

I-TRAC Newsletter

September 2009

Word of the Month

Assiduous

uh-SIJ-oo-uhs

Adjective

- Constant in application or attention; devoted; attentive.
- Performed with constant diligence or attention; unremitting; persistent.

I-TRAC News

ARTAMI has officially changed its name to the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC). ARTAMI was intended to be a temporary name for reference by the steering committee responsible for the development of the original business plan. Since it is no longer an initiative but a fully operational unit with a yearly budget, office infrastructure, and a position within the ALERT organizational structure, a change of name was needed. The Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) is an umbrella organization established by the solicitor-general's ministry to bring together the province's law enforcement resources to tackle serious crimes.

The mandate for I-TRAC remains the same as the ARTAMI mandate.

I-TRAC is a joint forces, multi-disciplinary unit that assesses threats and develops risk reduction plans for high risk domestic violence and stalking cases in Alberta. As well, I-TRAC provides expert advice and training about threat assessment, domestic violence, and stalking to police, government, and community agencies throughout the province.

Alberta - News

Violent offender choosing to live in Edmonton

Edmonton police are warning you about a man they consider to be a violent offender, who plans to live in our city. Jacques Fraser has just been released from prison. He spent over 3 years locked up for a list of offences including break, enter and committing assault causing bodily harm, assault, uttering threats and disobeying a court order. Jacques Lucien Fraser is 38-years-old, 5'9", 161 lbs., and has brown hair and hazel eyes. **Police say Fraser is especially a threat to women he may be in an intimate relationship with.**

<http://www.inews880.com/Channels/Reg/LocalNews/story.aspx?ID=1144862>

Killer must wait 15 years for parole

The Alberta Court of Appeal has added five years to the parole ineligibility of an Edmonton man who slashed his estranged wife's face and stabbed her lover to death.

On Feb. 10, 2004, Thieu Kham Tran entered his former matrimonial home unannounced and uninvited and found his estranged wife napping after sex with An Quoc Tran, and he stabbed his rival 37 times. The men are not related. He also attacked his wife, Hoa Le Duong, who suffered several stab wounds to her hands and a large disfiguring slash wound to her face. During the course of the attacks on the boyfriend and his estranged wife, Tran also threatened to kill his children.

In 2006, he was convicted of manslaughter and aggravated assault and sentenced to nearly nine years in prison. In 2008, the Alberta Court of Appeal overturned the manslaughter conviction and replaced it with one of second-degree murder. Tran was given a life sentence with no chance of parole for 10 years.

The Crown appealed the period of parole ineligibility, arguing the sentencing judge erred by suggesting the murder was not of a particularly brutal and shocking kind, and for failing to take into consideration the aggravated assault and uttering threats offences.

In its ruling Wednesday, the appeal court said: "Given the nature of the offence and the circumstances of this murder, a 10-year period of parole ineligibility is demonstrably unfit. The deceased was stabbed 37 times. He crawled from the bedroom to escape. The respondent kicked him. The respondent also placed a knife in the deceased's hand, presumably to infer that the deceased had attacked the respondent. "We also concluded that the sentencing judge erred when she failed to consider the other offences as aggravating factors. The respondent was convicted of aggravated assault on his estranged wife. He sliced her face from ear to jaw and deep to the bone, and she is permanently disfigured. He told her she was no longer beautiful. He threatened to kill her children. These were separate offences and ought to have been considered as aggravating."

The Crown was seeking a 20-year ineligibility parole period, but the high court ruled such a period was unwarranted because the sentencing court found Tran to be "remorseful, respectful of the justice system and of previous good character." Instead, the appeal court substituted the 10-year parole ineligibility period with one of 15 years.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Killer+must+wait+years+parole/2027746/story.html>

Man who killed daughter found dead in prison cell

A Medicine Hat father who murdered his teenager daughter a dozen years ago has been found dead inside his prison cell at Bowden Institution. Guards discovered the body of Gerald Mayhew at 1:40 p.m. Sunday. Officials say the cause of Mayhew's death has yet to be determined, but there were no signs of foul play.

The 51-year-old was serving a life sentence for second-degree murder after killing his 15-year-old daughter Amber Michelle Lee Dickson on Oct. 14, 1997. Amber, who split her time between her divorced parents' homes, was found dead in Mayhew's Medicine Hat apartment after a weekend visit. The church-going teen, who was once named most improved army cadet, had been reported missing by her mother when she failed to return. Mayhew turned himself in to police the day after his daughter's body was discovered. He was originally charged with first-degree murder.

