden James E. Dzurenda.

"The officers and the staff even feel the mood difference in the housing units. It's a different atmosphere, a better place to work, a better place for inmates to live. It is safer and more secure," the warden added.



Warden James E. Dzurenda

Garner, open since 1992, has seen an ever-changing Connecticut prison population that, according to the state, has included everyone from federal high-security inmates to street gang members. In 2003, the state's newly appointed Corrections Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz consolidated all mental health prisoners at the Newtown facility. Today, Garner houses about 20 percent of the state's inmate population—those convicts identified as having some type of mental illness. That's double the percentage of mentally ill people incarcerated in the state four years ago.

"Our numbers have increased dramatically in Connecticut. It isn't that we have more (prisoners with mental illness), we are identifying more through a more comprehensive evaluation...so the numbers start shooting up," Dzurenda explained.

Of Garner's population of 547 inmates, 368 are classified as being mentally ill. Garner is safer for inmates today because staff members trained in managing inmates with mental illness monitor the entire facility every 15 minutes. Although the facility averages about 10 suicide attempts a month, no one has died since April 2005.

When the state first moved prisoners with mental illness to Garner it adopted the Texas tracking model, grouping together inmates according to their diagnosed conditions.

"We put all the psychotic people together, all the control people together, and all the mood disorders together. Imagine 80 psychotic people in one unit. That didn't work well at all," said Marmora, who has a bachelor's in sociology and a minor in criminal justice.

Violence against the staff and inmates became a serious issue. All the incidents seemed to be related to strong-arming or extortion. It was obvious the Texas model wasn't working in Connecticut. That's when a model based on functionality was adopted, and the incident rate dropped 50 percent. There are three levels of functionality-- low, moderate, and high. Separating inmates in this way ensures that high functioning inmates aren't able to take advantage of lower functioning ones in the same residential units.

There is also a kind of stick and carrot approach. The inmates have incentives encouraging them to move to higher functioning levels and disincentives to go to lower units where they don't have access to certain advantages,

such as weight machines and other types of recreation services.

Functionality is measured in two ways. First is a mental health evaluation called Global Assessment Functioning. It's the same system used in the mental health community outside prison and gauges how well people socialize, speak, dress, take medication and the like. The second measure is referred to as custody and looks at how well the inmate behaves, listens to staff, interacts with inmates, and follows directions.

These two types of behaviors are rated zero to 100 and the scores are averaged giving a level of functionality. Low functioning is zero to 30, moderate is 30-55 and high is anything above that.

"Behave better and you'll be rewarded," the warden said. "Misbehave and you'll go into a lower functioning unit with fewer incentives. And if you misbehave to a point where you're a disciplinary problem you don't go to a functioning level, you go to a unit for behavioral problems. So we keep all the behavior inmates in the same area so they don't extort the lower functioning level inmates that really do need help." It is not a perfect system, the warden said, because it deals with a tough population and not just because it's prison. Some inmates have such serious traumatic brain injuries they don't even know who they are.

Dzurenda admitted that Garner is a depressing environment for staff to deal with on a daily basis, so the employees are rotated within the units. Garner at full staff has 294 employees including four full-time psychiatrists, eight psychologists and social workers available seven days a week. All the officers who work with the mentally ill inmates must receive at least eight hours of training from a qualified mental health professional.

"A lot of the inmates appreciate that if they are going through a difficult time there are people (here) they can talk to," said Marmora. "(Occasionally) they'll get relief from their jobs for a couple of days and then go back to work. I have a lot of guys who have done really well and responded well and are making it in (prison) who never could have made it before. Some who could never live with another cell mate, had to be heavily medicated or were paranoid...have (successfully) transitioned to the general population."

As an example of a success story, she cited the case of "Joe," an inmate who constantly injured himself by banging his head.

"He never attempted to assault the staff, but was always very violent to himself if we happened to go on lock-down. His stressor was being locked in the cell," she explained. Marmora suggested Joe get a job in prison and check in with her everyday so she could monitor his progress.

"This guy would be considered a level five inmate, that's maximum security...the most dangerous in the state. In another facility he would be separated from the general prison population...and wouldn't be able to function. At Garner he is involved in a special management section and he's doing well. He hasn't gotten in any trouble for four months...he communicates well, even makes jokes and he's happy," she said.

And since Joe has more insight into his problems and can identify the things that make him upset, even if he were returned to a regular prison population, Marmora believes he'd be able to function. And when he eventually gets out of prison, she said his chances of making it on the outside are better than they would have been if he were not receiving the special care Garner provides.

Before Garner inmates are released on parole or to a halfway house, transitional supervision, or sober house, meetings are scheduled with various state agencies such



Garner Correctional Institution, Newtown

as the Department of Mental Health Addiction Services, Department of Mental Retardation and hospital outpatient clinics to ensure continued treatment on the outside. Garner also makes sure those who are released have enough medication to get through at least a couple of weeks, giving them time to set up their outside networks.

If the released inmate appears to be breaking down while on the outside, Garner has a short-term program that can help.

"If he's acting bizarre or hasn't taken his medication, we offer a 'respite.' We will take them back even if it's for a week or two or until a psychiatrist evaluates them to provide different meds or a different level of medication and monitor them until they are stabilized and can get back out again," the warden added.

