

Scam of the Month

It's time to view satellite TV...
Do you know where your dish is?
Page 2

UNH Program

Focus is on global
challenges, local needs
Page 9

Law Enforcement Profile

DPS Cmsr. John A. Danaher III --
"Old pro" faces new challenges.
Page 12

**What If...?**

How can Connecticut's colleges
prevent on-campus terrorism?
Page 16

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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

ISSUE 1, VOL. 4

Bridgeport 'Jane Doe' Killer Remains a Mystery

By DAWN A. MICELI
Correspondent

"Jane Doe" was someone's daughter, and someone may have even referred to her as "Mom." Her ghastly demise 14 years ago seemingly eradicated every trace of her identity. A "missing person" search failed her as well. The last blow may well be the ambiguity that surrounds her cause of death, labeled in police files as "pending."

"As far as I'm concerned, I say she was murdered," said Bridgeport Police Detective Heitor Teixeira, an 18-year veteran who is currently assigned to cold cases in the department. "We figured she was a drug carrier, and probably not even from this area – I wish that we had more. It'd be nice to have some closure."

It is that closure aspect that is compelling Teixeira to reinvestigate the meager evidence initially recovered from the site where Jane Doe's charred body was found. Even a recent setback in the case – the body has now been buried by the chief medical examiner's office after having lain in the state morgue for 10 years



Composite drawings of the two suspects, taken from the description of a Park Avenue gas station attendant in 1993. They allegedly purchased \$1 worth of gasoline in an anti-freeze container shortly before the fire was set that killed "Jane Doe".

– has done little to deter the detective from exploring all avenues. Exhumation of the body for updated forensic testing is a possibility.

A 911 fire call came in to the Bridgeport Fire Department at about 5:30 a.m. on June 5, 1993. Two people smelled

smoke near where they worked and called to report it. Emergency crews responded to a vacant parking lot at Lafayette Street and Railroad Avenue, an overgrown area right near the highway that sported the ripest kind of kindling: brush, tall grass, and small trees. The fire had been burn-

ing for a while.

Once the flames were under control, firefighters came upon a gruesome discovery. Amid the debris that littered the area were the charred remains of a faceless body, the hands and feet burned away from the stumps that remained in the regions where there once were arms and legs.

In the police report, first responders reported the overpowering smell of gasoline emanating from the area. A book of matches was found near the body, as well as an antifreeze jug containing some gasoline. The victim had been doused with the fuel and set on fire.

Michael Kerwin, a former Bridgeport police sergeant who had worked on the case, recalled the intense heat that so engulfed the body that investigators were never able to learn whether the victim died before the fire or during it. "They (her killer or killers) had to flip her over a couple of times for being that burned," said Kerwin, who now works for the state's attorney's office in Fairfield. "She was rolled over and doused again and again."

(Continued on page 14)

'Hero Cop' Says Saving Lives is Just Part of His Job

By CINDY SIMONEAU
Correspondent

For Fairfield Police Officer James Pauciello, saving lives is more than just a duty -- it has become a reality, twice.

Pauciello, an 18-year veteran of the force, was on routine patrol on Kings Highway East on February 1, 2007, when he noticed a teenager walking west on the railroad tracks. At first, he thought the 13-year-old girl dressed in a black jacket, with her long hair pulled back in a ponytail, was just taking a dangerous detour from the main road.

He yelled for her to get off the tracks, but she kept walking. He made a U-turn with his patrol car, pulled alongside the tracks, and yelled again. She continued walking. He could see she was crying and did not respond to his orders. "It was then I knew she wasn't going to leave -- that she had some sort of other plan,"

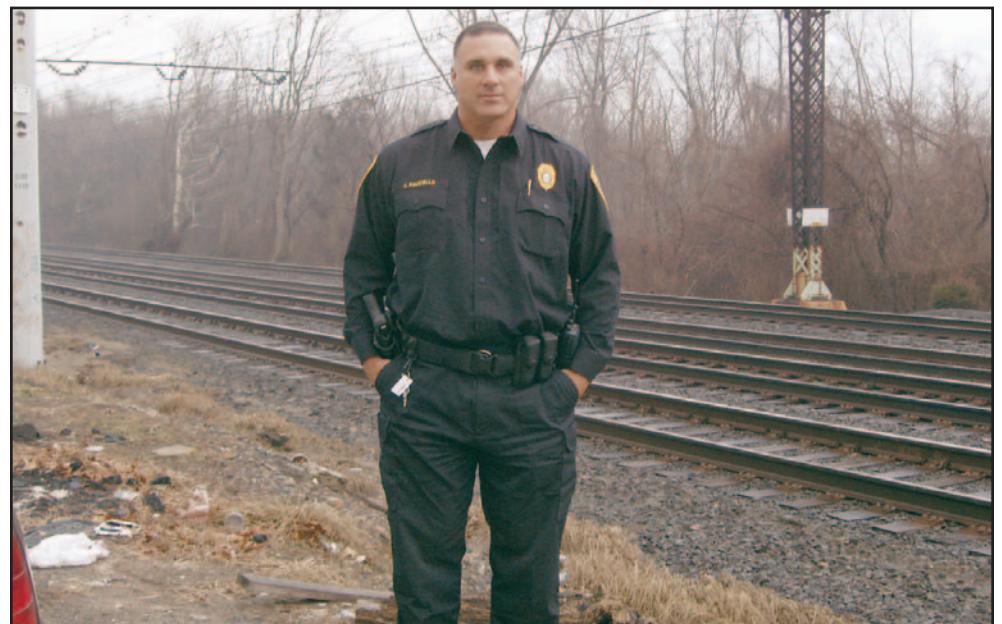
said Pauciello.

That plan, as he later discovered, involved a pact with a classmate at a school in Bridgeport. "I was just hoping it didn't happen right in front of me -- right there in the open where anyone could have seen," he recalled.

However, on the tracks, the girl was not answering any questions about her name, why she was not in school, or why she was on the tracks. She did stop walking when Pauciello approached. As he spoke to her, seconds ticked by. Then, he "felt something," looked back over his shoulder, and saw the fast-approaching Acela high-speed train.

"I just pushed her with me off the tracks, as the train was blowing its horn. It all happened so fast there was no time to think, just move." Pauciello describes the Acela as being amazingly quiet. "You don't know it's coming until it's

(Continued on page 15)



Officer James Pauciello returns to the railroad tracks in Fairfield where he saved a teenager from being hit by an Amtrak Acela high-speed train.

(Photo by Cindy Simoneau)



SCAM of the Month

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Correspondent



'Dish Network' Dishes Disappearing; Being Sold as 'New'

Paul Vargas, a Connecticut resident and New York Yankees fan, returns home from work every evening and goes through the same routine. He fixes himself dinner and a beverage, then sits down in his leather recliner and turns on the television. It's his way to unwind from a busy day.

However, one recent evening, Vargas turned on his TV and, instead of seeing the blue and white pinstripes of his beloved Bronx Bombers, he saw nothing but snow -- the black and white dots of a missing satellite signal.

Vargas tinkered with his Dish Network receiver. He turned it on and off. He even unplugged it and let it sit before plugging it back in and turning it back on again. Still no signal. That's when Vargas called Dish Network and they determined that, in fact, his receiver was not receiving any signal. The customer service representative then asked him to go outside and check his satellite dish. Vargas trudged outside -- only to find his dish was gone. The only thing left was the bracket and wires dangling off the side of his home.

"There are some darn dirty people around here to steal a satellite dish off someone's house, especially during baseball season," Vargas commented. He, like many Dish Network customers, was surprised to learn thieves are targeting Dish Network customers by the thousands. Across Connecticut and around the nation, satellite dishes are disappearing at an alarming rate. "It worked when I left in the morning, so that means the thieves struck during the day," Vargas points out.

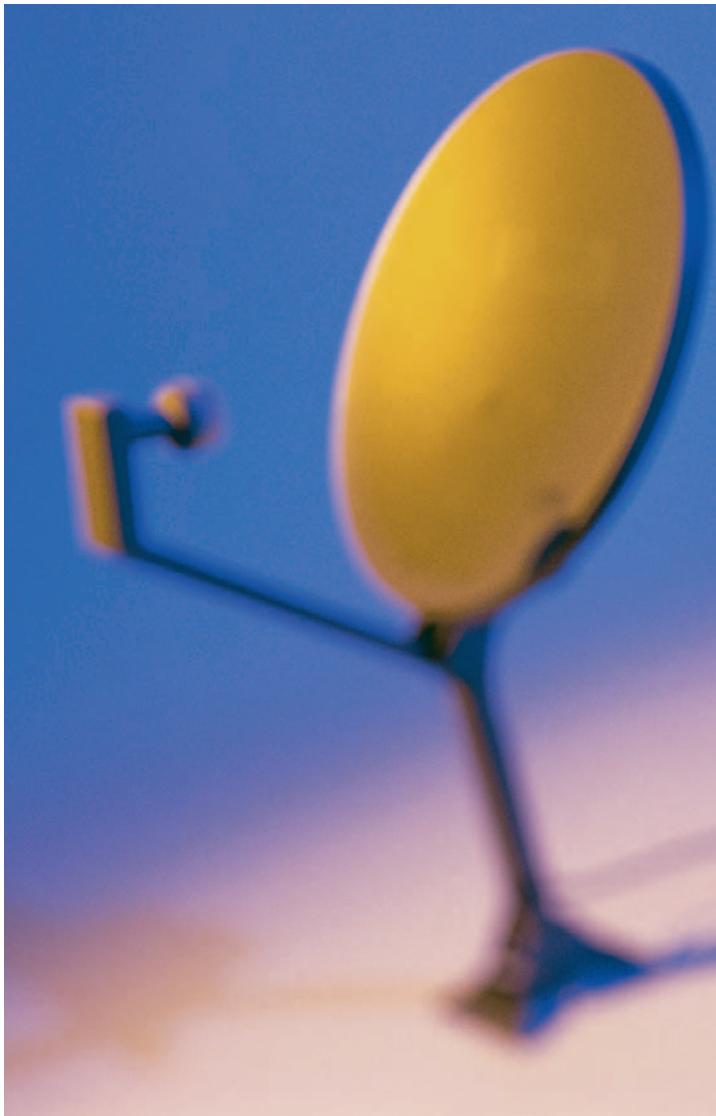
Dish Network installers say they get dozens of calls each week from people who had their dishes stolen from their houses. "There is a huge market for the stolen Dish Network dishes and LNBS," warns Todd Caruth, a Dish Network installer. (LNBS are the arm-like attachments to the dish that serve as receivers capturing the signal after it bounces off the dish.) "The LNBS are very expen-

sive, and you can only buy them from registered Dish Network distributors. That's why they are a target."

Caruth also says many of the stolen dishes are being sold by people claiming to be Direct TV distributors, but who are not. They resell the stolen goods as new. Also, since Direct TV mandates that installers hang the satellite dishes on the side of a house near the electric meter, that means the equipment is easily accessible for thieves. "A crook can walk up to a house and steal the satellite dish in just 45 seconds...That means it's a relatively low-risk crime."

Drive around Connecticut and it becomes clear the problem is widespread. Caruth says he drove through a neighborhood in Stamford and found 14 homes where satellite dishes had been stolen. "It took me 10 minutes to find more than a dozen homes hit by thieves."

"I have had my (Dish Network) dish stolen twice," said Vernon McNeal of Stamford. He lives in an apartment complex. "Each time, it takes three days to get a new dish. I can't handle 'no TV' for three days," he says with a hint of dis-



MISSING: Satellite Dish

Height: 2'5" - Weight: 10 lbs.

Last seen: Bolted to roof

gust. McNeal, like many victims, says if his dish is stolen one more time, he is going to go back to cable. "The signal is just so much better with a satellite dish, but I'm tired of paying for it to be reinstalled each time it gets stolen!"

If the thieves are not selling to dishonest distributors, they may be selling the stolen dishes on eBay. A quick

search reveals just how big the satellite equipment market is. At any given moment, hundreds of dishes are being sold on the on-line auction site.

The people looking for Dish Network equipment are often people who have a second home or a recreational vehicle. Many people like to take their receiver box on the road with them, but in order to receive the satellite signal in their second home or RV, they need a second satellite dish. They can buy a dish on eBay anywhere from \$25 to \$65 -- far less than it would cost to buy the same equipment from a registered distributor.

