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Culture of violence spawns killings

By Susan Lenfestey

As I write this Domestic Violence Awareness Month is coming to an end. I'm always a bit leery of the things our nation decides to focus on for a day or a month. Seems to be an easy sop to the things we ignore the rest of the time. And for many of us, domestic violence is easy to ignore. It shouldn't be.

As Bob Herbert wrote in the New York Times (October 16), "The number of seriously battered wives and girlfriends is far beyond the ability of any agency to count. We're all implicated in this carnage because the relentless violence against women and girls is linked at its core to the wider society's casual willingness to dehumanize women and girls . . ." Herbert's op-ed details some of the culturally acceptable practices at play, everything from the violent porn and "snuff" videos easily available on the web to the more mainstream marketing practices such as the Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt for young women emblazoned with "Who needs a brain when you have these?" across the chest.

Gender-driven violence is pandemic. A recent study by the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) confirmed that violence against women by their intimate partners is a widespread phenomenon, ranging from the crowded cities of Japan to the remote highlands of Ethiopia.

"Violence by an intimate partner is a common experience worldwide," the authors wrote in a scientific and

comprehensive report compiled from interviews with thousands of women in ten far-ranging countries. "In all but one setting, women were at far greater risk of physical or sexual violence by a partner than from violence by other people." Furthermore, one-fifth to two-thirds of the women interviewed said they had never spoken of the abuse before, which is not surprising. It is widely known that most abuse is hidden behind a thick curtain of family privacy, or, in places where women are regarded as property—no more a crime than flogging a horse.

The assaults documented by the W.H.O. report ranged from moderate to severe, from slaps and blows to broken bones and rape, attacks which in most countries would be charged as a crime if committed by a stranger. But the shield of intimacy protects the abuser—a cruel perversion of the tenderness and safety we expect it to provide.

In the United States, which was not included in the W.H.O. study, national surveys by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that nearly 25 percent of women said that they had been physically or sexually assaulted by a spouse, partner or date. This puts the leaders of the free world about on a par with Serbia, but more violence-prone than Japan, (15 percent) and less than rural Ethiopia (71 percent).

The effect of such violence reaches far

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WHAT'S NEW

Farwell

WATCH bids a farewell to long-time interns Andrew Loge and Christina Davenport, both of whom made major commitments of time and energy to WATCH. We wish you luck in law school!

Welcome

We'd also like to welcome two new interns; Bobbie Williams and Daniel Morris. Williams is a senior at the University of Minnesota where she is pursuing an individualized Bachelors degree in African-American Studies, Mass Communications, and Political Science. In the past she has been an intern for the Tennessee State Legislature and a court researcher for the Judge Mathis Show. Morris is a senior at St. Thomas University where he is majoring in Business Law. In the past he has been a tutor and has volunteered for the Southwest Area Meals on Wheels. Welcome Bobbie and Dan!

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Making homicide a crime of enhancement in Minnesota

By Marna Anderson

The rash of domestic homicides in Minnesota has reawakened the public to the reality of domestic violence and the fear that thousands of women live with everyday. Minnesota is considered a national leader on domestic violence laws and advocacy services, yet signals that domestic violence may turn deadly are still routinely missed. Along with providing additional risk assessment tools for judges and law enforcement, two important changes to Minnesota's enhancement laws are needed. The first would add murder and manslaughter to the list of enhanceable crimes. The second would allow the period of enhancement for murder and manslaughter charges to begin on the prison release date, not the conviction date.

Currently, under Minnesota §609.2242, subdivision 4, a conviction of a "qualified domestic violence related offense" will enhance a new misdemeanor charge to a gross misdemeanor and a new gross misdemeanor charge to a felony if the new domestic abuse crime (as defined in §518B, the Domestic Abuse Act) occurs within 10 years of the date of conviction of the earlier offense.

Surprisingly, a conviction of murder or manslaughter does not enhance subsequent crimes of violence to greater charges. It is ironic that many crimes of violence committed against family or household members increase future charges, but the most violent act, the act of murder, does not. Each year in Hennepin County defendants who have proven their lethality with prior murder convictions do not face enhanced charges for committing subsequent domestic assaults.

In addition, many murder convictions result in lengthy prison sentences. If enhancements are based on ten years from conviction, and a defendant serves all that time in prison, the enhancement period for future crimes is effectively nullified. Changing the enhancement statute to include homicide convictions and a longer enhancement period could assist in preventing escalating violence.

The following two examples show why Minnesota needs to make murder and homicide convictions a means to enhance subsequent violent crimes.

Scott Eldon Haseltine

Scott Eldon Haseltine strangled his girlfriend to death in 1981 in Wisconsin. He served 10 years in a Wisconsin prison and was on parole until 2001. On January 4, 2006, he assaulted his then-girlfriend. He kicked her and hit her while she was driving and when she pulled over and got out of the car, he grabbed the phone out of her hand and put his hands around her neck to "escort her back into the car." He was

charged with one gross misdemeanor of interference with an emergency call and two misdemeanors (domestic assault in the fifth degree and open bottle in the car).