The warden said that although he has no statistics, he knows from personal experience that the respite program is helping lower Garner's rate of recidivism. Inmates that would have gone back to jail took a brief respite and were able to return to life on the outside.

According to the warden it is not uncommon even after an inmate is free, to call the prison and ask for advice. "They have called our social workers, psychiatrists and custody supervisors to say, 'I have a problem, what do you suggest I do?' So they still do contact us, even though we have no authority over them."

Warden Dzurenda says it takes special staff to work at Newtown and adds, "I'll tell you that if we have staff that don't want to work here, they don't stay. It is very difficult to work here, but the experiences provide a good background for corrections professionals. They are so well trained that every other facility likes to target the staff that work here to work at their place."

Marmora, interviewed just after an "incident," noted that Garner is a tough place to work. "We had an incident when an inmate assaulted an officer. We had him in a wheelchair. We had him restrained and when we put him in the elevator he thought he was going to hell. We had an officer come over and talk to him and you know...he calmed down and we were able (to transfer him)," she added.

She said you credit officers like that, Garner's core of veteran staff members who do a great job and make her job a lot easier.

Inmates from other state facilities dealing with a bout of depression caused by a death in the family, the reality of facing life in prison or general depression, may be moved to Garner temporarily to take advantage of its 24-hour care until they are stabilized. Some inmates, those challenged by traumatic brain injury or mental retardation, will remain at Garner for the length of their sentence. It is a much safer environment for inmates with mental retardation who are routinely victimized in the general prison population.

(t.caliendo@thejusticejournal.com)

Cold Cases—

(Continued from page 9)

Because of the proximity to the state highway system, there is a higher probability someone may have seen something.”

Anyone with information should call the Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 376-1554 or (203) 267-2200 – all calls are kept confidential.

Sharon man was found in river



Floyd W. Ellis, 36, a carpenter and a father of two living with his parents in Sharon, was seen walking away from his Sharon Station Road home on a Monday evening. But when he did not return, his family reported him missing.

Early in the morning of Sept. 24, 2004, a helicopter flew overhead as state troopers and tracking dogs searched for Ellis on the ground near Veterans Field – a half mile from the New York State line. They were joined by two teams from Connecticut Canine Search and Rescue, a nonprofit organization, and by Ellis’ family and friends who formed search parties of their own.

At 11:30 a.m., three days after he was reported missing, a group of friends found

Ellis’ body in the water, near the eastern bank of Webatuck Creek – also known as the Ten Mile River. After examination of the body, State Police determined that Ellis was the victim of a homicide.

State police detectives interviewed more than 100 people in connection with the homicide, before the case went cold. At the request of the State’s Attorney Office, Gov. M. Jodi Rell authorized a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Ellis’ killer(s).

Whether Ellis was walking down the road or getting into someone’s car before the murder, Vance said, “There’s the potential someone saw something.”

Those with information should call the Connecticut State Police Major Crime Unit at (860) 824-2500.

Sherman woman disappeared in 1984



Mary Badaracco, 38, a mother of two, was reported missing in August of 1984. According to an Aug. 20, 2000, article in the Hartford Courant, her husband, Dominik, had told police she left their Sherman

home with a sack of money stuffed with over \$100,000, leaving behind only her 1982 Chevrolet Cavalier – with a smashed

windshield on the driver’s side – and her wedding ring. Nine months after the barmaid, known to her friends as “Mary Poo,” was reported missing, her husband told a judge they were planning a divorce and that Badaracco agreed to leave and give him the house in return for “approximately \$100,000,” the article said.

“She ended up mysteriously missing,” Vance said. “We spent a lot of man-hours and time to locate her, but were not successful. We have reason to believe she was involved in a homicide.”

After an initial reward was set at \$20,000 for information leading to the arrest of one or more suspects in the case, authorities raised it to \$50,000. According to the Courant, state police put more detectives on the case and placed it on their “high profile” cold case list.

Those with information should call the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 376-1554.

James Garris, missing in Litchfield



In another case, which police have currently classified as a missing person, James Garris, who would now be 88, had disappeared from the Sarah Pierce Assisted Living Community, 218

Constitution Way, Litchfield, on July 7, 1999. Garris, who is bald and has large, distinct bumps on his head and has an infection on the shin of his right leg, was wearing tan pants with a white, short-sleeve polo shirt and brown shoes when he was last seen at 6 a.m. that morning. According to the Western District Major Crime Squad, Garris suffers from dementia and may be confused.

“He just disappeared, literally just disappeared from an assisted living facility,” Vance said of Garris. “We spent days searching the ground, and doing an aerial search, with canine teams and bloodhounds, and we even used dogs trained to find decomposition. We have not been able to find hide nor hair of him, and we utilized all our resources.”

Those with information should call Connecticut State Police “Troop L” at (800) 953-9949 or (860) 567-6800.

Vance urges anyone with information on any of the above four cases to call investigators.

“Someone may have heard something in conversation or someone may have overheard something. Someone may have personal knowledge of a case,” he said. “But they should leave it to investigators to decide if something is important. You may have that piece that is going to ultimately solve the case.”

(b.bittar@thejusticejournal.com)

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Police are 'Thin Line Between Personal Freedoms and Anarchy,' Judge Tells Graduates

By LEISA TAYLOR
Correspondent

Superior Court Judge Richard F. Comerford Jr. says the 32 graduates of the recent two-week Fairfield County Detective Conference School are not just police officers, they are the thin line between personal freedoms and anarchy in our society.