One RV'er, who asked not to be identified, said, "I had no idea the dish might be stolen. I bought mine on eBay because I saved nearly \$50." He says he now feels bad he may have helped a thief prosper. "If I had known so many of the dishes on eBay were stolen, I never would have bought it there," he said.

The satellite thieves have spared Direct TV users. The reason is that consumers can buy Direct TV equipment at almost any electronic store. The Direct TV equipment is so widely available there is no market for stolen Direct TV equipment.

Reputable installers recommend that customers ask their installer if the equipment they are buying is new. "If you have any doubts, ask the installer to prove it to you," recommends Caruth. He explains that installers need to know their customers want no part of helping thieves flourish.

Paul Vargas has his new dish up and running at his house in Hamden. He also has installed a motion sensor light next to it to try to keep thieves away at night. "I don't know what to do during the day. I told my neighbor to keep an eye on it." Vargas also had an extra set of bolts installed on the dish. He says, "I hope that sends a signal to thieves -- stay away from my satellite dish!"

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Chiefs' Expo Offers Glimpse at Leading Edge Technology

By **DAWN A. MICELI**
Correspondent



With the Trumbull Police Department looking to equip its patrol cars with rifles, Police Chief Tom Kiely attended the recent Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Expo at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. However, it was not just the rifles he was interested in seeing.

Chief Kiely was thinking about extra protection for his officers. So, when Stratford Police Chief Michael Imbro told him about the latest in tactical accessories – a new carrying case for those rifles that also doubles as body armor – Chief Kiely was intrigued. “To go in with a shotgun isn’t as effective as it used to be,” said Chief Kiely as he watched Jerry St. Pierre of Point Blank Body Armor demonstrate the seemingly unassuming product. “It’s very unobtrusive. After the gun comes out, the officer throws the case over his head, so he is protected because it has level three-A body protection. So it’s not just a carrying case, it’s extra protection for the officer.”

Chief Kiely said he would be happy if Trumbull allotted funding for just two of the carrying cases, which cost \$800 to \$1,000, before he moved on to the next booth at the Expo. The event attracts hundreds of law enforcement officials from around the state, as well as hundreds of public-safety vendors from across the country hawking the latest in high-tech – and low-tech – equipment available to better protect and serve area police departments.

The range of products was diverse – from state-of-the-art weaponry to the latest in real-time computer-aided dispatch software, along with the more mundane necessities such as footwear, badges, and even storage lockers for uniforms. Lt. Michael Spera of the Old Saybrook Police Department said his department is in the process of securing new uniforms, meaning he spent some of the morning talking to vendors who are in the business of outfitting officers.

“The show is really a professional-development experience,” said Lt. Spera, noting that the expo allows public-safety personnel to observe the most contemporary technology available. “It’s amazing where technology is going in terms of communications...It’s really valuable, because we pick up tips here and find out about the latest technology that other departments are using.”

Seymour Police Chief Michael Metzler likened the whole event to a giant wish list and noted that at the top of his list would be the automated fingerprinting system that identifies a person in seconds, versus days. “So those are the types of technologies you’d like to get,” he said. “The technology is always upgrading, so



At the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Expo, (L to R) Jerry St. Pierre, manufacturer’s representative from Point Blank Body Armor, Richmond, NH, discusses products with Lt. Ron Kirby and Chief Tom Kiely of the Trumbull Police Department.
(Photo by Dawn Miceli)

you think you have up-to-date technology, but then you come here and see that you don’t.”

Chief Metzler also used the expo as an opportunity to save some money for his department. Knowing that vendor Jean Sarris Cole with Central Equipment Company was going to be in attendance for the event, Metzler had placed an order for four gross of road flares in advance. Sarris Cole, whose Massachusetts firm has been in business for 40 years and has attended the Expo for 30 of those years, skirted out from behind her booth to stock the Seymour chief’s car. “It’s a wonderful day where you get to meet people who you usually deal with over the phone,” she said, adding that her company currently holds contracts with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety for leather goods and fingerprinting kits. Chief Metzler noted that he had saved \$150 in shipping fees by having his order delivered in person. “If you save enough money, maybe you can get some of these things here today,” he chuckled.

The AirVisual booth garnered a lot of attention with its computer software system that enables officers to view images in their patrol cars from cameras posted throughout the community. “The images are in real time, so you can see criminals and everyday problem areas,” said East Hartford Deputy Chief Rich Vibberts. “I thought that was real slick.”

Others were impressed with the size of the new digital cameras that can be embedded in a vehicle’s rearview mirror, as opposed to the awkward video cameras that actually have to be placed in the passenger seat due to their considerable size. LoJack Law Enforcement Manager

we provide free training and updates,” Thompson said of the tracking device. “It’s smaller than it used to be,” remarked Waterbury Assistant Deputy Chief Patrick Ridenoul as he peered at the small gadget. “It’s small, so it would fit in a lot of different places in the vehicle.”

Santa Cruz Gunlocks managed to get its product into East Hartford patrol cars for a 90-day trial period. Sgt. Chris Connolly of the East Hartford Police Department was impressed with a gun mounting system that fits into vehicles right above the headrest, providing better accessibility to the officers as well as added safety and security. A hidden switch installed somewhere within the officer’s reach is another appealing feature, Sgt. Connolly explained.

Like his colleagues in Trumbull and Stratford, Madison’s Police Chief Paul Jakubson was very impressed by the body-armored rifle carrying case. “From a tactical standpoint, because it doubles as a tactical vest, and given the circumstances that have taken place in the country lately, it makes sense...It’s an intriguing piece of equipment, and it’s something I’ve never seen before.”

By the way, Chief Jakubson walked away from the Expo a winner – he won a Bible during one of the many raffles conducted at the event.

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Neighborhood Watch Programs Help Police Fight Crime

By MEG BARONE
Correspondent

Long before police officers walked the beat protecting the public and keeping the peace, neighbors watched out for each other. In Colonial America, "night walkers" or "night watchmen" wandered through villages looking for suspicious activity -- and sometimes providing weather reports town-crier style.

The creation of municipal police departments in the nineteenth century eliminated the need for civilian night watchmen, but "the police can't be in every neighborhood 24 hours a day," said Ridgefield Police Capt. Stephen Brown. Enter the National Neighborhood Watch Program, one of the oldest and most recognizable crime-prevention programs in U.S. history -- celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. "I think it promotes some togetherness in a neighborhood. Often we find neighbors don't know their neighbors," said Capt. Brown, who oversees Ridgefield's Neighborhood Watch program.

The Neighborhood Watch program enables citizens to serve as the eyes and ears of their local law enforcement agencies. The initiative began formally in 1972 when the National Sheriffs' Association sought funding through a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to incorporate citizen

involvement into existing police public-safety efforts. The program encourages partnerships between citizens and police departments to keep neighborhoods safe and to help reduce or eliminate car thefts, burglaries, and home invasions.

Jen Planker, a mother from Stratford, said neighbors have lost touch in a busy world in which many people use their homes really only as a bedroom. "Decreasing anonymity will keep crime down. If people are accountable, that keeps crime away. It keeps crime down when people are not shy to call law enforcement and they view law enforcement as their friend," said Planker, who is working to expand her local Neighborhood Watch program in the Nichols School area to include two parks that need revitalization.

Planker explained it is not that crime is increasing in the parks, but that she does not want them to become targets of vandals. "There's really no point in fixing up these parks if they're going to be trashed. I think it's important to have a Neighborhood Watch in conjunction with the parks' rehabilitation. We need people to be interested in these parks, to be invested in these parks."

Additionally, Planker noted, local children who use the park can become a mini- Neighborhood Watch. "They're out there all the time. If they understand that Neighborhood Watch is not 'us versus them,' then -- when something does happen -- children become our best source of information."

Planker recently met with John Cratty, a retired Stratford crime-prevention police officer currently serving as president of CrimeWatch of Stratford, to discuss the expansion plans.

"I'm looking to create a sense of community, and I find a Neighborhood Watch is a good way to do that," she said.

In Shelton, at least 60 Neighborhood Watch programs exist, some more active than others, but none are registered with the national office, said Shelton Police Sgt. Joseph Kudrak, who started that town's Neighborhood Watch program in 1978. An annual picnic held by the Shelton Police Department for Neighborhood Watch members usually draws about 500 people, Sgt. Kudrak said. "We encourage people to participate in the program, because those people that live in Neighborhood Watch group areas have been statistically lower in incidents

of burglary."

Although the Neighborhood Watch groups in Ridgefield are only active around special events, they are still effective, Capt. Brown explained. "We have about a half a dozen who are active in the days leading up to and including Halloween night, and in some of those neighborhoods there's been a dramatic decrease in criminal mischief. It's made a real change in some of the neighborhoods."

There are seven active, though not nationally registered, Neighborhood Watch programs in Stratford and four more in the early stages of development, all working directly with Cratty. He said there are Neighborhood Watches in traditional residential neighborhoods as well as in a senior housing complex, a condominium complex, and a cooperative housing area, some with 30 to 40 members.

Neighborhood Watch groups number from as few as three neighbors on one street to large groups encompassing a multi-block area of a community. The more active groups combat crime by patrolling their streets and participating in training sessions by local law enforcement and public-safety experts. And while such vigilance is encouraged, it is not a prerequisite to forming a Neighborhood Watch, officials say.

(Continued on page 17)



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**17,000 killed
in senseless act**

Authorities search
for answers on a
day of sadness

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

...the help of National Guard
...as w... S S

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

If this were today's headline, would you notice? Last year, drinking and driving actually did kill about 17,000 people. It injured half a million more. But because it happened over a year rather than in a single day, it's not always front-page news. If you drink, find a safe way home. And do your part to keep drunk driving out of the headlines.

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Connecticut's Ex-Public Safety Commissioner Len Boyle Now Working Against Terrorism for the FBI

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent



When Leonard C. Boyle left his position as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety earlier this year, he quickly moved into a major assignment with the federal government. Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert S. Mueller named him director of the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), a multi-agency operation administered by the FBI with support from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

So how did this University of Hartford graduate find himself working with the feds?

"I was interviewed by Director Mueller and I serve under him, as well as Secretary Michael Chertoff and the State Department—the principal entities that came together to form this center," said Boyle, who relocated to Arlington, Virginia, for the new post. "The TSC was created in September 2003 by a presidential direc-

tive—its purpose is to serve as the authoritative source in coordinating the use of terrorist identification information. The desire was to have a single Terrorist Watch List."

One major criticism that came out of the *9/11 Commission Report* was that various government and law enforcement agencies maintained different watch lists and did not bother to share the information with one another. The result was that folks ranging from infants sleeping in their mothers' arms, to U.S. Senators racing to the Capitol, were being hauled out of line at airports on suspicion of being terrorists. So, members of the TSC put came up with a single database for those persons who are "appropriately suspected" of being terrorists. However, deeming just who is "appropriate" is not an easy nut to crack.

"It's a tough line to walk—getting as much information as possible to those who protect us while not inconveniencing people in their day-to-day lives," explained Boyle. "We need to gain as much involvement as possible from our



Leonard C. Boyle

foreign and domestic law enforcement partners while continuing to maintain the utmost concern for people's civil liberties."

So, what qualifies Connecticut's former public safety commissioner to walk the fine line between protecting citizens from terrorists and shielding them from the government?

"I was a municipal police officer for five years, a federal prosecutor for 17 years, and commissioner of public safety for one-and-a-half years," said Boyle. "So, having served as a police officer, an administrator of public safety, and someone who presents cases in court, I have seen the law at work on all levels—which adds value to making our system as effective to people on the front lines as it can possibly be."

Boyle also served as a special attorney to the attorney general of the United States, where he received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service along with the U.S. Department of Justice's Director's Award for his prosecution of civil rights cases involving members of

the Hartford Police Department, and for his prosecution of organized crime figures. Additionally, he taught at the University of Connecticut's School of Law, where he received his law degree. Also, he was an instructor at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Education and National Advocacy Center.

Boyle oversees and directs all TSC operations and reports to the executive assistant director of the FBI, with 235 employees reporting to him. "My responsibility is to oversee and manage the daily operations of the Center...I receive nominees and add those persons to watch lists or databases. The second stage of my responsibility is to make sure that information is accessible to law enforcement, customs or border protection agents, State Department officials, and the Transportation Security Administration."