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/alberta/2009/09/29/11180781-sun.html>

Canada - News

Police fire fatal shot on domestic call

A 46-year-old Vancouver man was shot dead in his home by police while holding a knife to his wife's throat as the couple's 13-year-old daughter was nearby. Eugene Anthony Knight was shot Friday night by two officers after a third officer shot him with a Taser that was "ineffective," said Integrated Homicide Investigation Team spokesman Sgt. Peter Thiessen. Knight's wife had called 911, screaming that a knife-wielding man was threatening to kill her. Thiessen said police have been to the rental unit, located in an upscale Vancouver neighbourhood, before for domestic disputes. The woman did not sustain serious physical injuries and is co-operating with police, Thiessen said. Jaime Whittmack, 30, who lives in the adjacent building, said she heard multiple shots Friday. "There's always some kind of domestic screaming and yelling between a man and a woman" coming from the building, she said.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Police+fire+fatal+shot+domestic+call/2013076/story.html>

Burnaby mother of five killed, man arrested in "domestic homicide"

A 44-year-old Burnaby man, Oswill Vergara, was to appear in court today after being arrested Monday in what police called an incident of "domestic homicide." A police news release late Monday said investigators believe the man and woman were "in an estranged relationship. RCMP spokesman Cpl. Dale Carr said the victim lived in the home with her five children, aged three to 16, some of whom were present at the time of the homicide. None was injured. The cause of death was not released, and Carr said police have not found a weapon.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Burnaby+mother+five+killed+domestic+homicide/2017410/story.html>

Contract hit target in custody battle

The father of a man whose ex-wife is accused of plotting to have him killed says the two were involved in a vicious and lengthy custody battle over their son. Vancouver police said Friday they had foiled an alleged plot by Liza Joylene Belcourt, 32, of Surrey, B.C., to hire two people to kill her ex-husband, Richard Noniewicz. Belcourt, Jordon Joseph Doiron, 23, of Port Coquitlam and David Dean Laidlaw, 39, of Langley have all been arrested. All three were charged with one count each of conspiracy to commit murder and were scheduled to appear in court Friday for a bail hearing. Noniewicz's father, Stan Noniewicz, said his son and Belcourt split up in 2006, sparking disputes around property, business and custody of their son. At a media briefing Friday, police said it appears Belcourt had only peripheral links to gangs before allegedly hiring the two hit men with gang connections to kill her ex-husband in August.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2009/09/18/bc-contract-killing-plot-foied-vancouver-surrey.html>

Boy's Oak Bay murder was preventable, advocate says

The death of a six-year-old boy in an Oak Bay murder-suicide could have been prevented if B.C. had a co-ordinated system for dealing with domestic violence, a new report says. Child and Youth Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond calls the 2007 murder of Christian Lee a “disturbing example” of the lack of co-operation among police, social workers and the courts. And she’s calling for sweeping changes, including creation of domestic-violence courts throughout the province. “This is a major public-safety issue in British Columbia. My best estimate is that in the last five years in British Columbia there have been 70 homicides related to domestic violence.”

Christian was stabbed to death in September 2007 by his 38-year-old father, Peter Lee, who also killed Christian’s mother, Sunny Park, and her parents before killing himself. Five weeks earlier, Sunny Park told police that her husband had deliberately driven into a utility pole in an attempt to kill her. She also said Lee had abused her in the past, and threatened to kill her and her family. Police believed Peter Lee posed a risk and were so concerned that they contacted the Ministry of Children and Family Development after he was released on bail.

But Turpel-Lafond said police and the social worker assigned to the case never spoke, and that there was “generally no communication or co-ordination” between the criminal-justice and child-welfare systems. In fact, it took 17 days after the police contacted the ministry before a social worker met with Park. Turpel-Lafond also found that in the six weeks prior to Christian’s death the family had contact with no fewer than two municipal police agencies, an RCMP detachment, medical staff, Crown counsel, therapists and a variety of lawyers. They all had bits of information, but nobody had a clear picture of the danger or took action to protect the boy and his family. “Ultimately, it’s the finding in my report that the responsibility for [their] safety was left on the shoulders of one person — and that’s Christian’s mother, Sunny,” Turpel-Lafond said. “This is what happens when systems are not co-ordinated or responsive.”

The report is entitled “No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence” and can be found at...