"You and your fellow police officers are the personification of that line. What you do for a living truly makes a difference. You are the guardians of the common good," said Comerford, the keynote speaker for the 46th graduation ceremonies of the school which was profiled in *The Justice Journal's* June edition.

"Living up to the super-cops on television is difficult, if not impossible. The reality is, the satisfaction with your job has to come from within, because the world out there is a tough place. It doesn't give you credit for what you do," Comerford added.

Known for his concern for police officers, Comerford is currently the presiding judge-criminal for the Fairfield Judicial District sitting in Bridgeport. He has been the presiding judge in New Haven and Stamford. He has been a Superior Court judge for 13 years.

"You should be justifiably proud of what you've accomplished," Judge Comerford told the graduates. "You certainly deserve to be known and use the title of



Fairfield County Detective School graduates and instructors: (L to R) Darien Officer John Lawlor, third top graduate; Fairfield Det. Bruce Peterson, instructor; Westport Det. John Calka, president, Fairfield County Detective Conference; Fairfield Officer Gregory Gunter, second top graduate and best notebook honoree; and Trumbull Officer Douglas Smith, top graduate.

(Photo by Leisa Taylor)

detective."

"I'm darn sure I would have struggled to get through the last couple of weeks that you had to endure," Comerford said of the school's challenging curriculum.

Judge Comerford noted that he has observed the efforts of detectives in bringing a case to trial. "I truly appreciate what you want to do for a living...Judges and the persons who try

cases in this state have the utmost respect for what you men and women do for us and the community. Rest assured, there is no greater work than to be a good, noble servant and a keeper of that common good."

At the graduation ceremonies, Officer Douglas Smith, a member of the Trumbull Police Department for six years, received a Glock 9mm handgun

and a plaque for being the top graduate, with the best grade for his notebook compilation and a 100-question test. Fairfield Officer Gregory Gunter also received a Glock handgun as the second-highest scorer, as well as a \$200 savings bond for best notebook. Graduating third, Darien Officer John Lawlor received a \$200 gift certificate from New England Uniform.

"The night before the last class, I was up until 2:15 a.m. finishing my notebook," said Officer Smith, who correctly answered 96 of the 100 test questions. "The other nights, I was usually up until 11 p.m. With the course, you got a little taste of everything with detective work. I enjoy investigating and taking things to the very end. On patrol, you don't have the ability to follow through. I want to be able to bring closure to the victim."

Westport Detective John Calka, current president of the Fairfield County Detective Conference, presented the awards following Judge Comerford's address. In addition to the top graduate and best notebook awards, Sgt. Keith White of Monroe received a plaque in recognition of his distinguished term as conference president in 2006-2007. Westport Chief of Police Alfred Fiore and the Westport Police Department received a plaque in recognition of their contributions to the annual School of Criminal Investigation.

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Yellow Dot Program—

(Continued from page 1)

information, it's invaluable. It's a great resource to have. For example, if a victim has had a prior heart attack, there's a whole different treatment of modalities for that person."

Bridgeport resident Sylvia Spivack, 85, registered with the program, along with her 92-year-old husband, Leon. "With all the medications I have to take, I feel like a walking drugstore," she said, adding, "And I've had open-heart surgery." Leon noted, "My wife has a pacemaker, and it's important for the security at a hospital to know that. That is the key of why we are here."

Anne Chatlos, 75, of Fairfield, read about the registration in the local newspaper. "I thought it was a very good idea," she said. "My husband is deceased, so I drive alone a lot. If something should happen to me on the road, this form indicates what medications I'm taking. This program is ideal."

Angela DeLeon reminded the seniors to always take their yellow form with them to any doctor appointments. "The form needs to be kept updated...Conditions and medications can change. All the medical doctors in Fairfield County are going to know about the form through the

Fairfield County Medical Association." The form itself instructs seniors to write their information in pencil so changes can be easily made.

DeLeon is Connecticut's State TRIAD coordinator. In addition to conceiving and implementing the Yellow Dot Program, DeLeon is credited with creating the nationally recognized File of Life Program in which a person's vital information is posted inside the door of their refrigerator.

"File of Life originated 18 years ago when I was with the Bridgeport Police Department," DeLeon explained. "There was a homicide in Bridgeport in the senior housing—the person was bludgeoned to death, and we couldn't find any information about her next of kin. It was awful. I thought we needed to do something so there's information readily available and not tucked away somewhere in a drawer."

"About five years ago, I thought about so many seniors driving and not having their medical information with them in case of an accident. Minutes can be crucial in critical situations. I asked People's Bank (her employer) if they would sponsor something I invented for the car—and

they did."

DeLeon recalled a woman in Newtown who had had a mastectomy and wanted to register with the YDP. "The woman said that if anyone put a blood pressure cuff on the side where she had the mastectomy, it would cut off the blood in her vein to the rest of her body," DeLeon said. "In another instance, a woman was actually in her home when she called 911 for a medical emergency. The emergency responders saw the yellow dot on her car in the driveway. So they grabbed her information out of the glove box and thus had all her medical information to take with her to the hospital."

