By Emilie Munson

I was already late when Rachel pushed her way into the club Upper East Side bar in Manhattan. Juggling three jobs and grad school, the 26-year-old was eager for a night out with her girlfriends, who waited inside. A drink or so, in there, was a tap-on-her-shoulder. Rachel turned around to see her best friend and a new guy.

“This is Doug,” Rachel’s friend said.

A former hockey player, he was tall and broad with a charming smile, and eyes that lingered on her skin and long dark hair. Doug proposed Rachel with questions and told her about the successful business he and his brother run in suburban New York.

As the night unfolded, Rachel separated herself from Doug. He was nice, but she wasn’t that attracted to him, she told another friend.

But Doug wasn’t going to let Rachel go easily. He kept finding his way back to her until she finally agreed to go on a date with him. One led to another, and another after that.

***

In Doug’s eyes, Rachel was a princess. He loved to brag about her, gushing about her beauty. To show he cared, he bought her Gucci pocketbooks and jewelry and peppered with fights.

“Doug, what’s the matter?” Rachel asked.

“Nothing is the matter,” Doug replied.

Rachel wasn’t perfect but she was pretty sure she loved him. She liked that he was ambitious and hardworking. He also shared her religious views.

Then there was his family. Doug’s parents appeared happily married, while Rachel’s had divorced when she was in college. Her parents’ marriage was turbulent and prepared with fights.

No surprise, after 17 months of dating, Doug asked her to marry him.

The proposal, in typical Doug fashion, was lavish. He took Rachel to a Broadway show to see Survivor.

Wealth does not protect the abused

By Emilie Munson

I am from Byron to Old Greenwich, Belle Haven to the backcountry, domestic violence has no status or economic boundaries. It is not just the rich who are affected; every town provides no protection.

In 2016, the Greenwich Police Department investigated 307 domestic abuse services in town, reported providing counseling, shelter or legal services to 2,659 people last year, mostly women and children.

“Domestic violence happens regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, age, religion, education, employment status, and sexual orientation at the YWCA Greenwich, the only domestic abuse service provider in town,” said Bria Cashman, author of the book, “Domestic Abuse: How the Culture of Affluence Can Harm Us and Our Children,” said some patterns of domestic violence, and making it, are significantly affected by affluence. The high net worth and public prominence of many in Green-

There is still a myth that it doesn’t exist here in the way that it exists in poorer socioeconomic groups, which is associated with more of a lower class social status, and Meredith Gold, founder of domestic abuse services in town, the organization provided counseling, shelter or legal services to 2,659 people last year, mostly women and children.

With the Cassini spacecraft crashing Friday into Saturn after a spectacular 3.5-year voyage and the wonder of the recent solar eclipse, my thoughts turned to a far corner of the Julian Curtiss School campus.

That is where one finds the tiny, very own observatory, the Bowman Observatory, built in 1943 by legendary Greenwich High School science teacher Y. Allan Smith, and owned by the Board of Education since the 1950s.

Interest in, and money for, the Bowman has ebbed and flowed over many budget cycles; it is now:

A SURVIVOR’S TALE

The Bowman Observatory with Venus and Jupiter in the background.

MOVIE

Beatles originals

Gallery hosts Beatles original

To see Telescope on A9

See Survivor on A4

See Violence on A4

Bob Horton

Observatory a little-used resource

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A SURVIVOR’S TALE

The Bowman Observatory with Venus and Jupiter in the background.
A few months later, Rachel opened her apartment's tiny mailbox, which lately contained harbingers of her new life she was building. The envelopes in there brought her joy as RSVPs to the New Jersey country club wedding she and Doug had planned starting in spring. But sometimes when she opened the mail, her smile evaporated. Doug had decided that all the money they received as wedding gifts would be kept in one bank account — that he would visit. 

“You don’t have the money for me,” he told her. “I ran a business.”

For weeks, Rachel had dutifully hand-delivered over checks as they arrived from people who would not be able to attend the ceremony. The obsolescence was now starting to wear thin. She had supported herself through college, and was saving her way toward a master’s degree in psychology. Her dream was to have her own mental health practice and be financially independent. With each check she passed over, she felt part of herself diminish. Moreover, six weeks before the wedding, Doug had begun pressuring her to sign a legal document that would make her legally a part of his family. Doug had begun expanding his company, and Rachel had agreed, not to mention that she would be her husband’s new “partner.”

She didn’t want to. She didn’t want to have to follow him. She didn’t want to have to do that, he told her: “I don’t care about the money. Just let this happen.”

Rachel’s finger, so similar to Rachel’s, was his. She was his. He had crept up to her eyes. Sprinkled around her face were droplets of pain, sprays of it with desire or love. Doug’s body had rained painful blows on Rachel too often for her to think of it with desire or love.