At the time of his arrest, law enforcement was aware of Haseltine's murder conviction, but did not believe that the current crimes met the standards for a felony strangulation charge. Haseltine was conditionally released without bail two days later. Immediately following his release, he violated the no contact order and was arrested and held on \$75,000 bail. Eventually the charges were amended to include a felony charge of terroristic threats. His bail was adjusted to \$500,000 and he remained in jail throughout his trial. The prior murder conviction was suppressed by Judge Stephen Swanson. The jury found the defendant guilty of the misdemeanor assault charge. By the time the trial concluded, Haseltine had already served the 90 day sentence and he was released.

Had Minnesota's enhancement act included homicide convictions, Haseltine could have been charged with a gross misdemeanor for the assault and a finding of guilt could have resulted in a sentence of up to one year.

Clemmie Howard Tucker, Jr.

On June 24, 2005, Angelina Garley was found shot to death in her car in Brooklyn Park. She had last been seen with Clemmie Howard Tucker, Jr. when they left the club where he worked as a bouncer and security guard. Tucker had a permit to carry a firearm and always had a gun with him at his job. He was charged with second degree murder and the trial was set to start in early March 2006. Tucker pleaded guilty to the charge in April and Judge Kathryn Quaintance sentenced him to 225 months in prison, an upward departure from the sentencing guidelines. With credit for good time, he will be in his mid-forties when he gets out of prison. With no other convictions, the only means of enhancing subsequent acts of violence Tucker may commit would be a change in the statute making murder a crime that can enhance subsequent assaults.

Both of these defendants are convicted murderers with a propensity for domestic violence. It is possible that they will return to society after their latest period of incarceration and refrain from committing further acts of violence. Based on their criminal histories, however, this is unlikely. When a person has already shown that he is capable of using enough violence to kill someone, all subsequent acts of violence, even at the misdemeanor level, should be taken extremely seriously. Under the current enhancement law, a new domestic assault is taken more seriously if the perpetrator has been convicted of a past domestic assault, misdemeanor

A Legacy of Violence

By Dawn Dougherty, Court Monitoring Coordinator

The following chronology was first suggested to WATCH by criminal justice personnel concerned about a second generation of male family violence wending its way through the Hennepin County courts. The chronology starts with Theodore Bobo, Sr., a batterer whose three young children witnessed his abusive behavior towards their mother, NH, on many occasions. In a well-publicized incident, police killed Bobo, Sr., as he held a knife to the throat of NH, his ex-girlfriend, threatening to kill her.

The lives of the children, whose earliest memories are likely of Bobo, Sr.'s domestic abuse, continued to be marked with violence long after his death. NH soon married a man with a significant and sometimes violent criminal history. After that marriage ended, NH became a victim of domestic abuse once again in a relationship where she and her children endured scenes reminiscent of the one above. The chronology ends with the fate of two of the Bobo children today, who are following in the violent footsteps of their father, stepfather, and mother's ex-boyfriend.

June 28, 1990

*Hennepin County SIP, case # 90048543
Minneapolis police report*

Police were called to the scene of a group of men beating a woman who was six months pregnant. Theodore Bobo, Sr., 23, was arrested and charged with fifth-degree assault for pushing the woman, SE, to the ground. Their relationship to each other is unknown. Bobo, Sr. pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct before Judge Thomas Wexler, who sentenced him to 30 days at the adult correctional facility with 30 days stayed for one year. Claire Cole was the prosecutor. Richard Trachy was the defense attorney.

February 19, 1991

*Hennepin County SIP, case # 91012752
Minneapolis police report*

Bobo, Sr. was arrested and charged with misdemeanor domestic assault. When NH, 21, attempted to pick up their children from him, a fight ensued. Bobo, Sr. slapped NH, knocking her to the ground. He proceeded to strangle her by grabbing her jacket and twisting the collar. He then ordered her to get up, and as she did, he slammed her against the wall and slapped her several more times. NH fled the residence and called the police.

Bobo, Sr. pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Judge George Adzick to 30 days at the adult correctional facility with 30 days stayed for one year. He was also ordered to attend domestic abuse counseling and to follow the recommendations of probation. He was allowed third party contact with NH to arrange for visitation with the children. Karen Herland was the prosecutor. Pat Nevin was the defense attorney.

June 23, 1991

Hennepin County SIP, case # 91044650
Bobo, Sr. was arrested and charged with a gross misdemeanor possession of a handgun without a permit, misdemeanor providing false information to the police, and misdemeanor violation of city weapons ordinances. He pleaded guilty to the weapons ordinance charge, and the other charges were dropped. Judge Steven Lange ordered a stay of imposition of the sentence with no same or similar offenses. Clair Cole was the prosecutor. Liz Hughes was the defense attorney.