The final stage is to make it all work together to keep our country safe from another terrorist attack. A daunting task, indeed, but one that Connecticut native Len Boyle has been preparing for his entire career.

For more information about the FBI Terrorist Screening Center, contact: <http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/counterterrorism/tsc.htm>.

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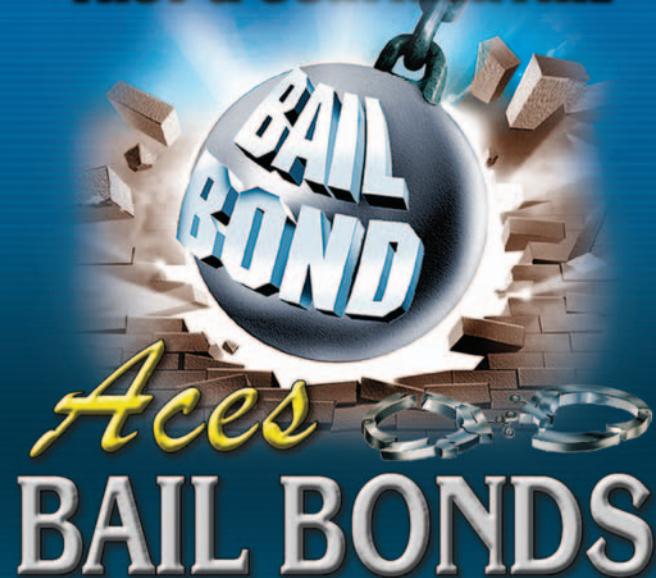
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Blacksburg's Silver Lining: Maybe This Time the Status Quo Will Change

By DANIEL HENNINGER

Deputy Editor,
Wall Street Journal Editorial page



Commentary

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In the wake of an event such as Virginia Tech, our system moves heaven and earth to figure out what went wrong and how to make sure it doesn't happen again. This of course is what we did after September 11 and after the botched response to Hurricane Katrina.

Here's what's really unnerving about this inevitable "process": In June 2000, the Bremer Report of the National Commission on Terrorism described virtually everything we needed to know about preparing for the kind of attack that occurred in September 2001. Similarly--and you can guess what you're about to read--in 2002 the Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative, conducted by the Secret Service and the Department of Education, told us virtually everything we need to know to prevent a Virginia Tech.

The good news here is that we are not as stupid as we seem. We have it within our power to assign smart people to look at a manifest public problem and offer sensible fixes. (To be sure, not all commissions do.) Still one must ask: Why do we refuse to take our own best advice?

After the Blacksburg murders, one of the first words uttered in awful memory was "Columbine." Well, Columbine was among the main reasons for the Safe Schools effort. Also Springfield, Ore., West Paducah, Ky., and Jonesboro, Ark.--all sites of widely publicized school shootings. In all, the study investigated 37 such attacks in schools from 1974 to 2000.

Most interesting, the study was led by the Secret Service. Why? The study doesn't quite put it this way, but it was because the Secret Service's main job in life is preventing the nuts from killing someone. Simply, the study's goal was to try to figure out what is "knowable" before an attack.

One of the Safe School report's most relevant findings, for the purposes of stopping another Virginia Tech, is that the 37 school attacks weren't typically carried out by severely ill, unhinged psychotics like Cho Seung-Hui. This is not to say they

were happy campers (the study interviewed 10 perpetrators in depth). Though few of them would get off by reason of insanity, they were all mentally very unhappy campers; and what is more, other people knew that. And in nearly every case, someone knew they were planning the attack: "In nearly two thirds of the incidents, more than one person had information about the attack before it occurred."

Among the reasons widely adduced for not doing something about Cho's violent proclivities are HIPAA and FERPA, the confidentiality laws for health records and college students' records. Well, there's no FERPA for high schools. There is merely the weird cultural refusal to turn in bad actors to adult authority. In one school attack, so many students knew it was coming that 24 were waiting on a mezzanine to watch, one with a camera. The enemy is us.

Prior to the studied assaults, some 93% of the attackers behaved in ways that caused concern to school officials, teachers, parents, the cops or other students. "In one case, the student's English teacher became concerned about several poems and essays that . . ." well, you know the rest.

Psychological flameouts were indeed present in virtually all the attacks--depression (61%), prior suicidal attempts or thoughts (78%), a sense of loss, feelings of being persecuted or in fact bullied.

A lot has been made of the police failure to apprehend Cho for two hours. Fair enough, but that's not typical. In the Safe Schools 37 incidents, most of the attacks were stopped by administrator or teachers, largely because half didn't last longer than 15 minutes. The cops stopped only 25% of the attacks--an argument for deputizing and arming someone in the schools. (In testimony this week to the Senate Homeland Security Committee, the head of the association for all campus cops explained the "safety issues" that mainly keeps them distracted: "At the top of the list are issues related to high-risk drinking and the use and abuse of illegal and prescription drugs.")

After September 11, we learned from the 9/11 Commission that the left hand of

the CIA didn't know what the right hand of the FBI was doing, that they wouldn't talk to each other, or under Justice Department rules, couldn't talk to each other. But before all that, the Bremer anti-terror report in 2000 described "complex bureaucratic procedures" that hampered the CIA and an FBI suffering from "bureaucratic and cultural obstacles (my emphasis) to obtaining terrorism information."

Cultural indeed. Over time we have accreted a culture in the United States--of rules, laws, liability concerns and mindsets--that adds up to no-can-do. Or, Attorney may I?

After 9/11 the consensus that we had to do something sank quickly in the swamps of partisanship; wiretapping and incarcerating terrorists became mainly a debate game for politicians and newspaper writers. If there is a sliver of silver lining in the Virginia Tech aftermath, it is that there seems to be a willingness to look hard at the status quo--no matter what assumptions pre-existed about rights, privacy, stigma, coercion, security or whether we can blame it on Karl Rove.

On Tuesday, for example, the Chronicle of Higher Education published a piece by a professor titled, "Why It's OK to Rat on Other Students." Here, as with the message

screaming off the pages of the Safe School report, the exhortation is to do something, no matter what the intimidations of the law or received wisdom.

What this means is that some college presidents, and their lawyers, rather than rolling over before those confidentiality laws, should tell some aggrieved student who is refusing to take the medication prescribed for his psychosis: So sue! Let a judge decide whether 32 deaths warrant a reconsideration of these restrictions.

As well, there is no hope unless a light goes off in the collective socket of our elected politicians, which illumines just how much their oh-so-needed laws siphon time and energy out of the daily lives of institutional leaders who a long time ago had the common sense and personal authority to chuck out a Cho Seung-Hui.

At the Homeland Security Committee hearing this week, Sen. Joe Lieberman (I) remarked, "We want to respect the privacy of the individual, yet ultimately I think we have a greater responsibility to protect the safety of the community." Sound sensible? If embraced by our politics, that notion would overturn 40 years of jurisprudence and conventional wisdom that, of late, has turned deadly. After Blacksburg, it could happen.

Mr. Henninger is deputy editor of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page. His column appears Thursdays in the Journal and on OpinionJournal.com.



Letters to the Editor

The Taccone Family

Thank you for the wonderful article you wrote for the Justice Journal on our daughter Sara Taccone. My husband, John and I appreciate the respect and compassion you portrayed in your article. Once again our thanks.

Sincerely,

Sheila and John Taccone

Article originally appeared in the March issue of The Justice Journal written by Teale Caliendo

Raise the Age Bill

I read your article with interest, and I'm glad to hear that the police of this state are weighing the evidence about the Raise the Age bill. Many of the objects the police chief raised were merely logistical objections that can clearly be overcome by the committee planning the implementation of this new law. What's clear to me both as a mother and a researcher is that there is plenty of evidence that trying juveniles as adults is simply bad public policy. 16 and 17 year

olds don't get services that can help them turn their lives around. They come out of the adult system more dangerous and more likely to reoffend. We need to send our children the message that we are not willing to throw their lives away. They can and must turn their lives around, and we will make the investment it requires. CT can and will be a model for the nation in treating children as children and creating the supports they need. But we need the strong leadership and vision of law enforcement, social services and citizens to make this change. I urge the CT police association to reconsider and to support the bills to Raise the Age.

Jennifer Tilton

Editorial Policy

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

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

Please send your letters to:

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

Or e-mail: Editor@thejusticejournal.com

Notes from the Editor's Desk

Tragedy Compresses Distance Between CT and Virginia Tech



It is approximately 450 miles from the Connecticut border to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia. The recent tragedy there – some call it a massacre — is a terrible reminder that “The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.” Whether Thomas Jefferson or Patrick Henry or someone else should deserve credit for that statement does not matter. It is a statement of fact.

Despite the distance, we felt close to the victims and their families, recognizing that those 33 lives (including that of the killer) might have been lost here in a similar setting. Our schools, and other places where we might once have felt safe, are not fortresses – nor should they be. We have seen children murdered in an Amish school, in Southern churches, in their homes, and in so many other locations that once seemed to offer refuge.

There are many aspects of the Virginia Tech slayings that will be studied and analyzed for years. Regulations preventing parents from being informed about all that they should know about their children while they are away at college must be reviewed – and some common sense must be factored in. Colleges apparently do not or cannot operate “*in loco parentis*” – “in place of a parent.” Had the killer survived, would he have been declared “criminally insane” and held for rehabilitative treatment rather than punishment? Is it time to allow more people to carry concealed weapons, or should gun laws be tightened even more?

While the media, overall, did a commendable job trying to make sense of what happened in Blacksburg, did they play into the hands of the killer by transmitting his rants posthumously? The media did help us come together, vicariously, as they took us to news conferences, memorial services, candlelight vigils, and into the homes and hearts of those who knew the 33 people who died so violently in such a short span of time.

Another perspective on the Blacksburg violence is that by comparison, one might argue that would have been a relatively peaceful day in Baghdad. Had the lone gunman been a member of Al-Qaida or some other international terrorist organization, what would we be thinking now?

Crime prevention starts with vigilance... everywhere, every moment, and with involvement by every one of us. There may or may not be a big price to pay for personal liberty, but the alternatives to not paying it could be far more expensive.

Kenn Venit
Managing Editor

Letter from the Publisher

The Enemy Is Us

"The enemy is us" was an observation made on the Op-Ed page of *The Wall Street Journal* by Daniel Henninger, in his April 26 column (reprinted with permission on page 6) Blacksburg's Silver Lining. As I read that simple yet powerfully incisive comment, I couldn't help but think how true it was on so many levels.

In the fervent battle to protect our rights as Americans, we often can't see "the forest for the trees." We argue that almost every conceivable combination of individual rights must be protected. But when a tragedy occurs, such as the one at Virginia Tech, we stand dumbfounded wondering "how could this happen?"

On a recent segment of *60 Minutes* I watched an advocate for the mentally ill defend their rights to own a gun. There is no simple solution when it comes to our rights versus our personal safety, but I agree with Mr. Henninger's assessment that the unfortunate event in Blacksburg, Virginia, could be the catalyst for us to take a hard look at where we draw the line.

Sincerely,
Doug Johnston



Submit Articles

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

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THE JUSTICE JOURNAL

FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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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 Gersteiny, soon to be published by Praeger Security International. Her screenplay *American Jihad* is currently in post production.



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

Citizens Get 'Up Close and Personal' View of Police Work

By LEISA TAYLOR
Correspondent

"Have you had to shoot anybody?"

The residents of Fairfield have an "up close and personal" means of going far beyond that oft-asked question to a police officer, by participating in the Citizen Police Academy (CPA) offered by the town's police department.

Started 12 years ago by Capt. Robert Comers, the CPA offers a behind-the-scenes look at police work and operations. "It's an effort to educate the community about basic police operations," said Capt. Comers. "The TV shows [about cops] are not real. This academy provides residents with a better understanding of the force, and the students end up more supportive of the police. Without exception, every graduating class has left feeling good about the Fairfield Police Department. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive."

Participants must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the town. "There is no fee for the course," said Capt. Comers, who has been on the force for 42 years. "We try to make it like a real police academy. For example, we have a dress code for both the students and the police officers."

The course runs for 10 weeks, with a three-hour class one night each week at Fairfield police headquarters. The cur-

riculum is impressive, with classes ranging from accident investigation and stolen cars to fingerprinting and juvenile law. Other topics include hostage negotiations, gangs, animal control, burglary and property crime, identity theft, firearms, SCUBA team operations, narcotics, and helicopter operations.