O nly, her partner was here at last. Only, her partner was here.

... ...

O nce, three years, much changed. The couple moved into their first home together. Doug continued expanding his company, and Rachel took a job as a mental health practitioner. The doctor did not ask to speak to Rachel. “You look like a rape victim,” he said. “You need to see a gynecologist.”

Her vagina was so swollen she could not even ride her bicycle, but the pain spread across her abdomen and up into her belly. Rachel could hardly bear to hold the baby.

U ntil there was something, Doug put Rachel on track to see his gynecologist. He had treated the family. Rachel didn’t cry out or fight Doug off. One night in 2007, after Rachel refused Doug, he erupted, punching the walls of their bedroom. Face red with rage, he stood in the doorway and announced that he would never allow her to take the children with her.

“I’m not ready,” he said.

Doug didn’t wait. He grabbed her and forcibly entered her reluctant body.

 happens. Doug had been here all night long. Even more, Rachel would give in, lying still on her back while Doug had sex with her.

Doug would pull his finger out and go scare the kids if she did not give in. Rachel couldn’t cry out or fight Doug off. The sex wasn’t painful, even if she didn’t want it.

“Fine,” said Rachel eventually. “But I’m not ready.”

Doug didn’t wait. He grabbed her and forcibly entered her reluctant body.

Rachel’s phone buzzed now. It was Doug, he told her. She was 39 years old and crow’s feet had crept up to her eyes. She had watched her hair fall out. She had watched her son Sam whine that he had a diaper full and stank; it had not been changed in order to force her to stay home. Before that, she had opened the envelope to see the children’s photos.

Rachel was too scared to question him. She was 39 years old and crow’s feet had crept up to her eyes. She had watched her hair fall out. She had watched her son Sam whine that he had a diaper full and stank; it had not been changed in order to force her to stay home. Before that, she had opened the envelope to see the children’s photos. She didn’t want to think of it with desire or love.

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A three-year-old’s bed time, it was at another hospital that Rachel had an epiphany. The waiting room of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center was gray and quiet. Lostly posted flowers bloomed among the rows of chairs. A wall of windows reflected the room with natural light.

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Rachel had a difficult relationship with her own mother — always2 glancing at the clock as she wrote, always2 assuming she might not live another day — and so Rachel had always been afraid2 of her own body — always2 assuming she might not live another day — and so Rachel had always been afraid2 of her own body.

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the waiting room were women much younger than she who had come in for treatment. They were baggage, too, in that, with patched hair. Their bodies were failing, yet they clung to life. If that were true, she thought, the last person I would want to see was Doug. The realization shook her, and she made a decision to do something about it. He will not be able to run from me if my father can fight cancer, I can certainly put up a fight.

With the help of a counselor, Rachel made a plan to leave Doug. She called the police and asked them to arrest Doug. She met her aunt and opened her own credit cards. She was told to talk to her best friend's house. She was about to present what had been happening behind her front door all these years. She told her few friends and family members about the abuse. They were so shocked at her that the, the independent woman, the psychologist, could fall into a situation where she was so controlled and manipulated.

In November 2010, Rachel got an opportunity to check on Doug. She called Rachel and her attorneys and her family. She pedaled on the stationary bike for hours, talking to her attorneys and her family.

Although exercise helped, the stress of separating from Doug increased and he started showing up at her house. He was not allowed on Rachel's property, but he knew where she was living. He was enraged that his wife was leaving him. He was lashing out in anger.

In February 2011, Doug called Rachel and threatened to kill her and take the children away from her. Police traced the call to Doug's office and he was arrested for second-degree criminal contempt for violating the Order of Protection and for second-degree criminal contempt for threatening to kill Rachel.

Rachel noticed a car often followed her. It was Doug. She thought that he might change. But she still harbored the tiniest hope that he might change.

One night, Doug took Rachel to his favorite dog store, a store in Westchester where outspend with threats and insults from him. She was so scared, she had opened her own credit card. Her motions were mechanical; her body finally gave way to emotion.

In February 2011, Rachel kissed Doug goodbye and went to court. It was her day to stand up for herself. She knew that she had to take a stand.

She went home. For three months, one of the few places Rachel felt safe was the gym. When Doug left her, Rachel had left her job in a school, Rachel immediately headed out to work out. She worked out for hours, taking in the statue like anything. She had been through so much. She told Doug goodbye and went to court. It was her day to stand up for herself. She knew that she had to take a stand.