<http://www.rcybc.ca/Images/PDFs/Reports/RCYChristianLeeReportFINAL.pdf>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/murder+could+have+been+prevented+disturbing+lack+cooperation+report/2028744/story.html>

Update: B.C. government restores funding for domestic violence counselling

After almost a week of blistering criticism from women's groups and B.C.'s children's watchdog, the provincial government has restored \$440,000 in funding cut from organizations that help victims of domestic violence. The government's reversal comes less than a week after B.C. Child and Youth Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond released a report that said the province's system for handling domestic violence lacks co-ordination. The domestic-violence cuts were announced more than a month ago as part of what the government called "budget pressures" as it consolidated \$16.47 million in domestic-violence funding into a single ministry. Solicitor General Kash Heed said he was led to believe the \$440,000 was obtained from "administrative

savings" in the organizations. After a wave of public backlash, Heed said yesterday that he needed to restore the money in order to protect front-line services.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/government+restores+funding+domestic+violence+counseling/2047481/story.html>

Victoria police to have their own domestic violence unit

Victoria police say they will have their own domestic violence unit in place by the end of the year, but want to see a regional unit. Police spokesman Sgt. Grant Hamilton said the most effective way to deal with domestic violence is to have a unit that incorporates all municipal and RCMP detachments in the region. "In the meantime, we will be forging ahead with our own unit," he said, noting it's expected to be running by the end of the year.

The move follows a report by Child and Youth Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond that highlighted a "disturbing" lack of co-operation among police, social workers and the courts leading up to the murder of six-year-old Christian Lee. Lee was stabbed to death in his Oak Bay home in September 2007 by his 38-year-old father, Peter Lee, who also killed Christian's mother, Sunny Park, and her parents before killing himself. The report said there was inadequate communication between the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the police.

The domestic-violence unit will be staffed by one investigator at first, although the department hopes to have another investigator by next year. The investigator will follow up on domestic-violence incidents, with access to background on the offender and the family, Hamilton said. He also said the department would like to have a representative from the Ministry of Children and Family Development embedded in the unit, but has yet to broach that with the ministry. Over the last three years, the department has referred 1,500 domestic-violence files to the ministry, Hamilton said, but there is little follow-up with the government after the file is passed over.

Hamilton said Victoria police respond to 80 domestic-violence calls a month and 250 people a year are charged in connection with domestic assaults.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Victoria+police+have+their+domestic+violence+unit/2039109/story.html#>

Regina machete attack was attempted murder: police

A 17-year-old boy out on probation has been charged with attempted murder in connection with an early-morning machete attack in Regina on Saturday, police said. An 18-year-old woman remains in hospital with serious injuries sustained in the attack, police said. The slashing took place around 4:45 a.m. Saturday in the 1200 block of Retallack Street, said police, who came to the area after residents heard screams and called 911. The victim managed to make her way about a block from the scene of the incident, which is where officers located her. The man alleged to have slashed her, who police said may be the victim's ex-boyfriend or boyfriend, was arrested without incident. Officers also said they retrieved an "edged weapon" but have yet to

determine whether it was the machete that injured the girl. Police said he's been charged with attempted murder and breach of probation.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2009/09/20/200909-sask-machete-charges.html>

Stabbed Baby Remains in Serious Condition, Father Charged

A baby stabbed by his father in Gilbert Park Saturday afternoon is suffering from extensive injuries to his head and will likely require surgery. The child's 23-year-old father, whose name has not yet been released, has been charged with aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and two counts of failing to comply with a restraining order. The baby, an eight-month-old, is still in hospital in stable but serious condition.

It appears that a verbal dispute inside the woman's home started around 4 p.m. and escalated when the man swung a metal object at the 29-year-old woman, who was holding her baby. Police wouldn't say what the object was, only that it was metal, sharp, and not something normally used as a weapon. The couple emerged from the home and continued fighting over the child and by that time it appears neighbours had called 911.

The common-law couple are the baby's biological parents and police say there is a history of domestic violence. The father is charged with violating two court orders – one mandating that he not have contact with the child's mother and another barring him from the Gilbert Park home. Police also say both parents appeared to have been drinking Saturday afternoon.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/Stabbed-baby-remains-in-serious-condition-father-charged-59938892.html>

Victims' of Ex-Cop's Rampage Launch \$3 Million Suit

Victims of a former Mountie's deadly 2001 shooting rampage on a busy Montreal highway say police did not take his ex-girlfriend's warnings seriously prior to the shooting.

Jocelyne Hotte pulled up alongside Lucie Gelin's vehicle on the Metropolitan expressway on June 23, 2001 and opened fire, killing Gelin and injuring three passengers.