Lt. David Daniels III, the officer in charge of the Bridgeport Police Community Services Division, helped with the registration. "Any kind of positive program we can bring to the seniors to enhance their security or safety is a good thing," he said. "A lot of time when we meet seniors, they're in distress. They really can't tell us what's wrong or what types of medications they're taking. So if we have an envelope in the car that can give us a heads-up on what we're dealing with, it makes it easier for us to take care of them."

DeLeon said that a senior citizen who wishes to register with the YDP needs to

live in a city or town with a local TRIAD. "Call your police department and ask if they have a TRIAD," she said. "If they don't, ask if they can start a TRIAD." The City of Fairfield, for example, is unveiling its own TRIAD in October.

"People's Bank has made the commitment to help us," said Fairfield Sgt. Jim Perez. "And the first program we're going to do—and the most important—is the Yellow Dot Program. A lot of times, a senior who has been in an accident is very confused, extremely nervous, and can't give us vital information. So, what this program does is take all the information that's vital. It helps the officer first expedite the call, and second, get the citizen the proper care. It takes the burden and stress off the senior, which is extremely important. That's the beauty of this program."

Perez said the YDP is a way of expressing our appreciation of senior citizens. "If you think about it, this country is built today because of the seniors' efforts," he said. "What better way to thank them and show our gratitude than to help them in this day and age. It's our responsibility to make sure they are safe. With the Yellow Dot Program, we're saying, 'This is what we're going to do for you for everything you've done for us.'"

(l.taylor@thejusticejournal.com)



What If...?

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



What If Your Home Was Burglarized?

Home is where your heart is, a safe haven for you and your family where you feel secure and comfortable, but a single, random criminal act can take all that away from you.

It's no wonder victims of burglaries, can be left feeling so devastated. It's a heart-wrenching experience to come home and find that while you were out your personal items were rummaged through and items were taken.

But not all burglaries are committed when the homeowner is not there. What if you were home when the burglary occurred? What if while sleeping or sitting watching television someone entered your home to commit a crime?

What would you do?

It helps to know the ways someone could enter your house.

One way criminals gain access is to scam their way in. These criminals usually don't hide their presence. They commonly walk right up and knock on the door. They often take the homeowners by surprise or engage them in conversation. They go out of their way to make homeowners believe they are not criminals. These burglars may use the power of legitimacy or distraction to

commit their crime. They may show up wearing an official-looking uniform or suit, or they may produce paperwork citing an official reason, for example, to come in and check a utility. They appear so legitimate that homeowners often allow them in to carry out the business for which they claim they are there.

If not under the cloak of legitimacy, these criminals may work in teams. While the homeowner is distracted by dealing with the person at the front door, an accomplice is going in another door to steal from the owner. The person at the front door always has a problem that distracts the homeowner—the car ran out of gas, the person claims to be lost, or he or she needs the homeowner's help to resolve some other problem. Whether through distraction or legitimacy, they gain access, commit the crime, and leave. The theft might even go undetected for several days.

Unlike the scammer, other burglars don't want to confront the homeowner. In fact, the nighttime "cat" burglar's power is the cover of darkness and the ability to be silent. This type of burglar walks the neighborhood to target a house while people are sleeping. They

pick houses that are dark and enter through an unlocked door, or cut a screen of a window that's left open. They remain inside the house only long enough to gather items in plain sight. Money, a wallet, a pocketbook left on a table, or even the keys to the family car, which they then may use to get away. Again, the victims of these "cat" burglars may not be aware there has been a crime for some time. They often assume they just misplaced the stolen items.

Then there are those who want to confront the resident. They rarely work alone and may use force to scare or control the homeowner into submission. Once gaining control, they may commit a variety of other crimes besides just taking things. They may commit kidnappings, rapes, assaults, or even worse. These criminals often spend a lot of time inside the residence searching for and taking valuable items.

Despite the differences among the above criminals, there are some commonalities which can help keep people from becoming victims. All three criminal personalities rely to some degree on a homeowner's ignorance. Most homeowners don't give much thought to the possibility of a burglary occurring when they are home. Sure, when they leave their house they lock their doors, set the alarm, turn on some random lights, and may even notify neighbors to keep an eye on the house. But how many people take the same steps to prevent themselves from being victimized while they are home?

Additionally, all three types of crimes require access to your house. In order to take anything, they all need to get in. While they all have different methods of access—some violent, some not—the goal is to do harm. Take steps to ensure your house is always secure, whether you're in it or not.

All three types also need time. The home invader doesn't need as much time initially as the scammer may, but they all need time to accomplish their acts. So anything a homeowner can do to extend the time it takes to gain access, or minimize the amount of time these criminals have to commit their acts, may help prevent them from trying in the first place.

So what should a homeowner do if he or she is a victim of a burglary while at home? The homeowner's power is in prevention and preparedness before an incident occurs. Look at your house as a burglar would. Are there areas that make it easier to enter your house? Look both during the day and at night. Can you trim bushes, add lighting, and take other steps to make it less attractive to a burglar?

During the day, while home, be aware of access points into your house. Is your

front door or garage door open or unlocked? Can they be locked? At night, keep all doors and windows on the first floor closed and locked. Sure, the warm weather necessitates air flow, but realize the vulnerability that it creates. Close the shades at night so people standing outside can't look in to a well-lit room without you noticing them. Be aware of people approaching your house by installing motion-detector lights. Utilize the alarm to your house even when you are home.