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The woman limped across the granite floor in the cavernous atrium of the Greenwich Police Station, Elderly, and in pain, she made her way to the desk ser-
iously.
She'd come to make a statement, she said, across the phone to the sergeant sitting on the other side of the glass, and quietly gave a few details. It was quickly clear who she needed to see.
Greenwich Patrol Officer Justin Rivera, just shy of 30 and a member of Greenwich Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit, showed her to a chair in a small white-
room. Since joining the unit almost three years earlier, Rivera had handled domestic violence cases near daily.
On the wall behind him were banners of the Greenwich Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit, assembled a team of officers in 2006.
Rivera could almost hear her internal monologue:
Yet it remains largely hidden from public view.
Campaign season, Greenwich style
Cometic South & Style
Our impulsive, erratic
Lt. Richard Cochran, the first
He obsessively monitored her spending.
When cops respond to a call at a domestic incident.
On the wall behind him were banners of the Greenwich Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit, assembled a team of officers in 2006.
That activism is shining through. And when von Keyserlingk and her husband left Connecticut to seek therapy, the couple feared that the woman would not report the assault.
About this project
A Survivor's Tale
Inside Domestic Violence in Greenwich
Lotteries ..........................................
Classified ......................................
Business .................................

A12-13

Getting out was a monumental task. Rivera said that she had normalized the yelling and violence, respond to calls at locations with a history of domestic abuse and follow up on cases after a domestic incident.

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Greenwich Patrol Officer Justin Rivera

After the interview, Rivera knew what he needed to do next. He drove to the woman's house and knocked on the door. The elderly husband answered and Rivera sat him down to talk. The man immediately downplayed the incident. There was no way it was as bad as his wife said. She provoked him to get physical. "The temp was how she normally walked.

Faced with conflicting accounts, the cop turned to the evidence. As he listened, Rivera thought back to the bruises the woman showed him. He knew from experience their color matched up with the time frame of when she said she was hit.

Meanwhile, it was clear that her husband — while not fully disputing the story — was leaving facts out and manipulating the truth. He made less and less sense as Rivera probed him with questions.

The truth wants to come out, Rivera knew. He arrested the husband for assault in the third degree.

The case went to court almost immediately, as is common for criminal charges relating to domestic violence.

But then, three days after the arrest, a turn took place.

The woman was back at the station. She had downplayed the incident. There was no way it could be so serious. He sat her down to talk. The man immediately lashed out. Along the way, the woman said she was a victim of a violent ice storm.

Disappointment swept across the woman's face. "I don't want to think of it again," she said. "You can't be asleep for that long." Rivera spoke from experience: any missed day of school, any missed pitch of baseball, any missed opportunity to get ahead can have a long-term effect.

He arrested the husband for assault in the third degree.

Five years is a long time, Rivera says.

When the phone rang, it was someone calling about a relative in his jurisdiction. Sergeant Brent Reeves, head of Greenwich's Domestic Violence Unit, agreed to check it out. Reeves pulled up to the house in a shiny BMW 750Li, and they knocked on the door and took a step back, waiting for the couple to come to the door. Reeves explained why they had come.

"I'm a police officer. I work with domestic violence victims."

"Who is it?"

"I'm Brent Reeves, head of Greenwich's Domestic Violence Unit."

"Really, it's late."

"The elderly husband answered and Reeves called a medic and began photographing the crime scene. The forensic team found the tip of the knife she used buried in one of the BMW's tires."

"The woman was hit by a car."

"The man lifted his shirt to show Reeves brown, black and blue. "Something's up with you."

"The man admitted the crimes.

"Someone had been victimized for 50 years," Reeves says. "It's 50 years of borderline abuse."

"Maybe (the Byram incident) was an acute bout of violence that had never occurred before," Reeves says. "In the pushing and the shoving, it shows us a couple of things. It shows us that either we are escalating from verbal into violence. Or that this person is basing their life on violence every day of their life, and are walking on egg shells every day of their life because they are living with a bully."

"Receive voice mails on the last word.

"More than one victim has felt the physical injuries go away but the emotional scars are much more difficult to heal."
**Behind the Front Door**

**Inside Domestic Violence in Greenwich**

**Greenwich Patrol Officer Dan Bucci**

The statement room was windowless, the walls concrete-block painted white. The small, gray space was littered with rubble. A green footprint nestled on the metal chair.

She had made many visits over the past two years. As Greenwich Patrol Officer Dan Bucci plunked down in front of the computer, this was Bucci's third time entering the situation report. But even Bucci himself was surprised at how much he knew her story.

Her history was familiar to the Greenwich mother perched on the floor.

As he spoke, the voice of a hysterical woman was now a part of his life.

Nearly every aspect of her life was constrained by the abuse. Nearly every day she was forced to hide her쨈�■ from her husband. Nearly every night, she went to bed in fear of what the next morning would bring.

As she came from the house. “Help me, my husband is beating me.”

As too many had in the past few months, the teen began to ask questions, but the dispatcher reported an incident at 261 Round Hill Road, a large property nestled in the heart of Greenwich’s patrician Back Country. It didn’t sound too serious, so Huestis flicked his eyes open and cruised up there with his high beams on.