Survivors David Savard, Hugues Ducharme and his cousin Pierre Mainville are now suing the city of Laval and the RCMP for \$3 million. The suit alleges Laval police were negligent by failing to act on Gelin's reports that she had been harassed and threatened by Hotte prior to the shootings. The RCMP are named as co-defendants for failing to deal with Hotte's depression.

Two Laval officers met Gelin on June 18, 2001 after she had called 911 to complain about Hotte. Officers concluded there were no grounds for an arrest, but five days later Hotte pursued Gelin's car on Highway 40, ramming her vehicle, then firing and reloading his weapon several times before finally killing Gelin and leaving her car wrecked against the median near the Decarie interchange.

Hotte, a former RCMP marksman, was once a bodyguard for prime minister Jean Chretien and Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe. Justice John Gomery later sentenced Hotte to life in

prison with no parole for 25 years following a jury trial which included a 911 recording of Gelinas' horrified final screams.

http://montreal.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20090916/mtl_hotte_lawsuit090916/20090916/?hub=MontrealHome

Domestic abuse law blasted

Ontario's "zero tolerance" policy on domestic violence has come into question following an unusual court case involving an Orangeville-area woman who was charged with assault after joking in emails that she could solve her marital problems with a gun, if only she could get one.

Alison Shaw, 40, was forced out of her home and ordered to stay away from her three children after her estranged husband claimed to have been "frightened" by the online missive, which followed what a judge described as a "one-punch bar fight" over a month earlier in an area Legion hall.

"This is a gross overreaction by the Crown and by the police in response to what they thought is the zero-tolerance rule," says Philip Epstein, a veteran divorce lawyer who sat on the committee that crafted the 1979 directive. "We know so much more about domestic abuse now than we did back then. It's time to re-examine the policy and create some limited discretion for the police and Crown attorneys to deal with this problem," he said.

Shaw's treatment was fairly typical: She had no criminal record, was charged and held in jail overnight until she could post \$5,000 bail, and ordered to stay away from her home and kids "without any regard for children's best interests," the judge said. Her bail conditions also restricted her from using the Internet.

While Epstein says false or trumped-up allegations are rare, and domestic abuse remains a "very, very serious and real issue," they can unfairly cripple an accused legally and financially because Ontario's court system is so slow and overburdened. He added the legal aid system is so cash-strapped, it can take eight months to a year for a criminal case to be decided. During much of that time, the parent has no access to their children.

Domestic violence experts such as University of Western Ontario professor Peter Jaffe says the research is clear on what constitutes domestic abuse, but more training of police and Crown attorneys is needed. In fact, they point to what they consider a far more worrisome trend: Police who are simply throwing up their hands, charging both partners, and leaving it up to judges to sort it all out.

"The number-one problem in 2009 isn't minor allegations that are blown out of proportion or the potential for false allegations. The number-one problem in Ontario in 2009 is that there are still 30 to 35 domestic homicides a year and that so many people are being abused and not seeking help," says Jaffe.

<http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/687729>

Ontario Double Homicide Trial Begins

The trial of a man accused of killing his wife and another woman has heard the wife was having an affair. Chris Little is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of his estranged wife, Julie Crocker, and Paula Menendez. The women's bodies were found in Little and Crocker's home on Feb. 12, 2007. The Crown says her throat was slit from her left ear to her right clavicle and had defensive wounds on her hands. Menendez's body was found in the garage and the Crown says the jury will hear her cause of death was ligature strangulation.

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/canada/2009/09/24/11094591.html>

Bodies found in hotel identified as father, daughter

Autopsies will be conducted on the father and daughter whose bodies were found Sunday afternoon in a Brossard hotel. A housekeeper walked into a room of the Best Western Hotel National on Taschereau Blvd. just before 1 p.m. and discovered the body of 46-year-old Albert Pelchat. "When she opened the door, she found a man lying down on the floor. She closed the door and called 911," said Longueuil police Const. Gaetan Durocher. When police arrived on the scene, they found the body of Pelchat's six-year-old daughter, Daphnee, in the bed. According to Durocher, the deaths are considered suspicious even though there are no obvious traces of violence on the bodies. Pelchat lived in St. Henri with his parents, while Daphnee lived with her mother on the South Shore, in St. Hubert. Pelchat's mother told CTV Montreal that he split up with Daphnee's mother when the little girl was just two-months-old. Family members also said Child Protection Services had been involved with the family, and that Pelchat had been ordered to take an anger management course. But Pelchat saw his daughter every other weekend, and frequently took her to the Best Western so she could go swimming at the hotel pool.