"In firearms, we take [the students] to a pistol range and let them fire a weapon," Capt. Comers said. "It's not mandatory, but in all the classes over the years, only one or two didn't want to fire a weapon."

Most of the instructors are members of the Fairfield Police Department, all of whom have volunteered to teach. The students also hear from an FBI agent and a state police officer in the one class taught "off-campus" in Bridgeport.

What kind of people enroll in the academy? There is quite a variety in ages and backgrounds. For example, Alex Fucci, 84, said he has always been interested in police work and that his grandson is a member of the Fairfield Police Department. "You don't realize what's involved in police work," said Fucci, whose favorite class to date was on identity theft. "We don't realize how vulnerable we are to identity theft. Our Social Security number and credit cards are out there all the time for people to take and use."

A father and daughter, Wayne Harri-

son and Beth Perkins, followed the advice of their wife and mother, Jeanne Harrison, who was a CPA participant last year. "She said it was very informative and that we would learn a lot," Perkins said. "The course is great. You get to put yourself in the situation of a police officer. I've learned so much, and I've passed on the information to people I work with," she added.

Arthur Hersh, 60, said, "All the instructors were great...It's probably the most enlightening course for citizens to take." Hersh particularly liked the class about accident investigation. "It's not just asking for a license and insurance. The officer has to make a very detailed report, including taking measurements, taking statements, and perhaps trying to match two different stories."

Mary Condon, 62, daughter of a policeman in Ireland, said she applied for the course to gather knowledge about police activities.

Genevieve Johnson, 26, said the course was "even better than I could have imagined." Her favorite part was the ride-along program. "We pulled over a guy who had run a red light, and he was extremely rude to the police officer. I had no idea it could be so demanding."

CPA participants are required to ride along with a police officer for eight hours. The citizens are given guidelines to follow, such as remaining in the police vehicle unless authorized to exit by the "host officer." Capt. Comers noted, "If an officer goes on a call that's too dangerous, we have a procedure for that. The student is dropped off at a convenient location, and another patrol officer will come pick him or her up. For example, we don't allow students to go on a pursuit."

Capt. Comers cited other reasons people enroll in the CPA. "Some are just curious about police work, and some are interested in law enforcement as a career... About 10-15 were students going to college and studying criminal justice." At the end of the course, the participants are assigned to write an evaluation about the Citizen Police Academy so that Capt. Comers can keep track of what the participants liked and what they learned.

The CPA has benefits for the police officers, too, according to Capt. Comers. "The people who an officer meets while on duty can be antagonistic, such as when he's issuing a ticket or having to arrest someone. As an instructor, the police officer is able to explain his job, and he's appreciated for it."

Capt. Gary MacNamara teaches a section on "Critical Incident Management," perhaps more commonly known as crisis response and management. MacNamara's class was particularly timely in the wake of the Virginia Tech slayings. "We as police officers are trained to do one thing: resolve problems. Our officers are trained for resolution, but if you don't have a plan, you're not going to have action."

The 19-year veteran of the Fairfield Police Department identified the problems presented to law enforcement in crisis situations, such as the initial lack of knowledge about what exactly the officers are dealing with. This, combined with potential problems such as inadequate communication, too few or too many resources, or simply crowds, can hamper law enforcement when handling an emergency situation. Capt. MacNamara outlines for the class steps that police officers can take to get a better handle on a crisis situation.

"There are a lot of uncontrollables in a situation, such as the weather, the time of day, or the weapons involved...All you can worry about is what you can control. For example, if you know your resources are limited, you take steps to use your resources wisely," said Capt. MacNamara.

One student asked if police officers ever have to think about expenses, such as when calling for helicopter support. Capt. MacNamara said, "No," adding, "You can't protect lives if you're worrying about money." His class was attended by 13 students -- six women and seven men.

Applications for the Citizen Police Academy are available at Fairfield police headquarters, 100 Reef Road, or at Fairfield Town Hall. For further information, Capt. Comers can be reached at 203-254-4811.

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FAIRFIELD CPA RULES:

Participants must be residents of Fairfield (unless an exception is made) and at least 18 years of age.

Participants must sign a waiver of liability for the ride-along program.

Participants must sign an agreement not to release confidential information or documents to which they may have access.

Weapons, drugs (except prescription), and alcohol are prohibited.

Participants must participate in an

eight-hour ride-along in addition to the 10 classes.

To graduate, participants may not miss more than one class and must complete the ride-along program.

Proper attire is required: for males, sports jacket with dress shirt, dress slacks, and tie, or dress shirt and sweater, or dress slacks with coordinated dress shirt; for females, suit or a dress, or skirt/dress slacks and coordinated blouse/sweater.

UNH Program Addresses Global Challenges and Local Needs

By **TEALE CALIENDO**
Correspondent

New Canaan Police Officer Mark DeFelice is enrolled in a program at the University of New Haven, studying how to “think globally, act locally.” He is doing that in the belief that local law enforcement officials will play increasingly important roles in tomorrow’s emergencies, even when federal authorities are called in. “Local authorities are the experts in our area. The FBI may have the expertise, but they don’t know the area,” Officer DeFelice explained.

If you search the Internet for homeland security college degrees, you will find thousands of references and dozens of U.S. schools offering such programs. In light of 9/11, that is not surprising. However, the University of New Haven (UNH) was already in the process of designing such a program *before* the terrorists struck on September 11, 2001. UNH, long regarded as a preeminent institution for criminal justice study in this country, launched its National Security and Public Safety program in 2002 at its satellite facility in California.

Dr. Thomas A. Johnson, dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at UNH, recognized prior to 9/11 that the nation’s 14 intelligence agencies needed greater assistance from the academic community, so he established the university’s graduate National Security Program. Now he serves as the program’s dean and director.

“When you looked at what was going on in higher education, there were precious few programs that were providing the sort of academic background and foundation which (the agencies) might find useful,” Dr. Johnson said. Earlier, he created UNH’s Center for Cybercrime and Forensic Computer Investigation. He did that because “the way our intelligence system works is that an agency such as the National Security Agency requests information or a study.” The study can take anywhere from two months to a year to prepare.

“After the data is collected, a lot of it is scientific and some is human intel (intelligence information), and someone has to

analyze it. It is the analysts that we are basically training,” said Dr. Johnson. He noted that the analysts must understand the tools used to collect data so they can then come up with a study that will provide United States’ policy makers with the best information possible, so they can make (judicious) decisions.

“I started building this program focusing in on the management and operational aspects of the sciences that are employed in protecting our nation,” said Dr. Johnson. UNH students can earn a master’s degree or a certificate in National Security and Public Safety.

A year after launching the program in California, Dr. Johnson made it available at the main campus in West Haven, CT. Since then, the program has served as a model for similar ones across the nation.

A majority of those enrolled in the program are regional law enforcement professionals who recognize that in today’s shrinking world, it is necessary to “think globally and act locally.”

Officer Mark DeFelice enrolled in the program for that reason, explaining, “I already had a criminal justice degree, and after 9/11 a degree in homeland security sounded interesting, because it’s about the future and what law enforcement will be in 10 years. And all the (UNH) courses are

current in this field, since they are always changing and adapting...In this field you have to keep up (with the latest counterterrorist measures).”

The courses at UNH train the students to anticipate potential assaults that would

have seemed unthinkable prior to 9/11. One class, “Weapons of Mass Destruction: Chemical and Biological Weapons,” requires students to think like a terrorist, find a local site that’s vulnerable, and devise an attack that will kill people, create fear and havoc, and give their “organization” a platform to promote their cause. Various scenarios included infiltrating a casino and releasing a biological contaminant, setting off a chemical bomb in a police department headquarters, and contaminating a public place, such as an airport, so the initial victims of the attack will become carriers of the toxin.

It is quite a learning experience for those who participate in the class, such as Officer DeFelice. “I really would emphasize this is a good program on all levels and will benefit officers in the local community in order to fully understand how we have to adapt to secure our cities and towns with more training focusing on educating (fire and police) as being first ‘preventers’ rather than just first ‘responders.’ We probably are not going to

be able to shut down all (potential targets), for example hospitals and sports facilities, but we might be able to eliminate the number of threats (by assessing the vulnerability of targets).”

Officer DeFelice noted that while police must still deal with their usual law enforcement duties, such as fighting drug crimes and investigating motor vehicle accidents, there are additional major challenges today, such as protecting a public water supply or handling an outbreak of influenza. He emphasized the need for local law enforcement officers to keep up with these new challenges.

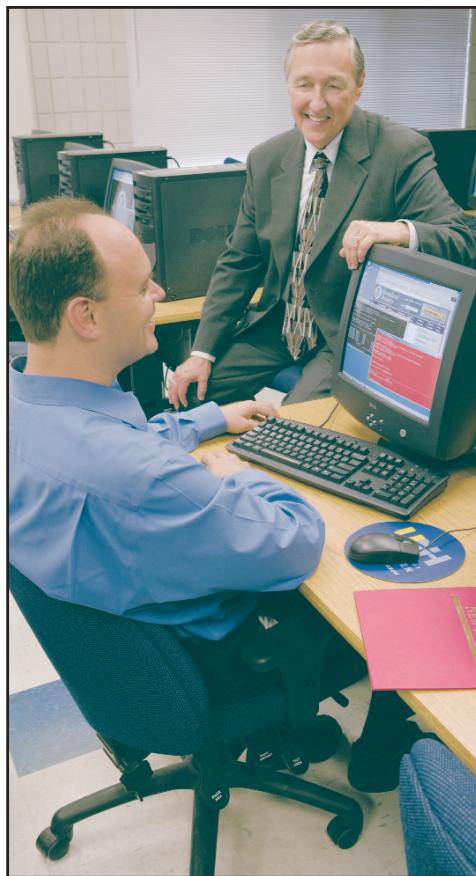
“The federal government is helping local authorities by providing funding (for this purpose) to outfit officers for chemical and biological equipment or providing educational stipends,” Officer DeFelice said. “I think as a whole Fairfield County is well ahead of the curve getting federal money (to fund those efforts).”

In addition to law enforcement professionals, Dr. Johnson targeted two other groups the UNH program would benefit: those who work in national laboratories, and corporate security employees whose companies have defense or Department of Energy contracts.

Dr. Johnson said the challenge of preparing the next generation of security experts and leaders goes beyond the usual parameters of a university setting. “Our university feels quite privileged to be affiliated with one of our nation’s foremost labs (Sandia National Laboratories in California), as it provides a unique opportunity to work with scientists who share our interest in national security...and will provide an environment for exchange of ideas and the critical assessment of theories fundamental to the graduate study of National Security and Public Safety.”

In addition to the UNH West Haven Campus, the UNH program is offered in Albuquerque, NM and Arlington, VA, as well as at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, CA. For more information on the program, visit www.newhaven.edu.

Contact Teale at
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Dr. Thomas Johnson meets with a student in the UNH graduate-level National Security Program.

Project Safe Childhood Nets an Internet Predator in Connecticut

As the result of an Internet sex crime investigation by several law enforcement agencies, Stephan M. Letavec, 41, of Elrama, Pennsylvania, has been sentenced by United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport to 10 years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release.

Letavec pleaded guilty to one count of using the Internet to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity, and one count of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of attempting to have and having illicit sexual conduct with a minor.

In March 2005, Letavec met his victim, a 14-year-old Connecticut girl, through the website myspace.com. He and the teenager communicated through

myspace.com almost every day between March 2005 and February 2006. On three occasions, Letavec traveled from Pennsylvania to Connecticut to meet the victim, and, on at least two of those occasions, they engaged in illicit sexual conduct.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Connecticut Computer Crimes Task Force, which includes federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The

project safe childhood



FBI’s Pittsburgh Field Office and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania assisted. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James K. Filan.

The Connecticut Computer Crimes Task Force was formed in February 2003 to investigate crimes occurring over the Internet. These crimes include computer intrusion, Internet fraud, copyright violations, Internet threats and harassment, and

online crimes against children. The task force also provides computer forensic review services for participating agencies. The task force is housed in the main FBI office in New Haven, CT. For more information about the task force, please contact the FBI at 203-777-6311.