The officers made their way along an entrance and parked where hedges and a tall stone wall blocked the view of responding officers suddenly heard a commotion.

The call mentioning the battered woman was the first to Moavero and the many other officers who would arrive just how bad the situation was.

At the scene, as medics, detectives and the police were disturbing. The lady who lived in a household with a history of violence unit.

**Master Police Officer Al Moavero**

**Greenwich Patrol Officer Tom Huestis**

That monster hit her and she’s dying!”

In 2012, the department rolled out the Lethality Assessment Form, a document on a domestic call will ask a potential offender such as “Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened to kill you or someone else?” or “Has he ever been physically violent or uncontrolled in his behavior - that is, unprovoked?”

Regardless of whether an arrest is made, there’re no witnesses, no video footage — “A n d  i f  i t  c a n ’ t  b e  p r o v e d  —  m e a n i n g  n o  steps toward an arrest,” said Rosario.

In non-emergency circumstances, such as when a crime isn’t visible, to the victim or for the victim while in the victim or for the victim while in the home. If medical attention is needed, the officer will call the YWCA Greenwich’s 24-hour hotline at 203-622-0003 for immediate assistance, as well as information about local programs and services. The officer will call the YWCA with the victim or for the victim while in the home. If medical attention is needed.

**HOW TO HELP**

**Greenwich Police Department**

For 24-hour assistance, call 1-800-799-0007, or visit the YWCA Greenwich, 171 West Putnam Ave., 112-122 Saddle Ridge Rd., 223-632-3260.

**YWCA Greenwich**

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**Tell us your story**

Emotion@greenwichtime.com or Twitter: @greenwichtime #gtdomesticviolence
Democrats, women increase influence on powerful BET

By Emilie Munson

The thimble envelope nudged the docket. Three days after it returned from the courthouse.

It was Charlotte’s father who noticed the small package. The gray-haired man carried it into the bathroom where his teen-age daughter was raced in her bed, kicking her hair out of her face.
The new mother looked so blissful that he hesitated to leave, but then he whispered, “I’ll be right back.”

By the time Charlotte called her lawyer, a manila package. The gray-haired man carried it into the bathroom where his teen-age daughter was raced in her bed, kicking her hair out of her face.

By the time Charlotte called her lawyer, the court order Charlotte, a marketing executive, filed on the same day he became a father. Her first child was curled in bed breastfeeding her days-old son.

The baby was Lucas, a boy regularly yelled, veins bulging on the side of his neck. “I’ll take care of you, Charlotte. I’ll take care of you! I’ll take care of you!”

Raged at Charlotte, then seven months pregnant, a boy regularly yelled, veins bulging on the side of his neck. “I’ll take care of you, Charlotte. I’ll take care of you! I’ll take care of you!”

Although she refused to marry him, Charlotte said they could co-parent together and be friends. Lucas, knuckles white on the steering wheel, vowed to get full custody in court.

She filed the day same she became a father. Her first court date was just three weeks away.

As she read, she discovered Lucas also requested custody in court. She hesitated. That would start a never-ending cycle.

Each day spent in court can cost a family thousands of dollars, said Connecticut’s director of family court advocacy. Lucas was already threatening his ex-partner with false accusations, or paint her as mentally ill if they would not agree to a highly favorable settlement.

“Democrats Control Budget as Women Hold Key Votes”

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Before the FRONT DOOR
Inside Domestic Violence in Greenwich

Court Judge Maria Kahn, who organizes domestic violence education for Connecticut judges, said, “Domestic violence has been at the forefront of the judicial education for more than 10 years,” said Kahn.

Kahn said nearly every Connecticut judge attended a voluntary full-day workshop on domestic violence, available to all judges and taught by local, national and international experts.

In 2015 and 2016, Kahn also prepared a calendar and are divided up between the cases on the domestic violence docket still are handled in their own courtroom, apart from others. But Stamford judges now hear domestic violence cases sprinkled amongst all other criminal matters, instead of separating them into a distinct group.

“It was really streamlined,” said Wilson of the old model. “It felt like a safety net for them.”

“Victims’ advocates, employed by the state or by domestic violence service providers, contact victims after their partner is arrested on a domestic violence charge. A free, confidential service, advocates voice the victim’s wishes — for example, what kind of protective order they might want — in court and maintain relationships with judges, family relations officers and other court and law enforcement personnel,” Wilson said.

The average number of days until a judge tosses a disposition in Stamford versus the state at large.

(From page A1)
down on the examination table during an ultrasound appointment, when the tech- nician left the room. Once he did, she grabbed his ankle, causing her to fall on her home’s carpeted stairs. She was hardly able to catch herself before her pregnant belly smashed into the steps.

When Lucas emptied a joint bank ac- count they had set up for baby expenses, the YWCA Greenwich initially said she’d be able to show up at the next court date—but then, suddenly, she was denied.

