Vol. 14, No. 1 Spring-Summer 2000 $1.95

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The Magazine for Columbia and Montour Counties

A New Direction

A Bloomsburg director takes her final bow

Inside: What makes a clockmaker tick?

Columbia County witches: casting away misconceptions

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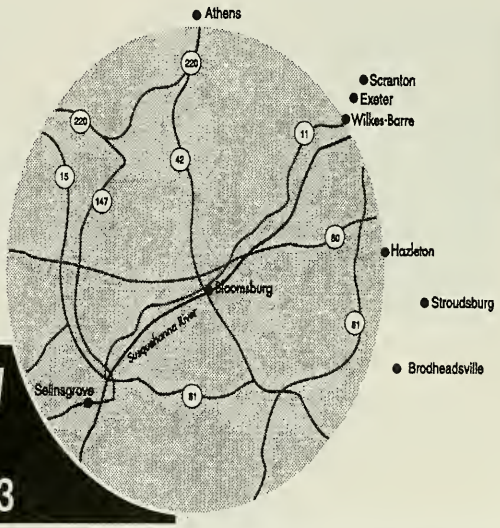

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Spectrum

Vol. 14 / No. 1
Spring-Summer 2000

FEATURES

COVER 20

a new direction

DeAnne Casteel, Brian Horn, and "Grease" 2000 cast by MaryJayne Reibsome

Behind the Lines

When the *Spectrum* staff plans each issue, it tries to write articles that convey a continuous theme. This issue's teaching theme appeared during page layout after all the stories were submitted.

The cover story, "A New Direction" is about Bloomsburg High School drama teacher DeAnne Casteel, who directed her final play April 1. The article contains photographs of plays and comments from students she taught during her 25-year career.

Another story tells why someone with a teaching degree chose to become an artframer. He shares some of the techniques he uses to enhance artwork.

Two other stories separate fact from fiction concerning an alternative religion and medical practices. "The Healing Touch" discusses how holistic methods and physical therapy compares to traditional medical procedures. "Witch Way to Heaven" dispels inaccurate folklore affiliated with witchcraft. Local Wiccans explain the foundation of Wicca and point out the similarities between it and other religions.

More lessons can be learned from the Ramseys, who are Native Americans from Northumberland. Dana operates a trading post where she buys, sells, and trades goods, while her husband, David, teaches craftsmanship that was used during the colonial era.

If you are a new *Spectrum* reader, take a look at last issue's cover story "Capturing the Thunder" on the web.

~ *Spectrum* staff

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Spectrum Magazine
Vol. 14, No. 1 Spring-Summer 2000

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THE HAPPENING PLACE

BY SUSAN GEISE

On the side door of 419 Main Street in Watsontown is a wooden plaque that reads, "The Happening Place." The title is most appropriate because the owners of the large double house are three young adults with mental challenges who are on the cutting edge of the Self-Determination Project in Northumberland County.

The Self-Determination Project is part of a national movement to give people with mental challenges control over their lives. The guiding principle of self-determination is that everyone has the right to choose how and where they live their lives and with whom.

The owners of The Happening Place—Max Allen, Sherri Cole, and Mark Reeves—have chosen to live with each other in Watsontown, close to their families. Max, 30, a slightly built young man with brown hair, glasses, and a twinkle in his eye, is the sports fan of the trio, even though cerebral palsy limits his athletic abilities. His favorite sport is wrestling.

Mark, 32, also with brown hair but heavier than Max, is more reserved and has an ear for music. He has a collection of musicals stashed in his room for entertainment and also enjoys bowling and eating. Like many young adults who move out on their own, Mark has added a few pounds.

Perhaps he just enjoys Sherri's baking, but he and Sherri can probably blame their tendency to gain weight, one of the characteristics of Downs Syndrome. Sherri, 31, is an outgoing woman with short dark brown hair who loves to swim. She assumes the role of housemother, making sure their lunch boxes are supplied with home baked goodies. Bonnie Garceau said her daughter, Sherri, always helped her prepare meals at their home, but she was surprised that she was capable of preparing food by herself.

> 'We were all surprised they didn't want to come back home—and at the amount of independence they have achieved'

While the three own the house, they aren't completely independent. They work full-time at SUNCOM, a vocational rehabilitation facility in Northumberland. Sherri works in the cafeteria, while Max and Mark work on the assembly line doing various jobs like labeling, packaging, or putting clips on plastic hangers. These jobs provide some income and a chance to learn marketable skills that one day may enable them to get a job in the community.

Mark also stuffs newspaper inserts every other week and files books at the library in Northumberland and Watsontown. He especially enjoys the library jobs, but they don't help to pay the bills.

Like many of their co-workers, Max, Mark, and Sherri are supported by Northumberland County Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR) services. However, they are the only homeowners. Traditional arrangements for people with mental challenges include living with their families, living in a group home or living in an institution. MH/MR pays for any community-based services for people living with their families or in a group home. MH/MR also pays the cost of living at a group home. The state pays the bill at institutions.

With self-determination "We can be creative," says Judy Davis, Northumberland County MH/MR administrator. "Traditional services would be recommended by the county and state versus self-determination where the individual and his/her family have the opportunity to design and create their services."

Mark, Max, Sherri, and their families decided they wanted a more

permanent arrangement than placement in a group home; they wanted the young people to have their own home. Ann Reeves, Mark's mother, introduced the plan to Northumberland County MH/MR, which supported the idea. That began a year of financial planning to incorporate the proposal in the MH/MR budget. The agreement called for the young people to take care of their own rent, food, and living expenses with money they earned at their jobs and received through Social Security Supplemental Support Income (SSI). MH/MR would provide the support staff. This was a significant savings for MH/MR.

Mark Reeves vacuums the kitchen floor, while Max Allen and Sherri Cole wash dishes in their home.

photos by Susan Geise

The families decided to rent a home to see if and how the idea would work. They located a large double house in Watsontown within walking distance of a grocery store, church, and other amenities. Mark, Max, and Sherri moved into one side of the house in May of 1995.

Keystone Residential Services contracted with MH/MR to provide support staff when the young people were home, but in this case Mark, Max, Sherri, and their parents were involved in choosing the Keystone employees who would be in their home. In a traditional group home, residents aren't involved in hiring staff.

After a few months, Mark's parents asked how he liked his new home and he replied, "It's a real happening place." The families felt that his description was so appropriate that 419 Main Street has been called The Happening Place ever since.

The parents saw their adult children becoming more independent and competent as they adjusted to life in their own home and they enjoyed new activities, new family routines, and relationships. The trio has had a few disagreements, but for the most part they work well together and their personalities and abilities complement each other.

"We [the parents] were all surprised they didn't want to come back home—and at the amount of independence they have achieved," Bonnie said.

The next step was for the trio to buy the house, which proved to be considerably more difficult than negotiating with MH/MR. People in the private sector as well as officials in local and state government agencies didn't know how to respond to such a novel idea.

Perhaps some of the confusion stemmed from the concept of parents or friends being advocates, not guardians. Sherri's parents, Greg and Bonnie Garceau, have the power of attorney in order to help her with legal matters she may not understand, but they were careful not to assume guardianship, which would require them to declare her incompetent. Self-determination does not mean total independence, but rather the right to make choices and be supported in those choices as long as they are legal and cause no harm. In order for the house to belong to Max, Mark, and Sherri, the parents wanted the home to be purchased with funds from their children's own resources. Bonnie Garceau wrote a proposal for a Pennsylvania Self-Determination Housing Grant, and The Happening Place became one of 11 demonstration projects.

However, working out the details of the sale proved to be complicated. At one point, even the grant money was withdrawn and then reinstated. The parents were persistent and by February 1999, the

house belonged to Mark, Max, and Sherri.

They celebrated with an open house that month that attracted a steady stream of visitors all afternoon, including neighbors, friends, and people from various agencies who have worked with Mark, Max, and Sherri. Other professionals curious about this new venture and other families with children who might try a similar arrangement also toured the home.

Mark, who usually prefers to retreat to his room to watch videos rather than socialize, stood at the door, introduced himself, and shook the hand of everyone who entered. Max, who has difficulty climbing the stairs, participated in numerous tours going up and down the steps to show off his room. Sherri, who always enjoys socializing, was in her element.

"The Happening Place is something people have dreamed of," says Davis. "It can happen for other people, if they're willing to work at it. It's the direction the system is going."

Now that they own the house, the young people and their parents are talking about some renovation projects. Their first priorty is to be free from the state's requirement to be licensed as a group home.

The licensing procedure covers many safety issues from handrails to lock boxes for medications and the temperature for hot water. The families were successful in fighting the regulation that would have required a handrail at the step down to Sherri's bedroom. But other nuisance regulations are still in place, including a requirement to keep all cleaning supplies in a locked cabinet.

"Some people need them [safety measures] and some people don't," says Bonnie Garceau, who's looking forward to the day when the homeowners can make their own safety rules. "When we're no longer licensed, I'll be turning cartwheels."

Judging by their track record so far, Max, Mark, and Sherri, with the support of their parents, will continue to win battles in the struggle for self-determination. The care and concern the young people show to each other and the way each of them has matured in their new home is a real inspiration. S

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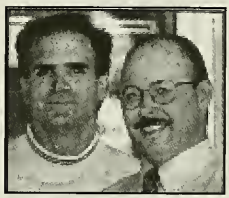

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The Healing Touch

In an impersonal world, human contact may be the key to well-being

by Erika Landis

photos by Erika Landis

We've all had those moments that we can't really explain, like the feeling that you just *know* someone is watching you. Sometimes, when you enter a room full of unhappy people, you can almost *touch* the tension. If you ask holistic healer Debbie Traugh for an explanation, she'll tell you that energy is everywhere, and that we all have the ability to harness this energy if we are only aware of our own capabilities.

Traugh has owned The Centre for Health and Wellness, Bloomsburg, since 1993. It provides a number of non-traditional healing modalities, including imagery, reflexology, yoga, massage, and therapeutic touch.

If you know Debbie Traugh, exchanged a quick chat with her over the phone, or even just watched her pass by, then you've experienced her magnetism. She is receptive to strangers, almost childlike in her optimism and faith. Traugh, 48, has made a positive attitude her philosophy, lifestyle, and career.

The Centre, says Traugh, is the middle ground between a spa and a doctor's office. Unlike spas, which provide manicures, facials, and haircuts in addition to massage therapy, holistic health centers promote the use of unconventional methods to combat stress and to provide a healthier lifestyle.

Imagery, creating a tranquil visualization in the mind, helps to relax the nerves and quicken the body's healing processes, Traugh says. You imagine strolling barefoot on a warm beach as a beautiful melody rises hauntingly over the crashing waves, but you have not left Bloomsburg, and Debbie Traugh has been the narrator of your adventure.

Yoga not only enhances flexibility, muscle tone, and circulation but, like imagery, it also teaches the mind to cope with daily stresses.

Reflexology is based on the ancient Oriental belief that energy is channeled along specific routes in the body that converge at the hands and feet. Stimulating these areas causes the body to relax, increases circulation, and sends a message to the distressed parts of the body, helping them to heal faster, Traugh says.

While massage is a hands-on manipulation of the soft tissue, **therapeutic touch** works with the energy above the body. In ancient cultures, this energy field was the Hindu "pran," the Chinese "qi," and the ancient Egyptian "ka." Developed in the early 1970's by Dolores Kreiger, professor of nursing at New York University, therapeutic touch can alter a person's perception of pain through nurturing and compassion. Therapists can manipulate this "bad energy" and disperse it from the focal point of tension.

Holistic healers first center their own energy as they calm and collect themselves. Next, they assess the situation by passing their hands a few inches above the body. Our hands, according to Traugh, contain highly sensitive "chakras," or wheels of energy that act as sensors. Traugh, once she locates the source of tension, sweeps her hands over the patient's body to smooth out the energy field. Then she transmits her own positive energy from her hands to the areas of congestion until she senses that healing has occurred.

Formerly a registered nurse in critical care shock trauma, Traugh hopes to work with physicians to combine traditional methods with holistic health techniques. "Using complementary modalities in addition to traditional medical treatments is an up-and-coming thing," and she quickly points out, "our society is becoming so high-tech that we are separating from each other and there is a need for touch."

Although modern society may be disassociating from human contact, the medical field has a right to be hesitant to incorporate these methods into their practices, Claudia Jordan, M.D., says. "I don't think they can do very much in and of themselves. It's hogwash that you can extract bad energy by waving your hands." The medical field is founded upon science, Jordan explains. Because there is no documentation to prove that therapeutic

touch and reflexology are actually effective, she views these healing techniques only as methods for relaxation and stress reduction.

"People need hope," Jordan says. "Holistic healing has been around for many centuries. It is a comforting thing, a psychodynamic belief, like prayer. By thinking positively you can choose to lead a healthier lifestyle, but it should never be considered an alternative to conventional medicines and surgery. The only real harming effect on patients, Jordan says, is "a waste of their money."

Physicians may have mixed reviews about the practice but, Traugh says, they're beginning "to come around." Many hospitals, especially in Canada, now provide holistic health clinics to complement traditional medical techniques.

Traugh explains that the medical profession doesn't "always look for the cause of why a person is having problems in the first place." She says, "a lot of my work can help you make that exploration, whereas if you give them a pill you kind of shut the body down and tell it to be quiet. For awhile they're flying high, but when they fall back down, everything's still there."

She's had to cope with many skeptics along the way. "My old boss from the ICU said to me: 'Are you still doing that weird stuff?' This was 17 years ago and people really thought I was going off the deep end, waving my hands over the patients. I said, 'I know, but I'm a patient weirdo. I'm out there getting all my credentials in order so when everybody else is a weirdo I'll be the top one and everybody will call me!' "

About four-fifths of the clientele at the Health and Wellness Centre are people with illnesses who found little relief in traditional medications; the other one-fifth come for stress reduction. Most are in their mid-30s to mid-60s. Many of Traugh's clients have chronic pain, arthritis, or problems following a surgery. Some have general emotional stresses, like having a difficulty making decisions.

Others have had cancer. They come from Bloomsburg and its surrounding areas, including Elysburg, Benton, and Danville, to find the healing touch.

Joan Shaw, a retired rehabilitation counselor, has sought help from the Centre for over four years. "Your attitude is very important in healing," she explains. After undergoing therapeutic massage, Shaw found that she was taking substantially less pain-killers following surgery. She is an avid supporter of holistic healing measures. "It is fairly clear that there are energy fields around the body," she says, noting, "we can't fully explain what it is; that doesn't mean it doesn't exist." Shaw recommends Traugh's services to anyone who wants to try alternative healing methods as an adjunct to medical treatment, whether they're struggling with a disease or simply looking for relaxation techniques.

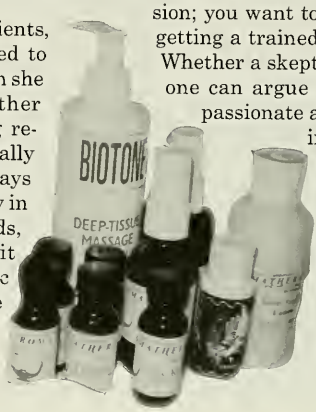
'Our society is becoming so high-tech that we are separating from each other and there is a need for touch.'

Like many of her clients, Traugh was introduced to therapeutic touch when she became ill and no other treatment could bring relief. Worn out physically and emotionally, she says she found comfort only in spirituality. Afterwards, she took a two credit course in therapeutic touch at Penn State and pursued her interests with five other independent study courses. She's also been to massage schools in California, Wisconsin, as well as Pennsylvania. Now she has a job she loves. "It's enjoyable, listening to relaxing music and being with nice people, making my own pace, my own schedule," she says.

Traugh hopes to work in a hospital setting, keeping her business part-time. Presently, she teaches therapeutic touch and dimensions in health and wellness at Lycoming College, Williamsport. Last November, Sen. Vincent J. Fumo proposed SB 1220 to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. It will require all somatic practitioners, massage therapists, and reflexologists to take 650 hours of training before they can obtain or renew their licenses. Traugh expects the bill to be passed within the next two years. She wants to provide programs and educational classes where students can earn continuing credits that would count toward their national certification.

Susan Webster, physical therapist for Susquehanna Physical Therapy Associates, agrees that education and credentials are the most important aspects of any field, including holistic healing. "I've met some very competent reflexologists who are excellent at what they do," she says. "My only advice would be to check out their background, their education. It's the same with any profession; you want to make sure you're getting a trained individual."

Whether a skeptic or a believer, no one can argue that Traugh isn't passionate about holistic healing. Spirituality is more universal than religion, she says. To her, it is bigger than the world, bigger than everything. S



Working Around the Clock

A Former Nuclear Engineer Becomes a Creative Designer

by Elizabeth H. Smith

A toy train speeds around a track, sand sifts through an hourglass, and the clatter of falling dominoes are all sounds that tell the time for clockmaker Rick Stanley.

The former power production engineer has always been intrigued by anything mechanical. "As a child, I took apart everything imaginable, from music boxes to old clocks, just about anything with wires, gears, or a motor," Stanley says. As a teenager, his first project was building an electric motorcycle. "It took me a few years to complete, but when finished, it could travel up to 40 miles per hour."

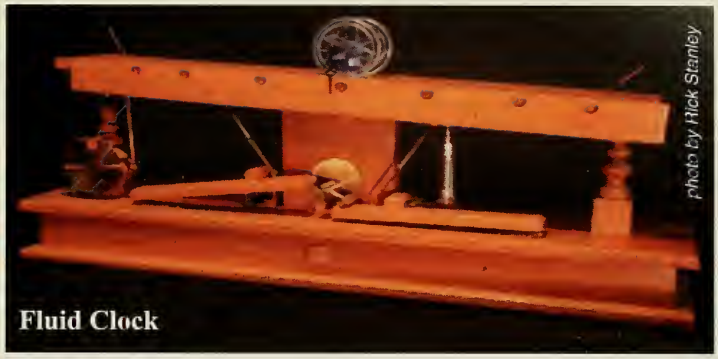
Stanley, 47, of Millville, has been making clocks for 15 years. He began by working on old mechanical clocks and studying gear ratios. Today, he uses a milling machine and a metal lathe to produce his own gears. He also does clock repairs, but focuses on inventing, designing, and building. "Every clock takes a lot of ideas, planning, and research," he says. "I usually build a prototype for each clock as a way of experimenting and testing before the final clock is made."

Stanley grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and studied mechanical engineering at the University of California at Davis. He and his wife, Mary, moved to Millville in 1977. He worked briefly for Bechtel at the Susquehanna Power Plant, under construction at the time, and then for PP&L. Mary opened a stained glass business, The Glass Unicorn. Five years later she started Greensleeves, her current dried flower business.

In 1998, he retired from PP&L to pursue his dream to make clocks. He spent only an hour or two a day after work on the clocks, "but by devoting more time to them, I thought I might make some progress." Stanley says he now spends an average of 15-20 hours a week on the clocks and each one takes about five to nine months to build. "After the prototype is built, it's easier to construct others like it, but they are still expensive and time-consuming," says Stanley. If the clocks were ever to be sold, the cost would be in the thousands, he points out. Currently, he is constructing much simpler wall clocks to sell.

Stanley uses his inventions to show the actual movement of time. "I wanted to design a three-dimensional clock that could be appreciated from all sides, read in many ways, and be totally unlike a normal, flat-faced clock," he says.

His first design was the train clock, made in the shape of an old steam locomotive. This clock counts the hours as a tiny locomotive pulling a coal bin and a caboose drives around the tracks. Stanley installed a binary code in the clock that programs the toy train to



circle once at 1 o'clock, twice at 2 o'clock, and so on. Another, the fluid clock, uses clear, thick, synthetic oil in a multi-chambered cylinder to tell time. The fluid in the roller drains slowly through each section of the sphere, causing it to roll back and forth and count off the hours.

Stanley says watching the fluid clock is relaxing, but building it was not. "All of the clocks have been problematic in their own wonderfully unique ways," he says, noting that it was difficult to find a liquid with a constant viscosity that would keep the sphere at a steady rate. As temperature changes, so does the draining speed of the fluid. Stanley added a circuit to recalibrate the roller every hour to make up for lost or gained time.

The hourglass clock uses a traditional hourglass timepiece. An electric eye triggers a carved hand to flip the hourglass when it senses that the sand has run through. The difficulty in building this clock was measuring out exactly an hour's worth of sand.

"Accuracy and precision are very important," says Stanley. "Even if it may only be off by about 30 seconds, by the end of the day, you have lost 12 minutes, and by the end of the week, you have lost almost an hour and a half."

Stanley was not satisfied with the clocks only making hourly movements. He decided to invent a clock to show time moving with each passing minute. The golfer clock features two carved figures—a golfer and a man holding a flag at the green. Every minute, the golfer putts a ball into the hole. After the golfer sinks 60 shots, the digital clock on the flag changes and an auger moves the next 60 balls up a ramp to the golfer.

In professional clock making, the workings and gears of most clocks are concealed. "When I build clocks, I like to leave the workings exposed so people can see what actually happens inside," he says. Currently he is working on two golfer clocks that are shaped like tables with legs made to look like putters and golf tees.

Another clock using golf balls is made of all kinds of gadgets, gizmos, and objects found around his home. This metal maze, made up of hundreds of feet of copper tubing, resembles a large marble run. A golf ball is first lifted to the top of the clock by a pulley. It is released and kicked forward by an old-fashioned shoe form. The ball twists and turns down the ramp and moves a pointing hand ahead a minute.

His newest clock is the domino clock, a table-shaped clock that uses an electromagnetic force and a solenoid to upright the dominoes in a consecutive line as each minute passes. There are 59 dominoes arranged in an S-shape on the table and marked to read each minute of the hour.

When all the dominoes are up, another solenoid triggers a carved pointing hand to poke the first in line, creating a chain reaction. The last domino to fall strikes a lever and moves the clock forward an hour. Stanley wants to try another version of this clock that includes mirrors under the table or a clear tabletop. "It would allow people to see the solenoids that actually trigger the clock," he says.

His next idea is an outdoor fountain clock that uses water to tell time. "I want the clock to be 'Dr. Suess-like,' with weird angles and water flowing in directions that seem impossible," he says gleefully.

His other projects include eight wall clocks. By making them smaller and more affordable, he hopes that they can be mass-produced and sold at craft shows. These clocks have a swinging pendulum, similar to the common regulator clock, a very precise clock once used by clockmakers to set other clocks.

Like his inventions, Stanley's clock-like mind never stops. When he finishes a clock, he already has 10 more in progress. In addition to making clocks, Stanley spends a lot of time helping his wife on projects for her dried flowers business. They recently built a greenhouse, a new workshop for her business, and expanded the gardens. He also spends a lot of time involved in activities with his four children.

Stanley is optimistic that his clockmaking business will become profitable. His biggest dream, he says, is to have a section in a museum where his clocks could be displayed. S

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Sample Chart
One-Life Charitable Remainder Unitrust funded at age 72

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TRADING TIME

Expanding Our Cultures

Story and photos by MaryJayne Reibsome
Art by David Ramsey

Josh Ramsey, 17, a Native American from Northumberland, knows the stigma that goes with his heritage. "Sometimes kids call me 'chief' and make the war cry behind my back, or make fun of my long hair," Josh says, adding, "but the worst is being called 'hippie.'" It is this stereo-typing and misconception of Native Americans that drive Josh's parents, Dana and David Ramsey, to keep the past alive and educate the public through The Freedom Learning Center and Ladyhawk's Primitive Creations Trading Post in Northumberland. "People's concepts are so biased by Hollywood," Dana Ramsey says. "Stereotypes ruin the persona of Native Americans. All nations are different and the Eastern and Western tribes are totally different people," she points out. David Ramsey agrees, noting that the wooden Indian statue in front of the Tulpehocken Spring Water Company on Route 11 is a perfect example.

"Tulpehocken means 'place of the turtle clan' of the Lenape tribe who were Eastern Indians," David explains, adding, "the wood carving at the Tulpehocken company depicts a Western Native."

Through the Freedom Learning Center the Ramseys teach history, art, and living skills; through the trading post, people can buy or trade for the tools and supplies they need.

The businesses, on Route 11 between Viking Motors and the El Rancho Restaurant, are "one of the best kept in secrets in Point township," David Ramsey says, adding, "look for the teepee in the yard." The trading post offers items people used in their daily lives during the colonial era. Buffalo meat, tinware, colorful blankets, and trade teas in block form are some of the goods for sale or trade. Dana, 35, whose Blackfoot name is "Ladyhawk," says she was raised in both the Blackfoot and German traditions and that the trading post represents both sides of her life. The idea for the trading post came in 1995 after Dana and her husband attended a historical re-enactment.

"We had to walk about two miles to get there," she recalls. "First, you could smell the smoke and see the fires. Then you could hear the music," Dana adds, noting, "the camp was two to three miles long and everyone was dressed in period costumes. It was like being in a time capsule."

However, the Ramseys soon realized that to be part of re-enactments, they needed authentic tools and supplies. Because there was nowhere for them and their friends to purchase what they needed, they created the trading post. Like the trading posts of old, the Ramseys have no set hours and will open the shop for customers if they are at home.

"I don't want modern commercialism in the trading post," Dana says. "My vision is to have a trading post like those during the period when Native Americans and European immigrants came together to buy supplies and handcrafted items created by local crafts people." The items in the trading post are hand-

made replicas of the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s, she says.

The Ramseys preserve the tradition by offering hand-made wares by local artisans including wooden glass lanterns, colonial hand-punched tinware, decorative bags, colonial music, and historical booklets. Dana handcrafts necklaces of bead and bone and period clothing, and displays her hand-beaded wedding dress on the wall in the trading post. She sewed all 38,004 beads by hand. "People wondered how many beads there were, so I sat down with a calculator, tablet, and a stick pin and counted every one," she says, noting, it took her eight hours to count them all. David hand carves leather belts, makes Indian drums, medicine shields,and spiritsticks. Redware, spongeware, and Indian pottery are also for sale. "I keep prices below what most places charge because I want people to enjoy the past without breaking them financially." Dana says. But, keeping low prices is frustrating because "people think the goods are inferior and would rather pay two to three times the amount elsewhere for the same items," Dana says, throwing up her hands.

Special requests for hard-to-find items is common at the trading post and the Ramseys have no problem locating items for customers.