http://montreal.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20090921/mtl_hotel_090921/20090921/?hub=MontrealHome

Violence against Canadian women a growing problem

Last year, 60% of calls to Toronto police were about domestic issues. In other words, 24,000 calls had to do with domestic violence. Of those cases, 10 resulted in homicide, including that of a 14-year-old girl. The most vulnerable in situations of domestic violence are women, especially young women. And there's no class, race, education, or citizenship distinction between female victims of domestic violence. In Canada, 60% of women have suffered physical or psychological violence, while according to another statistic, 61% of the population knows of at least one woman who has been abused. Close to one third have been abused or threatened by a close relative.

The most serious problem, however, at least in Canada, continues to involve aboriginal women. "They are the most vulnerable because they already come from a long history of racism and sexism," explains Lindsay Mossman of Amnesty International in Ottawa. Amnesty has supported female victims of violence for years, but in Canada, Mossman says, the problem in First Nations communities is the most serious and hardest to combat. "Last November the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women asked the federal government

to prepare a report on how to deal with the problem, and on what measures should be adopted to put an end to the violence against aboriginal women. The deadline is for the end of this November, but the government has not contacted any native association and has not done a thing.”

<http://www.corrieretandem.com/viewstory.php?storyid=9388>

Public Health Agency of Canada Fact Sheet on Interpersonal Violence and Substance Use

There are strong connections between violence and alcohol. For example, the WHO policy briefing paper, Interpersonal Violence and Alcohol, indicates that:

- Harmful alcohol use is a risk factor for multiple types of interpersonal violence – child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and youth violence.
- Alcohol-related violence has far-reaching consequences on the health and well-being of victims, including physical injury and emotional harm (i.e. depression, anxiety, and sleep problems). Longer-term effects can include suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Harmful alcohol use is often a method of coping with violent experiences.
- Children who witness violence between their parents are more likely to develop emotional and behavioural problems during childhood and heavy drinking patterns or alcohol dependence later in life, increasing their risk of becoming perpetrators of violence.

In the Canadian context, research shows that the use of alcohol plays a significant role in increasing the risk of spousal violence and homicide. According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 44% of women and 24% of men reported that their current or previous partner was drinking at the time of the violence. Data from the Homicide Survey reveals that between 1995 and 2004, the majority of persons accused of committing spousal homicide (62%) had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the incident.

Research also indicates that parental substance abuse increases the risk for child maltreatment. The Quebec Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment, and Serious Behavioural Problems found that almost one-half of all cases of child neglect involved excessive use of alcohol or illegal drugs.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/EB/eb-Sept-2009-eng.php#fast-more>

U.S. - News

California Legislature Passes Bill to Protect Domestic Violence Victims

California State Assembly passed a bill September 3 to allow law enforcement officers to seize weapons from the scene of domestic violence incidents or from individuals who pose an immediate threat to themselves. Assembly Bill 532 will allow law enforcement officers to obtain a warrant to seize firearms or deadly weapons that remain inside a house after a domestic violence or mental health incident. This bill passed with unanimous support on the assembly floor. The bill now heads to the Governor's desk for signature of approval. Under current California law, law enforcement officers cannot remove firearms or other deadly weapons from the scene of a domestic violence incident or from individuals who pose an immediate threat to themselves if they make the arrest or detention outside a residence and no exigent circumstance exists allowing them access to the inside of the residence.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/04/content_11994843.htm

Domestic Abuse a Pre-Existing Condition

It turns out that in eight states, plus the District of Columbia, getting beaten up by your spouse is a pre-existing condition. Under the cold logic of the insurance industry, it makes perfect sense: If you are in a marriage with someone who has beaten you in the past, you're more likely to get beaten again than the average person and are therefore more expensive to insure. In human terms, it's a second punishment for a victim of domestic violence.

In 2006, Democrats tried to end the practice. A tie meant that the measure failed. Defenders claim that such regulations could increase the price of insurance and make it out of reach for more people.