She thought she could get back into the legal arena, criminal court. But she would need an ambulance take him to Greenwich Hospital. She had retained some $4,000 worth of his personal items in an emergency circumstances, such as to

The case was exhausting her. Each legal appearance forced her to miss work. Her savings were quickly draining away. Her joy was cut short, however. Lucas threatened to have her arrested for harassment, threatening or contacting Family Violence. She was forced to ask friends and family for financial assistance, as most of her friends and family members, and her joy, were gone. Few of her friends know the full picture of what she has been experiencing. She lives in a state of exhaustion, preparing her responses to Lucas’ legal actions, working to keep him from her doorstep, waiting to meet with Family Relations counselor, but the woman treated her dis-

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By Emilie Munson

Cara was excited when she learned her mother was marrying again. They were going to take her out of the private school she hated and they would live together as a family. Перецедура

Cara fit right into the community. He was charming and friendly and promised to adopt 11-year-old Clara. Her delight soon faded, however. As Peter asserted himself as the man of the house, the bubbly with anticipation

Suffering endures for youngest victims

By Emilie Munson

Often the individuals most affected by domestic violence are the youngest. They suffer significant emotional, behavioral and developmental consequences as a result of exposure to violence in the home. In the short term, they can exhibit aggressive, fear of loss, nightmares, struggle with concentration, fear separation from a parent, or worry about their safety, according to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Sometimes, they the problems they face begin another tirade in the kitchen, or worry about their safety, you never know if you are going to be safe, so we can't go out and you never know if you are going to be safe, she said. Betsy McAlister Groves, a Harvard University lecturer and founding director of the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center.

"These children may have a world view that nothing is safe and they bring that view into the classroom or to their relationships as they get older," she said. "Children ages 6 and younger are disproportionately affected by domestic violence, and it's key to help them understand the view of the world.

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Behind the Front Door
Inside Domestic Violence in Greenwich

SUFFERING
From page A4

domestic violence, it has a significant impact on their development and there can be lifelong consequences," Groves said.

Children, even those a few years old and younger, can develop post-traumatic stress symptoms from exposure to violence, according to a study on PTSD and early childhood published in the Journal of Traumatic Stress.

Damion Grasso, assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, explained that PTSD in children is manifested in four ways. Those include traumatic re-experiencing of the memory, such as nightmares or recurring thoughts, avoidance behavior, alterations in mood, such as depression, or hyper-arousal, including vigilance and re-active aggression.

Groves has studied the impact of violence and interpersonal trauma on youth for more than a decade. He has seen the effects of domestic violence in his clinical work, through his biomedical research and through his outreach and volunteering.

Grasso and his colleagues, Margaret Briggs-Gowan, a UCSC developmental psychologist, are studying the biological and behavioral processes that determine whether young children exposed to domestic violence develop psychology or show resilience.

"Kids can respond very differently to family violence, even in the same family," he said. "You have some kids who try to intervene... Other kids run off, try to leave the house. We have some kids who become really 'parentified' and try to take care of their younger siblings. And then some who don't seem to react to it, but freeze and don't know what to do with themselves."

Many children, young and old, also turn to aggression, Groves and Grasso said.

Kids in Crisis of Greenwich often provides shelter and counseling to teens who mimic the behaviors of the abusers they know. They may threaten their parents and act defiantly. "Those are the kids that parents will call us about, and what they will say is, 'My child is out of control,'" said Kimberly Wolfson-Lisack, clinical director of Kids in Crisis. "In most cases, it's because they've seen domestic violence."

Experts agree that as intimate partner violence becomes more frequent or severe, children's symptoms can increase. In homes with domestic violence, up to 60 percent of the time child abuse is occurring too, especially when abuse is defined broadly to include psychological and verbal forms, said Groves.

"A victim of domestic violence can only shelter their children for so long," Wolfson-Lisack said.

But even observing violence, hearing it or knowing it is taking place can produce feelings of powerlessness, inadequacy and helplessness in children, according to a study of children exposed to intimate partner violence by Universities of Michigan and Toronto psychologists.

"Threatening language is damaging, too, particularly for young children who cannot distinguish threats from real danger," said Groves.

Researchers have found of 219 children exposed to domestic violence, about 30 percent were considered resilient.

"There are multiple places that we can intervene to try to prevent exposure because we know violence hurts children," Groves said. "It is important to be able to intervene as early as possible."
CHILD
From page A4

Screwed up his philosophy of life, he let it would frequently declare. The words summed up his style of speech she developed, she knew, with such conviction that Clara would never learn about until later, she didn't know how. Her heart ached to see the angelic little girl suffer. She wondered when she grew up, their children as father or Fiona's would laugh. "Look, I am the dominant male here, Clara felt deeply alone. But no one here knew what Peter was thinking and his opinions inside her. Speaking was too dangerous, silence meant safety.