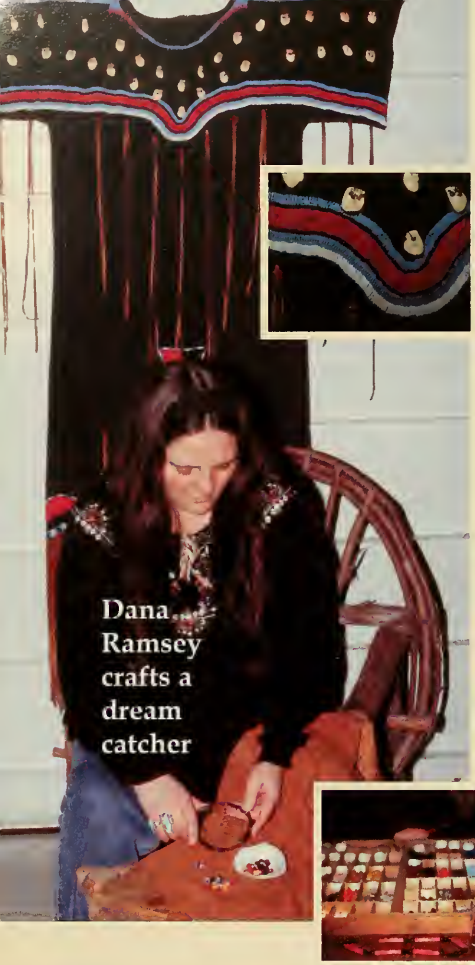
Once a customer wanted a "kokopelli" gift, something decorated with the Hopi design of a flute player, so Dana made wooden trinket boxes with the design burnt into the top. She gets special requests, from parents of small children suffering from bad dreams or "night terrors," to make dream catchers. She recalls having a dream where she created dream catchers and learned how they worked. "The Creator gave me this gift to share, and I give strict instructions to parents on how they are to be handled," she says, explaining, "my state of mind must be pure of thought. Only good thoughts can be woven into the dream catcher to protect the child as he or she sleeps." Dana designs the dream catchers with beads in the child's favorite color.

Dana also makes an herbal salve from natural ingredients. David gave it to a woman for a scar she received from brain surgery that wasn't healing. The woman later looked up Dana to thank her. "I've had herbalists try to copy the recipe," Dana says, adding, "but if you're making it purely for profit you can't capture the magic of the salve. I wake up sometimes and think, 'it's a good day to make salve,' and it could be months before I feel that way again."

In keeping with the old customs, the Ramseys also trade for goods at the trading post. "We trade like for like," Dana says, noting, "for example, if you have something to trade worth $15 we will trade for an item worth the same." The only difference from the past is that today you have to pay taxes.

The Ramseys swap handcrafted items to get the buffalo meat they sell, and once traded with a local plumber—his labor in exchange for classes for his son at the Freedom Learning Center.

"I see the Freedom Learning Center as an extension of education in a Native American form," David Ramsey says, pointing out, "I tailor classes to what the student desires to learn, whether it's history, living skills, drawing, or tool making."



Dana Ramsey crafts a dream catcher

David, 40, a Northumberland native, whose Mohawk name is Ohkwari-Tahontsi, graduated from Williamsport Area Community College in 1979 with an associate degree in advertising. In 1986, after working as an arts and crafts instructor at the Northumberland County Prison, he erected a teepee in his front yard. The teepee, David says, stimulated interest in the area and he soon found himself lecturing to grade school students. Since then he has lectured at many universities, organizations, and grade schools about Native American history.

"The lectures are a balanced approach to American history from both sides," he says. "I bring the audience from the past into the present because I believe the secrets to our future lie hidden in our past."

Some of the skills offered at the center include tanning animal hides, carving on leather and wood, drawing, painting, and sculpting. "I try to find interests that bring out the creativity in people," David says. "The courses are designed to mean something about who you are or what you are trying to say."

Dana Ramsey gives demonstrations in hearth cooking, colonial stenciling, bead working in both the Eastern and Western style, and making authentic period clothing.

Every year the Ramseys and their six children—Brent Floyd, 11; James Dreese, 14; Jesse Ramsey, 13; Jeb Ramsey, 14; Joe Ramsey, 14; and Josh Ramsey, 17 — travel to a different part of the country where they participate in the Eastern Primitive Rendezvous, sponsored by the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. There, they step back in time to live as their ancestors did during the fur-trading era. For two weeks each year, the Ramsey family, along with 3,000 others, live in an encampment in teepees and tents and use tools and living skills of a long forgotten heritage. There are no modern conveniences like plumbing and electricity. "We cook in fire pits with cast iron kettles and pots, sleep in a teepee on blankets, and live in a time when things were slower and there was more time for family," Dana says. "They worked hard back then but, they also played hard too."

Participating at Rendezvous is more than just "play" for the Ramseys, although Jimmy says the tomahawk-throwing contest is his favorite. They catch up on friends' lives, learn new skills, and get tools needed to become more accurate in their classes. For them it's a time to re-energize, get away from the "rat race and the telephones," and to let the past come alive. They carry on the trading tradition at Rendezvous by spreading out a "trade blanket" and displaying their wares to sell or trade with fellow re-enactors. The Ramseys also visit the Landis Valley German Settlement to learn more about German, Pennsylvania Dutch, and Amish cultures.

The Ramseys also participate in re-enactments at Riverfest along the Susquehanna River, Sunbury, and it was there in 1993, that Dana walked into a teepee and met David for the first time. Their mutual interest in their heritages led to marriage and finally to the opening of their trading post and

learning center in 1997.

Keeping the trading post and the learning center open is a second full time job for the Ramseys. Dana's a legal secretary at the law firm of Davis, Davis, and Kaar, in Milton; David works at Mohawk Flush Doors, in Northumberland. "I'm the only 'Mohawk at Mohawk," David jokes. Both Ramseys try to juggle their schedules around their children's activities and sometime find it frustrating.

"Sometimes, the children feel neglected because they want to do things, but we're already committed through the learning center," Dana, says, "but, when things 'click' they love the excitement. It affects us all."

Not everyone understands the Ramseys' dedication for the "old ways," and Dana believes it comes from a misunderstanding of cultural and religious beliefs.

"People call Indians 'heathens' because of their religion," Dana says. "I believe there is one Creator and that he comes to people in a form that they can believe and understand, no matter what the religion."

The Ramseys believe that bringing the past into the present is important so people know where they came from. They and three of their children live in a house built in 1846 that was used as a boarding house for the canal workers and they appreciate what the past has to offer. Dana often cooks entire meals on an open hearth in her dining room, using authentic recipes and cooking utensils. "With all the modern technology today, if we suddenly lose all that, will people have the survival skills our ancestors had?" Dana Ramsey wonders. "By keeping the past alive we can retain some basic skills."

Josh, a junior at Shikellamy High School, is looking forward to experiencing his "vision quest" when he turns 18. A vision quest is a tradition among all Native American cultures, although each culture has its own name for the quest.

"A young man goes into the woods and fasts for four days, stands in a circle and has visions of the past, present, and future and relates them to his life," Josh explains. "Animals come around you and you see many things," he says, adding, "you must train for it for months—it's dangerous because you're exposed to the elements and you wear yourself out during your fast." It is during this time that Josh says he will choose a Mohawk name that will be his for the rest of his life. If Josh lived in the past, he'd have taken his vision quest when he was 12 or 13, but current child laws require he must wait until he is a legal adult.

In a fast-paced world of modernization, it's nice to have a place to step back in time and experience the ways of our ancestors, instead of just reading about them.

A New Direction

'This is a major part of my life and it's just going to stop.'
--DeAnne Casteel

Tears stream down her face as she watches the final curtain fall. After 25 years, DeAnne Casteel, 46, performs her last role as drama director at Bloomsburg High School. Applause and a standing ovation show appreciation for a job well done by the cast of "Grease" 2000 on this April 1st closing night performance.

Earlier in the day, a matinee performance of "Grease" kicked off a celebration reuniting Bloomsburg High School drama alumni from a quarter of a century. More than 300 former drama students and their families packed the house to pay tribute to a drama program that touched the lives of an entire community. More than 4,100 people saw Casteel's final production during its seven performance run. The cafeteria, transformed into a `50s diner, complete with black and white checkered flooring, a juke box, and a chrome counter, was the hoppin' place for a dinner for the returning cast of "Grease" 1984 and the cast of "Grease" 2000. In the auditorium, alumni from the more than 40 shows Casteel directed in 25 years gathered to update lives and exchange memories.

"This is the final closure," Casteel said at the time, "This is for real; this is a major part of my life and it's just going to stop." Weeks before the play, more than 600 BHS drama alumni from all over the world, including the U.S., Russia, Spain, Germany, and The Netherlands, had sent e-mails and letters of congratulations and thanks. A humbling tribute to a woman, who in 1975 was a fresh-faced college kid looking for her first job.

Casteel graduated from Slippery Rock University in 1975 with a B.S. in Education. "The whole thing came together in my junior year of college, when I took directing," Casteel says, adding, "that control, that creativity—my personality came out."

By graduation she had learned about lighting, sound, stage management, and directing.

"We were looking for someone in communications with a theater background, not so much as an actor, but as in talent and technical," says Dr. Alex Dubil, principal from 1975 to 1980, and district superintendent from 1981 to 1999. "It turned out that she also had a talent motivating kids," he says.

Casteel was given the title "play director" which was just below chess club advisor in the school's extra curricular hierarchy. She earned $50 doing "M*A*S*H," her first show, for which she bought the material and sewed the costumes herself. "She has an incredible way of seeing your potential and making you believe in yourself," says Kimberly Glass, of Berwick, who had a part in "M*A*S*H." Glass is now a public speaking teacher at Berwick High School; like her mentor, she is also a drama director.

With no budget, Casteel charged the students monthly drama club dues to cover royalty fees. She went to the school board and said, "Look, I'm asking kids to fork out their own personal money for a school-wide extra curricular activity," she recalls, then pointed out, "there's something wrong here. Athletes don't have to pay to play football." The Board agreed.

John Klusman, principal from 1980 to 1996, says Casteel motivated 40 percent of the student body, "not just in acting, but in band and all aspects of production." But, Klusman adds, "she was a principal's worst nightmare. Many times she would have to be reined in, controlled; she would have had a Broadway production if allowed."

Casteel agrees—"I'm so global in my thinking—planning shows takes years in advance—when someone says 'you can't do it that way,' that's a challenge to me to make things happen.

Casteel graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1980 with an M.Ed. in speech and theater. That same year, the Bucks County Playhouse Festival named her best director for "The Crucible." In 1992, it named Bloomsburg High's production of "A Chorus Line" the best musical.

"I hate being the center of attention," she says, adding, "it's not about me—it's about the kids and their talent." Casteel was finally elevated to drama director in 1981, earning a salary equivalent to that of a head football coach.

"By that time she had established that she was moving the program forward," says Dubil. He says the reasons behind her promotion were "because she was a 12-month drama director and because of the quality of her plays."

But, the turning point for the drama program, Casteel says, came in 1984 with the production of "Grease." The star quarterback, baseball players, and a track star performed major roles in the performance. "We were breaking the ice in athletics and drama," says J.R. Sperry, captain of the 1984 football team, who had the leading role of Danny Zuko.

"So many dedicated hours—much more than I put on a practice field," Sperry says about his experience on the stage, adding, "it's like a marathon and comes down to a couple of shows. If one piece of the

production is missing, the whole thing collapses—you have to be a team."

Bruce Rankin, this year's Danny Zuko, also participates in football, track and field, and weightlifting. "Some of my friends razz me about the show but, most of them say, 'good job,'" Bruce says, noting, "I am definitely more well-rounded and have made new friends because of the show."

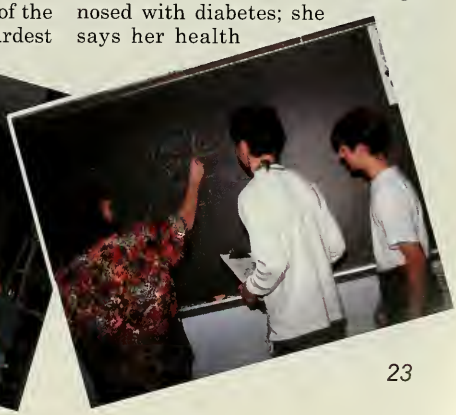
Casteel believes the drama program succeeded at Bloomsburg because of cooperation from school principals, coaches, and other teachers. The whole sense of community, that teamwork, that's a lot of what's missing in society, Casteel says. "One thing I push here big time is you've got to learn to work together," she says.

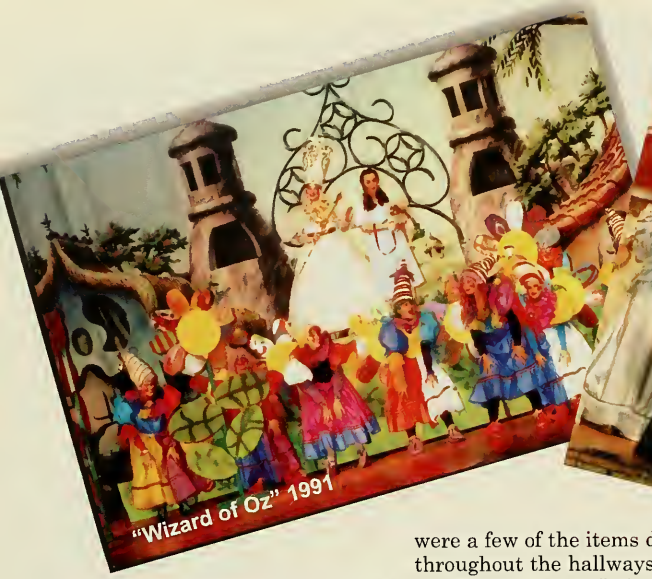
Casteel agrees that she can be tough when it comes to discipline, and deciding to kick a student out of a play is one of the hardest decisions for a director. "If you let one or two kids disrupt the production, you've got a lot of angry students and parents complaining," she says.

Parents can also be a challenge. Most are "fantastic," she says, "but there are always a few who make problems." Casteel says some parents "don't feel that I cast their kids the right way." Casteel recalls that during every show she received at least one letter or telephone call from an angry parent or student that "put a bittersweet twist" on the show.

"I've reached a point where enough is enough. I want to be able to spend time with my family, because it's always been, 'I can't do this or that because I have a show.'" Casteel says.

Two years ago, Casteel was diagnosed with diabetes; she says her health





cannot take the grueling hours that a show demands. Every day she is in her classroom by 6:30 a.m. After teaching all day, she begins her "second full time job" as drama director and "there's no time for contemplation or to regroup." After rehearsing two to three hours, Casteel says she's back in her room grading essays or quizzes. Before she realizes, it's 9 p.m. and she goes home exhausted, taking more work with her.

Looking back, Casteel remembers all the weekends, holidays, vacations, and family outings she missed because of her "manic" schedule.

"In my 25 year career I have spent over 100 nights where I have never left the school and just changed my clothes to get ready for classes," she recalls.

This year's show was no exception. The weekend before opening night, Casteel and some of her students stayed to finish decorations and lighting. Hundreds of 45 rpm records and musical notes hung from ceilings in the hallways and cafeteria. Research projects about the '50s era from theater arts students; movie stars, fashions, and a Rocky Marciano photograph display were a few of the items displayed throughout the hallways.

A "burger palace" sign, complete with flashing lights, created by the shop class, a wooden phone booth and old soda bottle machine added to the nostalgia of the `50s.


DeAnne Casteel, dressed as Ma Kissel for her "short story" classes, brings a realism to her teaching. (Inset) Casteel at age 17

Casteel remembers that the 1985 production of "West Side Story" was one of the more difficult shows. "It was a killer show. Nothing went right; we were here on school nights until midnight," she says. Complicating the show's problems were family problems—both of her daughters got chicken pox.

Problems for "Grease" 2000 affected the actors. A major illness put Sheryl Kepping, ("Cha Cha") out of two performances. Tara Koch, understudy for the part, had only an afternoon to prepare. Prior to this she had never rehearsed on stage. "Mrs. C. helped me with my character for the part," she says, adding, "we went to the Costume Shop after school for my costume and wig." Rob Kramer, ("Doody") came down with laryngitis on the second night. The other actors covered his lines and his song was modified so he could sing his part without hurting his voice. Josh Klingerman, (Kenickie) spent the day before the final show in the emergency room for a throat injury. Heavily medicated, Josh was able to make it through the last two performances.

In the fall of 1988 during the musical, "Godspell," Casteel experienced anxiety attacks. Two weeks after the show she under-

went emergency surgery for a tubal pregnancy, and a six week recovery. So concerned about her classes, she made videotapes at home of her lessons and sent them to school for the substitute teacher to show—"Hi kids, this is Mrs. C, let's get our books." She now laughs about it— "how obsessive *is* that?"

In 1989, Casteel got pneumonia during the "Sound of Music." Already behind schedule, she missed two weeks of class when, she says, it was "absolutely critical to be there."

Everyday during theater arts class, students were barred from using the pay phone outside the auditorium. "I gave instructions over the phone. I had a 103 temperature, saying 'the show must go on,'" she remembers.

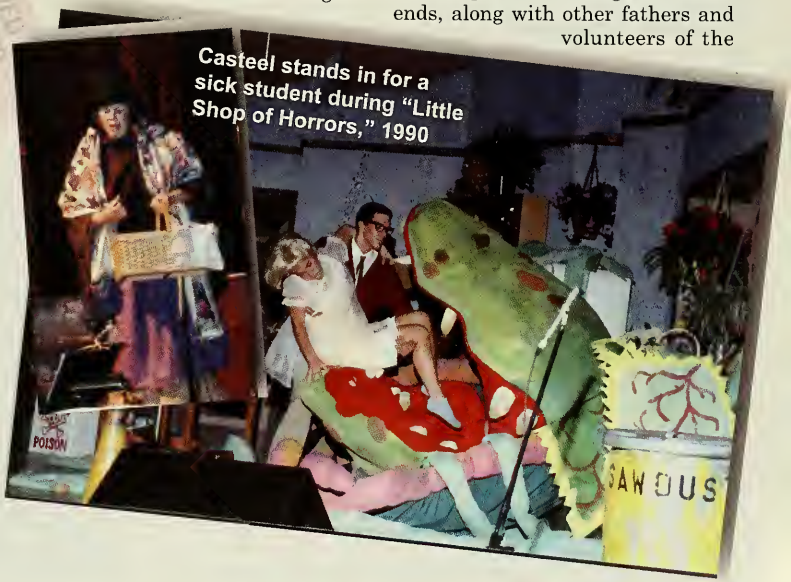
"What I'm going to miss the most," she says, "is seeing the kids take ownership of their projects. The kids may be quiet, shy, and in the woodwork. You give them a task, explain what you're looking for, and allow them to problem solve, work it out, and they just begin to take over and the project becomes theirs."

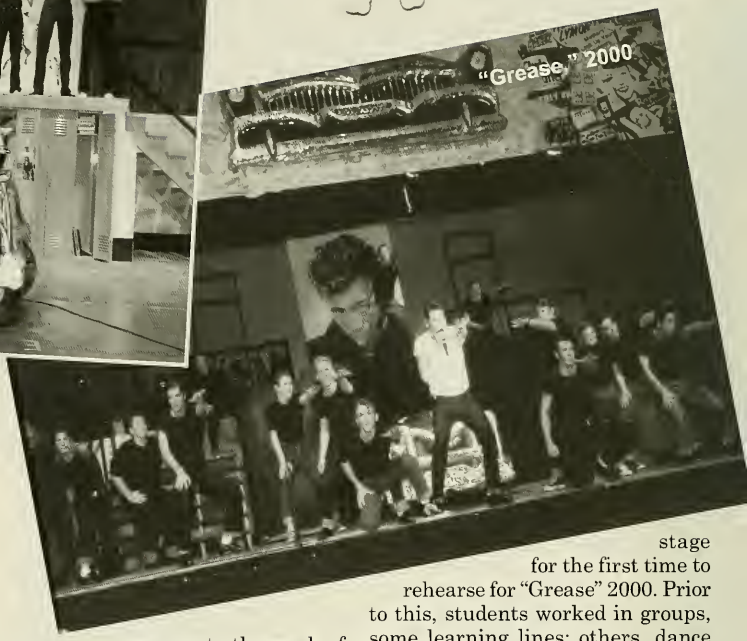
"Casteel is a fantastic teacher and inspiration," says Stephen Weitz, a 1991 alumnus of BHS, who earned a B.A. in drama and an M.F.A. in acting from Ithaca College. "Everyone should be so lucky to have an opportunity to discover their talents," he says.

Dedicating so much time and energy to the school and her students, Casteel feels remorse at things she missed. "The thing I regret most is that something has to suffer when I'm here all the time," she says, her voice trembling. "I won't let it be my teaching, so the breakdown is at home. The house is a wreck, there's no food, no cleaning or cooking, and I feel guilty being here day after day, because I forget I have a family."

Jerry Casteel, DeAnne's husband, says that being married to the director was "hectic and lots of work. We all pitched in. It's what she loved to do," Jerry says, adding, "people have no concept of how much work and time she put into a production."

Jerry, a field engineer at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, helped out evenings and weekends, along with other fathers and volunteers of the





"A-team,"designing and building sets.

"The shows brought the community together," he says, pointing out, "mothers sewing and helping with costumes, painting, and decorating; fathers helping with sets."

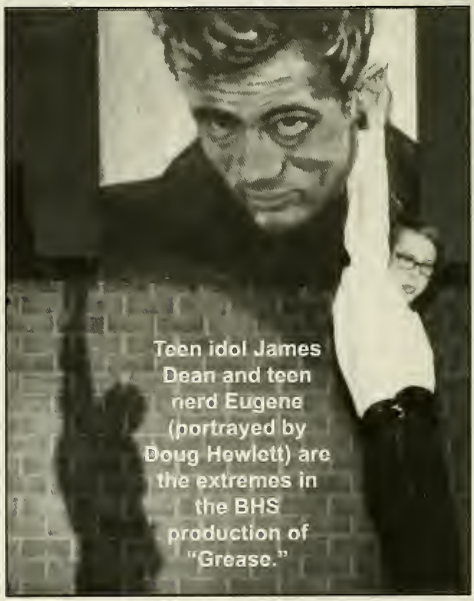
Lindsay Casteel, 18, who was Sandy, the female lead in "Grease" 2000, has her own opinion of life as a director's daughter. "Some kids said, 'Oh, you got that part because she's your mom'," Lindsay says. "But then they realized I earn whatever I get," she says, adding, "Mom doesn't show favoritism."

Lindsay's sister, Sarah, 21, attends Central Penn College in Harrisburg, and came home on weekends to help out. "I grew up spending most of my time at the high school," Sarah says, remembering one rehearsal when students weren't cooperating and her mom walked out. "Everyone got quiet and nobody knew what to do," Sarah remembers, adding, "It was the only time I ever saw her do that."

A typical rehearsal finds Casteel surrounded by students and adults asking questions about tickets, costumes, makeup, and lighting—all at the same time. Throughout this constant buzz, Casteel moves around on stage—mentally picturing how everything is going to work. "In professional theater you have a director and a technical director who works with the crews and the lighting," Casteel says, explaining, "that doesn't happen here. I direct all the way up to the week of tech. And then my brain has to switch gears. I'm no longer looking at blocking, acting, or listening to voices, or how the props and set pieces work, or make-up. I'm watching for the light cues. Everything has to be choreographed to the second."

Casteel says it's good for her to be both director and technical director because "there is no conflict over designing," but the bad part is that she's doing two jobs at the same time being a teacher. "A coach doesn't have to worry about the field—the lighting or the sound, that's someone else's responsibility," she says.

On a Saturday afternoon, two weeks before opening night, a cast, crew, and orchestra of 119 students and alumni got together on stage for the first time to rehearse for "Grease" 2000. Prior to this, students worked in groups, some learning lines; others, dance steps. "I just can't get enough," says Mike Mollo, a freshman at Bloomsburg University, who came back to play guitar in the orchestra.



Teen idol James Dean and teen nerd Eugene (portrayed by Doug Howlett) are the extremes in the BHS production of "Grease."

"It fulfills the need to be part of the show," he says of his role in the "pit." Mollo was in every show produced during his four years at BHS.

During rehearsal, Tim Latsha shouts vocal directions to students while dance choreographer Nicole Lanciano, a junior at Bloomsburg University, watches dance steps. Ann Zelonis, assistant director since 1984, gives instruction on a headset to students backstage; Casteel moves around the auditorium yelling orders to everyone.

"When you're meshing 119 different personalities, everybody has to work together," Casteel says, adding, "I tell them, 'your stress is high, you're going to want to fight, you're tired, and your emotions are high. This is the point you need to cooperate and compromise.'"

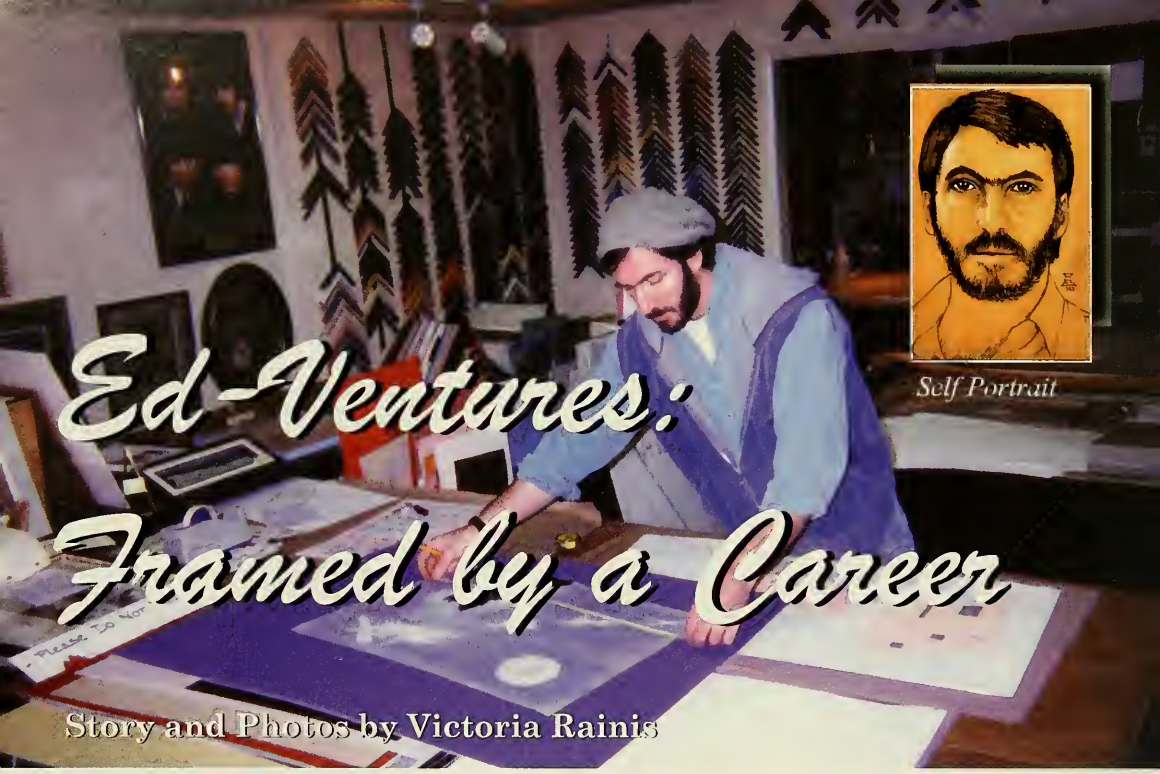
"I have never seen high school drama this wonderful," Ann Zelonis says, adding, "DeAnne has such vision—and it trickles down to everyone. The kids have a tremendous respect for her."