In 1994, then-Rep. Charles Schumer had his staff survey 16 insurance companies. He found that eight would not write health, life or disability policies for women who have been abused. In 1995, the *Boston Globe* found that Nationwide, Allstate, State Farm, Aetna, Metropolitan Life, The Equitable Companies, First Colony Life, The Prudential and the Principal Financial Group had all either canceled or denied coverage to women who'd been beaten.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/09/14/when-getting-beaten-by-yo_n_286029.html

NY Human Rights Law Amended to Prohibit Discrimination Against Victims of Domestic Violence

Earlier this year, New York State Gov. David Paterson signed a law that amends the New York Human Rights Law to prohibit employers from discriminating on the basis of an individual's status as a victim of domestic violence. As a result, it is now unlawful for employers in New York State to fire, refuse to hire, harass, or otherwise discriminate against employees with

respect to the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because they have been the victim of an act of domestic violence, including stalking.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/ammend01.html>

Mom, 5 children die in 'horrific' Florida murder

A mother and her five young children have been found murdered at their home in Florida, police said on Sunday, as authorities searched for the woman's husband, who they believe fled to Haiti.

The bodies of Guerline Damas, 32, and five children between 11 months and nine years old, were found late Saturday by deputies in their North Naples home, after a relative contacted police because she had not heard from the woman for about 24 hours, police said. Police said the child victims included three boys, age nine, six and five, a girl age three and a baby girl 11 months old.

Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said attention had focused on Mesac Damas, the husband and father of the victims. Authorities located his car at the airport in Miami, about 190 kilometres east of North Naples. "We also believe that shortly before 10 a.m. on Friday, Mr. Damas left on a flight to Haiti, where we believe he is at this time."

"In no uncertain terms, this is the most horrific and violent event this community has ever experienced," Rambosk told a press conference. "Every homicide is tragic, however this is the worst of the worst." A relative said detectives told the family their throats had been slit.

The sheriff, too, noted that police had gone twice in the past year to the Damas residence to respond to "domestic violence" complaints, most recently in January. Mesac Damas was charged with misdemeanour battery in January after he struck Guerline Damas while she held their youngest child, a baby girl, in her arms. He pleaded no contest and was given 12 months probation and ordered to attend parenting classes and a battery intervention program. The state Department of Children and Families had been monitoring the family and visited their home just three days before the killings. The caseworker found nothing amiss.

Damas was located in Naples and charged with six counts of first-degree murder. Damas was in custody at the Collier County Jail in Naples after he was released by authorities in Haiti, police said. As Damas was being led out of jail in Haiti, he told a reporter from the Naples Daily News that he killed his family. "I am going to be buried next to my family," Damas said as he was being led out of jail in Haiti. "Yes, I killed them" Damas said he wanted to take his own life, but did not have the courage to go through with it, "because if you kill yourself, you're not going to heaven." Asked by the reporter why he killed his family, Damas responded, "Only God knows." Questioned further, he blamed the crime on his mother-in-law. "Her mom pretty much made me do it – the devil, her spirit, whatever she worships," he said. Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said his agency had asked Haitian authorities to extradite Damas, who is a U.S. citizen.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/09/23/florida.family.dead/index.html>

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/children+horrific+Florida+murder/2015049/story.html>

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/world/2009/09/23/11071641.html>

Detroit PD Officer Fatally Shoots Wife, Self

Two Detroit police officers died Tuesday in what is being called a murder-suicide. Canton police said witnesses reported seeing a man shoot a woman, and then himself, just after 9 a.m. in the parking lot that is shared by the Canton Public Library and the Canton Police Department. Detroit police homicide detective of 15 years, Edward Williams II, 36, and his wife, Patricia, a 33-year-old Detroit police officer, have been identified as the victims.

Police said there is domestic abuse in the couple's history and that Williams' wife came into the Canton Police Department Sunday to report an assault, but she refused to file a formal complaint. Canton police filed a detailed report of the abuse complaints against Edward Williams.

Investigators said an anonymous third party called police at 9:30 a.m. Sunday about a possible domestic dispute at the couple's home on the 3500 block of Wall Street.

When police arrived, nobody was home, but an alleged suicide note written by Edward Williams was found in the home, police sources told Local 4. The Canton police notified the Detroit police of the incident and a Detroit police commander stated that he had made contact with Edward Williams and that he was all right.

An acquaintance of the couple called police at 8:57 a.m. to report the two were on their way to the police department for a meeting. They arrived in different cars.

Witnesses said the two got into an argument and that Williams shot his wife several times in the lot before getting back into his black Dodge Charger and shooting himself.