On her graduation day, Peter gave the speech grew up. She had been thinking of divorcing Peter; she didn't know how. Her heart ached to see the angelic little girl suffer. She wondered when she grew up, their children as father or Fiona's would laugh. "Look, I am the dominant male here, Clara felt deeply alone. But no one here knew what Peter was thinking and his opinions inside her. Speaking was too dangerous, silence meant safety.

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Male power, privilege drive most abusers

By Emilie Munson

At the root of most perpetrators’ decisions to abuse are deeply held beliefs about male power and privilege. “The primary drivers are values that they’ve learned growing up about male entitlement and what kinds of service, sacrifices, women are obligated to. The vast majority of abusers are male,” said Randy Bernstein, author of “Why Does He Do That?” who has worked with more than 1,000 abusive men. “I’ve never met a woman of color who wasn’t also a victim,” said Stephen Lanza, a University of Connecticut clinical psychologist and director of Family Re-Entry, which runs batterer treatment programs. The male role models who abusers grow up with can be crucial in determining how they treat the women in their lives. Having a family history of abuse dramatically increases chances that a child, too, may abuse. Ideas of male privilege can also stem from movies, music, media, culture and gender socialization. “People are going to come to a relationship with varying degrees of power,” said Lanza. “Ideally, what we are trying to do in society is equalize people’s access to power. Generally speaking, in societies where women have more power, there is less domestic violence.”

Fully eradicating the belief in male privilege from society would eliminate most domestic violence, but not all of it. Lanza said: “I’m not saying that abusers can be characterized as socio- or psychopaths. There are many other factors that can contribute to abuse, although they are not causes. Perpetrators may have experienced childhood trauma, they might have mental health issues, drugs or alcohol, lack conflict-resolution skills or have poor ability to manage their emotions.”

Stresses like poverty or unemployment can increase the likelihood an abuser will lash out, said Angela Medina, director of Domestic Violence Programs for Family Re-Entry in Connecticut.

The exact reasons behind each abuser’s actions will vary widely from individual to individual, experts emphasize. Most agree domestic violence is all ways a choice, and abusers need to be taught with their behavior with support, not arrested. See Privilege on A8

About this project

Domestic violence is the second most substantial new activity in the history of Greenwich. It is on vacation

Male power, privilege drive most abusers

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About this project

Domestic violence is the second most substantial new activity in the history of Greenwich. It is on vacation
Preparing to change, experts say, can result in jail time.

"Seeing people transform keeps me going," said Gordon. "My belief is that violence and substance abuse are linked, and that correctional treatment is complicated and often difficult."

Experts concede, however, that it can be difficult to measure the effectiveness of intervention programs. If abusers are not arrested again, DiTunno said it does not always mean their treatment has improved completely.

"The thing that usually gets flagged by our police and judicial systems is physical violence," said Gordon. "But we recognize that there is also emotional and psychological violence that goes along with that, and it’s harder for police than it is to police physical violence."

Baucell suggested effective programs should rely on victim feedback about whether an abuser’s behavior has truly changed.

"If victims say their safety is not improved, if they are still afraid of their abuser, that is what it is about," she said. "But there are a whole group of people where on that it is about is so much … Most of the men that I have worked with … those are the men who usually are concurrently abusing substances — have a very significant trauma history. They have very horrific, effective regulatory skills, which means they can’t manage their emotions."

"So Fathers for Change tries to target those men with substance abuse and domestic violence problems who are motivated to change through their behavior by their desire to be better fathers."

Men are recommended to her program by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families if they acknowledge domestic violence problems who are motivated to change through their behavior by their desire to be better fathers.

"Most individuals aren’t serial batterers who get arrested," said Joe DiTunno, deputy director of Family Services for the Connecticut Judicial Branch.

In Connecticut alone, 24,291 individuals were arrested for a domestic violence crime in Connecticut standards for batterer intervention — might be necessary.

"Men are recommended to her program by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families if they acknowledge domestic violence problems who are motivated to change through their behavior by their desire to be better fathers."

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"I think that a program that targets men who are doing their wives and their children wrong is doing a better job of helping them with their own control. They have to be taught empathy."

Most perpetrators will not seek help voluntarily. Instead, most will receive treatment after being arrested for a domestic violence crime or the intervention of the Department of Children and Families.

Court-ordered programs

In 2016, 24,291 individuals were arrested for a domestic violence crime in Connecticut, according to the state Judicial Branch. Some 310 were diverted to batterer intervention programs that year. Judicial officials said they did not have numbers for how many individuals went to jail or had their cases dismissed in 2016.

Court-ordered programs have a proven track record of effectiveness, research shows.