October 29, 1991

*Hennepin County SIP, case # 91080037
Minneapolis 911 tape
Star Tribune*

Bobo, Sr. went to NH's house on his 24th birthday and a fight ensued. He threatened to kill NH, grabbed her by the throat, and hit her in the face. NH called 911, but Bobo, Sr. interrupted the call before she had a chance to finish the conversation. The phone line was kept open as the assault continued. NH and the children are heard screaming and

crying in the background. Bobo is heard stating, "I'll tell you what, we're all gonna die together." NH fled the home and ran to the police station. The police report later confirmed that the children witnessed the entire attack, including Bobo, Sr. holding a gun to NH's head. When police arrived, Bobo, Sr. was leaving the apartment with a gun in his hand. After a 50-minute standoff, he surrendered the gun and told police that it wasn't loaded and didn't work. Police later determined that the weapon was both loaded and fully operable.

Bobo, Sr. was arrested and pleaded guilty to two gross misdemeanors: carrying a pistol without a permit and fifth-degree assault. Judge William Poston sentenced him to 365 days at the adult correctional facility with 365 days stayed for two years and revoked 30 days for violating the terms of probation in each of the June 1990 and February 1991 cases. He ordered the time to be served concurrently. Judith Cole was the prosecutor. Carol Batsell was the defense attorney.

November 4, 1991

Hennepin County Family Court records
NH petitioned for an order for protection against Bobo, Sr. The case was dismissed on November 14, 1991, when NH failed to attend the hearing.

February 9, 1992

*Hennepin County SIP
Star Tribune
City Pages*

Bobo, Sr., broke into NH's home where she was sleeping with her new boyfriend, Johnny Earl Edwards. Also in the home were NH's cousin, the cousin's boyfriend, and their baby. Reports do not state where the Bobo children were at the time. Bobo, Sr. pulled NH into a bedroom, where he held her between his legs, brandishing a knife. Witnesses heard him threatening to kill her. Police officers arrived on the scene and stood in the doorway to the bedroom.

Volunteer Notes

- ☐ All the prospective jurors in the trial of an African-American defendant were white.

- ☐ Time, once again, was the most significant issue in monitoring appearances today. The judge was an hour late to his chambers, so his 8:30 a.m. cases were still being heard at 10:30 a.m.

- ☐ The defense attorney dismissed the interpreter as soon as the arraignment was over. She said she would “talk slowly” with the defendant about the proceeding.

- ☐ In domestic violence court, the defendant represented himself, so he was given a copy of the police report. It mistakenly listed the victim’s address instead of the address at which the assault took place, so the defendant has information about her that should have been confidential.

- ☐ I attended a sentencing hearing for a 16-year old being tried as an adult on charges of sexually assaulting a three - and - a - half - year - old girl. The defendant’s mother was continually leaning over and trying to see my paperwork, which I had covered with a book. She also made loud comments wondering how I got her son’s paperwork when, “I can’t even see it.” She didn’t ask me anything directly, so I started reading a book while waiting. One of her children offered to ask me, but she said she would ask the defense attorney. Then she muttered something about trying to “snatch the book out of my hand.” For the first time, I began to feel afraid in court.

- ☐ The interpreter went downstairs to get the defendant, who was apparently lost. He also sat in the gallery and chatted with him. Is that inappropriate?

- ☐ Before court was called into session, one of the public defenders said she was heading to the jail, “to see my lovely ladies.” A woman in the gallery whose brother is in custody told her companion, “She shouldn’t say that kind of stuff. There are people in this room.”

- ☐ When sentencing a defendant [on both felony and misdemeanor domestic assault charges], the judge told him to, “Wake up and smell the coffee.” This statement didn’t seem very effective considering the seriousness of the crimes.

- ☐ I was impressed by the victim advocate. She was very professional and informative.

- ☐ I arrived at felony arraignment court a few minutes before the scheduled 1:30 p.m. start time. About 15 people were waiting outside because the courtroom was full. A half hour later, more than 30 people (who I learned had come for the first hearing, which was a murder arraignment) left the courtroom, and the rest of us were allowed to enter. No one came out to explain what was going on, and a lot of people were worried about missing their hearings.

- ☐ There was a plea agreement for the sexual assault charges and the defendant agreed to no contact with his 15-year-old daughter, who is the victim in the case. The judge went beyond this to prohibit contact with the victim’s half sister, whom the father also sexually abused. The judge also ordered the defendant to have no contact with other minors. I was moved by the judge taking the other sister’s safety into account, since there is a long history of incest in this family.

- ☐ The judge took the children’s interests into account in setting bail in one case, even though the mother said she was not afraid of him and wanted the charges dropped.

Making homicide a crime of enhancement in Minnesota continued from page 2

or greater, than if he has been convicted of a past murder. Changing the law to rectify this inconsistency would provide a valuable tool for prosecutors as they attempt to hold repeat violent offenders accountable. At the suggestion of WATCH and Ramsey County prosecutor Jean Schleh, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and their membership has made this change a priority in the 2007 Minnesota legislative session. It is a change that battered women deserve. It is a change that could save lives.

Statement from the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women on the O.J. Simpson Book and Television Special

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is pleased to hear that News Corp., the owner of FOX Broadcasting and ReganBooks, has cancelled the publication of O.J. Simpson's "If I Did It" and its corresponding TV special. We thank News Corp. for listening to the voices of battered women and their families and all the concerned citizens who spoke up. We also are grateful that they are not subjecting the Brown and Goldman families to further trauma.