Patricia Williams was pronounced dead at an area hospital immediately following the shooting. Edward Williams was on life support for most of the day but police confirmed his death late in the afternoon.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/21059408/detail.html>

Pilot Accused of Stalking Ex-Girlfriend from Air

A California man was arrested on suspicion of stalking after he allegedly used his airplane to violate a restraining order by buzzing a neighborhood, police said Thursday. In recent weeks, Concord, California, police were investigating an incident in which leaflets were dropped over a residential neighborhood, possibly by a low-flying airplane, police said in a statement. "The leaflets referenced a specific person and contained defamatory language and racial slurs. As the investigation has progressed, it appears that the motivation behind this situation is a failed domestic relationship," the statement read. The investigation led to the identification of a possible suspect, a 51-year-old licensed pilot. Concord police served the man with a restraining order on Wednesday, the statement said. On Wednesday evening, police received several calls from residents of the neighborhood reporting a low-flying private airplane in the area. Police

officers responded to the airport and contacted the man after he landed his plane. It was the same man who has been served with the restraining order earlier in the day, police said. He was arrested on suspicion of stalking and violating a restraining order.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/09/25/california.pilot.stalking/index.html>

Police Officer Injured Serving Protective Order

Clay County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Jason Freeman is recovering after surgeons re-attached his right hand. 48-year-old Curtis Watts was being served with a Protective Order signed by his wife at his Saw Mill Road home. Investigators claimed Watts was swinging an axe when Freeman discharged his tazer. They stated that Watts continued swinging and severed Freeman's right hand. Additional deputies opened fire on Watts and killed him. Watts had been charged with resisting arrest the previous Friday when deputies tried to arrest him on claims that he assaulted his wife. Watts was a pastor at the Dingler Chapel in Randolph County and was survived by two daughters. Freeman is expected to be discharged from the hospital in the next week.

http://www2.nbc13.com/vtm/news/local/article/video_pastor_shot_to_death_after_severing_deputies_hand/95867/

Domestic violence leads to yet another death with Anne Morell Petrillo

As she leapt from the same stretch of the Tappan Zee Bridge as her homicidal stepfather, Anne Morell Petrillo made one thing indisputable: Her suicide was the direct result of her mother's long-ago murder. And, as she plunged into the churning water below, she was imparting a final lesson about domestic violence.

She was telling us the violence reverberates long after the last blow, that it did not end when her stepfather, Scott Douglas, battered her mother, Anne Scripps Douglas, with a hammer almost 16 years ago. The violence did not even cease when the killer stopped his BMW on the Tappan Zee Bridge and jumped. Scott Douglas' body was found three months later by the river's edge in the Bronx, but he continued to wreak havoc at his stepdaughter's very core to her very last moment. "It was a lifetime of sadness," Petrillo's paternal aunt, Mary Jane Haggerty, said yesterday.

That Anne Scripps Douglas was heiress to the Scripps newspaper fortune did nothing to lessen the daughter's pain. But it did give Petrillo and her sister, Alexandra Morell, the opportunity to speak of the horrors of domestic violence. Petrillo told a TV interviewer of finding her mother crying that New Year's Eve in 1993: "I said, 'What's wrong, what's wrong?' And she told me that Scott had said the threats are over, something more has to be done, and so I said, 'Well, I'm not going to go out,' and she said, 'No, everything's fine.'" Petrillo, then 22, returned at 3:30 a.m. She knocked, but no lights came on and nobody came to the door. "I was very scared. I knew something was wrong because my mom sleeps in my bedroom and it's right over the door where I was pounding at for at least 20 minutes." The police arrived. Petrillo's mother was found on the bed in a pool of blood. Petrillo's 3-year-old half sister, Victoria, was also there. "She said she hid under the bed from daddy when he was calling her name and she said, 'Why did daddy hurt

mommy? Why does mommy look like a monster? Why does mommy have paint all over her face?" Petrillo told the interviewer.

The case became the subject of a 1997 TV movie, "Our Mother's Murder." With it came the hope that Anne Scripps Douglas' murder would save others from suffering the same fate. The movie was replayed on Tuesday. Petrillo was now 38 years old with a 13-year-old son. But she had been living a perpetual replay. She was still living in that shadow.

And Thursday she reached the point she could bear no more. If she had taken pills or leapt from some other high place, people might have imagined that her mother's death was only part of the cause, that perhaps she had personal troubles of her own or was grieving the death of her father four years ago or of her paternal uncle at the World Trade Center on 9/11. But she drove her BMW to the Tappan Zee Bridge and stopped where Scott Douglas stopped his BMW on that long-ago New Year's Day. She left a note. She stepped out of her clothes. Then she jumped. And, 15 years after he himself hit the water, Scott Douglas and domestic violence claimed another victim.