The U.S. attorney for Connecticut, Kevin J. O’Connor, said this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Project Safe Childhood Initiative, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys’ offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims.

VERSUS



Stephen J. Sedensky III, Esq.
State's Attorney, Judicial District of Danbury



Edward J. Gavin, Esq.
Attorney

Should Connecticut Authorize 'Sex Offender-Free Zones' for Neighborhoods?

With qualifications, the ability to restrict where convicted sex offenders can go or reside is good for both the public and the offender.

As a citizen and a prosecutor, I want to know that when a convicted sex offender is released from prison, his or her chances of reoffending are minimized to the greatest extent possible. This is done primarily with intense supervision on probation or parole. Once the person completes probation or parole, it is not unreasonable for society to still want to protect itself, and it should have the ability to do that.

For instance, on December 5, 2006, the Common Council of the City of Danbury, CT, passed an ordinance making it unlawful for child sex offenders to be present in a Child Safety Zone. Such a zone includes parks and playgrounds.

The Common Council, after a public hearing, had found that such people present a continuing danger to the public, and recidivism for such offenders is high, especially for those committing crimes against children. This ordinance

"Legislation that seeks to protect the public also seeks to protect the offender by taking away opportunities to offend in the future."

was not a restriction on where convicted offenders could live.

At the other end of the spectrum are 14 states, as of 2005, that have enacted legislation that creates buffer zones restricting where sex offenders can live. Most boundaries seem to vary between 1,000 and 2,000 feet, with the least

restrictive appearing to be that of Illinois, with 500 feet.

While those advocating for rights of offenders decry such legislation, those advocating for women and children seek places that they can go without the per-

ceived risk of being sexually assaulted. It is in the situations involving strangers that sex offender-free zones would appear to provide greatest benefit, though most people committing sex offenses do so against people that they know.

Legislation that seeks to protect the public also seeks to protect the offender from himself by taking away opportunities to offend in the future. It is reasoned that permitting offenders to reside near playgrounds and school yards provides opportunities for those who have been proven to be dangerous in the past to offend again.

Such legislation at first glance appears to be a logical response to the belief that sexual interest in children and the close proximity of children to an offender's residence are factors that would increase the chance of recidivism. A remedy would therefore be to decrease access to children by restricting where an offender may live, and thereby decrease the chances for reoffending.

Currently, the empirical evidence does not support these beliefs. Such broad restrictions, while well-intentioned, may very well have the opposite effect of increasing the likelihood of recidivism by effectively depriving the offenders of both workable places to live and support systems that may be helpful in preventing their reoffending in the future.

With the number of states passing such legislation increasing, there will eventually be enough empirical data to say whether or not such efforts are indeed effective. In the meantime, a better alternative for lawmakers intent on passing laws of this type would be to establish "sex offender-free zones" and provide the opportunity within the legislation for offenders to show why such a zone would create an undo hardship upon their living productively and reha-

bilitation. The concerns of the citizens would be addressed, and the law would provide for a reasonable alternative on an individual basis.

Take, for example, a situation where there is a 2,000-foot law prohibiting the convicted offender's residence in that area. If the result of the law in a particular case would mean that the offender could not reasonably live anywhere near his or her support system, treatment, or job, to the extent that an undo hardship is created and no risk of recidivism is increased, the offender would be permitted to propose an alternative situation. Though the offender would be permitted to reside within 2,000 feet of a certain property, the law's spirit and intent to protect society, foster rehabilitation, and prevent recidivism would be upheld.

The burden above is appropriately on the convicted offender who has access to the information and witnesses necessary to show the hardship. At the same time, the general public can continue to have the perceived benefits of increased safety until more data is obtained on such legislation.

State's Attorney Sedensky is the chief law enforcement officer in the Danbury Judicial District, which includes the City of Danbury and seven other communities. A senior assistant state's attorney in Danbury, he is nationally recognized for his work in the prosecution of child abuse cases. Sedensky joined the Division of Criminal Justice in July 1984 as a deputy assistant state's attorney at Geographical Area No. 2, Bridgeport. He transferred to the Judicial District of Bridgeport (Part A) in 1987 and was appointed supervisory assistant state's attorney in the Statewide Prosecution Bureau of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in April 2000, a position he held until his transfer to Danbury in January 2004.

A growing number of local governments have been passing laws creating "sex offender-free zones," setting boundaries around locations frequented by children. This shortsighted populist theory reasons that if you prohibit individuals with a past history of sexually deviant behavior from visiting locations where children are found (schools, parks, day-care centers, etc.) and also limit where sex offenders can reside, you will then reduce the number of foreseeable future sexual assaults. The theory doesn't work in practice.

"These laws have absolutely nothing to do with the protection of children and everything to do with scare tactics, cheap political points, and an anti-intellectualism that is driving public policy today," said John S. Furlong, a defense attorney who brought the first court challenge to Megan's Law.

Making it harder for a sex offender to live with friends or family creates instability and makes it more likely the person will offend again. "I see these laws as symbolic gestures that will have no significant impact on preventing more sex crimes, creating more obstacles for sex offenders returning as safe members of the community," said John La Fond, a law professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and author of *Preventing Sexual Violence: How Society Should Cope with Sex Offenders*. The United States Department of Justice advises, "In fact only 3.5% of new sex offenses are committed by offenders on the sex offender registry. The rest are committed by unregistered citizens."

The "sex offender-free zones" have had unintended consequences. Prosecutors, police officials, and even victims' rights groups say the crackdown has backfired, driving some offenders into rural towns and leaving others

grouped at motels, campgrounds, freeway rest stops, or on the streets. Many have simply gone underground, authorities say, with more than twice as many registered sex offenders now considered missing than before the law took effect.

"...the 'sex offender-free zones' simply do not work. They do not protect our children and are a feel-good measure that is popular yet ineffective."

In its December 2006 policy statement, the Iowa County Attorneys Association stated its belief that the 2,000-foot residency restriction for sex offenders does not provide the protection that was originally intended. The policy statement points out the following:

1. Research shows that there is no correlation between residency restrictions and reduction of sex offenses against children or improving the safety of children.

2. Research does not support the belief that children are more likely to be victimized by strangers at the covered locations than at other places.

3. Residency restrictions were intended to reduce sex crimes against children by strangers who seek access to children at the covered locations. Those crimes are tragic, but very rare. Eighty to 90 percent of sex crimes against children are committed by a relative or acquaintance who has some prior relationship with the child and access to the child that is not impeded by residency restrictions.

4. Law enforcement has observed that the residency restriction is causing offenders to become homeless, to change residences without notifying authorities of their new locations, to register false addresses, or to simply disappear.

5. Many offenders have families whose lives are unfairly and unnecessarily disrupted by the restriction, causing children to be pulled out of school and away from friends, and causing spouses to lose jobs and community connections.

6. Many offenders are physically or mentally disabled but are prohibited from living with family members or others on whom they rely for assistance with daily needs.

7. The residency restriction has no time limit; and, for many offenders, the restriction lasts beyond the requirement that they be listed on the sex offender

registry.

8. Many prosecutors have observed that the numerous negative consequences of the lifetime residency restriction have caused a reduction in the number of confessions made by offenders. In addition,

there are more refusals by defendants charged with sex offenses to enter into plea agreements.

9. The drastic reduction in the availability of appropriate housing, along with the forced removal of many offenders from established residences, is contrary to well-established principles of treatment

and rehabilitation.

In conclusion, the "sex offender-free zones" simply do not work. They do not protect our children and are a feel-good measure that is popular yet ineffective. We are much better served by keeping close tabs on recognized sex offenders through probation and treatment rather than banishing them into the night where they are unsupervised and at risk of reoffending.

Edward J. Gavin is a partner at the law offices of Meehan, Meehan, and Gavin, located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America Lawyer Honorary Society and serves as the vice president of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Association and co-chair of the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association Criminal Law Section.



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Law Enforcement Profile

By CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM
Correspondent

Public Safety Commissioner John Danaher Tackles Wide Range of Priorities

John A. Danaher III is no novice when it comes to serving the public in tough situations.

The former assistant United States attorney is now commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and has his hands full, but he appears well-suited for the myriad of challenges he has faced from "Day One" in his new job.

Danaher tackled some tough issues in previous posts—among them, cleaning up corruption. He supervised the federal prosecutions of Waterbury's Mayor Philip Giordano and Bridgeport's Mayor Joseph P. Ganim.

His duties as public safety commissioner are quite varied. "Basically, it's divided into three parts...I am responsible for the State Police, the Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services, and the Division of Scientific Services, which includes forensic investigations. At the moment there are 1,019 state troopers, 67 trainees who will graduate sometime this summer, and 521 civilian employees," said Danaher, who reports directly to the governor.

The Department of Public Safety had been harshly criticized for its handling of state troopers in recent years. The Connecticut State Police department was founded in 1903 and is the oldest law

enforcement agency of its type in the nation.

"Under my predecessor, Len Boyle, there were complaints that some state troopers weren't being treated the same as others... Len thought it would be difficult to police ourselves, so he asked detectives from the New York State Police to advise us and do inspections. Now we have a lieutenant colonel in charge of internal affairs, who reports directly to me—which was not the case before. We also have a catalog of conduct, rewritten into a short, clear list. The new system will call for all internal matters to be under the lieutenant colonel, and it is my job to implement those changes. So, there is now more consistency and fairness."

A Connecticut native, Danaher graduated from Fairfield University in 1972. He went on to receive a master's degree in



**John A. Danaher III, Commissioner,
Department of Public Safety**

English from the University of Hartford in 1977, and his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1980. He worked at the Hartford firm of Day, Berry & Howard from 1981 to 1986 before joining the U.S. attorney's office in July 1986. At the U.S. attorney's office, Danaher served as assistant-in-charge of the Hartford office from January 1994 to April 2000, and deputy United States attorney from April 2000 to May 2001. He also held the title of senior litigation counsel since January 2003.

So, which job in his past does the commissioner feel best serves him now?

"I'm of the belief that every experience you have is of use, and you can apply something from everything you've learned along the way," said Danaher. "I was a teacher and a law clerk; I was in private practice where I defended police officers; I spent 20 years as a prosecutor where I worked with members of police departments and in the forensic lab—where I worked with Dr. Henry Lee. So this area of enforcement is not new to me."

His powers as public safety commissioner are quite broad. "There are a wide variety of responsibilities that apply to each department...I have a responsibility to make sure the buildings are built consistent with the Building Code—there are a number of inspectors working for the department who do the inspections. When I was a U.S. attorney, I was responsible for 110 people in three different offices, but what complicates things here is that employees are spread out all over the state

and some on the state borders. So, in order to be effective, I have to be able to get there."

"As in most agencies, financial problems will come up, and there is only so much money to go around," said Danaher, regarding the limitations of his new post. "Not just salaries but the helicopters, specialized equipment used in case of bomb threats, and police cruisers which have to be maintained. Cruisers today are like a mobile office, with computers that can find out instantly if a car is stolen. Actually, the equipment is equal in value to the cruiser itself."

Danaher also oversees about 20 commissions, including the Boxing Commission, and notes that he also is now responsible for "a certain type of bail bondsmen—who deal strictly in cash."

In supervising the Fire Division, Danaher is developing a single uniform Fire Code. With Emergency Services, he will be accountable for the 9-1-1 system, and with Building Services he will oversee inspections.

As for his major priorities, Danaher explains, "One thing I am doing is meeting with as many people as I can and asking them what they need...Also, we have to keep up with technology, which is constantly changing. I look forward to being associated with the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting and serving the people of Connecticut."

Danaher resides in West Hartford with his wife and their four children. He continues a long family tradition of public service. His father, John A. Danaher Jr., is a retired special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His grandfather, John A. Danaher, was a United States senator from Connecticut from 1939 to 1945 and also served as secretary of the state from 1933 to 1935. His great-grandfather, Cornelius J. Danaher, was state commissioner of labor from 1938 to 1944.

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Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial

The Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial is a fitting tribute and a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that law enforcement officers make on behalf of everyone. The memorial, located on the grounds of the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, was dedicated in October 1989.

On Wednesday, May 23, at 11:00 a.m., a very special memorial service will be held at the Connecticut Police Academy, 285 Preston Avenue, Meriden, to honor those officers and agents who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Unfortunately, this year we will be adding another name to the memorial.