If you suddenly find an unexpected visitor at your door, don't open an unlocked door without being assured of who they are. Rarely do utility companies come unannounced. If they say they are from a utility company, call the company for verification. If the approaching visitors present you with a problem, call the police to help them. If it is a legitimate problem, the police may be in a better position to help them anyway.

If you suspect someone is trying to enter your house, dial 911 and set off a panic alarm if you have one. Even a small air horn could work to distract or disrupt a forceful entry into your house. Leave if you can, but if not, go to an interior room within your house that can be locked, and continue calling the police.

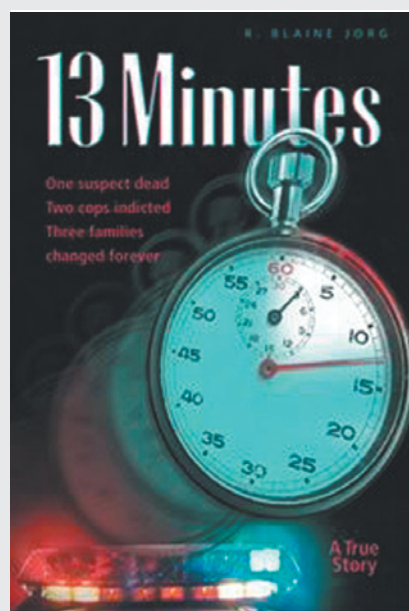
Finally, what if you as the homeowner are put into a position to take action against an intruder? Should you? Can you? Is it legal?

Connecticut State Law 53a-20 allows a homeowner to use reasonable physical force on another... to prevent or terminate the commission of a person trespassing. He or she may use deadly physical force only to protect property, to prevent a trespasser from committing a crime of arson or any crime of violence, or to the extent that he or she reasonably believes it is needed to prevent or terminate an unlawful entry by force into his or her dwelling.The sole reason for the deadly force is for the prevention or termination of the unlawful entry.

Connecticut State Law 53a-21 does provide such homeowners some answers. It allows a homeowner to use reasonable physical force upon another...to prevent an attempt by that other person to commit larceny or criminal mischief involving property.

Although allowed, it's always better to prevent than to have to respond with force. The power to prevent, prepare, and react quickly to a threat, to avoid having to take action yourself against an intruder, lies with you as the homeowner. The quicker you identify a threat, the quicker the police can be notified, and the sooner they can take action to keep you safe. The power to keep your home safe starts with you.

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Drug Trafficking—

(Continued from page 1)

lem,” he said. “However, it’s much better than it was 10 years ago.”

One of the main reasons for that decrease in activity could have been the DEA’s creation of the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (NEHIDTA) program in 1999. Pettigrew said the organization, which is made up of DEA agents and police officers from local towns, takes drug dealing arrests in the region and “works it all the way back” to where the drugs originated, whether the trail leads to New York City or beyond. The organization also cracks down on money laundering associated with the illegal drug trade.

“We want to cripple these organizations financially,” he said. “You take away the assets, and you put them out of business.”

The NEHIDTA’s complex investigations allowed agents and officers to reel in some of the biggest fish among illegal drug traffickers. The organization has made a significant impact, as evidenced by the growing number of DEA arrests in Connecticut over the past few years. Drug arrests have risen steadily from 2001 to 2005, with the exception of the year 2003, when the number of drug busts dropped from 286 to 163. But the number of arrests shot back up to 312 in 2004 and to 404 in 2005, according to the Office of National Drug Policy.

The New England HIDTA, one of 31 in the country, consists of six states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. Connecticut covers Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties, and its main office is in Bridgeport.

The Connecticut Police Statewide Narcotics Task Force has also teamed up with local police departments to keep the heat on drug dealers.

The bigger they are ...

One example of how far-reaching DEA investigations can be was the indictment of 19 people last January for allegedly distributing several kilograms of heroin and cocaine to Hartford, Bridgeport, Fall River, MA, and other cities throughout the northeast. Listening to wire taps on cellular phones helped investigators to crack a drug distribution network that included dealers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Among those charged, one was from Chicago and two were from Puerto Rico.

In addition to the indictments, law enforcement sought the forfeiture of narcotics proceeds and items used to facilitate narcotics trafficking, including more than \$100,000 in cash and four vehicles with a collective value of more than \$100,000.

Pettigrew said property seized from drug traffickers varies, with anything from houses, cars, and jewelry to stocks and mutual funds. “Ultimately some of it is shared with local departments that worked the investigations with us,” he

said. “But most of it ultimately goes back to the general treasury.”