The driving force behind Casteel's years as drama director was "the creation—not to be in charge, but to have total *creative* control," Casteel explains. For "Man of La Mancha" in 1991, Casteel designed a multi-level set with a working drawbridge 10 feet above the stage. Brett Conner, BHS alumnus of 1992, says he owes Mrs. Casteel "a lot." Conner explains that, "she gave me my first experiences in the theatre—a world I continue to devote myself to." Conner is an actor in Boston and runs his own theatre company, Pet Brick Productions.

Casteel plans to channel her excessive energy into another project, not as taxing, but will be every bit as challenging. "I'm such a visionary," she says, rubbing her hands together, thinking about the future. "After I get my house in order, I already think my next big baby is going to be my creative writing class," she says, adding, " I have plans for that class—kids getting published, competitions to get their work out, and when I have all these extra hours..."

She continues her career as a teacher of communications, creative writing, and theatre arts. "What I hope doesn't happen is that because of my knowledge, people don't come to me and say, 'we are having an assembly—could you please hook up the microphone,'" Casteel says, adding, "I don't want to do it; that's why I'm retiring."

Danny Zuko (portrayed by Bruce Rankin) and Sandy Dumbrowski (portrayed by Lindsay Casteel) in the final scene of "Grease 2000."



Ed-Ventures: Framed by a Career

Story and Photos by Victoria Rainis

Self Portrait

Give him your masterpiece and Ed Giannattasio will tell you where to put it—"in a frame that will enhance the artist's intention."

From photos and works of art to diplomas and medals, Giannattasio helps his customers capture significant moments within a framework of memories.

Art is a way of life in Giannattasio's Bloomsburg shop, Art Ventures Custom Made Picture Frames. He can help frame that special photograph of a child taking her first step, the award for community leadership, or a favorite poem. Frames and matting complete the interpretation of artwork.

"Being an artist myself," he says, "I work with my customers to create a presentation that will follow through with the artist's intention." Giannattasio believes presentation of artwork is nearly as important as the artistic process used to produce the artwork itself, calling it "a continuation of that process." Often, limitations are placed on presentation because of the environment in which the artwork is to be displayed, such as Early American or post-modern decor. "My skill lies in the melding of these influences to produce a harmonious piece that is true to the artwork and to my customer," he explains.

Recently, Giannattasio completed a project for a couple who gave him aerial photographs of the family farm that had been sold. Manipulating colors to capture the woodwork of house and barn, Giannattasio produced a rustic frame that retained authenticity of the past and inevitably created "an emotional piece that brought tears to their eyes."

Every piece has some color play that the artist has chosen. Many influences are at work in each custom framing project, including the intention of the artist, the character of the customer requesting the frame, and the environment where the artwork will be displayed. "When I suggest a frame or matte color," Giannattasio says, "I am merely helping my customers to define their own vision. I simply listen to their needs."

One of the techniques Giannattasio uses to help a customer choose frame or matte colors is to verbalize the adjectives describing each color choice, such as warm, cool, rich, subtle, scholarly, fun, or even funky. Purple and kelly blue matting, for instance, appealed to a young lady whose vibrant South Beach Miami prints needed lively shades of color appropriate to their surroundings. Another, an article from *Bloomsburg*, the university magazine, was best displayed in a frame with the traditional maroon and gold matte colors.

A framer must learn to work with the mechanics, as well as the aesthetics of art. Sophisticated materials— archival mounting and matte boards, special tapes and adhesives—must be acid-free and pH neutral. Without these artistic tools, for instance, a poster or print would buckle or burn (turn brown) from direct exposure to untreated cardboard.

The custom framer faces chal-

lenges that require special treatment, among them paintings on silk, antique tapestries, oil paintings on stretched canvas, baptismal gowns, wedding bouquets, or children's artwork on paper. Bargain frames from department stores may prevent a souvenir from being crushed in a closet but, without proper mounting and precision sizing, they "often do more harm than good." Attempts to make the artwork "fit the frame" invariably lead to creative quick fixes. But scotch tape and scissors, Giannattasio says, "have destroyed more artwork than any other home framing remedy."

Giannattasio is presently working on a matte that will be designed to match the scrollwork of an antique organ. Another request involved displaying the first piece of wood that a student broke in karate class to look as if the moment of impact was frozen in time. Recently, a surgeon wanted scientific specimens framed—a human umbilical cord, a bovine aorta, and various medical devices. Giannattasio developed an original shadowbox design with its own internal illumination.

Giannattasio began framing his own work because custom framing was expensive. When he finally opened an art store, he offered custom framing as an additional service to selling art supplies, teaching art lessons, and offering gallery space to local artists. Picture frame design became his specialty and it quickly became his primary source of income.

What started out as a temporary job became a 20-year career. Giannattasio attended Bloomsburg University for two years and graduated from Millersville University in 1980 with a degree in art education.

However, "The Reagan administration's decision to eliminate revenue-sharing with local school districts made it difficult to find a teaching position," Giannattasio says, pointing out that programs were being cut, and retiring teachers were not being replaced. Art and music programs were the first casualties, he recalls. So, Giannattasio took part-time jobs and supplemented his income doing artwork in a shed behind his parents' house in Catawissa. He painted portraits, designed business signs and advertisements, and took virtually any other art-related work he could find.

Life for Giannattasio is "much more about growing as an individual than pursuing a career or obtaining wealth." The heart and soul of his business is interaction with people. "Every time I design a frame," he says, "my goal is to get my customers to say 'WOW!'"

Does he regret that he's not a teacher today? "Not really," Giannattasio reflects, "my search for a teaching position diminished, but I ventured into a career that, in a sense, found me."

Local artist Sam Dion looks over his acrylic painting of Carley Aurora Lee-Lampshire which was framed by Ed Giannattasio.

Witch Way to Heaven?

Ancient Practice Casts Its Spell Over Area Residents

by Eric Hunt

She has never boiled a rat's tail or the eyes of a newt. She isn't a wart-covered, green-faced old hag. She doesn't even ride a broom. Yet, Melissa Gabrielle, Bloomsburg, is a witch.

The thought of coming face to face with a witch strikes fear into the hearts of many. It brews images of menacing puppeteers that manipulate the fate of the world with spooky chants like, "Double, double, toil and trouble, Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

If faced by a witch, "I'd keep right on going," says Robert Drake, Bloomsburg. Truthfully, though, Wicca, the modern practice of witchcraft, is nothing to fear. It is an age-old religion based on very real ideas.

Wicca isn't a rejection of traditional religion but, "the embracing of the diversity of religious experience, in the context of creating Heaven on Earth," says Sue Yarnes, Bloomsburg, "Heaven is not somehow separate. Heaven and the divine and all that is good is here with us now."

Wicca has its origins in the Pagan traditions of the ancient Celtic and Teutonic tribes in Europe. Their central deities are a god and goddess, representing the masculine and feminine sides of a balanced existence, according to Glenn Moyer, Catawissa, an 11-year Wicca practitioner. Many gods and goddesses began to emerge, as aspects and reflections of the central deities in order to celebrate and emphasize the reverence of life.

Pagans believed, as neo-Pagans and Wiccans today believe, that the physical and spiritual worlds are inseparable. Death is not a source of fear, says Moyer. The body may die physically, but the soul is reincarnated into a new form and will continue to return until the end of the world. Pagans have never believed in Hell or the Devil. Evil exists, Moyer says, but only as part of the essential balance of life.

"If you've done what you need to, you'll come back with a new purpose and new lessons to learn," says Gabrielle, "if not, you'll come back to learn the lessons you've missed." Gabrielle says that Wiccans return to physical form when they have decided what they need to learn.

"Earth is like a school," Gabrielle says, "and when you die you return to your home. You leave again to continue learning your lessons."

A "Wiccaning" takes place when a child is born to a Wiccan. Moyer says the ceremony is similar to Christian baptism. Both physical and spiritual gifts are given and protection magic may be used to keep the child safe in the first few years of growth. However, Moyer is adamant that the "Wiccaning" is not a dedication on the Wiccan path. Wiccans believe strongly that people should follow their own spiritual path, he says.

Weddings, or "hand fastings," take place in the Wiccan faith as well. A ritual is held to bring the couple together before the god and goddess. The High Priest or Priestess instructs the couple to join hands and then ties a cord around the clasped hands, making a knot. The two are pronounced husband and wife, "so long as the love shall last," according to Moyer. The cord is cut but the knot remains, signifying their union. A divorce in Wicca does not carry the same stigma it does in Christianity, says Moyer. If the love no longer lasts, the knot is simply undone and it is understood that the marriage has ended.

The Wiccan New Year begins on the night of Samhain (pronounced sow 'en), known to most non-witches as Halloween. Samhain is the first of eight Sabbats, or holidays, found on the Wiccan wheel of the year.

Dressing up on Halloween originated from an ancient Pagan tradition practiced on this night. People dressed up to fool the bad luck from the old year or, in some cases, to scare it away. The "Jack-O-Lantern" was originally intended to serve as exactly that, a lantern, according to Moyer. Witches used it to guide themselves to ancient midnight rituals.

The infamous cauldron, or chalice, is still used by Wiccans today, Moyer

explains. It symbolizes the womb of the Goddess as well as a reverence for water. It is also used for a practice called "skrying." Many people recognize this as looking into a crystal ball. In truth, there is nothing inside the ball, Moyer says, "the reflection and focus give you inspiration inside your own head."

Witches who boil nocturnal creatures in bubbling cauldrons and then jump on brooms for a night of moon fly-bys are figments of the imagination. They were created by misinterpretations of rather common Wiccan practices, Moyer says.

"One third of ancient witchcraft was herbalism," he says. Before herbs received their Latin names, and could be identified across cultures, they were known by their common names. Holly leaves, in the regions where Wicca originated, were known as "bat's wings." Herbs used in medicine and magic, with names like, "devil's shoestring, Jew's ear, bachelor buttons, or bird's tongue sound horrible, but they're just herbs," according to Moyer.

The myth of the flying broom comes from the combination of two very different practices. When the grain that had been planted by Pagan farmers began to sprout, witches would put a broom between their legs and jump through the fields in order to show the grain how high to grow. Because the grain was seen as the domain of the god, or masculine side of existence, a phallic symbol—the broom—was used to ask for his help in providing a good harvest.

Some witches practice astral projection. Moyer explains it as "the parting of the spirit from the body." Witches, believing that the spiritual and physical worlds are one, saw astral projection as a form of flying. Some would make flying ointments filled with hallucinogens to aid in astral projection. The only flying that witches ever did, says Moyer, was of a purely spiritual nature. Misunderstandings like these are responsible for conjuring up the classic horror flick.

Hexes that bring "a pox upon you" have scared the zits out of non-witches for centuries. According to Moyer, the most widely used spells are those for healing, love, and protection. "Love magic is a touchy subject because Wiccans believe so strongly in free will," he says. There once were old-style spells that would deny the free will of another but according to Moyer, most Wiccans feel strongly about not using them.

"If you want to attract someone into your life, go for an idea rather than a person. Never try to deny someone's free will by using your magic," Moyer explains.

Many people believe that witches practice "black magic," implying magic of an evil or selfish nature. In Christianity, prayers are said to both praise God as well as ask for his help in solving problems with which faithful people feel they need assistance. Moyer says that in Wicca, "that's what spells are for." He says that spells only work when they are needed and are usually cast with the welfare of others in mind.

The Law of Three is the unbreakable karmic code of Wiccan magical practice. The law states, "Do what you will, so long as you harm no

one—including yourself," according to Moyer, "and whatever you do shall return to you threefold."

"I wouldn't want my kids involved with [witchcraft]," says Charlie Rodgers, Berwick. But for those who do wish to practice the religion, "That's their business," he says. Rodgers says he is accepting of the beliefs of others but believes witchcraft is a negative practice. These reactions are all too common, Moyer says, although he knows of more than 60 Wiccans and at least three covens in Columbia and Montour counties.

"They have a right," says John Campbell, Bloomsburg, offering a more open-minded perspective; "this is America isn't it?"

"My own beliefs never coincided with the ones I was brought up with," says Gabrielle, who was raised Catholic. Throughout her catechism, the ideas that God had to be male and the Church led by men frustrated her.

Some friends asked Gabrielle if she were Wiccan, before she even knew what it meant, because of some of the beliefs she had shared during a philosophical discussion. She says she was intrigued and began to find out all she could about the religion. Quickly, Gabrielle says, she realized that Wicca had been in her heart since childhood.

Moyer says that when he is asked what his religion is and answers, "I'm Wiccan," he usually gets in response, "What's that?" Once, two men confronted Moyer in a parking lot in the Bloomsburg area and attempted to save him in the name of Christianity. One man took a compassionate approach, he says, but the other was forceful and "didn't know what he was talking about."

"I think I scared them," says Moyer, not because he practiced witchcraft but because he says he knew more about the Bible than they did. Although he wasn't afraid, Moyer says, he knew where the call boxes were in that parking lot.

Experiences like these are discouraging, considering that Wiccans believe so strongly that all people deserve the freedom to practice their own religion, Moyer explains. Regardless, he says he comes away from such an experience with more confidence in his chosen path, "I proved that I can remain civilized and I didn't have to hide anything because there is nothing wrong with what I do."

For many, what Moyer does is shrouded in mystery and surrounded by fear. However, Yarnes does hold open circles where people who are curious about Wicca can witness and participate in a ritual. As many as 70 Wiccans and non-Wiccans have attended her open circles, she says.

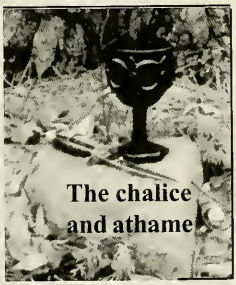
Rituals are held on the Sabbats as well as on full moon holidays, Moyer says. Unlike Christian church services, there are no weekly rituals. Many Wiccans practice daily, performing solitary rituals before sleeping at night or after waking in the morning. They practice as either a solitary witch or part of a coven, a group of witches, guided by a High Priest and High Priestess. Covens often hold their rituals in secret because of traditions that came about when the religion was underground. In 1956, when the last of the English anti-witchcraft laws were repealed, the word "Wicca" surfaced, rooted in the Anglo-Saxon language, to diminish the stigmas that haunt the terms "witch" and "witchcraft." Since then, Moyer says, the religion has grown steadily.

'Earth is like a school and when you die you return to your home. You leave again to continue learning your lessons.'

A ritual begins with the purification of the self in most solitary practices. After ritually bathing, Wiccans anoint themselves with scents that help focus their mind on where they are and what they are about to do. Sage is commonly used in American Wicca for its purifying scent.

A circle is cast, using the powers of the four mystic elements—air, fire, earth, and water. The god and goddess are invited to be present and watch over the ritual. Each one is different, depending on the Sabbat or holiday that is being celebrated, and makes use of a variety of tools

photos by Eric Hunt



The chalice and athame

Glenn Moyer invites the four mystic elements to be present at a Wiccan ritual

and symbols. "The pentagram is the most misunderstood symbol we have," Moyer says. It is a five-pointed star, symbolizing the Earth. Four of the points represent the mystic elements and the fifth point, at the top of the star, represents the spirit.

"It's easy to equate witches with worshipping Satan," says a Berwick man who wishes to remain anonymous. However, in the practice of Satanism, which Moyer says could not have derived from Paganism because the idea of the Devil comes from Christianity, the pentagram is inverted. The spirit points down, implying that it is below both the physical world and the self. As a Wiccan symbol, Moyer says, the spirit is above and, more importantly, in harmony with the other elements. "The spirit flows with the other elements," Moyer explains, drawing the star.

The athame, or ritual dagger, is used as a symbol for fire. Moyer says the athame is only used to cut "spiritually," or to direct energy, as in the casting of the circle for ritual work. The wand is a symbol for air. Wiccans use it to communicate with the spirit.

"Cakes and ale" sometimes mark the end of a ritual for covens. Eating grain is a symbol for communing with the god and drinking water, communing with the goddess. But there are other reasons for including "cakes and ale" at the end of a ritual. Moyer says, "doing a ritual expends a lot of energy and you get the munchies."

Although Moyer has found great joy in his solitary practices as well as his involvement in the highly energetic open circles that Yarnes holds, "hundreds of years of misunderstandings and propaganda" are difficult to refute. "It's good to try to change things," he says, "but when you try to force things on people they won't listen." He is content to walk his path and shed a positive light on it for those who are curious about where it is going.

TICKED OFF

by Erika Landis

We all know what ticks, those nasty little bloodsuckers, can do to humans, but some people might not know that dogs and cats are susceptible to Lyme disease as well.

Dogs are more likely to contract the disease than cats, because of felines' compulsive grooming habits. Long-haired dogs are at the highest risk. Symptoms in pets include lethargy, sudden lameness, and joint pain.

The Bloomsburg Veterinary Hospital alone treats 15 to 20 dogs a year with clinical signs of the disease, according to Dr. Jean H. Cunningham. At the Berwick Veterinary Center, Dr. Steven L. Schindler, reports that four to seven dogs each year are suspected of carrying Lyme Disease. However, most pets avoid any risk of contracting it by becoming vaccinated.

Providing pets with preventive treatments against fleas and ticks is much cheaper than bombing your house with insecticides, says Dr. Stacia Gilbert at the Alpine Animal Clinic, Danville. It's also more sensible than dealing with the irritation, rashes, and tapeworms that fleas can carry. Tick season lasts from March to November, so it might be time to look at some options.

Flea and tick treatments on the market include monthly topical applications of Frontline Topspot ($29.50 for three applications) or Advantage ($29.50 for four applications.) Oral medications, including Program ($29.95 for six months) and Sentinel ($34.86-52.46 for six months, depending on weight), are now available in flavored tablets. Lufenuron, the active ingredient in many flea and tick combatants, is now a shot that can be administered by veterinarians.

The new wonder drug in veterinary circles this year is Revolution, an ointment that is applied to the back of a pet's neck once a month. It prevents pets from being tormented by fleas, ticks, heartworms, ear mites, and Sarcoptic mange. It's quick drying, water repelling, and safe for puppies and kittens more than six weeks old. Revolution can be obtained only by prescription from veterinarians.

In Columbia and Montour counties, most veterinarians and animal hospitals will not carry the product before summer, when it has been on the market long enough to ensure no unforeseen difficulties. This new topical treatment ranges from $23 to $58, depending on the weight and age of the pet, and can be sold in dosages of three or six.

With Revolution, some animals may experience hair loss where the ointment is applied, just as oral medications can give certain dogs upset stomachs.

Overall, Cunningham believes that current medications like Revolution are substantially safer than previous options. "I'm happy we have selections. These new products are wonderful – not only do they work, but they decrease harmful exposure to humans," she says. Flea dips and sprays are not only unsafe for the environment, but they contain the chemical chlorpyriphos, which has been linked to cases of leukemia in children. Now that many of these older products have been pulled from the market, the current medications have become the new science.

Hunting for Deadbeat Dads

by Eric Hunt

Parents who pay for a hunting license and neglect their child support payments are now the prey, according to Valerie Kazacavage, chief of the licensing department of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. But the PGC and local licensers aren't enforcing the law. According to a Benton area license issuing agent, who wanted to be anonymous, "They don't enforce it. I usually just keep my mouth shut."

Businesses that license hunters are required to collect social security numbers from all applicants in order to help with the enforcement of child support laws, says Kazacavage. The federal government added this requirement in an amendment to the Social Security Act. License applicants whose child support payments are delinquent face having their hunting license privileges suspended until the debt is paid.

The law requires that the format of license applications be changed to accommodate an applicant's social security number. The agent says the process is expensive and that "most states are really up in arms about it because no one wants to foot the bill."

The effectiveness of the law is debatable because the PGC does not force applicants to provide their social security numbers. According to Kazacavage, The Commission is insufficiently equipped to track an applicant with a social security number alone. The only way to suspend a hunter's privileges is to notify the applicant once the Commission has received a notice from a judge stating that the applicant is delinquent, says Kazacavage.

"If someone refuses to give [a social security number] we'll still sell the license," according to the Commission. Kazacavage could not recall having to deny a license to any applicants during 1999.

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A very special thank you to the hundreds of people who through cards, gifts and especially kind words and prayers reached out to Maria during her illness. Because of you, and the wonderful doctors, nurses and support staff of Bloomsburg Hospital and Penn State Geisinger Medical Center, she feels great.

We enter our 20th year strong, healthy and very excited about our future in downtown Bloomsburg.

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COVER:
by Matt Grisafi

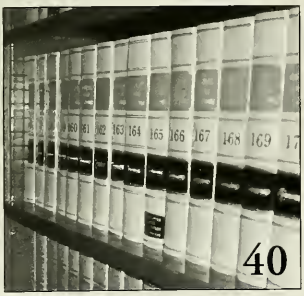
COVER HEADLINES:
Daily Item (Sunbury, Pa.)
Citizen's Voice (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.)

CONTENTS

VICTIMS

PREDATORS

THE SYSTEM



Behind the Lines

This special issue of *Spectrum* Magazine began in early summer in the Court of Common Pleas for Columbia County. We were watching jury selections for two persons, one of whom was accused of a non-violent bank robbery, the other accused of child molesting. Late that afternoon, in discussions with Judge Scott Naus, we learned that the Commonwealth mandates a harsher sentence for robbery than it does for child molesting.

That revelation led to a full investigation of sexual predators–and the largest single issue of *Spectrum* in a decade. This issue is divided into three parts–the victim, the predator, and the system; each part has several stories to help readers better understand that this is a most complex area that can have no closure. Even as we go to the press, bills are being introduced into the Legislature.

Because of the nature of this special issue, we have also used what is journalistically known as the "veiled news source." This means we have hidden the names of certain individuals we have interviewed. We rarely use the veiled news source, but on occasions it is necessary. Before the words of the sources are put into type, our editors have verified the facts of their comments, often by intensive questioning and by getting a second source with first-hand knowledge of the information to help in that verification process.

There is another change the readers will see in this issue. Past issues carried full color and state-of-the-art design. This special issue, except for the covers, is black-and-white. We believe that color might have detracted from the message. And, as we have learned the past few months, the design is far more difficult to execute when only black and shades of gray are used.

Finally, although this is one of the largest magazine issues we've produced, it's only a small part of what needs to be reported. We hope our articles will help others to better understand themselves and others. Perhaps, it may spur some of our readers either to report problems, without fear, or to become activists for change.

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SEX CRIMES

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Forcible Compulsion:
Compulsion by use of physical, intellectual, moral, emotional, or psychological force, either express or implied. The term includes, but is not limited to, compulsion resulting in another person's death, whether the death occurred before, during, or after sexual intercourse.*

Rape:
Felony-1. The act of forcing, or threatening to force, another person to engage in sexual intercourse against his or her will; forcible compulsion must be proven in order to obtain a conviction for rape. The legal definition also includes protection for people who have been unknowingly impaired by drugs, who are unconscious, who suffer from mental disabilities, or who are under the age of 13.*

Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse:
Felony-1. The act of forcing, or threatening to force, another person, or an animal, to engage in deviate sexual intercourse against his or her will; the term *deviate sexual intercourse* includes oral and anal sex as well as penetration, however slight, of the genitals or anus of another person with an object that is not part of the body. The legal definition also includes protection for people who have been unknowingly impaired by drugs, who are unconscious, who suffer from mental disabilities, who are under the age of 13, or who are under the age of 16 and have been assaulted by a person who is four or more years older than the victim.*

Sexual Assault:
Felony-2. The act of forcing, or threatening to force, another person to engage in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse against his or her will and without consent. This charge was created to address rape and IDSI cases where forcible compulsion is unable to be proven, but the victim's lack of consent is clear.*

Statutory Sexual Assault:
Felony-2. The act of sexual intercourse with another person under the age of 16 by a person who is four or more years older than the victim.*

Aggravated Indecent Assault:
Felony-2. The act of forcing, or threatening to force, penetration, however slight, of the genitals or anus of another person with a part of the body, against the other person's will and without his or her consent. The legal definition also includes protection for people who have been unknowingly impaired by drugs, who are unconscious, who suffer from mental disabilities, who are under the age of 13, or who are under the age of 16 and have been assaulted by a person who is four or more years older than the victim.*

Indecent Assault:
Misdemeanor-2. The act of forcing, or threatening to force, indecent contact with or from another person, against the other person's will and without his or her consent. The legal definition also includes protection for people who have been unknowingly impaired by drugs, who are unconscious, who suffer from mental disabilities, who are under the age of 13, or who are under the age of 16 and have been assaulted by a person who is four or more years older than the victim. Indecent assault is a Misdemeanor-1 when the victim is under the age of 13.*

Indecent Exposure:
Misdemeanor-2. The act of exposing a person's genitals in a public place or in any place where there are present other people that would find this behavior offensive or alarming. Indecent Exposure is a Misdemeanor-1 when the victim is under the age of 16.*

Grades of Crimes (most to least severe):
Capital Crime, Felony-1, Felony-2, Felony-3, Misdemeanor-1, Misdemeanor-2, Misdemeanor-3.

Pedophilia:
The conscious sexual desire of an adult directed toward dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents who do not fully understand these actions and are unable to give informed consent.**

Recidivism:
Habitual or repeated relapsing into a criminal act.