The Police Memorial is open to the public 365 days a year. Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to come to the Connecticut Police Academy to pay tribute to the men and women of Connecticut Law Enforcement who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to reinforce the commitment that we will "Never Forget."

www.cpcanet.org

Dr. Henry Lee praises John Danaher:

"I worked on quite a few cases with John," said Dr. Henry Lee, former chief criminalist with the State of Connecticut, who now serves as a professor at the University of New Haven. "One case that sticks in my mind so vividly involved two gangs and dealt with narcotics and a middle-of-the-night shoot-out in New Haven. It caused some deaths, so you had a police investigation that became a federal case. John asked me to determine where it happened and what happened, and I testified at the trials. He worked very diligently — from early in the morning until late at night

and on the weekends. This was a complicated case — some defendants used juries, some used three-judge panels, and all used lawyers, but John was such a team leader putting everything together. But the most important thing about John is his personality — very approachable and a nice individual who talked to victims' families, a very excellent person."

(Forensic scientist Dr. Lee is Chief Emeritus of the Connecticut State Police and professor of criminal justice at the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven.)

'Bounty Hunters' Face Multiple Challenges

By **DAVID SCALES**
Correspondent

Duane "Dog" Chapman is probably the world's most famous -- or most notorious -- bounty hunter, with his own reality show on the A&E Cable Network. He has made over 6,000 "captures" in the past three decades.

From what you see on TV, a typical day for someone in that line of work might seem to be to strap on your spurs, polish your boots, holster your six-gun, and make sure you have your bounty hunter ID card, because your bondsman employer called with news of a fugitive jumping bail.

As a bounty hunter, it is your job to bring the fugitive back to face the judge. Big bucks, babes, and fame await you if you bring in a wanted felon -- and maybe even your own reality show. At least that is how it works on television.

Paul Kalata, a retired Connecticut bounty hunter, knows this is not a typical day for someone in this profession. He explains that when a person faces a trial and is allowed to post bail, he or she may not be able to afford a "Get out of Jail" card. A bondsman is someone who loans the person the money but usually requires collateral. In some cases, the suspect will be denied bail, especially if he or she is considered a public danger or flight risk. If the individual decides to flee and miss the scheduled court appearance, he or she is called a "skip."

Not many run -- only 20 percent nationwide -- but if a person chooses to skip out of his or her appointed court date, the bondsman, who becomes responsible for the remaining bail amount, calls a bail enforcement agent he employs. Then the hunt begins, and like any good hunter, the first thing the agent looks for is a trail.

"First we have to get some informant information. We start calling whoever got them out and explain to them that, if we didn't pick them up, they would be responsible for the entire bond," Kalata said. "Usually they are helpful and give us a list of relatives or other places they may be, and we occasionally give them money for information."

After the agent picks up the trail, the next step is to track down the "skip," locate him or her, and inform the local police. Some departments may assist the hunters by providing information, pointing out local hangouts, or even dispatching a S.W.A.T. team to apprehend the fugitive. Other police departments want nothing to do with bounty hunters, as Kalata learned after pairing with a bondsman and tracking a "skip" to South Carolina.

"A police officer saw us staking out the house, and we obviously didn't fit in the neighborhood...He asked what we were doing, so we showed him our credentials and case file on the person we were after. We told him we would call it in before we were ready to go into the home. He said the only help he would be to us would be to come down with body bags to take us



President and executive director of the National Enforcement Agency, Paul Coulis, on vacation with his wife and daughter in Morocco -- where he tracked a "skip."

out of the neighborhood," Kalata recalls.

The image of a bounty hunter is sometimes associated with cowboys or vigilantes. Hunters such as Paul Coulis, president and executive director of the National Enforcement Agency, LLC, in Maryland, says his agency wants to clean up the image by dropping the title "bounty hunter" and replacing it with the more politically correct term "bail enforcement agent" or "fugitive recovery agent." New agents would also undergo extensive training.

Bail enforcement agents operate by a different set of rules compared to police officers. Agents do not need a warrant to enter a fugitive's home to rearrest the person, and in certain situations, they are allowed to knock down doors. Agents can also choose the time and place of arrest and even use a ruse to lure the "skip."

While fugitive recovery can be dangerous, many agents no longer carry a firearm. In Connecticut, as in many other states, bail enforcement agents are actively discouraged from carrying guns. Paul Kotulsky of Bridgeport, founder and president of the Connecticut Bail Enforcement Association, has over six years of bail enforcement experience and feels he does not need a firearm anymore but instead prefers to use more persuasive means.

"If you've got the gift of gab you can talk anybody out of any situation," Kotulsky said. "I also know Brazilian jujitsu."

According to Kotulsky, anyone interested in a bail enforcement career must meet certain requirements to work in Connecticut. "You have to go through a bail enforcement agent course, get a pistol permit, and go through 30 hours of criminal justice training. Once you start the course you have to get handcuff-certified, pepper spray-certified, and a few other things...Normally it'll take you about \$500-\$600 and six months of time."

Bail enforcement work can be a good way to make some extra cash, Kalata said, adding there are roughly 350 to 400 licensed bail enforcement agents operating

ing, and have a code of ethics. We encourage proper dress and don't wear raid vests or anything like that."

Coulis says when a bail enforcement agent makes an arrest, the agent must have a certified copy of the bail contract and a letter from a bondsman giving him power to locate, apprehend, and return the bail fugitive. He also recommends bringing a copy of the bench warrant the judge issues.

Coulis notes that in Texas, only former police officers, private investigators, or security agents may be licensed as bail enforcement agents. Other states, such as Kentucky, do not generally allow bounty hunting, since there is no system of bondsmen, and suspects having made bail are released on their own recognizance.

Kalata, a Bristol resident, said, "Is it worth it? To some people, maybe, but I have my own construction business. I feel safer working on a roof."

As for "Dog -- The Bounty Hunter," he has legal problems of his own. The A&E Cable Network reports, "On February 16, 2007, the Mexican federal court denied 'Dog' and his 'posse' an injunction request and ruled that they should be extradited and stand trial for deprivation of liberty. The charge stems from the 2003 capture of the convicted serial rapist, Andrew Luster, in Puerto Vallarta."

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in Connecticut, but fewer than a quarter do it full-time.

Coulis explained how the National Enforcement Agency, LLC operates. "Agents have to have a license, and we'll be offering advanced training (by certified professionals) in tactical subjects such as handcuffing and use of pepper spray...To join the NEA you have to be a certified private investigator and show certified copies of a private investigator's license. We do background checks, are self-polic-

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TELEPRODUCTIONS INC

'Jane Doe' Killer—

(Continued from page 1)

Bridgeport police had to secure the services of a forensic anthropologist just to ascertain some of the basic genetic makeup of the victim. According to Teixeira, that person was Dr. Albert Harper, the executive director of the Dr. Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science.

Harper determined that Jane Doe was probably a black female, between the ages of 25 and 35, with a slight build, between five-foot-one and five-foot-four. A composite facial reconstruction was never an option for the department because of the condition of the corpse.

An investigation by the fire marshal's office confirmed that "gas or accelerant-type materials (were) used to cause the fire." At 5:30 in the morning, police say there were not many gas stations open in the area, save for the one on Park Avenue and State Street. There, a station attendant recalled two men who had come in with a beer bottle, requesting that it be filled with gasoline. The attendant refused; but 15 to 20 minutes later, the men were back with an antifreeze jug and purchased one dollar's worth of gas. They chucked the beer bottle into the station's trash can.

The attendant was able to provide police with details on the two men: one was a black male of average height and build in his late teens to early 20s. His companion was said to be a Hispanic male of similar height, build, and age. A

department sketch artist came up with two composite drawings of the suspects, but the investigation failed to locate the men, let alone bring up charges on anyone.



BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

COLD CASE

"We had dozens and dozens of 'hits' come back from across the country, but nothing ever matched."

- Michael Kerwin, Former Bridgeport Police Sergeant

No one ever came looking for Jane Doe, and a nationwide "missing person" search failed to garner a match. "We had dozens and dozens of 'hits' come back from across the country, but nothing ever matched," said Kerwin. "There was always something wrong – like the eye color or something."

However, a case currently in the news triggered Kerwin's memory of the young woman who was never identified. Emanuel Lovell Webb is charged with killing four women in Bridgeport during the same timeframe as Jane Doe's death. Webb was extradited from Georgia by authorities in Connecticut, and Kerwin figured he should be questioned about the burn victim as well – just in case.

"When they brought him back here, I told Teixeira to ask him about this girl," Kerwin said. "If he's going to start spilling his guts, they may as well ask about her."

That idea did not pan out, but it did

Pagliari, the assistant director of the state's forensic laboratory in Meriden, someone from Jane Doe's past would have had to have reported her missing. "If there are no relatives who submitted samples, we could put it in (the database) and never get a hit," Pagliaro said. "To identify an unknown individual, there needs to be some record of that person."

Even without a body, there is other evidence that can be examined, Teixeira said. There were fingerprints on the beer bottle and on the matchbook recovered at the scene. "That's probably the most compelling thing we have," said Teixeira. Several teeth were also preserved, "and that's another avenue we can look into," he said. The detective also plans to contact Harper, the original forensic anthropologist, to enlist his aid in the reexamination of evidence.

Kerwin agrees the passing of time may have been enough to create a new opening in the case. "Forensics has come a long way since then, and there are samples on file," he said. "That one was always – 'Who was that girl?' It was just a lonely south-end lot."

Jane Doe, buried in a nameless plot in Bloomfield, without so much as a date of birth or next of kin to define her lineage or indeed her existence, died 14 years ago. Her case is still very much "open," and anyone with any possible clues is asked to contact the Bridgeport police.

Contact Dawn at

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MISSING

ENDANGERED MISSING

EDUARDO CANALES

AGE PROGRESSED TO 7 YEARS



DOB: Jul 29, 1996 **Missing:** Aug 13, 1998

Age Now: 10 **Sex:** Male **Race:** White/Hispanic

Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Black **Height:** 3'0" (91 cm) **Weight:** 45 lbs (20 kg)

Missing From: Huntington Station, NY

The child's photo is shown age-progressed to 7 years. He may be in the company of his non-custodial grandmother. They may have traveled out of the state of New York.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

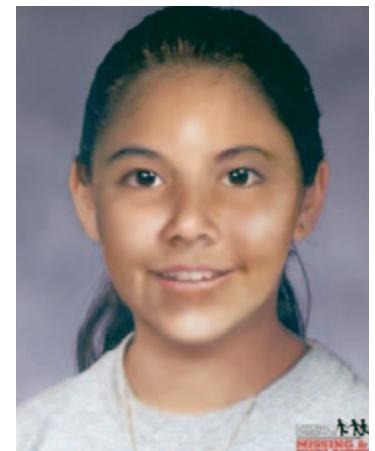
Suffolk County Police Department (New York) 1-631-852-6000

MISSING

ENDANGERED MISSING

ROSA CAMACHO

AGE PROGRESSED TO 11 YEARS



DOB: Jun 7, 1993 **Missing:** Oct 24, 1997

Age Now: 13 **Sex:** Female **Race:** White/Hispanic

Hair: Lt. Brown **Eyes:** Brown **Height:** 3'0" (91 cm) **Weight:** 38 lbs (17 kg)

Missing From: Hartford, CT

Rosa's photo is shown age-progressed to 11 years. She was last seen with her mother leaving a store in the Hartford, Connecticut area on October 24, 1997. Rosa Delgado, the child's mother, has since been found deceased but Rosa is still missing.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Hartford Police Department (Connecticut) - 1-860-527-6300

Hero Cop—

(Continued from page 1)

right on top of you.”

The only place to go was a small tract of grass between the tracks and a fence bordering the nearby Grasmere neighborhood, just a few feet from the train. As the Acela raced by, Pauciello leaned into the fence, holding the girl. Then it was over, and he was calling for medical assistance for the teen and realizing how close they had just come to a disaster.

“I don’t think any amount of training can prepare you for the realization someone came close to committing suicide, and you were right there with them,” he said.

For Pauciello, however, it was not his first encounter with someone trying to commit suicide, nor his first time heroically -- as his fellow officers tell it -- saving someone’s life.