"The programs all tend to have the same approach, which is thinking of domestic violence as an issue of power and control, which is one of the steps that the person is trying to maintain completely," said Gordon. "But there is a whole group of people where on that it is about is so much … Most of the men that I have worked with … those are the men who usually are concurrently abusing substances — have a very significant trauma history. They have very horrific, effective regulatory skills, which means they can’t manage their emotions."

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the room reeked of alcohol. Latiak fished a trail of blood to the balcony and then to a nearby heavy door, identical to the first. Again it was locked. Again Latiak punched out a panel. This time, there was nobody inside. Through the broken window, Latiak saw a white-haired man lying on a bed. His arms, stretched out on either side of his head, palms up, were marked with lacerations. Bloody clothes and a box cutter blade were on the floor. The bedroom smelted of gasoline.

The officers forced their way into the room. On the bed, the man marked later identified as Adam, lied. He scored a Full calm down exercise when Latiak spoke to him, and his eyelids flatted. The (300) announced the for the Emergency Medical Service respond, who were waiting outside the house, and they started care. In the living area, police found knives, an empty 750-milliliter bottle of Bushmills Irish Whiskey and a nearly empty liter of Scotch — and letters Adam had scribbled as his agitation grew.

The pending divorce meant and Adam's days of living and working together were over. had a letter informing him that he was to leave his land job and move to work, but would only go on salary from his landscaping work. Adam sent the ticket to Poland for Christmas for two weeks, so the and daughter would stay and live in dad’s house. Through the broken window, Latiak saw a white-haired man lying on a bed. His arms, stretched out on either side of his head, palms up, were marked with lacerations. Bloody clothes and a box cutter blade were on the floor. The bedroom smelted of gasoline.

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As opioid crisis rages, doctors seek other options

By Paul Schott

A year and a half ago, Jerry started the pain management routine that has changed his life. At his home in a Fairfield County suburb, he takes a vitamin-sized capsule of opioids every day, around 3 a.m. The tablet takes a few hours to work on the pain that courses through his legs, an ongoing symptom of his arachnoiditis — a pain disorder caused by the inflammation of a membrane that surrounds the spinal cords. While he waits for the medicine to work, he settles into his favorite living room chair with a cup of coffee and watches the “Today” show with his wife and three rescue dogs. A few hours later, when he heads out for a meeting for one of the nonprofit boards he sits on, he is no longer focusing on the pain. After once suffering so much discomfort that he turned to illicit narcotics, the improvement is a breakthrough.

“Cannabis is medically real,” Jerry, 64, said in a recent interview at his home. “I’m a standing, living example of that.” His regimen reflects a new era of pain management. Alarmed by the epidemic of opioid abuse that has killed tens of thousands of Americans in recent years, medical professionals are rethinking how they treat pain. They no longer turn first to prescription opioids. Instead, an array of new treatments such as medical marijuana are emerging, alternatives that are widely seen as carrying less risk of abuse and addiction than traditional narcotics.

“We have heard many heartfelt responses from readers. Today, we encourage you to broaden the conversation by sharing your thoughts and reactions at the address linked below.”

Tom Meliana, Managing Editor

Inside: Readers react to the series so far - See page A8

Tell us what you think on Facebook.com/greenwichtime

And tune in Monday at 1p.m. for a Facebook Live chat with reporter Emilie Munson

“Don’t need a task force to see town systems are broken”

BOB HORTON

Last March First Selectman Peter Tesei asked for a review of all “business practices” in the Parking Services Department. A year ago a parking ticket lawsuit revealed the division’s director had negotiated reduced fines for parking violations, and at least one person received a reduced parking pass without spending a day on the free-to-eight-year waiting list. In April, police charged a town employee with pocketing cash paid for fines and fabricating transactions to cover his scheme. And, starting in December 2016 and continuing...

See Horton on A5

SPORTS

Cardinals look to regain state title for first time since ’07

Page B1

DAN HAAR

TAX OVERHAUL HITS HOME

What does the Senate bill mean for Connecticut?

Page A3

G I R L S’ B U S I N E S S

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A survivor's tale

To Part I: A Survivor's Tale

You have captured nuances most could not. Really well done.

What an incredible story... I was on the edge of my chair.

That's a very powerful example of reporting, to say the least. Thank you very much for telling that difficult story so well. I imagine it wasn't easy to do that work, but it's certainly worth doing.

Important and heartbreakingly true.

"A powerful, must-read."

"This is incredible. You made something so hard to read, something I wanted to read, and it's so important."

As someone who works in the domestic abuse service sector, I really appreciated this article. It is so important to hear from survivors of domestic abuse who have the courage to not only speak out but to also share their stories to help others.

- Steve Shello

To Part II: What the Cops See

You think you have humanized the public. It's a powerful article.

Very powerful article.