By withdrawing their support, News Corp. has recognized that domestic violence has no place in our homes or our communities.

We applaud the booksellers, the local FOX affiliates, and other television networks who chose not to profit from the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman.

Domestic violence has an impact on every person in Minnesota. We hope this unfortunate incident will make every citizen aware that the time is now to work together to promote justice, provide safety and prevent future harm to all battered women and children.

November 25-December 10 16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence

Information in this article is taken from the Center for Global Leadership website.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership of Rutgers University in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- Strengthening local work around violence against women.
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women.
- Providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies.
- Demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women.

- Creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women.

Since 1991, approximately 1,700 organizations in 130 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign.

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault is keeping local organizations informed through their listserv and is honoring some of the many women who have fought for a better world, free of gender - based violence. For more information about the campaign or to get involved, go to the Center for Women's Global Leadership website at www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days.

The Mirabal Sisters

November 25, the first day of the 16 Days Campaign marks the day that the Mirabal Sisters were murdered by their government in the Dominican Republic for speaking out against a corrupt government.

Patria Mercedes Mirabal, Minerva Argentina Mirabal, and Antonia Maria Teresa Mirabal grew up in the Dominican Republic and were fervently opposed to the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, who ruled the Dominican Republic from 1930-1961. The sisters formed a group opposing Trujillo, for which they were arrested and tortured several times by the government. Finally, on November 25, 1960, Trujillo ordered his men to intercept the sisters on their way back from visiting their husbands in jail. They were beaten and strangled in a sugarcane field. The deaths of the Mirabal sisters caused a general public outrage in their native country. The publicity of the deaths caused the Dominican public to become more interested in the Mirabal sisters and their cause. This public support and awareness contributed to Trujillo's assassination six months later in 1961.

The surviving sister, Dede, lives near

Chronology Update:

Charles Edward Kennedy

WATCH published a chronology of domestic abuser and convicted sex offender Charles Edward Kennedy in the spring 2005 WATCH Post. This article summarizes his most recent involvement with the justice system.

Kennedy's criminal history includes 20 years of escalating domestic violence and sexual assaults against at least 13 women and children. Kennedy's intimidation of his victims was relentless, contacting and threatening them from jail, kidnapping one from her bus stop, and physically and sexually assaulting his victim's children. In 1995, Kennedy raped the 13-year-old daughter of his girlfriend as the child slept in her room with her baby half-brother, Kennedy's biological son. While out on bail for that case, Kennedy sexually assaulted the same girl again. During the trial, prosecutors brought into evidence the 1991 rape of another girlfriend's 14-year-old daughter.

As a registered sex offender Kennedy is required to keep his current address on file with county probation. At an appointment with his probation officer on July 13, 2006, Kennedy completed a change of information card updating his address. On August 30, officers paid a visit to the address to verify that Kennedy lived there and found that he did not.

Kennedy was arrested for the violation, and Judge Patricia Belois set bail at \$25,000. At his first appearance before Judge John McShane, Kennedy, who is remarried to a woman with children, said that he was living with his father since he knew he couldn't live with his wife. He also told Judge McShane that he intends to go to sex offender treatment, something he has not yet done although it is a condition of his probation. Judge McShane reduced bail to \$5,000 stating, "Mr. Kennedy, I'm taking a big chance on you, partner. If anything happens between now and

the next appearance, you'll be in deep weeds."

In defiance of the judge's warning, Kennedy was arrested on November 26, 2006, and charged with misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. Bail was set and at the time of this writing, Kennedy remains in custody.

Kennedy continues to use the system and its players to his advantage and without consequence. We hope that he gets no more second chances or lectures on life in the "weeds".

Culture of violence continued from page 1

beyond the walls of home, even if the telling never does. Children who grow up in the withering climate of domestic violence are more likely to develop social, emotional, psychological and/or behavioral problems than those who do not.

The damage doesn't stop with the children. The cost in dollars (now we're talking) is huge. The annual cost in lost productivity due to domestic violence in the United States is estimated at \$727.8 million with more than 7.9 million paid workdays lost per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The health bills are equally staggering. The cost of intimate partner violence is estimated to exceed \$5.8 billion each year in care for immediate injuries. That does not include the costs of ongoing health problems such as chronic neck or back pain, migraines or ulcers, which are only now coming to light as directly related to a life lived in fear and fraught with violence.

In Minnesota, the recent murders of Teri Lee, who had repeatedly contacted police in the weeks before her death, and of Rachel Kastner, also killed (by her husband) in front of her children,

make headlines and leave us shaken and angry. Yet the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women has documented 15 other murders of women by their intimate partners (two more were murdered by their sons) in Minnesota so far in 2006, and most of them go unnoticed. If there is a bias against women deeply ingrained in our culture, as Bob Herbert writes, the bias against poor women and women of color runs even deeper. We rarely read of their tragic deaths anywhere but on the obituary page.