On Father’s Day in 1991, Pauciello was driving on Interstate 95 from Milford to Fairfield when he saw a man sitting atop a railing of a Bridgeport bridge on the opposite side of the highway. At first he thought the man could be fishing, but then he saw a state police officer was nearby. Pauciello moved off the highway and entered on the other side. “I pulled up behind the state police cruiser, identified myself, and asked if I could help. The trooper continued to talk to the guy while I slowly walked up on the

other side of the parked cars.”

The man kept telling them to stay back and slipped down to a lower level of the railing. As another state police officer pulled up, the man looked toward the car. It was then Pauciello acted, racing forward and putting his arms around the man and the railing. The state police officers then pulled the man up off the bridge.

“I didn’t start out that day to save someone’s life, but I just was a little nosy and in the right position to help,” he said.

As in the 1991 life-saving incident, Pauciello received a commendation from the Fairfield Police Department. Several other organizations have made inquiries to the department about his actions and are considering him for awards, and he has been selected as one of the “All-Star Nominees” for recognition by the *America’s Most Wanted* TV program.

A Trumbull native, Pauciello said the flurry of publicity surrounding his twice-heroic acts has not been too difficult. “There’s been a lot more razzing at work, but I really don’t feel any different. I think my wife and kids are proud of me.”

He is no newcomer to publicity. As a student at Trumbull High School, he was an outstanding football and basketball player. He went on to play football as a defensive end at Utah State University,

where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. He played in the National Football League for the Cleveland Browns and St. Louis Cardinals before moving on to a career in police work.

“We know our officers, through their presence and response and dedication, maintain a high level of professionalism, which helps keep both residents and visitors safe,” said Fairfield Capt. Gary MacNamara, administrative division commander. “It is, however, very significant when a police officer can save the life of a specific individual. To be in a position to save the lives of two people in an officer’s career is special.

“The bottom line is that this girl is

alive as a direct result of Officer Pauciello’s heroic act,” said Capt. MacNamara.

As a law enforcement professional, Pauceillo, 43, said he does not plan to make any changes in his approach or philosophy. “I think of myself as a community police officer. I like to get to drive around and get to know people, and to give each person I meet a certain amount of time.” His advice to other officers is “to be actively looking for things going on, or being out of the ordinary, on their beats. That’s what happened to me. You never know when something unusual will lead to someone needing help.”

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THE JUSTICE JOURNAL
FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

Pending Legislation Would Impact Law Enforcement

The 2007 Connecticut legislative session is proving to be another major year of activity affecting municipal police departments. The session ends on June 6 but the Judiciary Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Transportation Committee have all had public hearings and acted on some proposals, killing some and sending others on for consideration by the state Legislature.

The bills listed below are a sampling of more than thirty that were lobbied for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) by Hughes & Cronin-Public Affairs Strategies of Middletown. The following information was submitted by Josh Hughes.

BILLS THAT AWAIT A VOTE IN THE HOUSE OR SENATE:

HB05273 AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MISSING PERSONS. Authorizes a protocol for agencies to locate and return missing persons, improve the identification of human remains and improve timely information and notification to the family members of missing persons.

HB07313 AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. CPCA lobbied for this bill to allow chiefs of police to issue restraining orders, especially given the difficulty of weekend arrests and finding judges.

HB06285 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGE OF A CHILD WITH RESPECT TO JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION. **SB01196 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGE OF A CHILD FOR PURPOSES OF JURISDICTION IN DELINQUENCY MATTERS AND PROCEEDINGS.** These bills make 16- and 17-year-olds juveniles. CPCA opposed this bill but the Judiciary Committee unanimously supported this effort. CPCA was assured that there would be an exemption for motor vehicle stops of 16- and 17-year-olds and their classification. This bill will be quite expensive and does not give municipalities additional money to implement.

SB00903 AN ACT CONCERNING LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS.

This bill was the only one of four bills to make it out of committee. It requires a person to report lost or stolen firearms.

6996 THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POLICE. This bill expands Environmental Conservation officer authority on State park land and roads only.

AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS OF POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS AND CONSTABLES KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Eliminates the 'remarriage penalty' that terminates pension benefits for surviving spouses of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty if they remarry. Under the bill, municipalities must continue to pay survivor benefits after a surviving spouse remarries. The bill allows municipalities, at their option, to provide the surviving spouse

of a police officer or appointed constable killed in the line of duty such member's base salary until the date the member would have been eligible to retire. Further, the bill allows municipalities, at their option, to provide the surviving spouse the retirement benefits the member would have been entitled to receive from the retirement system. This bill may still have a chance to pass. Municipality lobbyists do not want this bill to pass.

SB00974 AN ACT LIMITING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCESS TO RECORDED INFORMATION IN "BLACK BOX" EVENT DATA RECORDERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES. This bill limits access to event recorders in automobiles to those with a court order.

BILLS THAT WERE KILLED:

1240 AN ACT CONCERNING EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

Establishing procedures for conducting a police lineup including having a lineup administrator who does not know which person is suspected as the perpetrator, informing the eyewitness that the perpetrator might not be in the lineup and presenting the persons or photographs in a lineup sequentially rather than simultaneously. CPCA killed this bill because of the difficulties of implementing it.

7212 PROHIBITING THE SALE OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS. CPCA lobbied against this bill. This bill would have limited law enforcement usage of Taser weapons. There was another bill that would have banned their usage in the civilian market.

842 THE ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF POLICE INTERROGATIONS. CPCA successfully lobbied against this mandate. CPCA and the State’s Attorneys said that the state can give \$100,000 to a municipality to fund a study on taping of confessions.

840 PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY MINORS. CPCA successfully lobbied against this bill which would have required police to arrest minors who smoke.

1166 THE ARREST HISTORY OF APPLICANTS FOR POLICE POSITIONS. CPCA lobbied for this bill which would have authorized police applicants to give their arrest history so they did not hide this information and ultimately fail the polygraph test. This would have increased the number of applicants.

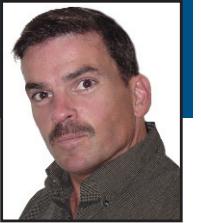
AN ACT CONCERNING TRAFFIC CAMERAS. This bill would have permitted the use of red light cameras at intersections to enable better law enforcement of traffic intersections. There is an attempt still to get a pilot of this project on Avon Mountain.

PURCHASE OF FIREARMS AMMUNITION, LIMIT OF HAND GUN PURCHASES TO ONE PER MONTH. These bills both died but instead the lost or stolen firearms bill came out almost unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee.



What If...?

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



School Violence: The Question Is Not 'What if...?' - But 'What now...?'

The "What If...?" column was launched as a place to pose questions and situations that would provoke thought and might lead to action by our readers. "What If..." can be a powerful preparation tool by working out solutions to problems that have or have not occurred.

In the February 2007 edition, "What If..." addressed school violence, focusing on the complexities of the issue and how parents can get involved. The article explained the need for safety over convenience, and for parents to ask their school administrators: 1) if they have plans to protect their children; 2) how the parents would be notified of an incident; and 3) how and where parents would be reunited with their children. At the time, school shootings in Bailey, Colorado, and in Central Pennsylvania were in the news, causing parents to ask what they can do to help keep their children safe while in school.

With the events that unfolded on the campus of Virginia Tech, the question should not be, "What if...?" -- it should focus on "What now...?"

What do we do now after witnessing what some have called the worst school shooting in our nation's history? Where do we go from here? Gun control? Gun-carrying teachers? E-mail notification sys-

tems? Better police training? More training for those to see the signs of troubled students? All these ideas and more have been raised since the Virginia Tech slayings. One thing is clear: this will change all of us who have a stake in schools and specifically, school safety.

To begin, we should all understand that every incident of a school shooting or violent incident on a school campus is "the worst." It should not ever happen. The 33 people who died on the Virginia Tech campus were by far the most ever to die in one single shooting event --but each single death in any prior school shooting is equal to the next. To say this is "the worst" implies a competition, where people try to outdo others in their quest to be infamous. For example, there were reports of police in California searching for an individual who threatened to kill more than the number who died at Virginia Tech.

Next, we have to see how other events of school violence have changed us. Colorado's Columbine High School shootings in 1999 is a good example of how events change responses to future events. There have been changes in police procedures and training, school construction and safety design, as well as new thinking on possible responses to school

violence. It also brought up discussion on gun laws, video game violence, bullying, and other topics believed by some to be underlying causes of school violence.

My own experiences while dealing with a former student who claimed to have a bomb on the campus of Fairfield University in 2002, and who held 27 students and a professor hostage for seven hours, changed how I look at and speak of school violence. The negotiations, as well as the response, are still analyzed in hopes of improving other police actions throughout the country.

Will the events at Virginia Tech change us? They should, and they will.

Since the tragedy, we have seen the debate begin. Did the police wait too long to notify other students? Did they follow up on the wrong leads after the first shooting? Should they have been aware of the potential for a second shooting? Should the school have locked down the campus? Should the school have taken further action against the student, since others reported a potential problem?

Of concern to many is the rate of change and the reasons for the changes. In the 24-hour period after the Virginia Tech shootings, every television station and network was airing thoughts, commentaries, and opinions on how things supposedly could have been prevented, what responses should have been implemented, and how things can be changed to prevent such slayings from happening again. Change should and will come, but it should only come through a detailed analysis of all the events surrounding Virginia Tech. Some changes will be immediate, and some will take much more time to figure out.

Have there been changes already? Whether or not affected solely by the events at Virginia Tech, there have been signs of schools taking measures to increase school safety. In Milwaukee, the school board voted to begin training security staff members to use plastic handcuffs on students who are out of control. The Associated Press recently reported the University of Washington in Seattle is

weighing whether to use warning sirens. Clemson University in South Carolina recently installed a similar system for weather-related emergencies and now may expand its use. Even schools locally, from universities to grammar schools, have been reviewing their plans. This nonparticipant debrief strategy allows schools to look at what happened there and see how they would have responded here. Do they have accurate plans or procedures in place?

As reported in the February "What If..." column, the study by the U.S. Secret Service which analyzed several school shootings revealed a great deal of how we should change how we deal with a school violence incident. The 2002 Safe School Initiative found: 1) Prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack. 2) Most attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the incident that caused others concern or indicated a need for help. 3) Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack. 4) Most attackers had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack. 5) Despite prompt law enforcement responses, most shooting incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention. How many from the list above were present prior to the Virginia Tech shooting?

Finally, as we speak of change, it would only be natural to ask who can bring about the change. As the news of the Virginia Tech shootings surfaced, each of us felt some sense of concern, loss, fear, or other emotion. Law enforcement and public safety officials, teachers, school administrators, parents with children away at college or in school locally, politicians, and even other children from across the country felt something that made them reflect on the incident. So who can effect change? Anyone who felt that way can help to make changes happen. And that is probably the only way we're going to start to change it.

Contact Capt. MacNamara at
g.macnamara@thejusticejournal.com



Events & Notices

"Walk This Way With Us" 3k/5k

The 4th annual at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk Saturday, May 12th to benefit programs and services at the Whittingham Cancer Center of Norwalk Hospital. Adult registration is \$10 with t-shirts while they last. Children accompanied by an adult are free. For more info: call (203) 852-2164 or visit www.norwalkhospital.org

Amber Alert Kids ID Sessions

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Connecticut. For additional info contact: Danbury Rotary, Bob Vetter @ (203) 748-1105.
Sunday, May 6th at St. Josephs, Brookfield 10am-12pm.
Saturday, May 19th at Broadview School, Danbury 1-5pm.
Sunday, June 3rd at the Brookfield Fire Dept. 11am-3pm.

Safe and Sound Class

Dealing with the issues of car seat safety and home safety for children from birth to five. Thursday, May 17th at Greenwich Hospital at 7pm, call (203)863-3655, and Wednesday, May 9th at United Church, South King St., Danbury, call (203)739-6831

Free Cancer Screening

6-8pm Wednesday May 23rd and Thursday May 24th. No registration required. Praxair Cancer Center at Danbury Hospital (1 Stroock).

Car Seat Clinic

Thursday, May 24th open to the public -Westport Police Department, 50 Jessup Road
Sponsored by HSBC Bank in conjunction with Fairfield County SAFE KIDS.

MADD "Strides for Change" walk

Sunday, June 3rd Bushnell Park, Hartford. Pre-walk ceremony begins at 8:30am with walk kicking off at 9am. For more info contact Adria Giordano at adria.giordano@madd.org or (203) 234-6525.