**Title 18, Part II, Chapter 31, Subchapter B of the Pennsylvania Code*

***R.I. Lanyon, Theory and Treatment in Child Molestation, Journal of Consulting Clinical Psychology, (1986)*

Seasons of Silence

Three local women face the demons of their past as they recall the nightmare of their sexual molestation

by MaryJayne Reibsome

photo by Heather Kerns

Red and orange leaves slowly drift to the ground, marking the passing of a season. Three women in different stages of their lives talk about a horrible secret they all have in common. All three were molested as children and never revealed their secret . . .

A 28-year-old Montour county woman sits in the late autumn sun contemplating her past, absently scratching the head of a Shetland collie sitting at her feet. The silence lengthens as she hesitates, searching for the courage to tell how she was sexually molested as a child and again as a teenager.

"I remember a man taking me upstairs to a bedroom, unzipping his pants and making me perform oral sex. He said it was our 'little secret,' and not to tell," says the dark-haired woman.

She was four years old. It happened a few more times and was forgotten by the child. Today, as a grown woman, she says she would like to find that man and ask him, "Do you know what you did to my life when you did that to me?"

> "I would like to find that man today and say to him, 'Do you know what you did to my life when you did that to me?' "

When she was nine, her parents divorced and her father remarried. Her mother met a man, who would eventually become her stepfather and the next man to sexually assault her.

Her mother and father hated each other and the relationship between the two families was a battleground, she says. But, she adored her mother's boyfriend and his two small sons.

The girl remembers getting lots of gifts and attention from him and she says he used to take her side when she was fighting with her brothers or her mother.

Her mother worked night shift and she stayed at home, watching her brothers. When she was 10, she recalls her mother's boyfriend coming home late at night from the bar and standing in her doorway watching her. One night when she was asleep on the couch, he lay down with her and pretended to sleep while he slowly "bumped" her, easing her into his touch. Over time, caressing turned forceful and he made her perform oral sex.

"He forced my head down there," she cries, tears streaming down her face, "I remembered this happening before and I thought that this is what I was supposed to do." She rocks back and forth, hugging the dog for comfort.

She says she feels guilt and shame when she thinks of those times—guilt, because she didn't tell anyone, believing he is probably out there still molesting children; shame because she let it happen to her.

"He never told me not to tell, but I remember being afraid of the consequences if I did," she says.

Because her father and mother hated each other, they had little contact with her father. She was afraid to tell her father. He had a violent temper, and she was afraid he would do something violent to her attacker and go to jail. She was even more frightened to tell her mother because she had to live with her and thought she wouldn't believe her. Besides, the boyfriend had become her stepfather now, and she loved him, she says, wiping tears from her face, "I would just close my eyes and wait for it to be over, and then he'd act like it never happened."

But, it did happen and she never told. When she turned 14, she says she knew it was wrong so she took pills to kill herself. She went to school and became ill and told the nurse she took pills. The nurse called Children and Youth Services and she was sent to a counselor. She lied to the counselor about the abuse. It continued.

She says she was molested until she was 15 when one night, while her mother was working, her stepfather came to her room and tried to take her downstairs to the living room.

"I remember kicking at him and the boys were in the room, so he left me alone after that." She says she believes another factor was that she started dating boys. Her stepfather and mother separated some time after that and she kept her secret until she was 19, when she told her fiancée. She says it was the hardest thing she ever had to do.

"It wasn't fair to him not to understand why I had problems with some aspects of our sex life," she says adding, "Sometimes the memories come flooding back, and knowing how wrong it was overwhelms me." She attended counseling when she was 20 and later told her mother that her stepfather had molested her. Her mother, now 45, says she was shocked and can't understand why her daughter didn't come to her if there was a problem.

"It was like he was her real father," says the girl's Columbia County mother, "she always had to go with him wherever he went."

She says she would have killed him and protected her if she had known. Her mother doesn't remember any special attention given to her by her stepfather, but says her daughter was spoiled as a child.

Her mother says that if the molestation was going on between the ages of 10 and 15—she doesn't know when it could have happened because the house was always full of her daughter's friends.

"I'm not saying he did or didn't do it, I don't know," her mother says, "But the fact she waited so long to tell—(two years after her mother was divorced), something is not jiving, she could have told someone—her aunt, her dad or her grandmother." The daughter who has not spoken to her mother

in six years, says, "I cannot understand how she didn't know, when she lived in the same house while it was happening."

This year, 19 substantiated sexual abuse cases were reported to the Columbia County Children and Youth Services, says Christine Swank, administrative director. She also says that in four of the cases, the primary caregiver was not supportive of the child's disclosure of sexual abuse. She says that in all cases where there was no support for the child's disclosure, the perpetrator was the mother's boyfriend or husband.

Today the victim says she's still trying to deal with the demons in her past. As for giving advice to other victims—"I don't know how to help them, I am still trying to help myself." But, the worst part of all, says the victim, is that after her mother divorced her stepfather, he married a woman with a small daughter. He later got divorced and left the state.

"I can understand why a child doesn't tell anyone when they've been molested," says a 41-year-old Montour County woman. She crosses her arms over her chest, hugging herself. She says she feels cold whenever she recalls an incident when a relative attempted to have sex with her when she was a child. "I would never, ever tell anyone about it, not even my husband," she says, "it is too humiliating, too personal to talk about."

It was only on one occasion, but she says she never forgot how she felt.

"I trusted him, and he told me not to make noise or tell," she says, adding, "I remember wishing he would just stop because he was hurting me."

Now, she says, sometimes when she is having sex, the memory flashes in her mind and she shoves it back.

"It's amazing how badly you can feel about something over which you had no control," she says, adding, "Sometimes I think there can never be closure—just a scab that gets scraped off now and then and has to start healing all over again."

Even with time, it's hard to forgive and forget, says a 68-year-old Columbia County woman. She balls her hands into fists as she recalls being molested by an older cousin when she was a little girl. Her voice lowers to a whisper as she tells her secret.

"He wouldn't let me play games with the older kids unless I would let him 'tickle me,'" she says, noting, "My mother would never believe that her brother's son would do anything like that."

She recalls the cousin's sister having a sleepover and the commotion that ensued the next morning when the girls found the crotch cut out of some of their panties.

"Sometimes I think there can never be closure—just a scab that gets scraped off now and then and has to start healing all over again."

"They never knew who did it," she says, nodding her head, "I know who it was." Her mother's refusal to believe the cousin was a pedophile allowed the sexual abuse to continue into the next generation. The child grew to womanhood and had a daughter. One day the daughter came home from visiting her grandmother and told her mother the cousin had "touched her down there."

"My husband and father went after him, but he lied about it," she says, disgusted.

Her children were never allowed to be in the same room with him and she never talked to or acknowledged him again, she says. When she was growing up, sexual abuse was something that was kept in the closet and never discussed. The senior woman recalls the cousin eventually ending up in the State Correctional Institute at Rockview—not knowing why, but hoping he had been caught and prosecuted as a pedophile. She smiles when she recalls his death.

"I remember calling my daughter and telling her that my worst nightmare was dead," she says. "My daughter knew right away what I was talking about."

Jack Allar, counselor and cofounder of the sex offender program at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview, has been dealing with sexual issues since 1971 when he worked as a counselor for Children and Youth. He says he believes 90 percent of sexual assault cases go unreported. One of the reasons, he says, is because it's a very intimidating process for a child to sit and tattle on his or her family. Allar describes a therapy scenario where two strangers sit, knees and hands touching, telling about their deepest secrets.

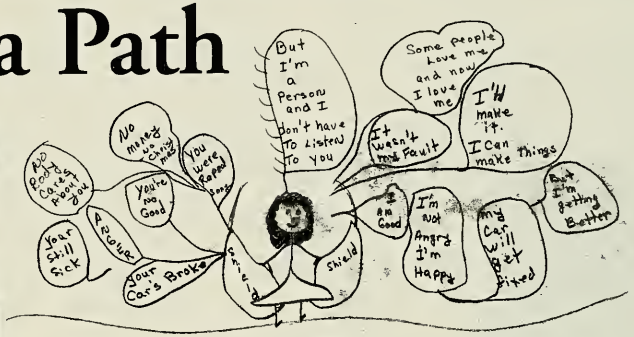
"Imagine how hard it would be telling a stranger your most humiliating sexual experience," Allar says, adding, "Now imagine you are a child telling on your daddy. The pressure is immense."

Talking about sex offenses is probably one of the biggest taboos in life, Allar says, pointing out that people will talk about health, finances, and just about anything except sex. Sex offenders are the biggest cons in the world, Allar says, they are experienced in covering up and keeping their secret from friends and family.

"Sex offenders are very elaborate planners," he says.

All three women agree that keeping the "secret" was a way of denying abuse ever occured, thus protecting themselves from a support system that all too often perpetuates their "seasons of silence." **S**

Drawing a Path ...to Freedom



One woman finds courage to overcome three years of sexual abuse through therapy and art

by Eric Hunt

After more than 35 years of depression and self-loathing, Carol Derck, 54, Shamokin, has liberated herself from a repressed past. When she was seven years old, Derck says she was raped by a relative.

"At first he just touched me," Derck claims, "but then one day he raped me." The assaults took place over a three-year period, either in her house or in the woods, Derck says. She didn't believe she could tell her parents because it would upset them, Derck says, so she just put up with one rape after another.

"I couldn't tell my dad," she says. When Derck was 10 years old, she says the person who she accuses of the attacks left the area.

"It was the happiest day of my life," she says. But the seeds of self-destruction had been planted and throughout the next 35 years, they became part of Derck's life.

She says she never spoke to anyone about the sexual abuse she suffered and her memories of the experience faded until she had blocked them almost completely out of her conscious mind. The effects that came as a result of such a violation of trust and innocence, she says, were manifested in her day-to-day life.

"I never felt like I was good enough. I thought I had to please everyone," Derck says—everyone but herself, that is. During her years of silence, Derck says her attitude became increasingly negative. This was augmented, she says, by her involvement in a 15-year relationship with an emotionally abusive man.

It wasn't until Derck was 45 years old that she finally dug up her buried secret. She says. "he approached me at the wedding when no one was around, and told me what he did to me." She says he reminded her tauntingly, bringing it all back vividly from the depths of her memory. "I had dreamt about it before," she says, "but I didn't want to admit that it was reality. I tried to keep it away."

The relative Derck claims abused her, now living out of the area, vigorously denies any sexual involvement with Derck. "Somebody is blowing smoke," he says, adding, "I have no idea [why she said this]." He says there is "no way" he would "ever have done this."

But the truth, as Derck remembers it, had become undeniable and Derck decided to seek help. She had been attending a church in Shamokin. "I told the pastor about what happened," Derck says, "and after our second meeting, he said I should talk to my mom about it." She was in her late 40s when she finally had the courage to tell her mother, she says, noting that her mother believed her story and was very supportive.

"But when I told my dad," Derck says, "he didn't want to believe it."

About that time, the atmosphere at the church also became progressively worse, she says.

"I feel like I was abused by religion," Derck says. She explained that the pastor's wife held her down with strict religious guidelines, instead of helping her recover from the years of repression that had kept her down for so long already.

"I wore a sleeveless dress to church one Sunday," she says, "and [the pastor's wife] said 'do you want what happened to you before to happen again?' After that, I left the

church." She immediately began seeking help from a different Christian counselor.

"He was very good to me," Derck says. The counselor helped her let go of many of the "church restrictions" that made her first counseling experience so dysfunctional. Eventually, the counselor realized that Derck needed more help than he was able to provide. He recommended that she become a patient at Philhaven, a Christian treatment center for victims of sexual abuse and depression. She went, but Derck says she sank even deeper into depression.

Heather Kerns

"I had dreamt about it before, but I didn't want to admit that it was reality."

"I wanted to kill myself!" she says. Then, in 1996, Derck says she met Grace Penman, director of counseling services at the The Women's Center of Columbia/Montour counties. The two women say they immediately drew up a contract in which Derck promised not to cause any harm to herself. Then the healing began, Penman says.

"She hadn't talked about what happened to her for so long," Penman says, "that she had gotten all bottled up like a pressure cooker." Derck says she was very quiet when she first started her counseling at the Women's Center. She did well at the beginning, Penman says, but "sometimes things have to get worse before they can get better." Penman's statement proved to be very true.

Derck says she had been dating a man for three years before she began her counseling with Penman. Although he was a very supportive boy-friend, Derck says, one day he told her that he had a tendency toward abuse.

"I thought he was Mr. Perfect," says Derck, "so when he told me he could be abusive I got upset and decided to leave him."

Derck began driving toward the Susquehanna River but stopped at a restaurant in Elysburg and called the Women's Center.

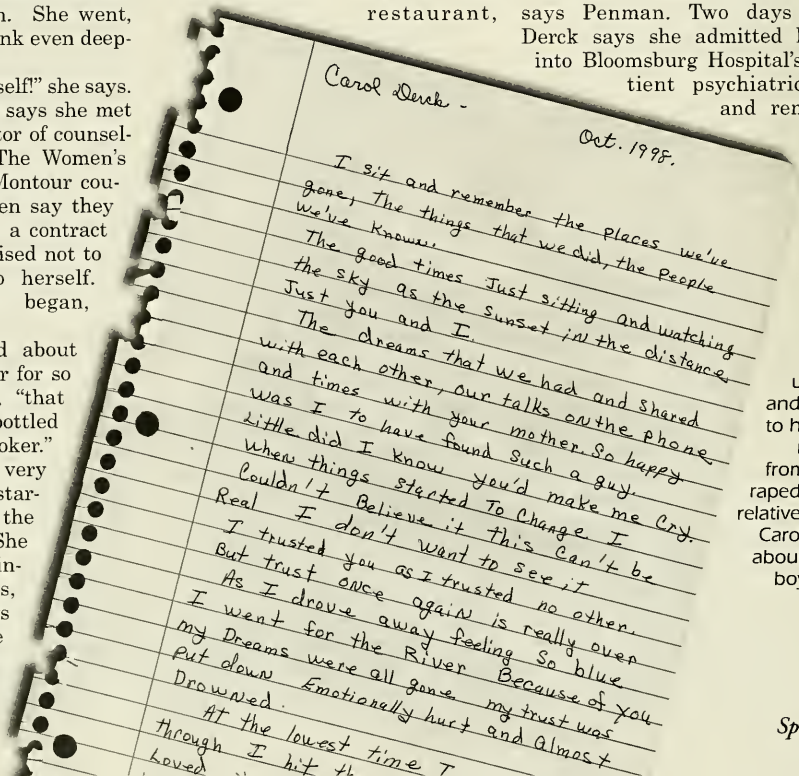
She says she left a message, telling Penman that she could no longer keep her contract. Penman says she knew that Derck was planning to kill herself. She called Derck back at the restaurant, Penman says, and told her to stay there until she arrived.

"I knew I had to do something quickly," says Penman, "so I called the police." Penman and two non-uniformed Elysburg police officers showed up at the restaurant within a few minutes. The police officers blended in to the scenery while Penman says she attempted to talk to Derck on her own, outside the restaurant.

"I told her, 'Carol, it's a permanent solution to a temporary problem,'" Penman says, but Derck says, "I didn't care if I lived or died." Penman says Derck tried to drive away, "but the policemen blocked her car. She was really mad at me."

Derck says the policeman who talked to her "was very nice. But I was very rude to him." The policemen were able to coax Derck out of her car and into an ambulance that took her to Geisinger Medical Center. She stayed there that night.

"It was a turning point for her," says Penman. Two days later, Derck says she admitted herself into Bloomsburg Hospital's inpatient psychiatric unit and remained for


Carol Derck -
Oct. 1998.

I sit and remember the places we've gone, The things that we did, the people we've known.
The good times Just sitting and watching the sky as the sunset in the distance.
Just you and I.
The dreams that we had and shared with each other, our talks on the phone and times with your mother. So happy was I to have found such a guy.
Little did I know You'd make me Cry.
When things started To Change. I Couldn't Believe it this Can't be Real I don't want to see it
I trusted you as I trusted no other.
But trust once again is really over
As I drove away feeling so blue
I went for the River Because of You
My Dreams were all gone. my trust was put down Emotionally hurt and Almost Drowned.
At the lowest time I
through I hit th
Loved

Carol Derck used art and poetry to help her recover from being raped by her relative. Here, Carol writes about an ex-boyfriend.

two and a half weeks. She attended several classes at the hospital that focused on "learning to talk out your problems." Penman says she kept in contact with Derck during her stay at the hospital but didn't resume counseling until a month after her release. That was over three years ago.

Now Derck lights up an entire room with her optimistic smile and wide eyes. Such a positive disposition, however, has not come about without years of work, she says. Derck had a lot of pent up anger toward her relative when her counseling resumed, Penman says.

"I wanted to kill him," Derck says, but she drew pictures to express her feelings rather than act on them. "I suggested that she work out her emotions through the arts," Penman says. During counseling sessions, she and Derck talked about the importance of exchanging negative thoughts for positive ones. Then, on her own, Derck says she drew pictures, wrote poetry, and put her most intimate thoughts into a journal.

"She has such a talent for expressing her emotions through art," says Penman. "Victims of sexual assault or abuse often have negative ideas about themselves because of their attackers," she says. "They make you feel really bad," says Derck, who remembers the beginning of her counseling with Penman when she repeatedly said, "I hate me. I hate me."

"You have to talk back to bad thoughts," says Penman, "that's what makes people change." Derck has become more assertive and, consequently, has gained confidence in herself, says Penman.

On Easter Sunday, 1997, Derck finally confronted her relative. Her father had invited her relative to church with the family. "I wasn't going to go," she says, but she did, and she saw her relative in the church nursery.

"I told him, 'I want you to know that I'm getting help for what you did to me. I'm not going to let you control my life anymore,'" Derck says. She says her relative denied everything, despite having reminded her of his actions a few years earlier.

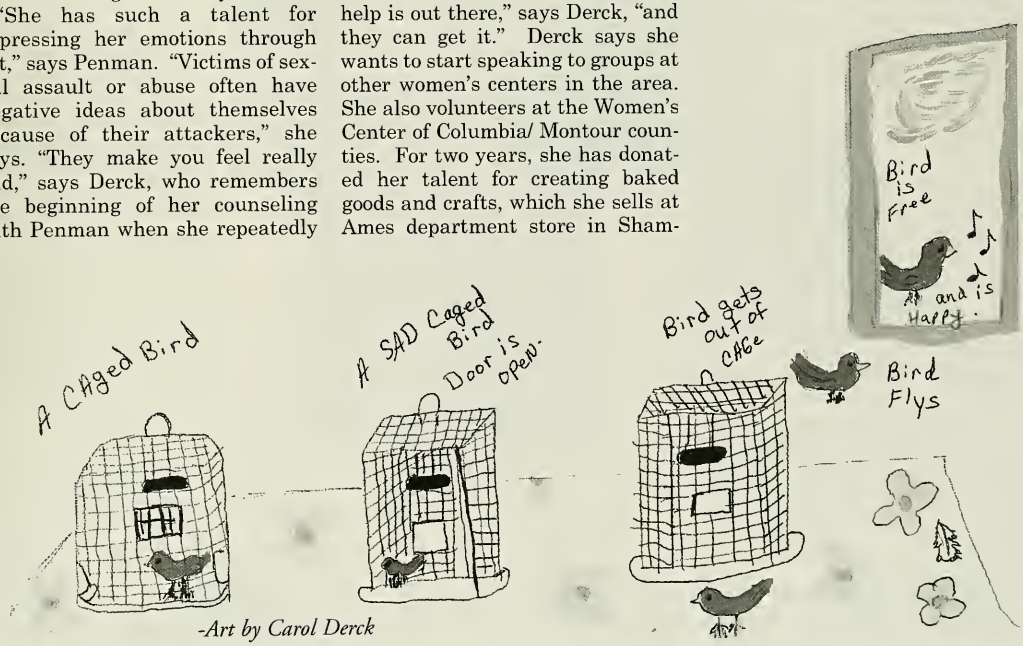
"I wanted to cry," Derck says, "but I held my head up high and went to church." She says it felt great to have finally confronted him. Since then she says her thoughts have turned outward, toward helping others.

"I want everybody to know that help is out there," says Derck, "and they can get it." Derck says she wants to start speaking to groups at other women's centers in the area. She also volunteers at the Women's Center of Columbia/ Montour counties. For two years, she has donated her talent for creating baked goods and crafts, which she sells at Ames department store in Shamokin, with the profits going to the Women's Center.

Her next project, Penman says, will be to publish a book of her art and poetry. If she sells any of the books, "I want the money to go to the Women's Center," Derck says. Before therapy, Derck seldom talked. Now she says, "I'm hardly quiet!" As one of her favorite original drawings suggests, Carol Derck is free as a bird. **S**

The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour is a private nonprofit agency. The Center is funded by the Pennsylvania Coalitions Against Rape and Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Bloomsburg, Danville, and Berwick chapters of the United Way, and private and foundation donations. For more information contact Grace Penman at (570) 784-6631 or 1-800-544-8293.

Beyond Violence, the Berwick Women's Center, is also available to victims of sexual assault. For more information call (570) 759-0298.



-Art by Carol Derck

Blinded by Trust

A date-rape victim looks back at her frightening experience

by Sheila Held

The pale green thin robe gaped open, allowing a cool draft in, sending chills down my back. I have always hated hospital gowns. The doctor's office had that familiar antiseptic odor and the smell disgusted me. It was a gray, windy March day and I was spending my Spring Break sitting in my doctor's office for an unusual check-up. Seven months earlier I had been raped.

The doctor was explaining to me the tests she would be performing. All I could think about was that horrible night back in August.

I was 17 and had just graduated from high school. College would be my next step in life and I was scared. Being young and rebellious, I did some crazy things that summer and broke all my parents' rules. I smoked too much; I drank too much.

Heather Kems

The effects of alcohol and marijuana may diminish a victim's ability to resist, but rape is still a violent crime no matter what the condition of the victim.

Toward the end of the summer, I met a guy who was kind of cute and seemed really sweet. Although he was more than four years older than me, he was intriguing. One night after work we went out on a date. The night went well and I was looking forward to seeing him again.

A couple of days later, he called to ask me out on a second date and I immediately accepted. I was excited and happy he called. We decided that we wanted to go to the drive-in movie theater to catch the latest movie.

While we were there, he tried to go further than kissing. I gave him many reasons why I didn't want to have sex with him and, after repeated protests he backed off.

Now I was having mixed feelings about this guy. I wondered what kind of person he thought I was that I would sleep with him on the second date. I figured he would be mad and wouldn't call me anymore anyway.

Surprisingly, he did call. I was a little hesitant, but put my fears aside and decided to go out with him again. I figured that he had gotten the message. However, I should have trusted my initial instincts. I was naïve.

Since our date was past my curfew, I had to sneak out and meet him in front of my house. For this date, we were going to his friend's apartment to hang out.

When we got to the apartment, I noticed there were only guys there. This made me a little uneasy. I hoped some girls would eventually show up so I didn't feel so alone. In the meantime, I nervously took a seat in an armchair and nursed a beer.

I should have realized I needed to have a friend or someone else that I could trust with me, especially since I was stuck in a room full of guys I didn't know.

Later, one of the guys passed around a "joint" and, not wanting to feel left out, I took a few hits. This, combined with the alcohol, affected my thought process. My head was spinning and I almost passed out. Things were pretty hazy at this point.

My date abruptly decided we were going to leave, so we stumbled out to his truck parked in the lot behind the apartment. After getting in, things started moving very fast.

Immediately he began kissing me. Before I knew it, I was half naked. My shorts and panties were wrapped around the bottom of my legs. I objected. It didn't matter, though, since he had already made up his mind, protection or not. He was much stronger than me and, in my state, there was no use trying to overcome him. I closed my eyes and waited for it to be over.

I had always planned on my first time being something special. This was nothing special. I always thought that it would be something shared between two people who loved each other. Not like this. Not here.

I felt ashamed and used. Up to that point, I had been a virgin and

now my innocence was stolen from me. Never had I experienced anything so humiliating and degrading. He didn't use a knife or a gun. He used a different weapon— trust.

In the upcoming months, I began my freshman year at college. I didn't tell anyone what happened that night in the pick-up truck. I placed the blame on myself and continued on, the guilt hanging over me.

I became self-destructive and careless. In time this resulted in a deep depression. Every day was worse than the previous one. I finally hit bottom after I finished my first semester and went home for Winter Break.

Being around my friends made me realize that I was having problems dealing with that night. Repeatedly, they asked what was wrong. It was getting too much for me to handle. Finally, I broke my silence by telling my best friend. She knew this guy and said she didn't believe that he would do such a thing. Her not believing me made things that much worse.

Still not knowing or understanding what was going on, my parents urged me to see a counselor. They were just as much in the dark as I was. At this point, I didn't think that anything could rescue me. However, the counseling, along with medication, allowed me to see that I could, indeed, pick myself up

> "I closed my eyes and waited for it to be over."

and rebuild my life. It was a painful, lengthy process.

I was able to go back to school for the spring semester. I got some of my previous failed grades changed to incompletes. I was determined to begin again.

When I returned home for Spring Break, I was finally able to tell my parents that I had been raped. After seven months of living with this secret, it was a release to tell them. They only wished that I hadn't waited so long to tell them.

Right away, my mother convinced me that it would be best to see a doctor. I needed to make sure that I had not been physically harmed in any way.

Like many other victims of sexual abuse, I let my fears take over and did not report anything to the police or go to the hospital the night I was raped. I was afraid that he might try something again or that I would in some way be ridiculed. I lived with my secret for four months before even gaining the courage to tell anyone.

I now know what happened to me was not my fault, but it could have possibly been prevented. Had I known more about the signs to watch for and who to talk to after it had happened, I would have been better off. **S**

Editor's Note: Sheila Held is a senior at Bloomsburg University. She will graduate in May 2001 with a B.A. in mass communications.

Designer DRUGS

The choice for a new breed of sexual predators

by Louis Williams

You wake up with a killer headache, no clothes, no memory, and in an unfamiliar place. You begin to recover your belongings scattered across the floor. You try desperately to be quiet and not wake the stranger sleeping in his bed. This is a situation that is becoming increasingly more common.