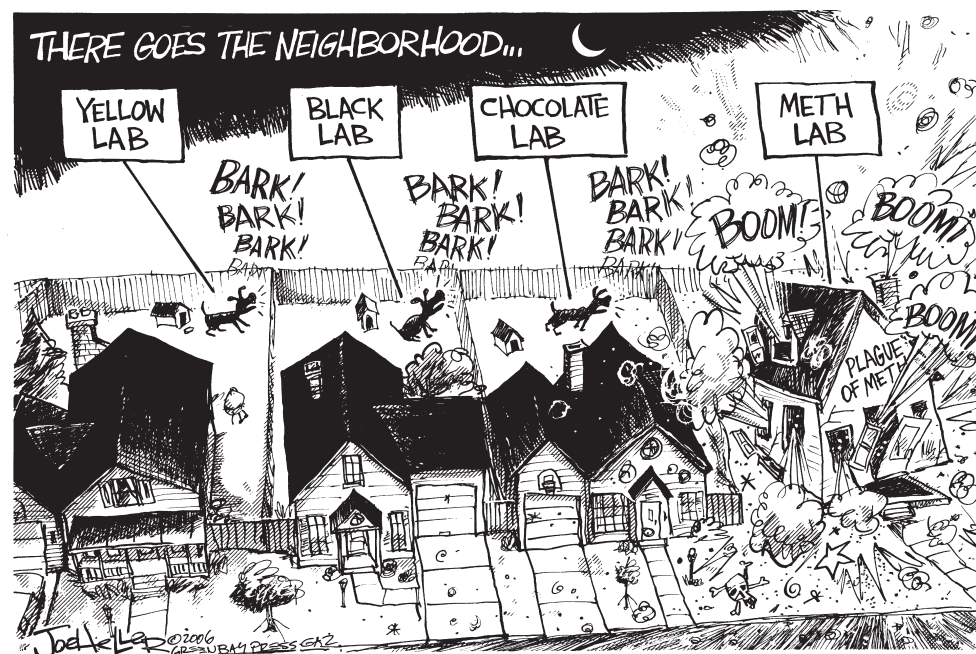
In that case, dubbed “Operation Ragdoll,” drugs were delivered through the mail – a common practice for traffickers.

LaMaine recalled working on a case in which a dealer in Los Angeles paid a FedEx employee \$500 a package to deliver four parcels of marijuana, totaling 15 pounds, to an address at Vine Street in Bridgeport. He said postal services such as UPS and DHL have cooperated with authorities in cracking down on illegal shipments in the past. “A lot of packages are detected on the shipping end,” LaMaine said.

Inside the garage of the Bridgeport Tactical Narcotics Team’s River Street headquarters, LaMaine showed how drug traffickers create secret compartments inside their vehicles to make deliveries on I-95. He opened the passenger-side door of a silver Lexus RX 300. “This car came from Stamford about a month ago,” LaMaine said. “It had 141 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$10,000 and two handguns.”

The black leather seat had been cut open to form a compartment for the drug dealer’s stash. LaMaine pointed to two small motors that had been installed inside. “They controlled a hydraulic system by using the radio or the fan,” he said. “We cut wires and hotwired it. The seat goes up, then back down and locks. We call these ‘traps.’”

That afternoon, Bridgeport Canine Officer Joe Morales’ dog, Riko, searched the vehicle of a suspected drug dealer the team nabbed moments earlier. The German shepherd climbed into the front seat and sniffed around before sticking his snout in a ripped-out area under the dash, just above the gearshift. Though the homemade compartment was empty, Morales said by lingering there, his dog was telling him drugs had been kept there in the past.



Outside the car, Riko crouched down low as he circled the vehicle. Morales said dealers sometimes hide drugs in magnetic key boxes and stick them on the underside of their vehicles. “You can get 30 or 40 slabs in it,” Morales said of \$10 bags of crack, which are about the size of a dime. “One guy we arrested had it on the gutter of his house.”

‘Take him’

Aside from state and federal efforts, police officers from municipal departments also make significant contributions in the war on drugs. According to the latest statistics from the Connecticut State Police Crime Analysis Unit, Bridgeport officers made the most arrests for “drug abuse violations” in the county in 2004 with 1,077. Stamford made the second most arrests with 473, followed by Norwalk (250), Stratford (184), and Danbury (139). While going down the list, the number of arrests seems to decrease as the towns get smaller. For instance, Fairfield had 48; Monroe had 10; Easton, Weston, and Redding all had nine; and Sherman—with a population of 4,171—had reported just one arrest.

“The dealers are in the cities,” LaMaine said. “You can operate with more anonymity. In the suburbs you would draw more attention.”

Nevertheless, many dealers in Bridgeport draw more attention from the city’s tactical narcotics team than they want to. Officers braving one recent day’s heat and humidity worked the streets to rack up five arrests, including one man trying to sell an 8-ball (3.5 grams of cocaine) at a convenience store and another man with \$10,000 worth of crack, which is more than 140 grams, in his pockets.

Their day began with the arrest of a smaller dealer, who allegedly sold two bags of crack. LaMaine sat in an unmarked vehicle while doing surveillance in a city neighborhood when he noticed a man wearing what appeared to be a towel wrapped around his head waving his hand to another at a street corner on Sanford Place. Holding a cell phone with his white T-shirt slung over his shoulder, the second man walked toward a maroon Buick parked farther down the road. LaMaine picked up a pair of binoculars and zoomed in on the action.

“He’s reaching into the car window, and money’s being exchanged,” LaMaine said. The lieutenant communicated with other officers on a cell phone before telling his passenger, “They’re going to stop the car. I want to keep an eye on our dealer.”

LaMaine casually drove past the suspected drug dealer and radioed his fellow officers. “We’ll get the canine,” he said. “See him? He’s right on the corner of Sanford Place. Take him.”

LaMaine turned his vehicle around and headed in the opposite direction. As soon as the corner came back into view, the suspect could be seen laying face-down on the sidewalk with Officer Morales crouching over him. Riko, who was there in case the suspect tried to run, growled and barked through the window of Morales’ police cruiser.