WATCH continues to address a small part of this pandemic with our mission to make the criminal justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence, particularly against women and children. Our focus is on the courts, but holding the justice system solely accountable for protecting women from violence, while the abuse and degradation of women is tolerated and even promoted world-wide, is like feeding children a daily diet of toxic food and relying on the medical system to handle the resulting illness. (Which is pretty much what we do in America, but that's another story.)

This I know. It's going to take far more than one month of awareness to turn our culture away from its deadly habits which leave children motherless and forever wounded, and women like Teri Lee and thousands of others, forever dead.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Thumbs up to the Los Angeles Superior Court for removing Bruce R. Fink from the list of attorneys used as substitute judges for the county. During a restraining order hearing involving a petitioner without legal residency in the U.S., Fink warned the petitioner that he was going to count to 20, and if she hadn't left the court by the time he was finished, "she gets arrested and goes to Mexico." That someone with such an alarming ignorance of federal immigration law and VAWA provisions for immigrant battered women came to be on the court's list in the first place warrants a thumbs down.



Thumbs down to Block E for allowing Hooters, notorious for its trademark micro-mini server uniforms, to take up residence in the complex last summer. The entertainment and retail center was built with \$38.5 million from the city and was initially sold as a "family-friendly" spot.

Sue Bonin, Block E property management, describes Hooters as a "neighborhood restaurant" with a "history of giving back to its community." Looking for some examples, we went to the corporate website, where we discovered that despite a male-dominated upper management and board of directors, Hooters claims to support the women's movement! "To Hooters, the women's rights movement is important because it guarantees women have the right to choose their own careers, be it a Supreme Court Justice or Hooters Girl." Guaranteed the right to work semi-nude for low wages? Doesn't sound like women's rights to us. Waitressing at Hooters as a "career"? We'd love to see a Hooters Boy defend that statement before Sandra Day O'Connor or Ruth Bader Ginsberg.



Thumbs up to the Hennepin County District Court clerk's office for instituting a new courtroom procedure following the publication of WATCH's latest domestic violence court report. At a recent domestic violence court steering committee meeting, the clerk's office announced it had developed a script that the clerk reads aloud before court explaining the following: what time proceedings start, how the calendar operates, how to obtain a copy of your rights, where to apply for a public defender, the rules governing no contact orders in the courtroom, who to speak to if you fear for your safety, information about interpreter services, and that proceedings are recorded. Bravo to the clerk's office for taking this simple and effective step towards clarifying the court process for all concerned.



Thumbs down to the intransigence of sex discrimination in employment, which continues to limit opportunities for millions of women across the country. Economic reports list the leading occupations for women in the U. S. today as secretary and administrative assistant—the same as in 1950. When women, despite higher postsecondary graduation rates than men, are only 1% of Fortune 500 CEOs and 29% of tenured university faculty, Hooters' claim that we could just as well be Supreme Court Justices as waitresses isn't just ludicrous, it's insulting.



Thumbs up to King County (Seattle, Washington) officials for developing a firearm forfeiture program with teeth for domestic abusers. According to Andy Klein in the August 2006 Domestic Violence Prevention newsletter, when a protective order is served or a judge orders firearm removal after a domestic violence conviction, the status of weapons is tracked in an automated database. If deputies don't collect guns on the scene and owners don't voluntarily surrender them when required to do so, defendants are promptly arrested and prosecuted. The court found that when firearms were removed from defendants, those defendants who were subsequently re-arrested for assaults did not possess new firearms. Firearm removal is an important first step in making life safer for victims of domestic abuse, and WATCH applauds

Bobo, Sr. asked NH if she preferred her new boyfriend to him. She said, "Yes," and he hit her again. Bobo, Sr. was poised to stab NH in the throat when police fired and killed him. Bobo, Sr. was 24 years old at the time. The Bobo children, two boys and a girl, were three, four, and five years old.

1992-1999

Hennepin County Family Court records
Hennepin County SIP
City Pages

Following the death of Bobo, Sr., NH married Edwards, 23, and became NE. Edwards became stepfather to the Bobo children. The date of their marriage is not available. Edwards was intermittently a paid, and controversial, informant for the Hennepin County Attorney's office. In 1993, Edwards had his leg shot off by a man known to have also shot Theodore Bobo, Sr. Starting in 1997, Edwards was the subject of more than a dozen City Pages stories related to his informant status. Hennepin County records show 59 entries for him. His alleged crimes include reckless driving, possession of a controlled substance, loitering with the intent to sell narcotics, fifth-degree drug possession, disorderly conduct, and attempted murder. Although NH's marriage to Edwards ended in divorce in 1999, Edwards remains close to the Bobo children.

February 1998

Hennepin County Family Court records
NE began dating Robert Vashon Felix. The two moved in together.

January 29, 1999

Hennepin County SIP, case # 99005756

Edwards was arrested and charged with second-degree attempted murder, two counts of first-degree felony assault, and aggravated robbery. The charges stemmed from an August 1997 incident in which Edwards and another individual robbed a home and shot one of the residents.