While alcohol has often been stated as the only contributing factor in many rape cases, "Designer Drugs" have now been circulating the club, college, and sexual abuse scenes. "Designer Drugs" are made to copy the effects of more addictive or serious drugs and, as frightening as it may be, are commonly used for a "designated" purpose. The popularity of these drugs has increased because of their accessibility and low prices. Since many of these pills and liquids can be dissolved in drinks, they have been the drugs of choice for a new breed of sexual predators.

Heather Kerns

Many "designer" drugs are slipped into drinks because they are soluble.

According to the Bloomsburg University Police and Bloomsburg town police there have been very few cases where it has been established that a date rape drug was used. Sgt. Joe Wondoloski of the Bloomsburg town police said, "I know that it is here and that you can buy it but GHB (Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate) and Rohypnol (Roofies) have just not been a problem for this community or university. I think that the main reason we have not seen the explosion that other areas have had is because we do not have a real club scene in town and clubs are usually where these kinds of drugs are found." While the use of GHB might not be prevalent in the area, there have recently been some arrests for possession of the drug. In early September, Bloomsburg University student Robert Shaffer was arrested for possession of large quantities of GHB that he is alleged to have been manufacturing. "He was not selling in the area. A lot of times what these dealers will do is travel to other places to sell so that it is harder for them to be caught. He was just making the stuff here," says Wondoloski.

GHB (Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate)

GHB, a new addition to the list of commonly used date-rape drugs, was originally used as a mild anesthetic in medical procedures. The drug was also used as a dietary supplement and was a favorite among body-builders because it promotes slow-wave sleep, which is when muscle growth hormone release takes place. The production of GHB as a medicine was later halted because of its adverse side effects, such as nausea, drowsiness, respiratory distress, dizziness, seizures, amnesia, comas, and even reported deaths, according to the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information. In the early 1990s, the Food and Drug Administration made it illegal to possess or sell the drug.

GHB can easily be placed in someone's drink without his or her knowledge because the drug has neither smell nor taste. A victim can fall asleep within 20 minutes after a significant dosage. Along with its sedative effects, users often experience memory loss very quickly after consumption. The drug moves through the human body very quickly and can be completely out of a person's system in 24 hours.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), GHB has been linked to at least 58 deaths since 1990 and more than 5,700 recorded overdoses. This drug is so dangerous that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would toughen the laws concerning the possession and distribution of this drug, and Pennsylvania included GBL (gamma butyrolactone),

a component in GHB, to the state's list of controlled substances.

The efforts of this new legislation have been to move GHB and its components from a Schedule IV drug to the more serious Schedule I category. A Schedule I drug must meet the following requirements: (1) a high potential for abuse; (2) no currently accepted medical use; and, (3) a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision. While all of these criteria have been proven, opposition still stands to the raising of the penalties against this drug because of its medicinal uses.

> "[Ecstacy] is everywhere. I could get it in under an hour if I had to."

Rohypnol (Flunitrazepam)

Another drug that has recently become common among date-rape cases is Flunitrazepam, also known as Rohypnol, Roofies, or roaches. This drug is a strong sedative with effects that are much like those of Valium®.

Packaged in bubble packs, these dissolvable pills will cause most users to fall asleep; when combined with alcohol and marijuana, the effects of the drug increase dramatically, creating yet another scenario for date-rape. A list of the usual reactions includes extreme sleepiness, memory loss, and slowed motor skills.

Popularity of this drug has increased among a younger crowd because it is legal to possess the drug and because it is nearly impossible for police to do field tests to determine whether the drug has been ingested.

The largest problem areas for this drug are in Florida and Texas where the drugs are frequently brought across the U.S. border. Cases of high school children using the drug are becoming so prevalent that "Roofies" have become Florida's newest drug of choice.

Sold legally in Europe and Latin America, Rohypnol is administered to combat insomnia and to help drug addicts kick their habits. Studies have shown that Rohypnol may lead to an addiction of its own. Physical dependence is common for Rohypnol users. Withdrawal symptoms include headache, muscle pain, extreme anxiety, tension, restlessness, confusion and irritability, according to the DEA.

While Rohypnol currently falls under the category of a Schedule III drug, which means its distribution must be recorded, the DEA has been investigating the possibility of placing the drug into the Schedule I category, which means the drug has a high potential for abuse and has no accepted use in medical treatment.

Ecstacy

Another drug that has been associated with sexual assaults in recent years is Ecstacy. Also known as MDMA (Methylenedioxymethamphetamine), Ecstacy was first produced as an appetite suppressant in 1914 and later used in the 1970s by American psychotherapists as an aid to therapy.

The drug has only been used recreationally since the mid 1980s, so little is known about its long-term effects. In a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), researchers at Johns Hopkins University have determined that the use of the drug has long-term damaging effects to the areas of the brain that control thought and memory. Lab studies on rats have shown that repeated doses of MDMA lowered the levels of a chemical messenger in the brain called seratonin. Low levels of seratonin in the human body have been linked to depression and anxiety. When ingested, the drug makes the user's sense of touch increase greatly. According to a Bloomsburg University student, "it is the best feeling you have ever had. You just want everyone to hold and touch you." In fact, many users of this drug use it primarily in sexual situations. Another Bloomsburg University student said, "the only time that I use 'E' is when I am with my girlfriend. It enhances the whole sexual experience."

Ecstacy is a Class A drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, making possession, supply or production illegal. Possession of even a small number of tablets can lead to "intent to deliver" charges. The availability of this drug is becoming increasingly easy with its explosion on the club scene in big cities such as New York and Philadelphia. "It [Ecstacy] is everywhere. I could get it in under an hour if I had to," said another BU student. **S**

Reducing the risk of substance-related rape

- ✓ Do not leave beverages unattended.
- ✓ Do not take any beverages, including alcohol, from someone you do not know well and trust.
- ✓ At a bar or club, accept drinks only from the bartender, waiter or waitress.
- ✓ At parties, do not accept open container drinks from anyone.
- ✓ Be alert to the behavior of friends. Anyone appearing disproportionately inebriated in relation to the amount of alcohol they have consumed may be in danger.
- ✓ Anyone who believes he or she has consumed a sedative-like substance should be driven to a hospital emergency room or should call 911 for an ambulance. Try to keep a sample of the beverage for analysis.

After being raped in her own home, 77-year-old Betty Albright is

Living in Constant Fear

by Ken Fetterhoff

Betty Albright, 77, says she lives "in constant fear." She remembers it as "the worst experience of my life, my freedom and my happiness were taken away from me," says Albright, who was sexually assaulted during a robbery attempt at her home about seven years ago. "I never thought anything would happen to me in my own home but now I know it could happen anywhere," Albright says.

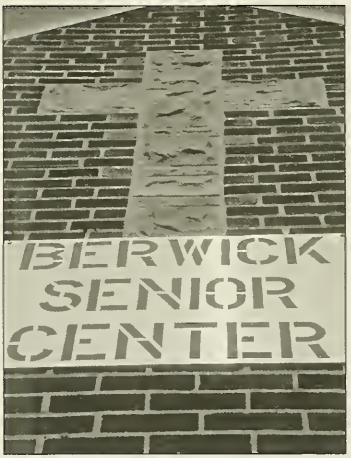
"I was so terrified when it happened and I'll never forget that," said Albright. "I fell asleep on the couch in front of the television and I heard a noise coming from the back door. The next thing I remember, two guys were screaming at me to be quiet and I won't get hurt. I yelled for help and one of them hit me with the end of a gun and that's when they raped me," says Albright, still visibly shaken from the terrifying experience.

"I'm still trying to put it behind me and move on," Albright says. "I try and help out other people who have been abused. Someone who has been through a similar experience and moved on with their life can be a great comfort," she said. "I try to let other women know that it's going to be okay and that there are places to turn to if they need help," she says.

Albright now lives at an assisted living community in Bloomsburg. "My children thought it would be good for me to move so I could have someone watch me." says Albright. "The community has helped me a lot in dealing with the trauma."

Abuse of the elderly in the United States, and particularly in the Columbia-Montour region, is a growing problem. "We have a relatively large older population and the problem of abuse continues to grow," says Kim Shetler, casework supervisor at the Area Agency on Aging.

"The Agency offers a 24-hour toll-free hotline that victims can call and get help." The agency helps victims of abuse by providing legal services, police protection, counseling, health care treatment, and emergency services.



Heather Kerns

The Berwick Senior Center, formerly the Assembly of God Church, offers counseling for victims of elderly abuse.

Shetler says 243 elderly abuse cases were reported in Columbia and Montour counties between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. Of the 243 cases. 15 percent were sexual abuse in some form. "We only investigate reports of abuse for people 60 and over although we get reports for all ages," Shetler says. A 1997 mandatory reporting act increased the number of reports across the state. The law says that any licensed facility, such as nursing homes, doctor's offices, hospitals, and law offices must report any form of abuse to the Area Agency on Aging regardless of age.

Columbia County offers several ways for victims of elderly abuse to turn for help. The Women's Center in Bloomsburg offers programs for victims of elderly abuse. "We offer counseling, group sessions, and education and prevention programs here," according to Kathleen Russell, executive director of the Women's Center. The certified counselors at the Women's Center help victims fight through anger and fear.

According to the National Elderly Association. 4,354 elderly abuse cases were reported in the United States in 1999. About 20 percent of those reported were sexual abuse.

In 1990 a House of Representatives committee held special hearings about the growing problem of elderly abuse. The committee addressed elderly abuse laws, national hotlines, and agencies. Many of the elder abuse laws are written for the incapacitated or vulnerable elder. Laws generally consider incapacity or vulnerablity to suggest a client's inability to defend, access help, verbally articulate concerns, or being so emotionally dependent that, while not rendering the person incompetent, complicates his or her ability to prevent abuse. Basically, a wheelchair-bound husband can abuse his healthy wife and his wife would come under suspicion.

"The victim/witness program was started in 1991 and assists victims in finding a witness to the crime committed against them. "We don't offer any specific programs, but we can help people find someone to turn to," says Barrett.

"We do offer some education pro-

grams coordinated with the Women's Center designed specifically for abuse," Barrett says. "My office works with the police in finding witnesses to every crime, specifically violent crimes where witnesses may be afraid to come forward."


Heather Kerns

"I look at my job like a private investigator trying to find a witness to substantiate the crime," says Barrett, who heads a four-person office that works for the district attorney.

The region contains senior centers in Bloomsburg, Benton, Danville, Berwick, Catawissa, Millville, Washingtonville, and Wilburton. The centers offer several instructional and personal enrichment classes, as well as advocate for programs to benefit special interest.

"We offer various programs on abuse, neglect, and rape to help people understand that it could happen anywhere and for them to know more about it," says Beth Johnson, Bloomsburg Senior Center Coordinator. "We are a gathering place for seniors to come and enrich their minds, talk to friends, and continue a social life," says Johnson.

> "We have a relatively large older population and the problem of abuse continues to grow."
>
> Kim Shetler,
> Area Agency on Aging

With the majority of the population now reaching the age of 50 and over elderly abuse will continue to rise.

"A large amount of the population is within five to ten years from retiring," says Shetler. "This could mean a significant increase in the amount of elderly abuse cases."

Local, state, and even federal agencies are beginning to recognize this growing problem by passing tougher laws. **S**

For more information, contact the Area Agency on Aging at: (570) 784-9272.

Unlocking the Silence

RAINN hotline helps victims of sexual abuse

- by Matt Grisafi and Christy Thompson

Somewhere in America a woman is sexually assaulted about every two minutes, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In response, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) has become a powerful force in America, providing support for victims.

In 1991, Tori Amos released her debut solo album "Little Earthquakes." One particularly chilling track, "Me and a Gun," is about her own rape experience. Amos was one of the first celebrities to come forward and speak out openly against rape. With lyrics of, "It was me and a gun and a man on my back, and I sang 'holy, holy' as he buttoned down his pants," the song moved thousands who had been sexually abused to reach out to Amos for guidance. Realizing she couldn't possibly deal with all of them on her own, she went to her label, Atlantic Records, for help. As a result, RAINN was born.

RAINN is America's only national hotline for sexual assault victims. Persons who call the hotline, 1-800-656-HOPE, are automatically connected to the rape crisis center nearest them. The call doesn't show up on their phone bill, so a victim living in an abusive household can get help without the call being discovered. All calls are completely confidential and free support is offered 24 hours a day from anywhere in the country.

The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour, one of more than 850 centers nationwide affiliated with RAINN, receives 2-3 calls a month, says Kathleen Russell, the center's executive director. The center has a trained crisis counselor available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is located at 111 North Market Street in Bloomsburg and can also be reached locally at (570) 784-6631.

"RAINN is a wonderful hotline that is to be commended," says Russell. "RAINN is very efficient in connecting a caller to a counselor."

RAINN RAPE, ABUSE & INCEST NATIONAL NETWORK 1-800 656 HOPE

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., RAINN receives no government aid, and is funded by the private sector and corporate sponsors, including Atlantic Records and the Warner Music Group. The network also has many celebrity supporters, including Sarah McLachlan's Lilith Fair, Oprah Winfrey, Dru Hill, R.E.M., and Jennifer Aniston. Shoe designer Steve Madden, who recently designed a shoe called the "Tori Amos" to benefit RAINN, is one of its biggest supporters.

Calvin Klein became involved with RAINN in 1996 when his company signed on to become a corporate sponsor. In 1997, Klein launched the "Unlock the Silence" campaign to raise money and awareness for the hotline. The campaign provided national advertising for RAINN, especially after co-branded Calvin Klein/RAINN began to appear in most major department stores. Both Klein and Madden are on RAINN's advisory board, chaired by Amos.

To raise awareness for RAINN's cause, a number of television spots have been aired on major television networks. In 1997, Lifetime Television, also a major supporter of RAINN, aired a benefit concert featuring Amos at Madison Square Garden. An episode of "Beverly Hills 90210" that aired in May 1999 incorporated the RAINN hotline into its story. After the program, a public service announcement featuring actress Jennie Garth generated 4,000 calls into the hotline that night—the highest call volume ever recorded at one time, according to RAINN. Last year, RAINN was featured on ABC's "20/20." The report featured three victims of sexual assault who had been helped by RAINN.

The organization's efforts have also been widely publicized on radio stations nationwide. According to RAINN, over 1,100 different stations have aired their public service announcements and participated in National RAINN Day, May 16. At exactly noon on RAINN Day, TV and radio stations across the country aired a public service announcement immediately followed by Amos' song, "Silent All These Years," to raise awareness for sexual assault.

When RAINN was founded in 1994, there were only 347 rape crisis centers involved in the network. There are now more than 850 centers nationwide.

"A lot of times a woman may become frustrated while trying to get through to an ordinary hotline and end up not getting the help she needs," says Russell. "When they call 1-800-656-HOPE, they are connected easily." **S**

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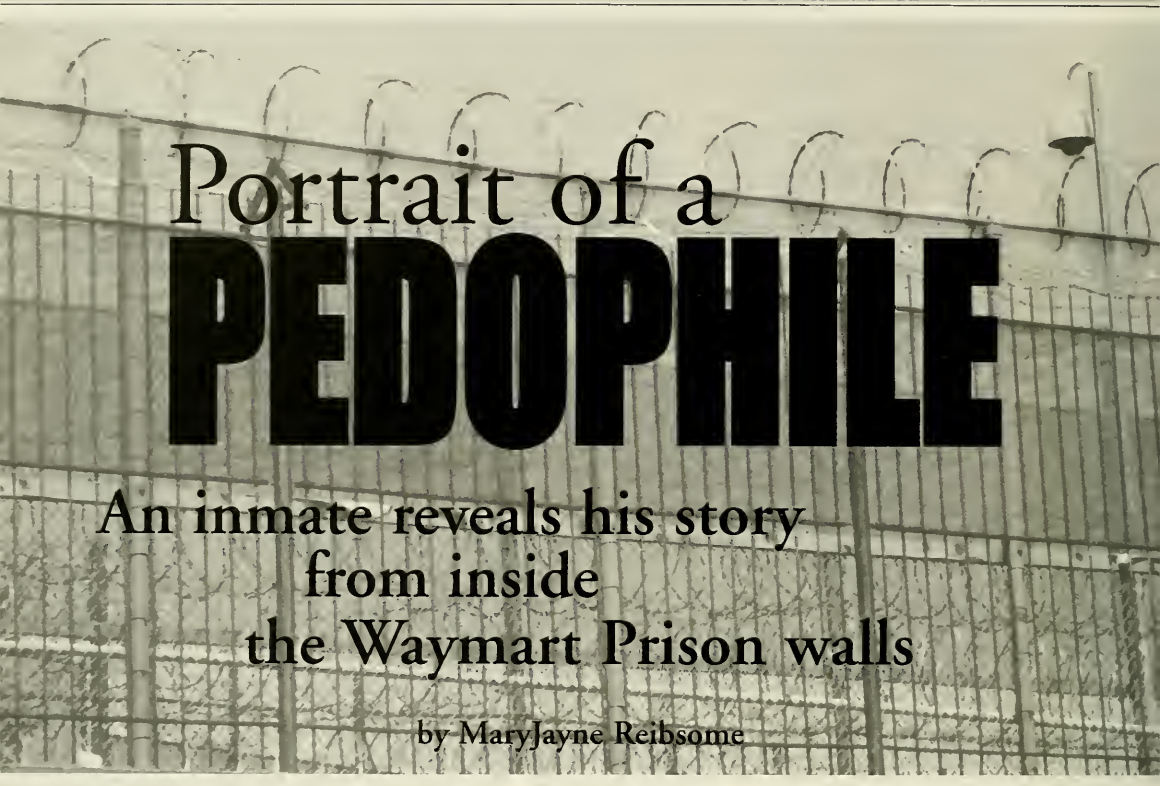


Portrait of a PEDOPHILE

An inmate reveals his story from inside the Waymart Prison walls

by MaryJayne Reibsome

In a small counseling room off one of the four sex offender units at the State Correctional Institute at Waymart, a 34-year-old convicted pedophile sits next to sex offender therapist Jeanie Pavlovich, and talks about his sex crimes against a 14-year-old girl. The man agreed to tell his story in exchange that his name and appearance not be used, "to protect the identity of his victim." Convicted on a felony charge of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and a misdemeanor on corruption of minors, he is serving three and one-half years of his maximum seven and one-half year sentence. He is currently paroled and awaiting his release back into society.

As he tells his story, he crosses an ankle over his knee and picks at the pant leg of his brown prison uniform, glancing nervously now and then at Pavlovich.

Six years ago he was a full-time prep school swim coach and was conducting a swim clinic where he met 14-year-old "Jill." Soon he was her summer swim club coach. By fall, he had convinced her to join his winter swim team. "It didn't seem manipulative at the time," he says, "We became very close." He says he never experienced prior sexual fantasies about children, and thought he was developing "feelings" for her.

As Jill's coach, he became controlling and "dad-like"—putting her on a diet, a weight lifting program, and mandatory weigh-ins.

As Jill began calling her coach at home with her swim times, their discussions became more personal, including talks about her boyfriends. One night, she told him she had a dream about him.

"I figured it was something bad," he said, "but, I told her to tell me about it anyway. She said she dreamt about having sex with me."

He says he began distancing himself from his own age group, becoming a loner. Two months before meeting Jill he had broken off his relationship with his peer-age girlfriend. He started hanging out with students from the prep school—shooting pool, playing hockey, and going out to eat after swim meets.

"I had low self esteem," he says, "but, when I was on the pool deck I was in command and outgoing. I was only comfortable with age groups 6 to 18. It was like I could only relate to them."

Phone conversations between coach and student became more intimate and personal. They talked about being together and kissing for the first time. He had her call him collect late at night so her parents wouldn't find out. He enjoyed

what he claims was a good relationship with her parents, and says they trusted him to drive her to and from meets and practices.

"At this time I'm not thinking immoral or illegal," he says, " I'm thinking about unethical."

But, he crossed that line too. He bought Jill a dolphin ring that led to the first kiss in the weigh-in station.

"My first reaction is, 'what am I doing?' he says, "but she started kissing me back and everything seemed OK. It's amazing how careful you can become when you're manipulating a situation." Jill's parents were waiting outside in the car for her to finish practice.

He continued grooming Jill, buying her presents, giving her swim equipment, and even introducing her to an Olympics swim coach. One day after practice when he was to take Jill home, they found themselves alone in the weight room.

"We kissed for a little bit and then we laid down on the floor," he says, "that's when I had intercourse with her for the first time."

Afterward, he told Jill that if she told anyone he would lose his job, implying that she would also lose all the attention she was receiving and possibly her swimming goals for the national team.

"In my head I'm thinking she's my girlfriend, not about going to jail," he says, adding, "she called to say she was going back to her boyfriend and I thought about suicide."

But the relationship continued and he and the girl had sex several times—once while she was babysitting at another coach's house, twice during private pool instruction, and twice after practice when he drove her to the park.

As their encounters increased, the gifts became more expensive. He gave her a $100 necklace that he said was "to keep her quiet." Soon he became more careless. At Christmas time, he asked Jill's mother if Jill could help decorate his tree. Jill's little sister came along.

"I told the sister to go start the car and that we'd be right there," he says, "then I molested Jill and performed oral sex on her for the first time. She started to perform oral sex on me, but stopped right away. She didn't want to do it."

He claims he never forced Jill to do anything she didn't want, and that all the sexual encounters were unprotected.

"I'm thinking that I care; I didn't think or worry about protection," he says, adding, "I was worrying about my needs at any cost."

The price came high on New Year's Eve when the girl, who was staying at her cousin's house, called him to ask if she could spend the night at his. He refused. Jill told her 17-year-old cousin about her relationship with him, and Jill's cousin called her mother. It wasn't long before Jill's father called him with an ultimatum: quit coaching, get tested for all sexual diseases, and never call or contact Jill again or else face criminal charges.

The next day he quit his two coaching jobs, went for testing, and checked into a mental health facility. He requested that his social worker call Jill's parents and offer to pay for any counseling Jill might need. Jill's parents took her to the hospital, where the hospital reported the incident to the police. He was arrested from the mental health clinic.

At the court sentencing, Jill said that "she didn't want any of this to happen."

"I was very angry at first because I thought it was consensual and she loved me," he says. "I thought she was saying that to make herself look good."

But after three and a half years in SCI Waymart's sex offender program, he said he knows there was nothing consensual about his relationship with Jill. He says he struggled with that for a long time in group therapy and it wasn't until he heard another inmate telling a similar story that he realized how wrong it was.

"Did she say the word 'yes' and did she mean the word 'yes?'" he asks, saying, "I was the biggest one saying it was consensual, but if you

> "In my head I'm thinking she's my girlfriend, not about going to jail...I was worrying about my needs at any cost."

Heather Kerns

are raped and you don't struggle it doesn't mean you weren't raped."

He has a bachelor's degree in psychology, and says he knows now that all the grooming—the gifts, the special attention—was about "power, control and manipulation."

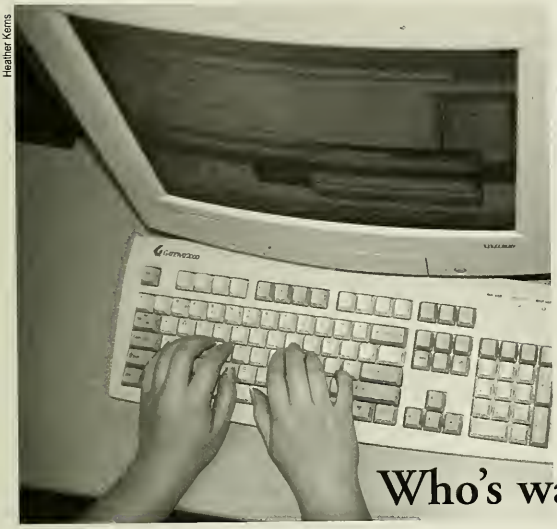
That power, he says, was a reflection of his own family life. His father was an alcoholic and very controlling. In his family, "love equaled gifts but, the words just weren't there."

But it took more than words to get him paroled. Therapist Jeanie Pavlovich says that prior to his parole, he had to complete all phases of the sex offender program before receiving institutional recommendation of parole. He is currently waiting to be placed under supervision at a Community Corrections center. An inmate who refuses to enroll in the voluntary sex offender program will usually finish out his sentence, says Pavlovich, adding, there are 50 to 75 sex offenders waiting in general population to start treatment. Upon completion of the sex offender program an inmate has to admit to his crimes and the harm he caused, she says. "An inmate will never say 'it just happened.' We don't let them get away with that in "Group," Pavlovich says, pointing out, "a pedophile plans it, it never 'just happens.'"

He says at first he started therapy to be eligible for parole and hated his therapists, but soon realized the "quality of life" wouldn't be as good on the outside without counseling. He says therapy has helped him realize all the ramifications that can happen to every aspect of a child's life.

"School, mental health, eating disorders, guilt, and peer relationships—everything is affected for the rest of the child's life," he says, adding, "the amount of pain I caused is the same—pain is pain."

Pavlovich says her goal in teaching inmates is to keep society safe. But, she also says, "Sex offenders are not curable—they're just treatable." **S**



Heather Kerns

PREYING on Youth

by Theresa Wagner

Who's watching your child online?

Because of the Internet, pedophiles no longer need to lurk behind the bushes at the local playground. Now they lurk in chat rooms, picking and choosing children who will follow their orders.

Photos are sent back and forth on the net between pedophiles, most of the time being logged into each other's personal collections, says computer crime specialist State Tpr. John Nelson of the Embreeville barracks. He adds that most of the trades occur through Internet Relay Chat (IRC). "The availability of child porn is increasing because of the Internet," says Nelson. "It has become easier to obtain."

State Tpr. Greg Daily, computer crime specialist at the Hazelton barracks, says pedophiles develop a trade ratio. "One will say to the other, 'I will let you upload 150 photos from my library if you give me 300 from yours.' This is how most of them work." A lot of these photos come into the U.S. from other countries, says Daily. About 80 percent of the photos seen in his cases are those passed back and forth between libraries.

There are pedophiles, however, whose purpose is to meet and have sex with children. There is no "typical" predator, says Daily. They can be juveniles or the elderly. If the relationship between the child and pedophile "grows," it could result in a personal encounter between the pedophile and the victim says Nelson.

The FBI recently stepped into the cyber realm, having agents pose as children in chat rooms or as adults asking for pornographic photos to catch pedophiles in the act. Once in the chat room, the agents target people willing to travel to have sex with a child. This is where people are caught since it is a federal offense to cross state lines to have sex with a minor. Possession of child pornography is a third degree felony in Pennsylvania.