‘We’ll be ready’

Dealing and buying drugs—as well as investigating the illegal activity—can still be a dangerous exercise, but one simple innovation has actually led to a decrease

(Continued on page 19)

ARRESTS FOR DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS

	2002	2003	2004
Bridgeport	1,297	1,379	1,077
Stamford.....	456	548	473
Norwalk.....	360	228	250
Stratford	168	183	184
Danbury	152	119	139
Greenwich	76	62	82
Westport	26	58	69
Fairfield	68	35	48
Darien.....	34	34	48
Brookfield	13	19	45
Trumbull	45	39	39
Newtown	36	38	38
Bethel.....	41	26	36
Shelton.....	49	21	34
Ridgefield	10	24	22
New Fairfield	N/A	16	18
New Canaan	43	33	15
Wilton.....	10	8	11
Monroe	11	7	10
Easton	6	8	9
Redding	2	11	9
Weston.....	9	5	9
Sherman.....	N/A	1	1



Due Process

RICHARD T. MEEHAN JR.



(Note: 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 your own attorney.)

Dear Attorney Meehan,
Everywhere I turn, I see lawyer ads—on buses, in phone books, and on TV. How do I determine who really is the best?
Nancy W.

Dear Nancy,
The legal profession has faced the challenge of balancing the demands of a competitive marketplace, saturated with lawyers, with the concept that lawyers are high-class ambulance chasers. Added to that is the constant attack on personal-injury lawyers, with politicians claiming that greed has skewed the civil justice system.

What do buses, cab rooftop displays, celebrity TV spokespeople, and the ubiquitous Yellow Pages all have in common? They have become the principle means by which many in Connecticut select lawyers to handle the legal crises in their lives. On top of that there are the fliers in newspapers, 1-800 lawyer phone numbers, and the Internet.

The rules on advertising by attorneys changed dramatically several decades ago. The practice of law had always been viewed as “a noble profession,” and the concept of advertising was considered “undignified ambulance chasing.” In 1977, the United States Supreme Court ruled that certain lawyer advertising was constitutionally protected commercial speech. The deluge followed. Advertising expenses became a major line item in most law firm budgets.

Connecticut's Statewide Grievance Committee (SGC) is charged with the responsibility to police the conduct of lawyers. Most lawyer discipline arises from complaints filed with the committee. Each month our bar publication, *Connecticut Lawyer*, publishes, in obitu-

ary fashion, its “discipline digest,” listing the names and punishment of lawyers sanctioned by the committee. The most egregious offenses are reserved for the court to investigate. There, lawyers are presented for possible disbarment.

Sadly, with more frequency, the disciplinary digest lists repeated violations by a single lawyer now leading to presentment. Defalcations (withholding or misappropriating funds held for another, or failing to make a proper accounting) are a major cause of grievance complaints. Random audits of attorney trust accounts are now conducted. Trust, after all, is what we, as a profession, should be all about.

The rules on advertising were adopted by the Rules Committee of the Superior Court. They provide:

A lawyer shall not make a false or misleading communication about the lawyer or the lawyer's services. A communication is false or misleading if it:

(1) contains a material misrepresentation of fact or law, or omits a fact necessary to make the statement considered as a whole not materially misleading;

(2) is likely to create an unjustified expectation about results the lawyer can achieve, or states or implies that the lawyer can achieve results by means that violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law; or

(3) compares the lawyer's services with other lawyers' services, unless the comparison can be factually substantiated.

No longer do reputation and ability stand alone as the hallmarks of good lawyering. Mass marketing accounts for far more choices when a lawyer is needed. Somehow, people have come to believe that the back cover of a marketing phone book is a better determinant of legal ability than traditional word of mouth recommendations. The competition among major advertisers has led to bigger, bolder pronouncements of legal prowess.

“Enough!” say the rule-making judges. As of July 1, the SGC has commenced random audits of attorney ads. Lawyers employing the courts' electronic filing system will be required to submit copies of or links to their firm's advertising. Finally, the puffery and inflated claims of some will be called into question.

There are services that judge the quality of lawyers,

such as Martindale Hubbell (www.law.com). Its lawyer ratings derive, not from the size of a phone book ad, but from the opinions of colleagues in a state. *Connecticut Magazine* recently began an annual review of the best lawyers in the state based on surveys of over 13,000 Connecticut lawyers for its *Super Lawyers* edition.

The National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) offers specialty certification in the fields of criminal and civil trial work, matrimonial, and social security disability law (www.nbtanet.org). The late, legendary Bridgeport Attorney Theodore Koskoff founded the NBTA. Lawyers are certified through a rigorous process of peer review, a substantial experience threshold, and written examination. Only lawyers who have passed such scrutiny are permitted, ethically, to advertise themselves as “specialists.”

The scrutiny of lawyer ads that will result from the new rule is an important step in guiding consumers to the true experts. Connecticut needs to join the many other states that now require mandatory continuing legal education and specialty certification. This, and not the strength of the advertising dollar, should be the gauge of a lawyer's ability.