Edwards pleaded guilty to first-degree

felony assault and aggravated robbery, and the other charges were dropped. Judge Kevin Burke sentenced him to 86 months in prison with credit for 112 days served. He was not eligible for work release. SIP notes that a letter was to be sent to the Department of Corrections regarding the defendant's safety while serving time in prison. Richard Hodson was the prosecutor. Manley Zimmerman was the defense attorney.

The Bobo children were ten, eleven, and twelve years old at the time.

October 20, 1999

Hennepin County Family Court records
While NE and Felix were still together, Felix's ex-girlfriend requested and was granted an order for protection against Felix. According to court records, Felix threatened to kill the victim, OH, and steal their 14-month-old son. Felix also threatened to kill OH if she ever filed for child support and told her that he took a "hit" out on her.

April 25, 2002

Hennepin County Family Court records
NE and Felix ended their relationship. NE gave Felix a ride to her home so he could pick up his things. A fight ensued in the car, and Felix threatened to bash NE's head into the dashboard. At the house, Felix retrieved his clothes and demanded a ride to his brother's house. NE refused, and Felix became enraged. He threatened NE, slammed his bag of clothes on the table, tore the phone cord out of the wall, and punched NE in the face. One of NE's teenaged sons attempted to intervene as her daughter ran next door for help. Felix fled the scene.

May 20, 2002

Hennepin County Family Court records
Felix called NE throughout the day to threaten her. He told her he was going to kill her and "beat her until no one would want her." He also said, "Tell the police if you want. It's going to be another 'Ted' [referring to Bobo, Sr.] situation." He threatened to stalk her until he caught her and stated that the longer she waited

to see him, the worse she would make it for herself.

June 15, 2002

Hennepin County SIP, case # 02047704
Minneapolis police report
NE received a phone call at work from Felix. He told her he was in her home waiting to kill her. NE contacted police and met them at her house. Police found Felix barricaded behind a cement wall in the basement under a sleeping bag. NE's daughter was listed as a witness. NE told police that Felix had recently "fractured her nose" and that she was scared for her life and the lives of her children. Later medical reports showed that her nose was bruised and swollen, but not broken.

Felix was arrested and charged with fifth-degree assault against NE. Judge Diana Eagon set bail at \$1200 and ordered Felix to have no contact with NE. Felix met bail and was conditionally released. Kathy Rygh was the prosecutor. Felix was his own defense attorney.

June 16, 2002

Hennepin County SIP, case # 02052522
Minneapolis police report
NE returned to her home early Sunday morning. Felix, released just hours earlier, jumped out from behind the bushes in front of her house, grabbed her arm, and covered her mouth so she couldn't yell for help. He pulled her to the ground and kicked her in the left eye. NE's daughter and cousin heard the commotion and went to the front yard. They yelled at Felix to leave. Felix grabbed NE's keys and ran away. NE later told police that she was never notified of Felix's release.

Felix was arrested on three counts of fifth-degree assault, misdemeanor violation of an order for protection, and disorderly conduct. Judge Isabel Gomez set bail at \$1200 with conditions or \$6000 without conditions. The charges were continued with the previous case. Kathy Rygh was the prosecutor. Felix was his own defense attorney.

June 20, 2002

Hennepin County Family Court records NE requested an order for protection against Frelix.

July 10, 2002

Hennepin County SIP, case # 02047704 Frelix pleaded guilty to fifth-degree assault stemming from the June 15th incident, and the June 16th charges were dismissed on motion of the prosecutor. Judge Marilyn Brown Rosenbaum sentenced Frelix to 90 days at the adult correctional facility with 80 days stayed for one year and credit for 10 days already served. Kathy Rygh was the prosecutor. Frelix was his own defense attorney.

July 11, 2002

Hennepin County Family Court records NE did not attend the order for protection hearing, and the case was dismissed.

January 23, 2003

Hennepin County SIP, case # 03005401 Theodore Bobo, Jr. was arrested and charged with two counts of felony prohibited person in possession of a firearm. According to the felony complaint, Referee Donna Falk adjudicated Bobo, Jr., now 17, delinquent in October 2000 for felony terroristic threats and ordered him not to possess firearms. Bobo, Jr. was certified as an adult on the new weapons charge.

Bobo, Jr. pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Judge Tanya Bransford. On count one, he received 60 months in prison with 60 months stayed for 10 years and 365 days in the workhouse. On count two, he received 365 days in the workhouse stayed for five years. Judge Bransford also ordered him to attend anger management, obtain a GED or high school diploma, obtain full-time employment, undergo therapy/mental health treatment, and have no new drug-related offenses. Therese Galatowitsch was the prosecutor. Paula Brummel was the defense attorney.

December 12, 2003

Hennepin County SIP, case # 03090206 Bobo, Jr. allegedly violated his probation with a new weapons charge. All counts were dismissed by motion of the prosecutor. Tanya Bransford was the judge. Terese Galatowitsch was the prosecutor. Paula Brummel was the defense attorney.