At the federal level, possession of child pornography leads up to a $250,000 fine or imprisonment of no more than 15 years, or both. With a prior conviction to possession of child pornography, fines up to $250,000 and imprisonment for 5-30 years are possible.

Although pedophiles are being caught, there are obstacles. Daily says technical advances in computers give pedophiles an edge over the authorities. "They're always finding new ways to hide their files and identities," he says.

Children often become involved with pedophiles because they show affection and attention children do not get at home. Gifts, toys, phone calls, and concern tempt the children says Nelson.

The FBI advises parents to keep the computer in a common room in the house, not the child's bedroom. Available tools to block pornographic sites include Cyberpatrol, Netnanny, and Surf Watch. Some Internet Service Providers (ISPs), including PenTeleData and Epix, provide services to block specific sites. Epix provides a link for account holders to download Cyberpatrol from their homepage for $25.

Many pedophiles believe Internet patrols infringe upon their First Amendment rights. According to *Harper v. Wallingford* (1989), rights are not infringed. At the time, inmate Dale E. Harper believed the confiscation of his mail, consisting of a membership application and a bulletin from the New York-based North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), violated his rights. However, the court ruled this mail was against Washington State Penitentiary policy that allows the restriction of mail, which threatens prison security. Prison officials believed NAMBLA's avoca-

tion of relationships between adult and juvenile males put inmates at risk who were sexually abused as children or "encourage pedophiles [to] act in an aggressive way toward younger or weaker inmates."

NAMBLA callers are greeted with a voice mail recording stating the organization is a non-profit political and educational organization engaging in "consensual intergenerational relationships." The association claims it doesn't condone violence and/or coercion in these relationships, but provides support for people oppressed because of their relationships.

NAMBLA may not condone violence but the actions of its members is a reflection on the organization, says Anne Cox, founding member and director of the Children's Protection and Advocacy Coalition (CPAC). "A number of NAMBLA members have criminal records." Cox says. The CPAC has received messages from some who claim to have been sexually assaulted by NAMBLA members. She adds the CPAC has received calls and written communication from attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, along with family and friends of children sexually assaulted by NAMBLA members. Several calls to NAMBLA were not returned.

Cox also believes the criminal records of some NAMBLA members lead readers and other members to think it's acceptable to molest children. When members of a group have their eyes on an unlawful activity, and some leaders have records themselves, a climate of acceptance is encouraged says Cox. According to the NAMBLA web site, "present laws, which focus only on the age of participants ignore the quality of their relationships. NAMBLA is strongly opposed to age-of-consent laws and other restrictions which deny men and boys the full enjoyment of their bodies."

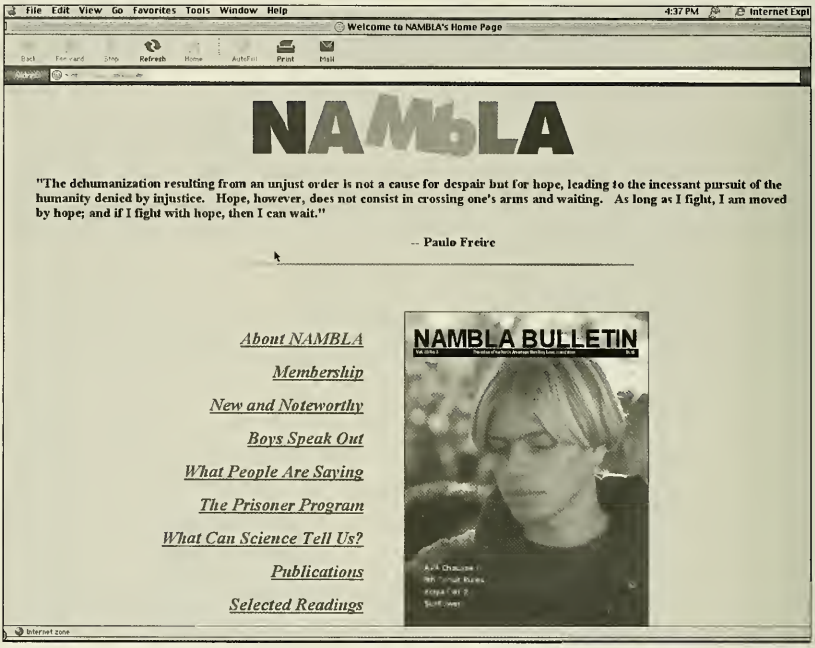
Just as NAMBLA tries to justify itself, so do pedophiles. "Pedophiles say they don't commit crimes against children," Cox says, "The 'real abusers' are the criminals [molesters]. Pedophiles, according to their dogma, are child lovers, not child abusers." Pedophiles believe the system is treating them unjustly and unfairly.

In 1994, three NAMBLA members organized a non-profit New York corporation, Zymurgy, Inc. The following year, Dennis Vacco, attorney general of New York, sent a petition to the New York Supreme Court to dissolve Zymurgy. According to the petition, Zymurgy's goal is "the promotion of a greater knowledge and understanding of human sexuality, including but not limited to man/boy love." The attorney general's petition failed to provide enough factual evidence to support his claims and was dismissed.

But in 1996 the New York legislature dissolved "the corporate existence of Zymurgy, Inc." According to the bill, Zymurgy "acted fraudulently and misled the public in that it has acted on behalf of NAMBLA."

Its web site has now moved to a German server. Cox said this move probably happened because no North American server wanted to have the group under its domain since it is not good for customer relations. On search engines, like Yahoo and Alta Vista, the German site will not show up because of the affiliation with a German server. But as Cox says, "anyone looking for it [child porn sites] will find it."

The new NAMBLA page appears childlike in its manner. A pink pastel background sets up the black and white photo of the cover of the NAMBLA bulletin. On it, a boy about 15, blond locks flowing to his ears, looks to the ground innocently. At the bottom of the page is the San Francisco



and New York addresses for NAMBLA.

The site says NAMBLA was formed in 1978 "by the success of a campaign based in Boston's gay community to defend against a local witch hunt." The goal is to end "extreme oppression of men and boys in mutually consensual relationships."

Their membership is open "to all individuals sympathetic to man/boy love in particular and sexual freedom in general." There are five different membership options in the U.S., ranging from $35 annually to $1,000 for life.

A NAMBLA publication, *Boys Speak Out on Man/Boy Love* can be ordered from the site. The book consists of letters and articles by young boys ranging in age from 11 to 24. Titles include *It Shouldn't be a Crime to Make Love* by 12-year-old Bryan and *Sex is Really Beautiful with my Friend* by 13-year-old Dennis.

The site holds quotes from notables like playwright Oscar Wilde, supposedly advocating boy love. Although Wilde was gay, it was never known if he had a boy lover.

Another organization, the Rene Guyon Society, shocks many with its motto "Sex Before Eight or it's too Late!" There isn't a lot of information on it in the cyber realm. Much of the information heard about this group is filtered through oth-er groups, like NAMBLA.

The child porn industry and groups, such as NAMBLA, have also thrown around the word "entrapment."

"These cases are no different than drug busts." Daily says, "They just have a misunderstanding of the word 'entrapment'." Agents posing in chat rooms do not ask to have sex with the suspects. The adults they talk with online lead the conversations. The FBI is not coercing the predators into anything, says Cox.

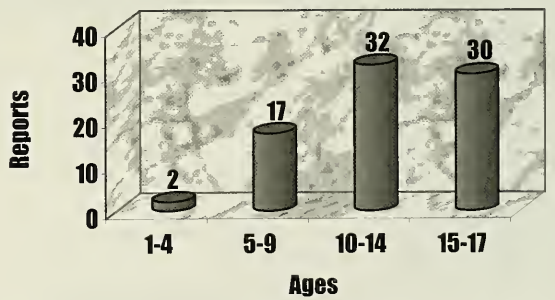
The Child Protection Act, passed in 1984, made it illegal to trade pictures of children. It also increased the child protection age from 16 to 18, and authorized wiretaps to aid in seizing equipment, profits, and pictures of the children owned by the pedophiles. U.S. Customs and the Postal Service have also helped in aiding this operation by intercepting international mail, since *Stanley v. United States* (1996). Lawrence A. Stanley had child pornography seized from his home in New York by a U.S. postal inspector. He believed this was a violation of his First Amendment rights. He claimed the items were for a research project, but the court found him unqualified as a researcher. He denied ownership of the items, but still wanted them returned. Stanley was a member of NAMBLA. The U.S. district court for the eastern district of New York court ruled for the U.S. and ordered the items forfeited.

Online are many web pages dedicated to the crackdown on child pornography. One such organization is the Anti-Child Porn Movement (ACPM). Its web site says it's "an investigative organization [using] advanced technology and skilled individuals to dig up solid information on the people who create child pornography and distribute it under the pseudo-anonymous cover of the net." It passes its information to legal authorities. Other agencies, including the Regional Task Force on Internet Crimes Against Children in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; and the FBI's Northeast Regional Child Exploitation Task Force in New Jersey have formed Internet investigation units.

Portsmouth and Keene, New Hampshire, police departments in 1997 were awarded a $300,000 federal justice department grant to combat Internet child exploitation, resulting in the Regional Task Force on Internet Crimes Against Children. In January 2000, their law enforcement project came to an end, with arrests of more than 200 criminals, six of whom were from Pennsylvania.

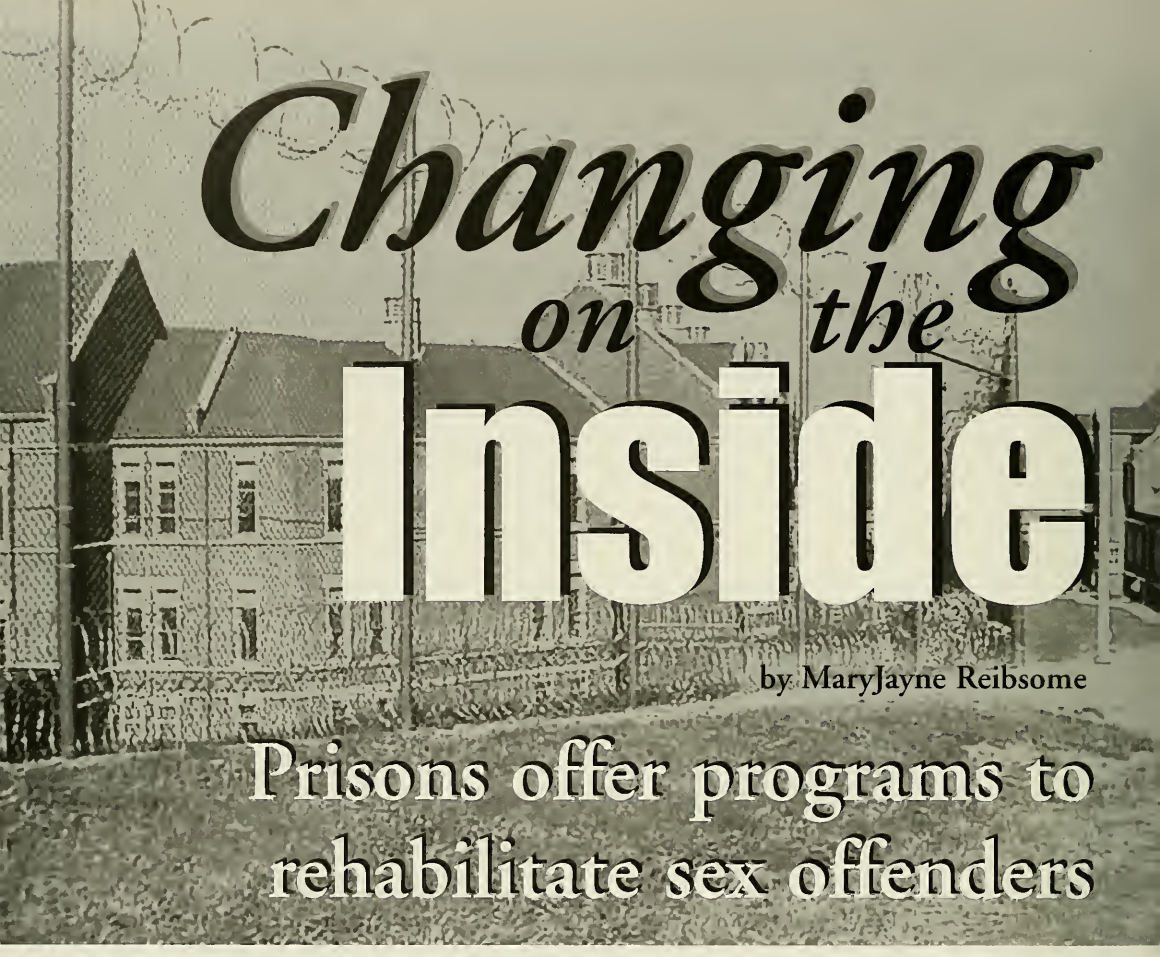
Pennsylvania had 81 of the 4,079 substantiated reports of sexual injuries to children related to pornography in 1999 according to the Department of Public Welfare's *Child Abuse Annual Report.*

These reports had either judicial ruling or regional staff investigations. This number does not include cases thrown out for lack of evidence.



*The Pa. Dept. of Public Welfare Annual Report on Child Abuse, 1999

"The positives far outweigh the negatives on the Internet," says Cox pointing out children are getting an education exploring the Internet. It's just a shame that some people take advantage of these kids. S



Changing on the Inside

by MaryJayne Reibsome

Prisons offer programs to rehabilitate sex offenders

Striding down the corridors of the State Correctional Institute (SCI) at Waymart, Jeanie Pavlovich, 29, calls out greetings to inmates as they walk by in their brown prison uniforms with white DOC (Department of Corrections) letters on the back.

"How are you doing today? How's Group going?"

She stops to talk to one inmate, "Remember, this is your last chance. The next time, it's life," she reminds him. He's a two-time felony sex offender under the "three strikes you're out" policy. The five-foot-five, 120-pound Pavlovich is in charge of paroles and mental health treatment of about 250 sex offenders. She's a woman of power in a prison of men.

"Sex offenses are primarily about power and control and that's what we take away from the inmates in group therapy," Pavlovich says.

The state sex offender program was first implemented at Waymart in 1990, a year after then-Governor Robert Casey converted the former Farview State Hospital for the Criminal Insane into a correctional institution. Today, the prison houses more than 1,300 inmates—500 of whom are sex offenders.

"Sex offenders are a major group here," says Ron Richards, executive assistant to the superintendent. "Ten years ago most inmates were alcohol and drug offenders from big cities, like Philadelphia and Reading; Blacks, Hispanics, in their early 20s," Richards says, adding, "Today we have more white males with the average age of 42."

Every inmate is assigned to a unit manager and counselor and each is evaluated annually and reclassified if necessary. Reclassification is usually prompted by misconduct and breaking of institutional rules, he says.

Before sex offenders can be recommended for parole, they must go through three phases of group therapy with a trained sex offender therapist. Pavlovich, a psychological services specialist at Waymart for four years, has a master's degree in counseling from the University of Scranton. "They're going to get out eventually," says Pavlovich, adding, "if we don't help them here, they're going to reoffend in the communities they're going back to."

About 200 miles west of Waymart is SCI Rockview, Belefonte, home

to 1,900 inmates—375 of whom are sex-related criminals. Jack Allar, 50, correction unit manager, sits in a small conference room off the main visitation room where inmates meet with their families.

Allar, a 30-year veteran in the social services with 200 hours of sexual assault training, has worked at SCI Rockview for 18 years. He has a master's degree in counseling from Penn State University, and is co-founder of the sex offender program implemented at Rockview in 1985. Allar echoes Pavlovich's concept of the program—"Without treatment sex offenders are very likely to re-offend," he says, but points out, "Treatment is voluntary and you can't treat someone who is not open to treatment."

The two prisons have identical approaches to treatment using a state-structured program of three-phases of cognitive/behavior therapy. Phase I is a 12-week orientation plan with a "core" group of 12 inmates led by a staff therapist. Inmates discuss the details of their criminal acts. The goal is to work though their denial and admit to their crime, Pavlovich says.

"Very few that come in say the whole truth of their offense," Pavlovich says, adding, "I tell them how mad I am at them if they lie about their crimes, and ask them 'how would you feel if that was your mother?'"

During the denial stage, pedophiles are likely to minimize their crimes. Pavlovich recalls one prisoner who admitted to having two victims—a 9-year-old male and a 10-year-old female. He claimed he fondled one child and had oral sex with the other one on only one occasion for each victim. The official file reported he committed numerous offenses against both victims.

Denying the frequency, amount of harm caused, or the severity of the crime are excuses used to explain their actions, Pavlovich says.

At Rockview, keeping the responsibility on the offender is important in the denial stage, Allar says. Some inmates have excuses like "she was 13 but she looked 20." When the offender says the victim was "not really a child", they raise the age level of the child and the opposite is also true, says Allar. "Saying 'I feel more comfortable with kids,' lowers the offender's age level," he points out.

It is at this stage that cognitive thinking plays a role.

"We challenge their thinking and show them that outside influences didn't cause them to commit crimes; the cause really comes from the choices they make," Allar says, adding, "when they deny their crimes, I tell them, 'you guys are dangerous S.O.B.s—you hurt people.'" If there is no denial, there is no sex offender program and the inmate is sent back to the general population and usually does his maximum sentence, Allar says.

Phase II of the sex offenders program is autobiography, victim empathy, and relapse prevention.

"You treat what created the whole process in the beginning." Pavlovich says. An entire autobiography is done on each sex offender starting in early childhood, digging into their deepest secrets, from life with their family to sexual development, continuing through adulthood until their present incarceration.

"Treatment is tough," Allar says, "A group of people discussing their sexual turn-ons or cues and learning what is healthy or not."

As many as 80 percent of inmates in the voluntary treatment program were molested as children, Pavlovich says, noting, "It's a combination of what they learned." One inmate had sex with his mother at 14, another was taught by his brother how to have sex with a cow. According to Pavlovich, one inmate serving a 30 to 60-year sentence used his four-year old daughter as his sex slave, made her eat his feces, drink his urine, as well as perform every sex act imaginable.

"He thought it was normal behavior—he was treated like that," Pavlovich says, stating, "The likelihood is that he will never get out." She says it's difficult to work with sex offenders, but just the chance that they may get out some day is the reason for rehabilitation.

Some inmates are second and third generation offenders, Richards says—"they think it's OK behavior." Pavlovich recalls a second-generation sex offender who had sex with his stepdaughter that continued into her 20s.

Allar, too, has seen his share of sex abuse cases and remembers being angry toward an inmate who attempted to have sex with his own two-year-old daughter.

"When controlling these issues, you have to be aware of your own feelings and keep them out of the therapeutic process," he says. Once during group therapy, Allar says, an inmate described waking up and finding a young girl unzipping his

> "Some inmates are second and third generation offenders—they think it's OK behavior."
>
> Ronald Richards,
> Exec. Asst. to Superintendent
> SCI Waymart

pants and said it wasn't his fault—the girl had initiated the sexual contact. "I told him he should have reacted the same way as if he had found her going through his wallet and stealing his money," Allar says.

Part of the therapy in phase II is victim empathy.

"We put the perpetrator in their victim's shoes," Pavlovich says. It's the most effective point in treatment, she says. Exercises include drawing a crime scene as if they were watching, listening to 911 calls of victims in distress, writing "mock" letters to their victims, and doing exercises in self-esteem. In behavioral therapy and relapse prevention, inmates learn to recognize "red flags" that lead to sex crimes. Allar says some offenders seek out women with small children. Others cruise the streets looking for vulnerable kids as in the case of a professor who thought he was helping them by giving them food or money for sex, Allar says.

Phase III is getting sex offenders ready to go back into society. The goal is to get the prisoners to respond to urges and stop actions before they start. Inmates also learn how to prepare resumes, answer felony questions on job applications, and write checks.

"We believe the urge never ends," Allar says, "If you don't control it, it will control you. Sexual desire is one of the strongest urges you can have. It's a lifetime process and it's not curable." But the act of "grooming" children—gradually teaching, easing them into the sexual process—can be a matter of minutes or years, Pavlovich says. Offenders will do or say anything to get close to their victims, including trust, gifts, special privileges, telling them secrets, and elevating their status. Some will use force or threats, others will beg and cry for forgiveness to keep the child from telling. According to state law, every sex offense is a violent offense; to Pavlovich, "every sex offender is violent."

SCI Waymart Prison Yard
Waymart, Pennsylvania

An alarming misconception is that sex offenders are often stereotyped as violent, drug addicts, losers, or mentally ill. In reality, most sex offenders are neighbors, community leaders, teachers, or family members, Allar says.

"There's no stereotypical type," he says, "It cuts across the entire spectrum of the population—Boy Scout troop leaders, welfare recipients, foster parents, physicians, and professors."

Some sex offenders choose their profession because they have access to children, Pavlovich says, adding, "in most cases the sex offender is known—usually a family member or neighbor—someone they trust."

Former WNEP-TV newscaster Mike Rennick is serving a three to six-year sentence at Rockview. Rennick was convicted in 1995 in Lackawanna county court on nine charges stemming from the indecent assault of a 12-year-old boy and his younger brother. He was also convicted in Luzerne county court on six counts of indecent assault, three counts of corruption of minors, and one count of endangering the welfare of children, receiving 6-24 months in jail. According to newspaper accounts, he used fake press credentials to gain entrance into swimming events so he could take pictures of teen-age boys in their swim suits. His apartment, according to court records, also included sexually explicit magazines and sex-related paraphernalia. After Rennick is released from prison, he will begin serving a 15-year probation as a known child offender.

Of the 375 sex-related criminals at Rockview, Allar says that about 75 percent had child victims and up to 75 percent used drugs, or alcohol. "Alcohol never causes sexual abuse," Allar says, pointing out, "It just represses inhibitions and is used by offenders as a ready-made excuse."

Victim gender also plays a role in sex abuse cases. Statistics show that slightly more girls (1 in 4) are abused than boys (1 in 6). But, Pavlovich says, girls are more likely to come forward. Boys don't want to be labeled as homosexuals or admit that they allowed someone to violate them and couldn't stop it from happening, she says.

At Waymart, it takes about two years to complete phase II of the sex offender program and inmates at the state level usually do only 80 percent of their time before they are considered for parole, Pavlovich says. During parole, sex offenders

must continue the sex offender treatment and remain drug and alcohol free, reporting regularly to parole officers. They must stay away from children and register with police. But, as Pavlovich points out, if the inmate plea-bargains down to a lesser charge of endangering the welfare of a child, he doesn't have to register with Megan's Law—even if he molested or raped someone. If inmates are sentenced to less then two years, they max out their time and don't have to go through the sex offender program, she says, adding, "that's why it's so hard to get statistics of recidivism rates."

Most cases get tied up in plea bargains in local counties, Allar says, noting, "a lot of sex offenders get county time unless they're high profile cases." Most county jail maximum sentences are 23-1/2 months, Richards says, adding, sometimes the District Attorney has a "weak case" or wants to "spare the victim from testifying." The perpetrator can plead guilty to a lesser offense and the case doesn't go to trial, he says.

"Anything over 24 months is usually a state sentence," says Mon-tour County Sheriff Fred Shepper-son. "But, they can do longer sentences in the county jail if the judge allows it."

Shepperson says an inmate on work-release from the Danville jail for the past three years, just finished a five-year county term for aggravated indecent assault and was released last August. Shepperson says the inmate attended sex offender classes for six months, but quit because of work release. He was going to max out his time and wasn't required to attend classes, Shepperson says.

Two men, Francis E. Crossley, 53, convicted of molesting a three-year-old boy in 1995 and Thomas J. Welliver, 22, convicted of molesting a seven-year-old girl in 1999, both broke parole in June by allegedly failing to attend sex offender classes and then having contact with children. Crossley pleaded guilty in 1998 to indecent assault, and was sentenced to 10- 23 months in county jail by Judge Scott Naus. In August, Judge Naus sent Crossley back to jail for six months. His alleged parole violations included living in a house with children, failing to attend sex offender classes, and failing to register under Megan's Law provisions. He pled guilty to failing to attend sex offender counseling in exchange for dropping the other violations.

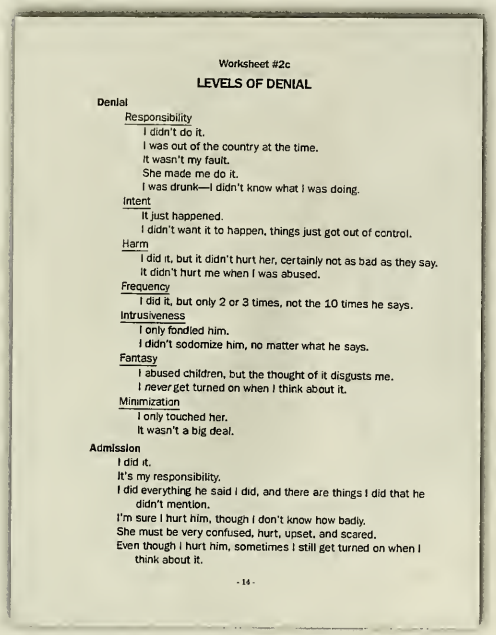
"What's really sad about state to county time," says Deputy Warden Gerald Cutchall of the Montour County jail, "is that the state gives us nothing for keeping inmates here, and if they are given state time they should go to the state."

Shepperson says prisoners spend time in county jail awaiting sentencing. He says Rule 1100 calls for a speedy trial within six months but, if the judge grants an extension to the perpetrator, he can get around Rule 1100. By the time he comes up for trial, the time served is counted—so sentences are maxed out at the county level, Shepperson says. Inmates cannot be paroled unless they go through sex offender counseling, but if they max out their time, they're not required to attend classes, he adds. Cutchall believes inmates would do better at the state level because of better sex offender programs.

However, the county sex offender program is still in "its infancy," says Columbia, Montour, Snyder, and Union counties (CMSU) Department Administrator Richard Beach. Inmates at both the Bloomsburg and Danville jails are treated by CMSU's sex offender program that began in January 2000.

> "In most cases the sex offender is known—usually a family member or neighbor—someone they trust."
>
> Jeanie Pavlovich,
> Psychological Services Specialist
> SCI Waymart

"We're not officially established yet," Beach says, adding, "we are looking at different models to base our program on." The current program has 20 sex offenders on an outpatient basis (five are teenagers) and a group therapist visits the jails. Right now, the program is



Worksheet #2c

LEVELS OF DENIAL

Denial

Responsibility
- I didn't do it.
- I was out of the country at the time.
- It wasn't my fault.
- She made me do it.
- I was drunk—I didn't know what I was doing.