12th Annual Bennett Cancer Center Hope in Motion Walk, Run & Ride

Takes place on National Cancer Survivors Day Sunday, June 3rd. Sponsored by Stamford Hospital. Walk or run or bicycle through downtown Stamford. Register online at www.thewalkrunride.org or event day register at Mill River Park. For more information, email thewalk@stamhealth.org or call (203) 276-5950 or 1-877-455-4HER

BLOOPERS & BLUNDERS

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



THINGS TO DO TODAY- BUY GROCERIES, ROB BANK...

Nobody should rob a bank, but some people are so obviously not cut out for this kind of work you wonder what drove them to it in the first place.

One such person was Larry G. He walked up to the bank teller and pulled out a water pistol. Pointing the gun at the teller, Larry reached into his pocket and brought out a note that he handed to the teller as he looked around the bank. The teller read the note and laughed! It said, "milk, bread, pick up the laundry."

Pistol-packing Larry panicked. He ran out of the bank and jumped into his car. But he could not get it started! He was arrested sitting there in his car wishing he could start his day all over again!

Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Counter 'Lost Sense of Community'

By MEG BARONE
Correspondent

There are 55 registered Neighborhood Watch Programs in Connecticut, and 16,761 registered in the U.S., according to Robbie Woodson, program manager of USAonWatch-National Neighborhood Watch Program. In Fairfield County alone, there are 17 – four in Bridgeport, six in Danbury, two in Newtown, and one each in Bethel, Fairfield, Norwalk, New Fairfield, and Easton.

In an interview with *The Justice Journal*, Woodson, based in Alexandria, Virginia, said the program works to enhance, expand, and revitalize watch programs throughout the country and provides information, training, technical support, and resources to local law enforcement agencies and citizens.

Woodson estimates there are actually more than 25,000 Neighborhood Watch Programs nationwide. Woodson cannot

provide exact figures because not all groups officially register with the national office. Some residents form neighborhood or block watches on their own, while others partner only with their municipal police departments. Others remain inactive until a problem arises in their community.

According to Woodson, it is important for citizens to take a role in protecting their community and addressing potential problems before they escalate. By being actively engaged in their neighborhoods, they can identify those potential situations that could lead to criminal activity and bring them to the attention of local law

enforcement.

However, while most people equate Neighborhood Watch with a lookout for criminal activity, it is not limited to that.

Woodson said a citizen who is trained in first aid and CPR could respond to emergencies, from a jogger who twists an ankle to a neighbor who suffers a heart attack. "This country was founded upon volunteerism and helping thy neighbor...It comes down to quality of life and building a sense of community."

That sense of community has deteriorated in recent years as people moved from their front porches to their back

decks. As families isolated themselves from their neighbors, they lost touch with the people on their own street. Neighborhood Watches help keep communities connected, Woodson said.

While registration in the national USAonWatch-Neighborhood Watch Program is not mandated, there are advantages to affiliation with the national program, Woodson said. "Those groups that register receive an action pack which includes information that covers the history of the program, how to plan meetings and develop topics and project ideas for a successful group, and access to other resources." In addition, the law enforcement agencies also benefit from additional resources and conferences.

To find out if a Neighborhood Watch program exists in your neighborhood, or to start a program, call your local police department, and visit www.usaonwatch.org.



Neighborhood Watch—

(Continued from page 4)

Planker said, "The biggest fallacy of the Neighborhood Watch is that it's time-consuming. People say, 'I don't want to get involved. I don't have time.' However, it is not that. It is just being aware. I look around and think, 'Does that car belong here, is that person somebody I recognize, is that activity a little odd or suspicious, and if I am not sure, no harm in calling. If I see someone weird in the back of someone's house, I'll call, and if it turns out to be his brother-in-law coming to let the dog out, great news. But if not, better safe than sorry.'"

Sgt. Kudrak said, "No one knows their neighborhoods better than them. If they see something out of the ordinary, we encourage them to call. That's what we're here for." He added that he uses modern technology to help fight neighborhood crime. If a certain type of criminal activity is widespread, Sgt. Kudrak can issue e-mail alerts to residents city-wide. If criminals are targeting a specific area of town, he can target his e-mails to those particular neighborhoods.

Cratty noted, "We try to stress that it is neighbors watching out for each other and that you don't have to spend tons of hours at meetings, on the phone, knocking on doors. All you have to do is be organized and know each other...Having some sort of structure in place, even if it only amounts to a telephone tree, can be very helpful if or when something happens in a neighborhood. It's a network that keeps information flowing."

Cratty is trying to spark increased participation in Neighborhood Watch programs because, "For the 15 years I was a crime-prevention officer, I found some people don't have a clue how to protect themselves. Some people think, 'Well, I have an alarm system,' but burglars usually do their homework. They

target specific items of value and spend little time in a home, often making their escape before police can respond."

However, if an alert neighbor notices an unfamiliar person in someone's yard or other suspicious behavior and calls the police, chances are law enforcement can interrupt the criminal activity. And criminals are more likely to avoid areas where Neighborhood Watch programs exist, experts said.

"I have seen alarms act as a deterrent when they're audible. We had a couple where someone broke into a house, and the audible alarm activated, and the [criminal] left so nothing was taken in those burglaries," Capt. Brown said.

Teaming up with local law enforcement provides Neighborhood Watch programs with a wealth of valuable information, Capt. Brown explained. "Periodically we advertise and put out some press releases promoting Neighborhood Watch and ask people to call us for any training and information that they would like, and I do presentations throughout town on crime-prevention topics."

Cratty said CrimeWatch conducts training in people's homes. "We'll do security surveys for them free of charge. We've held our programs on front yards, in driveways, in people's basements, or here at the police department." The training information goes beyond how to identify and report suspicious activity for Neighborhood Watch to include how to protect one's home while away on vacation or how to avoid falling for a scam by an unscrupulous construction company or driveway paver or chimney sweep.

Even in communities where crime rates are very low, it is better to be armed with information than not, Cratty said. "You're not always going to be in a particular town. You might be shopping in Bridgeport or at the mall in Trumbull.

You'll go on vacation. You can be a victim of crime anywhere. You can be the victim of the same crimes away from home as you can be, for the most part, in your home," he said.

Sgt. Kudrak indicates that the more educated the public is, the less likely they are to be victims of crime, "and

that's especially true with the crimes that are out in the forefront now – identity theft and scams where people are being scammed out of their money. Education through crime prevention is a key to combating those crimes."

Contact Meg at
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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 with your own attorney.)

A reader has inquired about the statute of limitations for prosecution of someone who forged a check.

Dear Reader,

Connecticut, like every state, has something called the statute of limitations that proscribes how long the state has to commence a prosecution. It is based on a concept of fairness and due process. Someone should not be called upon to answer a stale accusation. There are instances where the statute of limitations is tolled or suspended. Certain sexual crimes have longer statutes.

Forgery of a check in Connecticut is a felony. Generally, the state can only prosecute for a felony if an arrest warrant is issued within five years of the event. If the crime is a misdemeanor, the statute of limitations is one year. Felonies are crimes punished by more

than one year in jail, while misdemeanors carry terms of incarceration up to one year.

Dear Mr. Meehan,

I have been captivated by the goings-on in the saga of Anna Nicole Smith. What I do not understand is why the courts have struggled to rule on the paternity of her daughter. There have been lawsuits filed in California and Florida. Why did it require involving the courts in the Bahamas to reach a conclusion? Couldn't one of the U.S. courts have made the same rulings?

Brendan P.

Dear Brendan,

In order for a court in any state to issue a binding order, it must have jurisdiction over the persons involved and the subject matter. Individual state courts can enforce their own state laws but must be able to compel the interested parties to participate. In fairness, a party is entitled to notice of the proceedings and the opportunity to appear and participate.

In order to have jurisdiction over the subject matter, a state must have some contacts with the issue. By requiring these minimum contacts, courts prevent parties from engaging in what is called

“forum shopping.” If allowed, parties with deeper budgets could select jurisdictions that would make it inconvenient or too costly for their opponents to effectively mount a defense.

Among the various states in this country, an interstate compact, allowing states to issue orders that can be enforced in other jurisdictions, governs issues of child custody. This is entitled the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act.

When a court in this country has proper jurisdiction over the controversy and the parties, its judgment can be legally enforced in other jurisdictions. The Child Custody Act mandates that states, as well as certain United States Protectorates, give full faith and credit to the custody ruling of a state court that had proper jurisdiction.

What complicated the Anna Nicole Smith case was that the child resided in the Bahamas, a sovereign nation not governed by the same principles of laws that apply to child custody issues within the United States.

The same principles apply on the issue of paternity. While a court in California may be able to require a citizen of Florida to submit to DNA testing in a California paternity case, that court can-

not compel the collection of a DNA swab from a baby in the Bahamas.

Dear Mr. Meehan,

I am the parent of a high school boy who has a girlfriend younger than he is. She is a 15-year-old sophomore. He is an 18-year-old senior. I counsel him constantly about abstaining from sex, but it seems like everywhere you turn today youngsters are bombarded with sexualized videos and movies. Now with prom season, I am concerned that despite our efforts to dissuade him, he still may be sexually active with her. Legally speaking, what could happen to him if they do engage in sex?

J.W.

Dear J.W.,

Your concerns are well placed, not only from a moral standpoint, but legally as well. Youngsters under the age of 16 are not legally competent to consent to any sexual involvement. An 18-year-old who engages in what he believes is consensual sex with a 15-year-old is committing a criminal sexual assault. If they engage in intercourse (which includes oral sex or digital penetration),

(Continued on next page)

STAY ALERT

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"Scam of the Month"

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BLOOPERS & BLUNDERS

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TAXI RIDE

Maybe people rob banks to pay for new cars. Here is a bank robber who took a taxi to the bank. He asked the driver to wait for him while he ran into the bank. He robbed the bank at gunpoint. Then he came back to the taxi as if nothing unusual was happening. He told the driver to take him home.

The police were told by witnesses that the robber had taken a taxi. They called the taxi company and found out where the man had been taken. He was arrested at his home, sitting at his kitchen table, counting the money!

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Nearly 80% of crashes and 65% of near-crashes involve some form of driver inattention within 3 seconds before the event. Forms of inattention include things such as cell phone use and drowsiness.

In 2004, 725 bicyclists were killed and an additional 41,000 injured in traffic crashes. Children 14 and under accounted for 18%, making this one of the most frequent causes of injury-related death for young children.

Bicycle helmets are 85% to 88% effective in mitigating head and brain injuries.

Only 20-25% of all bicyclists wear helmets, despite the fact that nearly 70% of all fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries.

Statistics show that traffic deaths among teens during typical prom season (March-May) weekends are higher than any other time of the year.

Due Process—

(Continued from page 18)

the penalty is at least a mandatory nine-month jail sentence. In addition, he would be required to register as a sex offender under the Connecticut Megan's Law. Sexual contact that does not result in intercourse can result in a lesser degree of sexual assault, but is a crime nonetheless.

Currently, under the law, it is an affirmative defense to a sexual assault charge if the difference in age between the

younger and older youngsters is no more than two years. There is a bill pending in the legislature to increase that age spread to four years (if the younger partner is at least 14). The bill has only been reported out of committee — unless it becomes law, your 18-year-old is in peril if he chooses to have sex with his younger girlfriend.

Your son may feel that his girlfriend has strong feelings for him now, but such feelings can and do change. We have defended a number of young men who thought they had found true love with a

younger girl, and engaged in sex, only to find that the girl's regret led to her telling her parents — who insisted on prosecution. Even if the young girlfriend does not want the older boy arrested, she is powerless to stop the process.

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.meehan-law.com). Meehan is a nationally certified criminal trial specialist and a charter fellow

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

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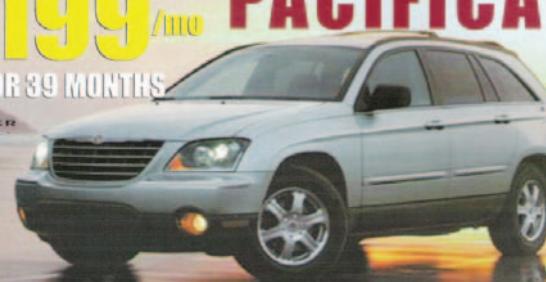
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