May 23, 2006

Hennepin County SIP, case # 06039972 and case # 06039968

Theodore Bobo, Jr., now 20, and his brother Deaunteze Bobo, 18, were arrested and charged with felony kidnapping. The defendants, along with their stepfather, Johnny Earl Edwards, kidnapped victim RD in front of his home. RD was known to sell drugs, and the defendants demanded RD take them to where he kept his money. RD refused, so they took him to Edwards' house, where Deaunteze stabbed RD in the arm. RD eventually escaped and reported the incident to police. The defendants were apprehended and charged on June 16th. They are currently in custody awaiting trial.

June 14, 2006

Hennepin County SIP, case #06062387 Deaunteze Bobo was charged with second-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of male victim JR. On June 2, 2006, Deaunteze Bobo and co-defendant LS were identified in a drive by shooting outside of Stand Up Frank's Bar. JR and another victim, RN, were sitting outside of the bar in their car when Bobo and LS allegedly shot and killed JR and wounded RN. Bail was ordered at \$750,000. Steven Swanson was the judge. Hilary Caligiuri was the prosecutor. John Ryan was the defense attorney. Deaunteze Bobo is currently in custody awaiting trial.

Conclusion

The young Bobo children experienced a most terrifying brand of violence at the hands of their father. It is unclear just how much or what kind of violence the children witnessed during their mother's marriage to Edwards, but the most re-

cent case suggests that their education in violence and lawlessness continued unabated. Once NE and Edwards parted ways, Frelix picked up where Bobo, Sr., left off, subjecting the family to yet another wave of domestic abuse. This chronic violence has most certainly had a lasting impact on all of their lives. Juvenile records are sealed, so we are unable to ascertain juvenile offense histories, but we catch a glimpse of at least one history with Bobo, Jr.

We also don't know what, if any, support services were made available to the children, whether they were able to take advantage of them, if the services were culturally appropriate, and if they were beneficial. What we know for sure is that immediately after becoming adults, the Bobo males began their involvement with the adult criminal system, and sadly, it is alongside their stepfather. With the death of their violent father 15 years ago, the odds were stacked against the Bobo children. It looks as if they and society are still paying the price for this legacy of violence.

National Expansion Underway

WATCH strives to ensure that court monitoring is recognized as a critical component of an effective justice system, and that court monitoring projects across the country are well-connected to other programs dedicated to the same goals. Towards that end we are currently working on a variety of national expansion projects to connect programs from around the country (and around the world) with WATCH and one another.

This winter, WATCH will launch **Court Watch Connection**, a web-based e-newsletter designed to assist programs around the country in developing and sustaining successful court monitoring projects. This bi-monthly newsletter will cover a variety of topics such as designing research projects, creating training materials and curricula, identifying funding resources, developing volunteer training, and conducting outreach strategies. Initial response to **Court Watch Connection** has been overwhelmingly positive:

I'm very happy to learn that WATCH has taken the lead in this development project. I have managed my court monitoring project for seven years and I have always tried to stay connected to and informed of the work of other court monitoring projects. WATCH's service will be an informative and time-saving tool for our program (Tulsa, Oklahoma).

Yes, include us in your newsletter. We used to be very active, but due to various factors, including hurricane Katrina, we have been dormant. Good hearing from you! (New Orleans, Louisiana).

Programs from Alaska to Florida have signed on and we look forward to launching the first newsletter in the weeks to come. In addition to **Court Watch Connection**, WATCH will bring programs together for training opportunities using "webinar" technology. This training format, which utilizes a combination of phone and internet technolo-

gies, will allow us to bring training to a larger audience as well as to monitoring programs that are unable to afford on-site training. Participants will both call - in and log- on for these interactive trainings covering a variety of topics related to court monitoring.

WATCH is also very excited to have revised our manual, **Developing a Court Monitoring Program**, which will be available in November 2006. This new and updated version of the WATCH manual includes hundreds of pages of resource materials and information as well as insights from programs around the country. Included in the manual is a CD with sample PowerPoint presentations for training and meeting facilitation and sample monitoring forms that programs can adapt to their needs. The manual is an excellent resource, chock full of ideas for both new and established programs.

The final stage of our national expansion work includes the establishment of the National Association of Court Monitoring Programs. We are in the beginning stages of this process and are heartened by the response we have received from programs around the country. Court monitoring programs are eager for a forum to share ideas and, through our national organizing efforts, WATCH hopes to serve as a catalyst for better coordination, training and funding of vital monitoring services.

As we have since our inception, WATCH continues to work one-on-one with programs in need of assistance. In the past two months, we have shared information with groups in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Texas. Additionally, this September, WATCH presented findings of its targeted research projects and the impact they have had on the justice system at the Coalition Attorneys and Advocates Network (CAAN) Conference. This group is made up of attorneys and policy workers of battered

women's state coalitions from around the country.

It is an exciting and vibrant time at WATCH as we turn our focus to the national landscape. We look forward to our continued collaborations with programs from around the country and would love to receive your feedback and ideas about our efforts.