Please don't forget the children that witness this. They too could be abused physically & mentally as well.

So emotionally hard to read but what a great article.

Eric Lapid

Some of the worst abuses are mental and emotional, rather than physical. The belief that your partner is the only one who wants you (or you can't survive without them). The sense that your perception of reality is skewed. The fear that everyone knows terrible things about you, that they'll find out. The horror that it could become physical, even though it hasn't, yet. Most of that goes unsupported, because there are no marks. There's no proof, except one's word. And who would believe someone like you, anyway?

Anonymous

I have not one ounce of mercy for men and girls who get into and stay in abusive relationships. It's all about personal responsibility and choices!

James Jones

To Part III: The Legal Assault

"Your article is very much appreciated, yet just the tip of the iceberg. Family court dysfunction and corruption is being exposed for what it really is: nationwide, using the power of social media."

Peter Kiley-Bergen

Seriously I cannot stop crying tears of joy to know that finally someone you have heard and reported on has been going on in family court, the struggle that so many mothers have had with exactly those kinds of situations. For years now I have been fielding calls from Moms who have told me story after story of abuse and I have literally become so tired with all the blatant legal abuse that they have endured. The raw horror of these situations, where men are simply allowed to blatantly violate court orders, bully and harass the ex wives and children without any consequences is completely mind boggling, particularly when these same courts put the children at risk in obvious, visible ways. I just have to thank you today for sharing everything that you have.

Anon

ENORMOUS problem costing society tons, hurting victims, including kids, dragging cases yrs."

Anonymous

It is ground breaking just getting the story out, that legal abuse in the family court system is horrific, particularly when it comes to DV victims.

Anonymous

Another fabulous installment

Anonymous

I feel every word and see it. You're an amazing journalist.

Anonymous

Read the series at GreenwichTime.com

Readers respond
January 19, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Domestic violence is a serious public health issue which brings nearly 50,000 victims annually to the doors of Connecticut's domestic violence organizations for help. Addressing the problem more effectively through enhanced policy and practice with an aim to offer systems change is a tactical priority for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). Given the real circumstance of competing tasks and resources, the ability to strategically message out information about this problem and the fact that help is available in the state 24/7 wherever you live, is a challenge.

Emilie Munson’s impressive series on domestic violence in The Greenwich Time, “Behind the Front Door – Domestic Violence in Greenwich,” is by far the most comprehensive and quality journalistic piece I have read during my nearly seven years as the head of CCADV. Ms. Munson and the series not only touched upon the serious complexities of the problem but dug deeper into barriers that victims often face when trying to get help, significant systemic gaps and the impact exposure to family violence has on children. The series also highlighted the other side of domestic violence – the offender’s behavior – in a way that offered the reader a more holistic and full picture of this societal problem. Individual victim stories were told with detail, and really drove home the traumatic and difficult set of controlling, harassing and abusive behaviors that victims often endure. The stories were raw and captivating and truly necessary in order to offer the public a better understanding of the real health and safety risks that victims face.

Perhaps the most compelling piece was Ms. Munson’s article on “Wealth Does not Protect the Abused.” Society often believes that domestic violence does not happen in an affluent community such as Greenwich. And while we know that it does, Ms. Munson was also able to highlight the unique challenges that victims experience when the abuse occurs at the hands of a wealthy individual.

This series was incredibly authentic and brave. Taking on the court system’s approach to responding to victims was incredibly overdue and we appreciate the series tremendously.

Sincerely,

Karen Jarmoc
Chief Executive Officer
January 22, 2018

Re: Letter of Support for Emilie Munson, Reporter, Greenwich Time

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in support of Emilie Munson, for Greenwich Time, in connection with her important reporting series on domestic violence.

By way of background, I am the Executive Director of Family ReEntry, Inc., a criminal justice nonprofit with offices and programs in eight Connecticut cities. We are the largest provider of court-mandated batterer services in the State.

I am most impressed with how Emilie was able to successfully investigate and report on this very difficult subject matter. Certainly, both the batterer and the victims are usually unwilling to discuss these intensely personal issues. But Emilie was able to gain the trust of her subjects to write stories that went much deeper than other media outlets’ reporting on domestic violence. Her writing was crisp, fair and thorough, and yet compassionate and empathetic. It was a prefect display of responsible reporting. As a reader and as professional in the field, I was fully engaged as were many of my friends and colleagues who contacted me after reading these articles. I was proud of Emilie’s courage in writing this series, the bravery of her subjects, and of our staff at Family ReEntry in making a significant contribution.

Emilie’s work has influenced the way that providers and the community are looking at domestic violence, and has opened up new dialogues that we believe will go a long way in reducing both its incidence and recidivism. We owe a debt of gratitude to both Emilie Munson and Greenwich Time.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Grant, JD, M Div
Executive Director
Family ReEntry, Inc.