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/09/27/2009-09-27_domestic_violence_leads_to_yet_another_death.html

New Law Increases Penalty for Domestic Violence

There are many cases in which an abuser who assaults a victim receives only a ticket — even in some severe cases one where the victim suffers visible marks. "This is called a 'C-clamp,'" said Dallas police Sgt. Richard Santiesteban, showing a photo of one victim's injuries. "That's where the suspect grabs a victim by the throat. You can see fingers all along her throat." But on September 1, new law went into effect. If an abuser chokes a victim, it's a felony — and the potential penalty is now two to 20 years behind bars.

http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/crime/stories/wfaa090910_wz_choking.1692e085a.html#

International – News

Alan Johnson Will Tell Police to Stop Violent Men Returning to Their Homes

Violent husbands and partners will be banned from returning to their homes under powers to be unveiled today by the home secretary, Alan Johnson. The police will be able to immediately ban anyone arrested for domestic violence from returning to their family home and the immediate neighbourhood for up to 14 days. Ministers hope that the domestic violence protection orders – known as "go orders" - will give victims breathing space to consider their options. More than 200,000 people, mainly men, are arrested for domestic violence, with around 750,000 incidents reported to the police each year. The initiative will be accompanied by the announcement of a national victims service by the justice secretary, Jack Straw, designed to provide one-to-one care and support for the most vulnerable victims and match the close supervision of offenders by the probation service. Currently victims can receive immediate protection only if the police arrest and charge a perpetrator and appropriate bail conditions are set or a civil injunction is sought by the victim. The proposals would mean that police would be able to give evidence on the victims' behalf, using statements from other witnesses including neighbours, family and friends, relevant photographs or evidence of a previous pattern of offending by the perpetrator. The banning orders, which are modelled on schemes in Austria and Switzerland, will be piloted in two police areas to test their impact on the criminal justice system.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/sep/29/domestic-violence-alan-johnson-police>

Men Kill Children ‘To Hit at Wives’

Men kill their children to punish their wives for leaving the marriage, not because of custody problems, new research has shown. Author Carolyn Harris Johnson said fathers often became killers because “the can’t cope with the loss of control over their spouse”. “It’s usually not about custody or access,” said Harris Johnson, whose book about child murders, *Come With Daddy*, was launched yesterday by the Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, Michael Holden.

Harris Johnson examined the seven cases during the past 10 years in which children in Western Australia were murdered by a parent after separation and a custody dispute. Most of the victims were under the age of eight, and most of the killings occurred either in the first six weeks after the couple separated or around the 12-month mark.

“Familiicide doesn’t have anything to do with custody disputes,” she said. “It happens after a couple separates, but it has much more to do with the attitude of the male toward the wife and children, and his inability to accept his loss of control over them. “In almost all cases, there was a clear history of domestic violence and threats to kill.”

An average of 25 children a year are murdered by a parent nationwide. According to the Australian Institute of Criminology, fathers or stepfathers are responsible for 60 per cent of child homicides in families.

Julie Stewart, a researcher with the federally funded Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, told the conference that on average there were 129 domestic murders a year, most of them committed by men. She said two in every five murders in the 10 years to 2002 involved family members.

The conference continues today with a presentation by Australian National University academic Michael Flood on the growing influence of men's rights groups. "These groups claim domestic violence is gender-equal," Dr Flood said. "The research shows these claims are false. We need to reject myths pushed by fathers' rights groups as they try to change family law."

<http://www.ncdsv.org/images/Men%20Kill%20Children%20To%20Hit%20at%20Wives'.pdf>

Research

Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research: For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and Judges by US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice
<http://www.thelizlibrary.org/liz/DOJ.pdf>

Control Killings by Deborah Tuerkheimer
Texas Law Review, Vol. 87, pp. 117-124, 2009

Abstract:

A defendant on trial for murdering his intimate has forfeited his constitutional right to confront her as a witness, provided that, by taking her life, he intended to 'isolate the victim and to stop her from reporting abuse to the authorities or cooperating with a criminal prosecution.' This, the rule of forfeiture recently announced by the U.S. Supreme Court in *California v. Giles*, requires lower courts to consider the dynamics of battering when inferring the defendant's intent. However, current legal conceptualizations of domestic violence homicide are underdeveloped. This comment on Professor Tom Lininger's important contribution to a rich scholarly discourse treating the Confrontation Clause advances a conversation about what I call 'control killings.' My hope is that this conversation will penetrate the law and, in particular, inform judicial inquiries into the mens rea of the batterer who kills.