Intent
- It just happened.
- I didn't want it to happen, things just got out of control.

Harm
- I did it, but it didn't hurt her, certainly not as bad as they say.
- It didn't hurt me when I was abused.

Frequency
- I did it, but only 2 or 3 times, not the 10 times he says.

Intrusiveness
- I only fondled him.
- I didn't sodomize him, no matter what he says.

Fantasy
- I abused children, but the thought of it disgusts me.
- I *never* get turned on when I think about it.

Minimization
- I only touched her.
- It wasn't a big deal.

Admission
- I did it.
- It's my responsibility.
- I did everything he said I did, and there are things I did that he didn't mention.
- I'm sure I hurt him, though I don't know how badly.
- She must be very confused, hurt, upset, and scared.
- Even though I hurt him, sometimes I still get turned on when I think about it.

- 14 -

A worksheet used by inmates in SCI Waymart's sex offender program.

focused on education and therapy, Beach says, adding, "unless they are in a long term program, the chances of re-offending are quite high."

Although the majority of sexual predators are male, women are no exception. In 1995, a woman from California who was staying in Danville was charged with rape, forcible compulsion, statutory rape, aggravated indecent assault without consent, indecent assault without consent of others, and corruption of minors against a 14-year-old boy. Shepperson recalls her being extradited from California and returned to Danville to face charges. She pled *nolo contendre* (no contest) and received 11-1/2 to 23 months for statutary sexual assault. She got credit for 344 days already served and relocated to California in 1997.

Sex crimes committed by women are less violent and coersive, says Barbara Doebler, chief psychologist for 10 years at SCI Muncy, a correctional institution for women. She says the sex offender program used at Muncy is different than that of their male counterparts.

"I didn't want to run a male program for females, she says, adding, "It's not effective for a program based on females."

Doebler, founder of the sex offender program, uses a five phase program compared to the three phase at the male facilities. She says the program differs in that a large majority of the women are victims themselves many times over and that means extra therapy. "It's difficult to understand what you've done to someone else or the impact you've made unless you can come to understand what happened to you," she says.

The prison houses 863 inmates; 37 are sex offenders. Like men, woman are motivated to attend sex offender therapy to be elegible for parole, Doebler says. That isn't the only similarity, she says, pointing out, the nature of the crimes is similar—oral sex, intercourse, and sex with a mentor.

One of the biggest differences in the programs, says Doebler, is that women offend for different reasons than men. She notes a least three patterns or characteristics that define a female sex offender.

The teacher/lover category. Someone who instructs a child in sexual matters, gradually introducing them to sex.

Male coerced. Women who are abused by men, physically or verbally.

Intergenerationally predisposed. Generations of family incest and history of sexual habits within the family.

Research typology into why women offend is a new field and few places in the state hold female sex offenders, says Doebler, adding, "Most woman are put into the male program."

Even with treatment, sex offenders are like diabetics who can't have chocolate, or an alcoholic who can't have a drink, says Allar, pointing out that parents need to take more responsibility in educating and raising their children.

Pavlovich agrees, adding that teaching children about the issue is a way to help avoid molestation. "Children need to know that no matter what the offender says to them, they need to tell an adult what is going on," she says, adding, "they need to know that they are safe."

> "We believe the urge never ends. If you don't control it, it will control you."
>
> Jack Allar,
> Correction Unit Manager
> SCI Rockview

Safeguarding your kids is what it's all about, Allar says. The worst thing a parent can do is to farm their children out to babysitters and organized care, he says. Allar recalls his own experience as a soccer coach when parents would come, drop their kids off and leave.

"Pedophiles are very good at picking out vulnerable kids," he says, "they hang out at arcades, pools, and, playgrounds—picking out their next victim." **S**

Prison Myth?

Sex offenders don't get abused by fellow inmates as much as you might think

by MaryJayne Reibsome


SCI Rockview Prison
Belefonte, Pennsylvania
MaryJayne Reibsome

If sex offenders are injured in the state prisons, it's usually over sex, drugs, or debts, not because they're pedophiles, says an officer at the State Correctional Institute at Rockview.

"If they keep to themselves, they are usually left alone," says Jack Allar, correction unit manager, adding, "sex offenders are better inmates. They were better people in life. They held jobs, they voted, but they had this one heinous criminal act that sometimes hurt hundreds of victims."

At SCI Waymart, Ron Richards, executive assistant to the superintendent, agrees that sex offenders are "model inmates" who realize how hard it is to get out of prison. He says there are few inmate assaults and attributes that to the dormitory style of living. Only the maximum-security area has cells; the rest is completely open in "dormitory style" with every inmate always visible. Inmates in the sex offender program are usually kept together in a "unit" to make it easier to work with each sex offender group, he says.

Montour County Sheriff Fred Shepperson says inmates at the Danville jail are kept in general population and that they've never had any problems. He attributes that to the size of the jail and the number of sex offenders. Of the 40 inmates at Danville, five are sex offenders. However, according to county records, an inmate, 61, plead guilty to touching the penis of another inmate—a 20-year-old convicted child molester.

In reality, many county prisons often have problems. Of the 130 inmates at the Columbia County Prison, 11 are sex offenders and nine of those are pedophiles. Pedophiles will be on the block a day or two until the threats start rolling in, then they request self-lock, says a correctional officer, who asked that his name not be used. He says that most pedophiles are in self-lock, which means lock-down 23 hours a day, an hour of yard exercise on Monday through Thursday, and the rest of the time inside their cells. It is for their own protection, since the guards can't keep an eye on them constantly, he says, adding, "It only takes a couple of seconds for someone to hit you four or five times." One inmate had to be moved from A-block, the normal work-release block, to the Medical block for his own protection, the guard says.

Another guard recalls an inmate putting defecation into an envelope and sliding it under the cell doors of the pedophiles when the guards weren't looking. "They wouldn't do it to anyone else," he says. Most pedophiles don't get visits from family, he explains, since "most families don't want to associate with the pedophiles."

The guard also says that he and his fellow officers will do whatever is necessary and required, "but we won't give them [pedophiles] any extra help or privileges." Both guards agree, "the pedophile is the lowest form of scum."

Sgt. Tom Gibble, a 15-year employee of Columbia County prison, agrees with his fellow officers that pedophiles are treated no differently than other criminals by prison guards. But, he adds, the inmates in general population treat the pedophiles like basic "low-lifes." **S**

MaryJayne Reissome

CROSSING *the* LINE

Sexual harassment in the work place

by Eric Hunt

In the spring of 1998, Heather Kerns, 23, began working as a waitress at a Bloomsburg restaurant. Almost immediately, her employer began making inappropriate comments and engaging in activities not of her consent, she says.

"He compared my body to the other girls' and told us he preferred us to wear skirts," says Kerns. If the girls showed up in pants, they were told to wear skirts instead. "When I wore a skirt, he said to one of the cooks 'wouldn't you like to see her ass?" she says. Kerns describes her employer as "conniving and persistent, determined to get his own way."

"He asked me to dress skimpier," says Megan Olexa, 20, Bloomsburg, another waitress at the restaurant. "When I didn't, he made fun of my baggy clothes," she says. Olexa says that her employer wanted her to show off her body. "He made lewd comments all the time," she says. Billi Jo White, 22, Bloomsburg, also worked at the restaurant and had a similar experience.

"He tried to get me to wear little skirts," she says, "but I didn't play his game." Consequently, says White, her employer basically ignored her on the job.

Chris Knors, 22, began working at the restaurant in November 1999. He witnessed the harassment endured by Kerns as well as many others. Late nights at work, he says his employer liked to have sex talks. "He would call me over and ask me to add some sexual insight to the discussion," Knors says.

"One time I was walking past him and he reached behind and grabbed my butt," says Kerns. "I turned around and said 'don't ever touch me again,'" but she says the employer just tried to make her look foolish in front of a customer who had

heard her protest. He frequently grabbed Olexa's waist in front of others for no apparent reason other than to touch her, she says.

"He asked me if I was satisfied with my sex life and what position I preferred," says Kerns. She says she felt forced to answer her boss, so she provided vague answers that barely satisfied his request, then got out of the conversation as quickly as possible. "Once I heard him ask another girl to 'come and sit on Junior.' She sat on his lap and he fondled her."

"Whenever one of the girls was depressed," Olexa says, "he would say 'ah, come sit on my lap.'" The girls felt obligated to accept his offer, she says, "and then he would snuggle with them."

Kerns says her employer didn't let the waitresses walk home after work because their shifts often ended after 4 a.m. "He made sure that a delivery person drove us home." On a few occasions, he drove Kerns home himself, she says.

"He drove me home and parked his car in front of my house," Kerns says. "He made me feel very uncomfortable." In the car that night, Kerns' employer kept her involved in a conversation about sex for an hour, asking her to share intimate details with him about her personal sex life.

"He said 'this is just a friendly conversation, right? It won't go any further than this car, right?'" Kerns says. She says she agreed because if she had not, "he would've held a grudge against me at work."

On another occasion, Kerns' employer asked the owner of a different Bloomsburg restaurant to drive her home.

"He must have told him that I would 'put out,'" she says. The man flirted with Kerns the whole way home and when they arrived in front of her house, "he said, 'how about a kiss?' Then I said, 'how about you have a wife and kids,' and got out of the car."

"He asked me once, right in front of people, if I would have sex with this one girl," Chris Knors says. The air got very tense in the shop whenever the employer talked about sex, Knors says.

"He kept the good-looking girls in the front and the others in the back," says Knors. "He would intentionally hug the females to feel their chests." The female employees were regularly compared with each other, Knors says. "He would ask the male cooks stuff like 'which ass do you prefer?'"

Kerns says she noticed that either a checkmark or an "X" would appear on employment applications, next to the names of female applicants. During a shift, she says she overheard the employer speaking with someone about the meaning of the marks, as he prepared to hire a new waitress.

"He said a checkmark meant 'hot' and an 'X' meant 'not hot,'" says Kerns.

"He had a TV in the kitchen," says Knors, "and would put porn movies on later at night." The customers were unable to see the picture because the employer shielded the TV from their view, White says. Olexa says the porn was "weird."

"It made it very uncomfortable to go back there," she says. "I asked him 'what's up with this? But he just ignored me," says Olexa.

Despite the blatant sexual harassment that took place toward Kerns as well as many others, in full view of witnesses, the victimization was never reported. In a case where an employer sexually harasses an employee, says Laura Treaster of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), the victim should report the unwanted advances to the owner of the establishment.

The PHRC recommends that employers have a sexual harassment policy that all employees are made well aware of. The employer at the restaurant, however, was also the owner and had no policy that any of the employees knew of.

"If we told him to stop or we didn't put up with it," Kerns says, "he would say 'I thought we were friends' and then give us the cold shoulder at work." Olexa says she didn't care about his opinion and didn't put up with his comments.

"He said, 'this is just friendly conversation, right?'"

She says she was consistently scheduled to work late and "always got stuck cleaning up at the end of the shift. It bothered me the way he talked to me, like I was inferior because I'm a girl." Her employer even referred to her as "girl" at work, says Olexa.

"Pretty much every girl that worked there when I was there got talked about by [the employer]," says Knors. "He would talk about their bodies right in the open, in front of everyone." After months of enduring the sexual harassment, Kerns, White, and Olexa finally quit.

Stories of sexual harassment that go unreported are not uncommon, says Treaster, but victims don't have to put up with that kind of treatment. People who work for Pennsylvania companies with fewer than four employees, however, cannot seek legal action for sexual harassment claims.

"Those companies can do what they will," says Treaster. "We can't touch them." To seek legal action at the federal level, she says, "it's worse." People must work for companies with at least 50 employees.

Although it excludes employees of very small business, as well as agricultural workers, domestic employees, people employed by their families, and those who must live at the residence of their employer, the original Pennsylvania Human Relations

Act of 1955, provides legal muscle for most Pennsylvania employees.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission increased the legitimacy of sexual harassment claims in 1980 by providing a clear definition of the offense as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

The real change in the nature of sexual harassment cases came in 1991, however, after Anita Hill accused Supreme Court-nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her during an internship.

The widely publicized Hill-Thomas case caused the commission to begin recording the huge influx of sexual harassment complaints that began streaming in to the PHRC in 1991, Treaster says.

"The case increased public awareness about sexual harassment," she says, "by generating a large amount of media coverage and educating the public on the current state of the law."

"One time I was walking past him and he reached behind and grabbed my butt."

The PHRC breaks sexual harassment into three broad categories: physical, visual, or verbal. Co-workers, supervisors, and managers all may be guilty of sexual harassment, but ultimately the company is responsible when a complaint is made to the Commission.

Sexual harassment becomes illegal when an employee believes he or she has to put up with it to keep a job, to be awarded a raise and promotion, or in the midst of an intimidating or hostile work environment. Kerns, Olexa, and White all say they didn't believe their employer would fire them if they complained.

Physical sexual harassment happens when an employee is subjected to "unwanted touching, fondling, patting, pinching, or kissing," says Treaster. In the extreme, it could include sexual assault or rape.

Repeated suggestive looks, obscene gestures or displays, or sexually explicit pictures and objects put up in work areas would all fall under visual sexual harassment, Treaster says.

Verbal sexual harassment is the broadest of all the categories. It may include requests or demands for sexual favors, questions pertaining to a person's private sexual practices, threats, lewd comments, innuendoes, sexual insults, sex jokes, and even inappropriate whistling. Most cases involve a combination of the different categories, Treaster says.

In September 1996, Cheryl D. Andrews was sexually harassed while employed by R & B, Inc., a Pennsylvania packing company. Andrews had received a promotion based on the clearly stated desire of her supervisor, James Witherspoon, to receive sexual favors in return, according to the testimony in *Andrews v. Unemployment Compensation Board of Review* (1997).

During her training, Witherspoon rubbed his shoulder against Andrew's breast while reminding her of what she needed to do to keep the promotion. When, after a week in the new position, she still had not fulfilled her supervisor's wishes, Andrews was demoted. A co-worker willing to engage in sexual conduct with Witherspoon replaced her, according to court records.

Andrews reported the harassment to Witherspoon's supervisors two days later, pleading with them to transfer her to another shift. When nothing changed after two weeks, she stopped showing up for work. Andrews was officially laid off a few weeks later. She was denied benefits until her case went to trial and the denial was reversed.

In *Borough of Coaldale v. Unemployment Compensation Board of Review* (1999), Tonia Betz received benefits after leaving the Coaldale Police Department in January of 1999, because she had been sexually harassed by Chief James Strauss and Officer Shawn Phillips. According to that case, Chief Strauss had discriminated against her for being a woman on the police force from the moment she joined the department in October 1997.

In addition, Strauss had subjected her to pornographic pictures "depicting nude people engaging in sexual activity." For her twenty-first birthday, Strauss gave Betz a leather whip. In 1998, Officer Phillips assaulted Betz, grabbing her breasts and bruising them. Betz reported the harassment and the assault to Strauss' supervisor, Borough Councilman John Maruschak.

Maruschak reprimanded Phillips but not Strauss, and Betz began to fear she would lose her job if she went above Strauss' head any further. She also feared she would not receive back-up in the field when she needed it. Consequently, she filed a sexual harassment lawsuit. Betz was granted benefits by the Board and retained them when the Borough of Coaldale appealed the decision.

Despite the influx of cases that flooded the PHRC after 1991, sexual harassment is still largely under reported. Victims, however, are coming forward more frequently, Treaster says.

In 1981, the PHRC received 40

reports of sexual harassment. In 1991, however, after Anita Hill began her testimony, the commission received 265 cases. Eight years later, in 1999, the commission reported 603 complaints of sexual harassment. Of those reported in 1999, 12 came from the area covered by Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, and Lycoming counties.

In the U.S. during 1999, 15,222 cases of sexual harassment were filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Fair Employment Practices agencies (FEPAs)—men filed 1,842 of them.

"The first and probably the most important piece of advice I give is 'don't think it's your fault,'" says Treaster. "Say 'no' and be assertive. Tell your supervisor what happened right away and also tell your union representative, if you have one. Then check with your other co-workers and see if anyone else has had the same problem."

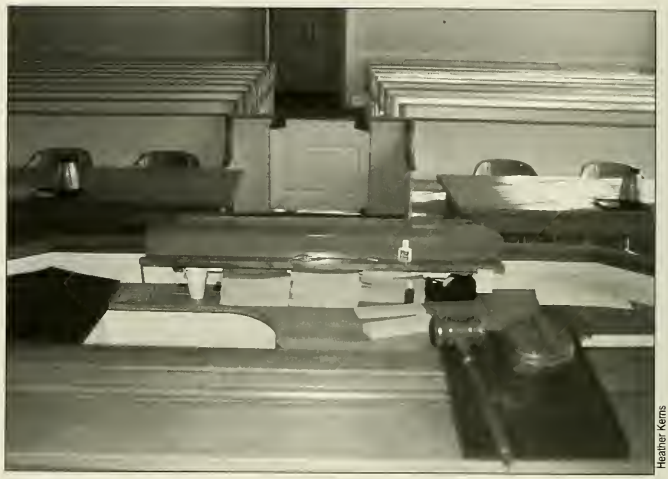
If nothing is done once these preliminary steps have been taken, Treaster says, additional steps should be taken. First, citing specific examples, tell the harasser in writing that his or her behavior is unacceptable and keep a copy of the letter. Then keep a log of the harassment that occurs after speaking up.

If the harassment persists, file a civil rights complaint and a union grievance, Treaster says. Professional counseling is available for victims who believe they have been harmed. When sexual harassment crosses the line and becomes assault, Treaster says, it may be necessary to file criminal charges with the police.

"Secure people do not harass others," she says. "It's not about sex. It's about people using or abusing their power of authority in the work place." **S**

For further assistance with sexual harassment claims, contact Laura Treaster at 717-783-8266.

His WORD AGAINST Hers



Heather Kems

Pennsylvania rape laws have changed but society's skepticism remains

by Eric Hunt

Noelle Jenkins, 30, Northumberland, took the hottest shower she had ever taken that Sunday morning in December 1992, but it didn't help. "I still felt dirty," she says.

Jenkins had come home for the weekend intending to celebrate her twenty-third birthday with family and friends. She and five of her closest girlfriends went out for an evening of dancing and drink, at a Danville club Saturday night.

"We were supposed to fall back on each other for rides home," Jenkins says, "but I went to the restroom just before the bar closed. They thought I left, so when I came out they were all gone and the bar was practically empty."

She scanned the bar for a familiar face until she noticed "Tom." She had met him through her ex-boyfriend, "Dave," during the three months in which the two had been involved, Jenkins says. Realizing she had no ride home, she approached Tom to see if he could help her.

"He didn't want to drive all the way to Northumberland, so he said, 'you can crash at my house,'" she says. They arrived at Tom's Danville home about 3 a.m. and immediately went to sleep—Tom in his upstairs bedroom and Jenkins on the couch downstairs, she says. After an hour, Jenkins awoke to knocking at the door.

"It was Dave," she says. "I said, 'what are you doing here?'" She hadn't seen him since they had stopped dating two months earlier, Jenkins says. "He told me he was there to crash, also. I was too tired to care so I said 'fine, but I get the couch' and went back to sleep," Jenkins says.

"I woke up again and Dave was tugging at my pants," says Jenkins. She asked him what he was doing and "he said, 'you know what I'm doing.'" Jenkins pushed him away and told him to stop, but he continued despite her protests.

"I told him that I had a boyfriend but he said, 'where is he? He's not here now,'" she says. The tense dialogue between them continued as Jenkins tried to squirm out from under him with no success, she says.

"Finally, I said 'knock it off. I don't want to have sex with you!'" He relented a moment, Jenkins says, "but then he looked at me and said 'we're having sex tonight.'" Jenkins says she began struggling to get away; she pounded on his chest until he grabbed her hands, pinning her down so she couldn't move.

"I kept telling him 'I don't want this,' but he just said 'yes you do,'" she says. Dave held her down until she began to scream at the top of her lungs, Jenkins says.

"Tom sleeps with his door shut and his ceiling fan on high, so he never heard me yelling," she says. "I just couldn't believe Dave was doing this to me," Jenkins says, "I mean, we had dated. I wanted to

die." When the rape was over, Dave threw a blanket on top of Jenkins and told her to "cover up."

"I curled up into a ball on the couch," Jenkins says, "and when I started to cry, he said 'don't be so loud.' Then he went to sleep." Because Dave slept in the same room with Jenkins after he had assaulted her, she says she was afraid to make any attempt to leave the house.

"I was scared," Jenkins says, "because I didn't know what he would do if I tried to leave. He might have raped me again." Jenkins says she went into "some dreamland" until she eventually fell asleep. When she awakened late Sunday morning, she found Dave and Tom in the kitchen drinking coffee.

One look at Tom, Jenkins says, and it was obvious that he knew nothing about the events that took place the night before. When she went to use Tom's bathroom, however, her own frightening memories were undeniably confirmed, she says.

"I found I was bleeding heavily," she says. "It was like a severe menstrual period, but mine had ended the week before." Jenkins says she also felt pain and a burning sensation inside her.

"When I got home Sunday morning," she says, "I took a shower right away. I had to get all that 'stuff' off me." Later, she met a friend for lunch and told her what happened, Jenkins says. Her friend completely believed her story and told her that she had to report the incident.

"She said I should go to the hospital, but I didn't have health insurance so I couldn't go," says Jenkins. Having reported nothing, Jenkins made the three-hour drive to Indiana, Pa., that Sunday evening.

Walking around campus Monday morning, Jenkins says she noticed that the cramps she had felt since the assault were becoming more intense. Moments later, she says she doubled over in pain and managed to drag herself into the campus health center, where she told a nurse that she had been raped.

Jenkins says she was given an internal examination during which tears were found inside her vagina. The doctor at the health center told her that the "findings were typical of a rape."

He sent Jenkins to Indiana Hospital where she was given a thorough examination and evidence from the rape was collected. It is required of any victim who has reported a rape in Pennsylvania, says State Police Sgt. Frank Brennan.

"I knew the rape kit was necessary," Jenkins says, "and the doctors were very professional with great bedside manners, but I felt like I was violated all over again." Unfortunately, Jenkins says she had showered more than once since the rape had occurred, so the rape kit found no admissible evidence.

The skepticism toward Jenkins' claim began when the physician at the hospital disagreed with the university health center, saying that the tears found inside her did not absolutely indicate a rape, she says.

"He said 'they could just as easily be attributed to hard sex,'" Jenkins says. The hospital then directed her to the Danville Police, because the incident had occurred in that city, she says. The Danville Police took her statement and, as her only piece of evidence, a pair of sweat pants that she had worn after the assault but before she showered, says Jenkins.

"The police sent my sweat pants to the lab and told me that Dave would be interviewed," Jenkins says. The police got back to her within a few days and told her the bad news.

"They said that nothing had been found on the sweat pants," she says, "and that when they talked to Dave, he said 'yes we had sex but I didn't rape her.'" Then Jenkins says they informed her that the Montour County district attorney didn't want to take her case because it would be his word against hers.

"I said 'this is ridiculous! I went through all this and he's not going to get anything?'" she says. "They said 'we're sorry this happened to you but if the DA doesn't want to take the case, there is nothing we can do,'" says Jenkins. When Jenkins got her sweat pants back from the police a month later, she says she noticed they had been laundered.

Heather Kerns

"Even if I think the penalty is inappropriate, I still must follow the guidelines."

President Judge Scott Naus,
Court of Common Pleas,
Columbia County

For years, rape victims have found their own innocence in question rather than the guilt of their attackers.

"A lot of times your only witness is the victim," says Gregg Warner, counsel to State Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf (R-Willow Grove), chair of the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee, "and when she is put on the stand she is made to feel like the one on trial."

The philosophy present throughout the evolution of rape law in the western world has always been steeped in skepticism, says Diane Moyer, public policy director for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against

Rape (PCAR). Lord Chief Justice Matthew Hale said, in the 17th century, "rape is an accusation easily to be made and hard to be proved, and harder still to be defended by the party accused, though never so innocent."

Throughout the first two centuries of American history, the law has mirrored this widely shared belief. In order to convict a person accused of rape, it was required that the victim "cried aloud, struggled, and complained on the first opportunity, and prosecuted the offender without delay," according to the ruling in *Stevick v. Commonwealth* (1875).

In *Commonwealth v. Moran* (1929), a woman was forced into the grandstand of a baseball park by men "with whom [she] had been acquainted." The defendants held her shoulders down and forced her to have sexual intercourse with them. The victim had obviously been forcibly raped, but the appeals court did not agree. According to that court, the victim had not properly resisted her attackers. The men were not convicted.

Questions like "how were you dressed?" were not kept out of courtrooms until 1973, says Ellen Kerr, crisis intervention coordinator at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). "You could also bring in other men to testify that they had slept with the victim," she says.

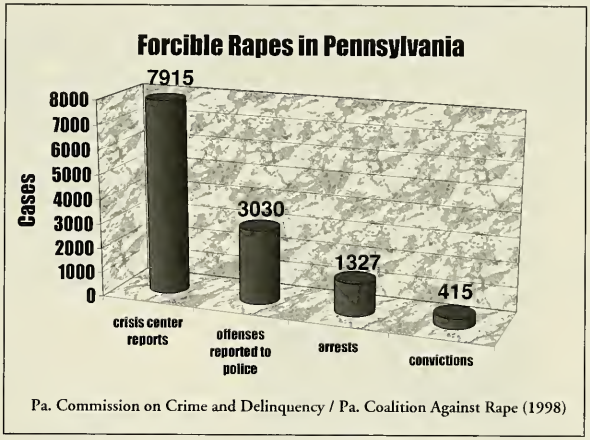
"If you could prove that the woman was 'loose,' then it didn't matter what had happened to her," Kerr says.

In 1976, amendments were finally added to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, providing "the alleged victim need not resist the actor in prosecutions under this chapter."

The philosophy behind the change, says State Rep. Jane Orie (R-Pittsburgh), "reflected that many rape cases involved victims who cooperated with the assailant during the attack" in order to prevent further violence.

The amendments of 1976 also expanded forcible compulsion to include any threat of forcible compulsion that would prevent "a person of reasonable resolution" from resisting.

The court in *Commonwealth v. Rhodes* (1986), however, held that because no legal definition for the term existed, the interpretation of what constituted forcible compulsion was left to the courts to decide. The vague language of the amendments, combined with the Rhodes precedent, rendered them much less effective.