If you are a court monitoring program (whether fledgling or established) interested in receiving **Court Watch Connection** or a copy of **Developing a Court Monitoring Program**, please contact us at watch@watchmn.org.

their second home, which is where the sisters were buried. The home has been turned into a museum to honor the sisters and their fight against Trujillo. One of Dede's sons, Jaime David Fernandez Mirabal, served as the vice-president during Leonel Fernández's first term as president of the republic between the years of 1996 and 2000. Minou Tavarez Mirabal, the eldest daughter of Minerva Mirabal has served as a Congresswoman since 1998 and was recently reelected for another four-year term.

Today we honor the Mirabal sisters and celebrate their commitment to social justice. We can do this by continuing to educate our communities about violence against women. The more people we have committed to this fight, the better chance we have of winning.

The Grimke Sisters

Sarah and Angelina Grimke were the first women in the United States to publicly argue for the abolition of slavery. In 1836 Angelina wrote a lengthy address urging all women to actively work to free blacks. The sisters' lectures elicited violent criticism because it was considered altogether improper for women to speak out on political issues.

This made them acutely aware of their own oppression as women, which they soon began to address along with abolitionism. A severe split developed in the abolition movement, with some antislavery people arguing that it was the "Negro's hour and women would have to wait." The Grimkes refused to accept this idea, insisting on the importance of equality for both women and blacks.

Sarah became a major theoretician of the women's rights movement, challenging all the conventional beliefs about a woman's place. As to men, she demanded: "All I ask of our brethren is that they will take their feet from off our

necks."

Sarah and Angelina understood the intersection of racism and sexism and worked hard to fight against both. While we have a long road ahead of us in the fight for both gender equity and the eradication of racism, we should take a moment to celebrate how far we have come. Women like Sarah and Angelina paved the way.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins was the first Native American woman to secure a copyright and publish in English. Sarah published a book in 1883 called *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* which is an autobiographical account of her people and their first 40 years of contact with explorers and settlers. The book details the hardships and violence that Northern Piute Indian people faced at the hands of White settlers. Sarah traveled extensively to speak out about her book and the struggles of Indian people. She opened a school for Indian children to promote the Indian lifestyle and language. The school was closed in 1887 because of the Dawes Severalty Act, which required Indian children to attend English-speaking boarding schools.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins died in 1891. She used her writing skills and powerful voice to bring to light the violence that Indian people faced due to colonization, forced removal and the loss of their land and resources.

WATCH volunteer and board members honored

Joan C. Peterson, WATCH board member and former member of the Hennepin County Fatality Review Team, was appointed to the Gender Fairness Implementation Committee of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Prior to her current employment with Qwest, Joan served as a public defender in Hennepin County, worked for the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, and for three years led the Criminal Division of the Minneapolis City Attorney's office.

WATCH board member Diana Harvey was recently named Assistant Dean for External Relations at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where she has worked for the last four years. During her time at the School, Diana has overseen the expansion of the School's "Advancement" team which handles communications, public affairs, fundraising, and alumni relations. In her new role she will help coordinate the School's global health education and research collaborations currently being undertaken in India and Hong Kong.

Toni Decker, a paralegal with the firm of Kennedy & Graven, has been a WATCH volunteer for more than five years. At the Minnesota Paralegal Association's (MPA) fall gathering on October 25, 2006, she was awarded the GMAC-RFC Pro Bono Community Service Award. The award, created to recognize and inspire MPA members to donate time in their communities, was sponsored by Sharon Sayles Belton, who also addressed the convention.

Toni was presented with a certificate of recognition, and a \$250 donation will be made to WATCH in her name. In addition to donating time to WATCH, Toni has volunteered with KIDS VOTE.

WATCH

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Annual gift to WATCH

As you think about your year-end giving, please consider making a donation to WATCH. Nearly half our budget comes from individuals, and we count on you to make our work possible. In the past two years, WATCH has increased our budget to promote the WATCH model nationally and to provide leadership and technical assistance to other court monitoring groups. We have been doing this while continuing to have a strong presence in Hennepin County and releasing ground-breaking studies that have resulted in improvements for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

To continue with these important efforts requires sustained community support. Since 2004, we have increased our foundation revenue by 58% and we need to increase donations from individuals as well. If you haven't given in the past, we hope you will consider making a gift this year. If you are already a supporter, we thank you

and ask that you consider making a multi-year pledge to help us expand our efforts.

Most importantly, spread the word about what WATCH is doing to improve the justice system. Donations can be sent to the WATCH office, made on-line at www.watchmn.org, or call us at 612-341-2747 to contribute securities or discuss bequests. You can also honor a friend or family member with a gift in their name.

Volunteer Training

If you want to help to improve the administration of justice in Hennepin County, WATCH wants you as a volunteer. The next volunteer training is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2007, in Minneapolis. For more information, please contact Shahidah Maayif at 612-341-2747, ext. 2 or smaayif@watchmn.org or visit our website at www.watchmn.org.

WATCH Post available by email

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Some WATCH Post readers have requested a paperless copy, and we plan to make the newsletter available via email to anyone who wishes. Please email us at watch@watchmn.org to request this service. If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter via email, please let them know this option is now available. Thank you.

Thank You

WATCH would like to thank the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Josh Fulwider for providing our volunteers, staff, and interns with tours of the Public Safety Facility. We appreciate it!

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