*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 has been certified as a criminal trial specialist by NBTA since 1994 and currently serves on the organization's Board of Examiners. He is a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, as well as a former adjunct law professor. Meehan has handled some of Connecticut's highest-profile criminal and civil cases and can be seen as a law commentator on local and national TV, including Court TV's *The Best Defense* with Jami Floyd, and *Courtside* with Ashleigh Banfield and Jack Ford. He is a frequent contributor to the blog, *Cool Justice* (www.cooljustice.blogspot.org) and writes a weekly column on legal issues for the *Norwich Bulletin*. E-mail your questions to: Due-process@thejusticejournal.com.*

Guns in Connecticut—

(Continued from page 4)

must go to their local police department or town first selectman to get the application to obtain a permit. The cost of the permit is \$35 and generally takes about eight weeks to obtain. Out-of-state residents may apply directly to the Connecticut State Police for a nonresident Connecticut state pistol permit.

In order to obtain a state permit, new applicants must provide proof of citizen-

ship, such as a birth certificate, voter registration card, or U.S. passport. Legal alien residents must provide Alien Registration numbers and 90-day proof of residency. Naturalized citizens require proof of citizenship. The permit is valid for five years from date of issue unless revoked or suspended.

Who is not permitted to own a gun in our state?

Connecticut law states that a person

who has been discharged from custody within the preceding 20 years after having been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect, or who has been confined in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities within the preceding 12 months by order of a probate court, is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Additionally, those convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime of domestic violence involving the use or threatened use of physical force or a deadly weapon may not possess any firearms in the state.

No one under the age of 21 may obtain a pistol permit or eligibility certificate, or possess any handguns, nor may individuals subject to a protective or restraining order, nor those convicted of a felony or convicted in Connecticut for a variety of misdemeanors. They include: illegal possession of narcotics or other controlled substances; criminally negligent homicide; assault in the third degree; assault of a victim 60 or older in the third degree; threatening or reckless endangerment in the first degree; unlawful restraint in the sec-

ond degree; riot in the first degree or second degree; inciting to riot and stalking in the second degree.

Other persons prohibited from possessing a firearm include anyone convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense or anyone subject to a firearms seizure order or who is either an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States.

According to the Department of the Treasury Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms State Laws and Public Ordinances 23rd edition, Connecticut uses an FBI National Instant Check System for firearm transactions, and there is a 14-day wait to get a permit to buy a handgun. Although the state keeps records of sales, there is currently no registration or licensing required for handguns. The state does not require registration, licensing, or a permit to purchase or carry shotguns or rifles, and a concealed weapons permit is currently available in Connecticut.

Keep in mind that firearm laws frequently change.

(c.nilesfolson@thejusticejournal.com)

Bloopers & Blunders

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



Robbin' The 'Hood

A burglar broke into apartments, and then he tried to sell the stuff he stole right out in that same apartment complex parking lot. A resident recognized his own VCR and bought it back from the burglar. Then he reported it to the police. The thief was gone before the police got there. But this bright guy was back the next day! This time the police were able to arrest him after a long chase that ended when the thief fell and broke his leg trying to escape!

Drug Trafficking—

(Continued from page 17)

in the violence, according to LaMaine. Cell phones have reduced the need dealers once had for gang-muscle to control their territories.

“A lot of drug dealers used to have to wait on a street corner or in front of a house, which led to confrontations between street gangs,” LaMaine said. “Now anyone can make drug deals on their cell phone. They hand out business cards and work that phone all day long.

It has changed the dynamic of drug dealing considerably over the last 10 years.”

With many dealers no longer having to stand outside all day, the criminals are also less visible to police. LaMaine said the Bridgeport Tactical Narcotics Team depends on surveillance, tips from citizens, and a network of informants. Some of the team’s biggest arrests and seizures have actually come when investigators’ techniques proved successful in obtaining the cell phone numbers needed to

arrange drug deals, and the dealers unwittingly used their phones to plan their own arrests.

Indeed, the tactics used by criminals and law enforcement have evolved over the years. And changes in the tastes of drug users may be just around the corner. Methamphetamine is running rampant in the western and midwestern United States, but it has yet to hook many users in the northeast.

“In the six New England states this year we had no meth labs,” Pettigrew said. “We found 16 small labs, most that

could fit into a shoebox, last year.”

Of those labs, most contained only one-half to one gram of methamphetamine, Pettigrew added.

“We’ve never seized methamphetamine,” LaMaine said of his unit. “But it’s an epidemic in the west. When I was in the police academy 16 years ago I was told about the bad meth problem; and while taking a training course a month ago, they said we’re going to get this bad meth problem. When it’s here, we’ll be ready.”

(b.bittar@thejusticejournal.com)

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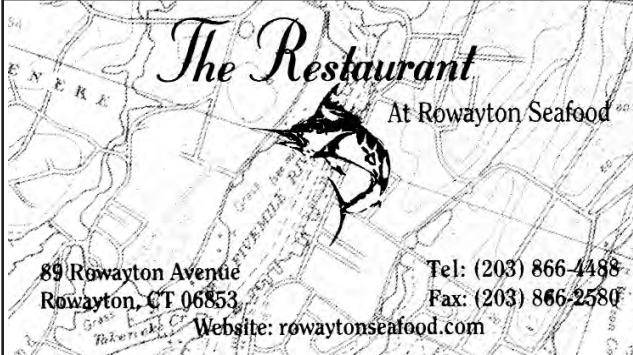
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