Pa. Commission on Crime and Delinquency / Pa. Coalition Against Rape (1998)

In 1995, shortly after his election, Gov. Tom Ridge called a special session on crime, and Sen. Greenleaf championed a major overhaul of sexual offense legislation. The drafting of new legislation for sexual offenses had been developing for a few years, Warner says, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in *Commonwealth v. Berkowitz* (1994) lit a fire under the Assembly.

In that case, the court overturned a previous rape conviction because the victim's "lack of consent was not enough to sustain the conviction," says Orie.

"The woman just said 'no' and kept saying 'no,'" she says, and yet the court was not convinced that the victim had been forced.

"The guy closed and locked his door," says Kerr, "I mean that's like your typical horror movie, but this was not recognized as force by the [Pa.] Supreme Court." The court's decision caused uproar in Pennsylvania's anti-rape movement that demanded change, she says.

"We had been teaching that 'no' meant 'no' for 20 years," says Kerr, but "they were not accepting what we were thinking of as force." The state passed Act 10, or the "no means no" law in March 1995. The act included an explicit definition of forcible compulsion.

In the act, forcible compulsion is defined as "compulsion by use of physical, intellectual, moral, emotional, or psychological force, either express or implied." The Act also created a new offense, sexual assault.

"We added the new provision to deal with those date rape situations," says Warner. 'No' does mean 'no,' he says; but if no violence or threat of violence is involved, the crime is not considered rape. Rape is a first-degree felony, the most severe crime except for capital crimes, which carry the death penalty. Sexual assault is a second-degree felony, but, "it's still hard to win cases," Kerr says. The skepticism that has been around for years continues to exist.

"Rape has no higher rate of false accusation than any other crime," says Kerr, "but there is this huge idea that women get away with this all the time."

"A person immediately starts out tainted or chastised, certainly in sexual assault types of cases," says John McDanel, Columbia County district attorney.

"Old-timers in law enforcement

will still ask questions like 'why were you there' or 'why were you dressed like that,'" Moyer says. This attitude, held by many members of the public, the media, law enforcement, and the judicial system, has been the main obstacle victims must face when they report a rape, she says.

"Rape is the most under reported crime," according to Kerr. The most generous estimate nationally, she says, is that only 30 percent of rape victims report the crime to police or crisis centers. Of those that are reported, only 16.3 percent of the cases lead to jail time. Thus, fewer than 5 percent of all rapes lead to convictions.

The FBI, however, estimates that only about 10 percent of all rapes are reported. Of the rapes reported, 50 percent result in arrests and less than 10 percent of those arrested will be convicted and sentenced to jail. Thus, according to the FBI, only about 0.5 percent of all rapes lead to convictions.

In 1998, 7,915 rapes were reported to crisis centers in Pennsylvania but only 3,030 of them were reported to police. Of those reported to police, 1,327 resulted in arrests and only 415 rapists were convicted.

In Columbia and Montour counties, 77 rapes were reported to crisis centers but only 15 were reported to police. Six arrests were made, but no one in the two counties was sentenced to prison for rape in 1998, according to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

While the maximum sentence for rape is 20 years and the maximum for sexual assault is 10 years, "the average sentences are pretty small," Kerr says. The expected sentence for rape in the United States has tripled from 1980 to 1997, but it is still only 128 days, according to Kerr.

"That astounds me," says President Judge Scott Naus of the Court of Common Pleas, Columbia County. Although he was unable to estimate an average, he says he is confident that convicted rapists in Columbia County serve longer sentences than the national statistic indicates. Naus says it's difficult to consider general patterns in rape cases because each case is so different.

"I take each matter based on the case itself," Naus says, "taking into account the background and prior record score" of the accused. He says the sentences he orders are based on guidelines found in the law.

"Each conviction carries a certain number of points toward [an offender's] prior record," Naus says. The more convictions in an offender's background, the higher their prior record score becomes, he says.

The guidelines are set up in a grid format, Naus says, with possible offenses down the side and possible prior record scores along the top. Once an offender has been convicted, Naus says he consults the grid for an appropriate sentence.

"Even if I think the penalty is inappropriate," he says, "I still must follow the guidelines." Naus says he can bend the rules only for a good reason that he can clearly articulate to the court.

"Not every rape case is the same," Naus says, "and not every victim is the same. Everyone has a different background. I always try to remember the victim and do what is just and right."

On paper, rape laws have improved dramatically in the past 25 years. "We are getting to a better place," says Kerr. Still, in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States, a pervasive attitude of skepticism plagues the testimonies of victims, she says, and as a result, "if you're talking to a woman, you're probably talking to a victim." **S**

For more information contact the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape at (717) 728-9740.

Is your child's safety worth more than $2,000?

In Pennsylvania, it's possible to receive more jail time for stealing $2,000 than for indecent assault.

Indecent assault involving minors is a first-degree misdemeanor, which carries a maximum prison sentence of five years. Theft of $2,000 or more is a third degree felony, which carries a six-year prison sentence. Retail theft of $2,000 or more during a disaster carries a stiffer penalty and is a second-degree felony.

"When the robbery statutes were written it was the 1930s, when robbery was a big thing," says Columbia County District Attorney John McDanel.

"Sometimes I don't understand the law either," says Columbia Victim/Witness Coordinator Jonna Barrett.

While rape laws involving minors haven't changed much in the past, the state legislature has toughened criminal penalties for people who act cruelly toward animals.

Legislation was passed upgrading the penalty for killing, maiming, mutilating, torturing, or disfiguring a dog or cat from a second-degree misdemeanor to a first-degree misdemeanor.

"Pennsylvania now has one of the toughest animal rights laws in the country," says Tpr. Scott Highsmith. "It is important legislation, but the rape laws have been around for awhile in the state. I just think the laws dealing with sexual abuse should be tougher than most other things," says Highsmith. **S**

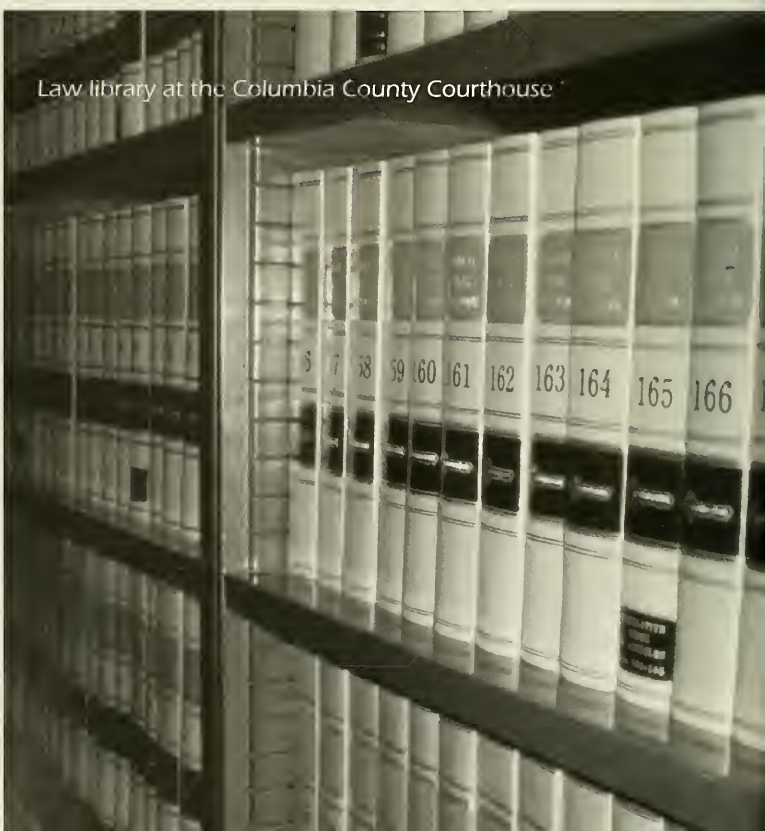
~ by Ken Fetterhoff

HARD TIMES for SEX CRIMES

Megan's Law creates a Scarlet Letter for sex offenders

by Eric Hunt

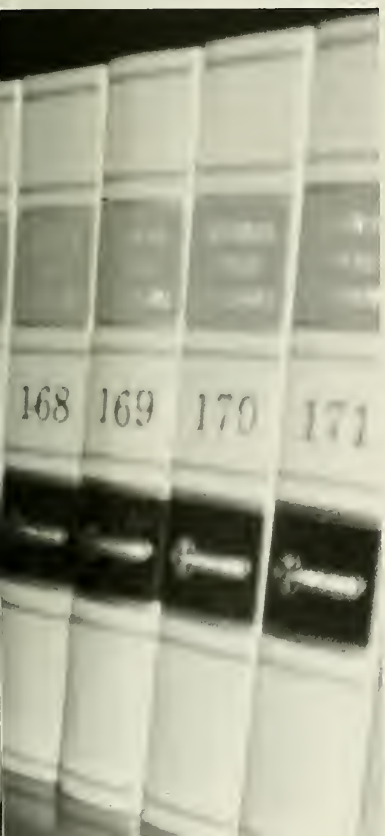
Heather Kerns



Dennis V. Gaffney, 60, invited a 9-year-old girl into his Montgomery County home in December 1995. The girl accepted the invitation and went inside. Gaffney proceeded to remove his pants and underwear, exposing his genitals. He continued his advance by taking off the girl's pants and underwear. The assault didn't end until Gaffney performed oral sex on the girl and penetrated her vagina with his fingers.

During his trial in 1998, the gray-haired, white male admitted that he had been sexually active with the child on numerous occasions over a period of two years. Gaffney pled guilty to three charges: involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated indecent assault, and the corruption of a minor.

He was convicted and, so far, has served two years of a 6-30 year sentence at the State Regional Correctional Facility in Mercer, Pennsylvania. Upon his release, Gaffney will be required to register with the State Police.



In Pennsylvania, 4,165 sexual offenders are registered; 18 of them are in Columbia and Montour counties.

Megan's Law requires sexual offenders to register with the police when released from prison. If the Pennsylvania Sex Offender Assessment Board finds an offender to be a "sexually violent predator," local police, children's services, or crisis centers notify the communities where predators live.

Megan's Law has "drastically changed the way rape offenders are dealt with" in the justice system, Columbia County District Attorney John McDanel says. The law was named for Megan Kanka, 7, who was raped and murdered in 1994 by a convicted sexual offender living across the street from her New Jersey home.

"It caused quite an outcry in New Jersey," says Gregg Warner, counsel to State Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Willow Grove), chair of the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee, "because law enforcement and parole people apparently knew that the sex offender lived in the neighborhood but the residents did not." Kanka's parents immediately started a movement for legislation that would address the problem.

"It spread like wild fire," says Warner, leading the U.S. Congress to require every state to draft a version of the law. Pennsylvania adopted its own version in 1995. The law has two parts.

First, sex offenders must register with the state police who pass the information to local police. Second, in certain cases when the offender is found to be a sexually violent predator, the community he or she lives in must be notified. In *Commonwealth v. Williams* (1999), however, the Pennsylvania Sup-reme Court ruled that the process for determining a sexually violent predator was unconstitutional.

"The court said that what we were really doing," Warner says, "was requiring a person convicted of a sex offense to prove to us that they weren't a sexually violent predator." The process put the burden of proof on the defense, which goes against our entire system of jurisprudence.

In July 2000, the burden returned to its rightful place, the prosecution, and the Commonwealth became responsible for proving whether an offender was in fact a sexual predator.

"Our community notification process is back in place," says Warner, but since the 1999 decision no notification has taken place. Convicted offenders who were deemed sexual predators before the decision were given the opportunity to appeal their cases. If they chose to appeal, like Donald Francis Williams of Erie County, they were dropped to a classification of "sexual offender" in compliance with the Supreme Court ruling.

Williams had performed fellatio on a 9-year-old boy repeatedly for a period of eight months. In July 1997, he was convicted on two counts of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, two counts of indecent assault, and one count of corrupting minors.

The Sexual Offender Assessment Board (SOAB) of Pennsylvania reported that 163 sexually violent predators were living in the state before the 1999 decision. Only one offender has been sentenced as a sexual predator in Pennsylvania since the amended law became effective in July 2000, says Jill Osevala, administrative officer of the SOAB.

The law still generates controversy. Some argue that it remains unconstitutional, McDanel says, because the registration and community notification provisions act only as secondary penalties. Once an offender has been released from prison, it is a violation of his or her Constitutional rights to

impose another penalty for the same crime.

"If we've sent someone to jail then I think they have served their time," says Ellen Kerr, Crisis Intervention Coordinator for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). She says the state needs to develop more effective programs outside the law.

"Do we have the right mechanism to rehabilitate an offender?" says Kerr. "The fact that we need a Megan's Law shows that we do not." Sexual offenders, however, are difficult to rehabilitate, says State Rep. Jane Orie (R-Pittsburgh).

"There is an extremely high chance they will do it again," she says. "The recidivism rate for sexual offenses is higher than for any other crime. It's about violence and control," she says, "it goes beyond sexual urges." Orie says there is no cure for a sexual predator. She is in the process of proposing changes to Megan's Law, making all of the law's provisions also apply to juvenile offenders.

Another argument against the law has nothing to do with the legality of it, says Warner. Once the people in a community are notified, he says, "they make it so uncomfortable for the sex offender that the person doesn't want to live in the neighborhood anymore. That's fine for that neighborhood, but then where is the sex offender going to go?"

Warner says the predator may go to another neighborhood or possibly go underground and not register with the police. "He'll hide out from the law," he says, "and become a fugitive because he's not registered and then where are we?"

Warner is also concerned that the law will give community members a false sense that they and their children are safe because "they know where the predators are located."

"Just because we're making sexual offenders register," Warner says, "and in some cases sexually violent predators require notification of the community, that doesn't mean there aren't other criminals out there who haven't been caught yet." The law is not a cure-all, he says, but at least it will identify some offenders. **S**

Pennsylvania Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, champion of legislation opposing sexual abuse, testifed at a hearing of the Senate Inter-governmental Affairs Committee in June 1999.

A Cry for Help

The foster care system hits a critical stage in Pennsylvania

by Ken Fetterhoff

The foster care system in Pennsylvania is in critical need of more homes, says Christine Swank, director of Columbia County Child and Youth Services.

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act allowed the state to petition the court for the removal of the biological parents' rights after one year if it is in the "best interest of the child."

The Child Protective Services Law requires applicants for child care services and school employment to obtain child abuse clearances from the Department of Public Welfare. The law prohibits child care services from employing any person who will have direct contact with children if the individual was convicted of certain criminal offenses or was named as a perpetrator of a founded report of child abuse within five years preceding the request for a clearance.

Foster parents must be at least 21 years old, may be single, but must be in good health and pass a criminal background check. An applicant must also be financially able to care for a foster child. They may not have more than eight children in their family with no more than two children under two years old.

The local child services agency will consider other matters such as each person's attitude toward their own children, toward parent/child relationships, how the applicant can meet the needs of children, and how many children the applicant can handle.

In addition, foster parents must agree to participate in agency approved training. Foster parents cannot use physical discipline; children must be directed by praise and encouragement.

Once this criteria is met, an inspection of the home must still be approved. In Montour County, as in many counties, the requirements include smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, locked storage for dangerous materials, no exposed wiring, an infant seat if necessary, safety screening for fireplace, wood, or coal stoves, and water tested annually.

Sue, a foster care parent from Northumberland County who asked that her last name not be revealed, says these guidelines are very minimal and mentioned only sleeping arrangements. Foster care homes are only required to supply a mattress for the child. They are not mandated as to how much space or even how many same sex children can be placed in one room. "Most children placed in foster care are either physically or sexually molested," says Sue. "A child that has been molested cannot be turned down, but a child that has molested another child can be," she says. Depending on how desperate the agency is to place the child, "they will keep that information from you," says Sue. Although it is illegal, if the agency is desperate they will do anything," says Sue.

Tara Rine disagrees. "Even though we will do everything we can to place a child in a foster home, we do not break the law and any information is available," says Rine, caseworker at the Columbia County Child and Youth Services.

Sue had a child in her care that confided to her about being sexually abused. Sue reported the incident to the case worker. The child was examined, but the report came back "no physical evidence." The child was allowed to return home over the Christmas holiday. When she returned, she had the crotch cut out of her panties. Sue asked what happened to her and she said, "I fell off my bike." When the girl's four-year-old sister started wetting her bed and having nightmares, Sue began to keep a journal. She showed the journal to a therapist who confirmed her suspicions about molestation. Sue again presented this evidence to the caseworker. It was reported to the local police, but pursued minimally. "From my standpoint there was nothing else I could do," says Sue.

"I know a few families that will take any child with any problem at any time," she says. These homes are known as "hard core" and have

bargaining power to negotiate the price of reimbursement they receive each month even though the ratios are already set. 'These families are in it for nothing more than a paycheck," says Sue.

Foster families are reimbursed for almost every cost directly related to the child. This includes a $50 clothing allowance every month per child, a medical access card, and mileage reimbursements for appointments. The monthly amount is not subject to taxes, nor considered as income because it is reimbursement for expenses.

Heather Kerns

Pennsylvania had 1,759 foster homes in 1999, up from 1,348 the previous year, according to the *1999 Department of Public Welfare annual report.* There are 391 foster homes in northeast Pennsylvania, which includes Columbia and Montour counties.

The Child Protective Services Law requires the Department of Public Welfare to report children abused in child care settings and the action taken against perpetrators. Child care settings include day care, foster care, boarding homes for children, juvenile detention centers, residential settings, and institutional settings. There were 1,982 reports of suspected abuse of children in child care settings in 1999, a total of 169 were substantiated. Of these 169 cases, 81 were sexual abuse in a foster home. Of these, 21 cases were substantiated in northeast Pennsylvania. Social services were planned or provided to all alleged victims involved in the investigated reports. In 465 reports, information was referred to law enforcement officials for criminal investigation and prosecution, 135 of which were substantiated by the county agency investigation.

"Foster care abuse is a very real problem in this state," says Thomas Hinson of the Department of Public Welfare.

"The Department has been trying everything in its power to curb child abuse but the numbers have continued to increase," says Hinson.

The Columbia Child and Youth Services offers several programs for adults who wish to get involved in the foster care system.

"We offer parenting classes, educational classes, such as how to look for signs of abuse, and counseling," says Stephanie Bond, a caseworker at the Columbia County agency. "We are also available if a child has been abused, we can notify the authorities to have them look into it," said Folman.

"I have tried everything I know to obtain more foster homes in Montour County, including newspaper and radio ads, but nothing seems to work," says Lora Casteline, a casework supervisor for Montour County Child and Youth Services. The rest of the nation faces the same problem. According to the Pennsylvania Human Services Department the number of foster care homes only rose five percent in 1999. "This is not nearly enough homes for the amount of children the system has to care for," Casteline says. "About 30 children need to be placed in foster homes right now," says Casteline.

The need to place children in Columbia County has hit the critical stage. The number of foster homes in the county has dwindled to 11. "We would like to have around 20 homes available for matching children but we don't have that right now," says Bond. A foster child will stay in a foster home an average of three to four years. Some children are returned to their biological parents, some are adopted by their foster parents, and some are placed in adoptive homes. During the time foster children are placed in homes, the state

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>
> Lora Casteline,
> Casework Supervisor
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> and Youth Services

Alternative Measure

In 1874, nine-year-old Mary Ellen Wilson was the first child defended by the Animal Abuse Act. After being beaten by her foster mother for more than seven years, social worker Etta Wheeler discovered the abuse.

After several attempts to get help for the child, Wheeler found it in Henry Bergh of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Bergh, founder of the Child Protective Society, argued that children had the same rights as any animal, and succeeded in removing Mary Ellen from her abusive foster mother.

will reimburse the cost of their care based upon each child's age and level of emotional and developmental problems. A caseworker will meet with foster families and their children a minimum of once a month as required by law and will be available to assist with concerns and questions. S

For more information contact the Columbia County Children and Youth Services at (570) 389-5700 or the Montour County Children and Youth Servies at (570) 271-3050.

'Sorry, you're married'

But now new laws protect spousal sexual assault victims

by Eric Hunt

When her relationship with her new husband became physically and sexually abusive in 1993, a 23-year-old Selinsgrove woman decided it was time for a divorce.

The night before she planned to leave, the woman told her husband that she and the couple's one-year-old baby girl would be gone in the morning. Then she went to sleep. She awoke in the middle of the night just as her husband had finished undressing her.

"He said he wanted to do it one more time before we separated," says the woman. Tired and far from a state of arousal, the woman protested. "I told him 'no' and that our relationship was over. I just wanted to go to sleep," she says. The woman's husband proceeded to sexually assault her.

After the incident, he then left the bedroom and the woman ran out of the house in search of somewhere safe to stay until morning. But it was 3 a.m. and the streets were bare.

Two state policemen drove by, noticing the slender young woman as she walked aimlessly around town. She appeared unusually troubled as she wandered the empty streets, so the officers approached her.

"I told them what happened. I said 'he raped me.' But they said there was nothing they could do except follow me home and make sure I was safe until I got my things out of the house," the woman says.

"Then they looked at me and said 'Sorry. You're married.'" She declined the policemen's offer to escort her home and continued wandering alone for two more hours. The woman returned home about 5 a.m. and went inside exhausted. Her husband raped her a second time.

Ten to 14 percent of all married women in the United States have been raped by their husbands, according to Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR).

Rape legislation in Pennsylvania offered little protection for married women before 1995. That year, Act 10 repealed lines in the law that had previously provided separate charges for rape and spousal sexual assault.

Prior to 1995, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code read: "A person commits a felony of the first degree when he engages in sexual intercourse with another person,

not his spouse." Victims were given five years to report a rape.

A separate statute existed that addressed spousal sexual assault. The statute required a victim to report an incident of spousal sexual assault within 10 days. When a case did make it to trial, the victim needed undeniable evidence in order to sustain a conviction, says Ellen Kerr, Crisis Intervention Coordinator for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR).

Spousal sexual assault victims "really had to show force then," she says. "They had to be really black and blue in those cases. Even then the offense was [graded] only a felony-2." A conviction on a felony-2 charge is less severe than a rape conviction, which is graded a felony-1.

Now that the definition of rape includes protection for spouses, difficulties for victims of spousal sexual assault have resurfaced in trial proceedings. For years, a commonly held belief has been that it is appropriate for married men to expect sex from their partners, says Kerr.

"You still find this attitude in the courtrooms," she says, "although it isn't on the books anymore. You can see it in the faces of the jury and the judge." Many times, however, more than just a courtroom attitude contributes to the creation of silent victims.

"It's so hard to prove that your partner did this to you," says Stephenie Butler, a sexual assault counselor at the Women's Center of Columbia/Mountour counties. Evidence in forcible rape cases is usually rare, she says, and in cases of spousal sexual assault, "there is almost never enough."

Outside the courtroom, victims are conditioned to believe that they should be sexually available to fulfill the desire of their partner, whenever that desire arises. Because they are married, many victims of spousal sexual assault don't believe were been raped, Butler says.

"They think it is just part of their marriage," she says. "They don't recognize that they have the right to say 'no' to their partner." Consequently, Butler says, many victims don't want to address it in counseling.

"When I'm talking to someone and spousal sexual assault comes up," she says, "I have to explain to them that it is a form of rape. But people don't want to admit that someone they love and trust would do such a thing."

With little evidence, a conditioned society full of doubt, and the ideals of romance, trust, and true love hanging by a thread, it is not surprising that spousal sexual assault remains a deeply rooted and vastly under reported problem in Pennsylvania. **S**

> "They think that it is just a part of marriage. They don't recognize that they have the right to say 'no' to their partner."
>
> Stephenie Butler,
> Sexual Assault Counselor
> Women's Center

For more information call the Women s Center of Columbia/ Montour County at (570) 784-6631 or Beyond Violence, Berwick s Women s Center at (570) 759-0298.

Throwing Away the Key

When sexual predators check in, they might not check out

by Eric Hunt

The law in 22 states, not including Pennsylvania, now requires certain sexually violent predators to be involuntarily committed.

A law in Pennsylvania has recently been proposed that would require the same. Rep. Jane Orie (R-Pittsburgh) and Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Willow Grove) have introduced companion pieces of legislation. The proposed bills would require sexually violent predators deemed "dangerous" or a "threat" to the community to be committed immediately after they are released from prison.

"Once a predator has been civilly committed," Orie says, "the offender can only be released if he shows that he is no longer a threat."

Each year, an offender's case would be reviewed after having gone through "intensive treatment," she says.

"It's highly controversial," says Orie, "in the sense that you're committing [an offender] and throwing away the key." However, she says, "it's the right way to go." Only about five percent of all the offenders in each of the other states have been committed so far. Pennsylvania Attorney General Mike Fisher has endorsed the bill.

Psychiatrists have spoken out against the proposed legislation, calling it "barbaric." The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) called it a "violation of civil rights." The bill would place an offender in "double jeopardy" by calling for civil punishment in addition to a previously imposed criminal penalty.

"[The bill] would keep people incarcerated after their time is up," says Larry Frankel, executive director of the ACLU in Pennsylvania. "That means they're not letting the sentence ever end, which is a violation of the Constitution and amounts to cruel and unusual punishment," he says.

> "Once a predator has been civilly committed, the offender can only be released if he shows that he is no longer a threat."
>
> Jane Orie,
> Pa. State Representative

The Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA) opposes the bill because of what it might mean for other mental health patients already in the hospitals where predators would be committed.

"We are not opposed to getting people treated," says Sam Knapp, of the PPA, "but we are concerned that if [sexually violent predators] are sent to state hospitals, they will divert resources from other patients with persistent mental illnesses."

Knapp says that sexually violent predators should be treated in prison. Although the prison system traditionally provides poor treatment programs for sex offenders, he says, "there is no reason it has to."

While providing treatment for offenders as soon as they enter the prison doors is desirable, it is not likely, says Frankel, because "that would require spending real money and they don't want to do that."

"There are many convictions that I question in rape cases," says Ellen Kerr, Crisis Intervention Coordinator for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). "I want my justice system to be just and [involuntary commitment] doesn't sound just," she says.

The House Judiciary Committee held hearings on the bill during the 2000 session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, which ended in November. No movement, however, to enact the legislation took place and a vote is not expected until well into the next session. Orie says there is still "a lot of work to be done" on the proposed bill. **S**

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