

Domestic Violence Watch

A Publication of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Issue 3



Womancare



Abused Women's
Advocacy Project



Caring Unlimited



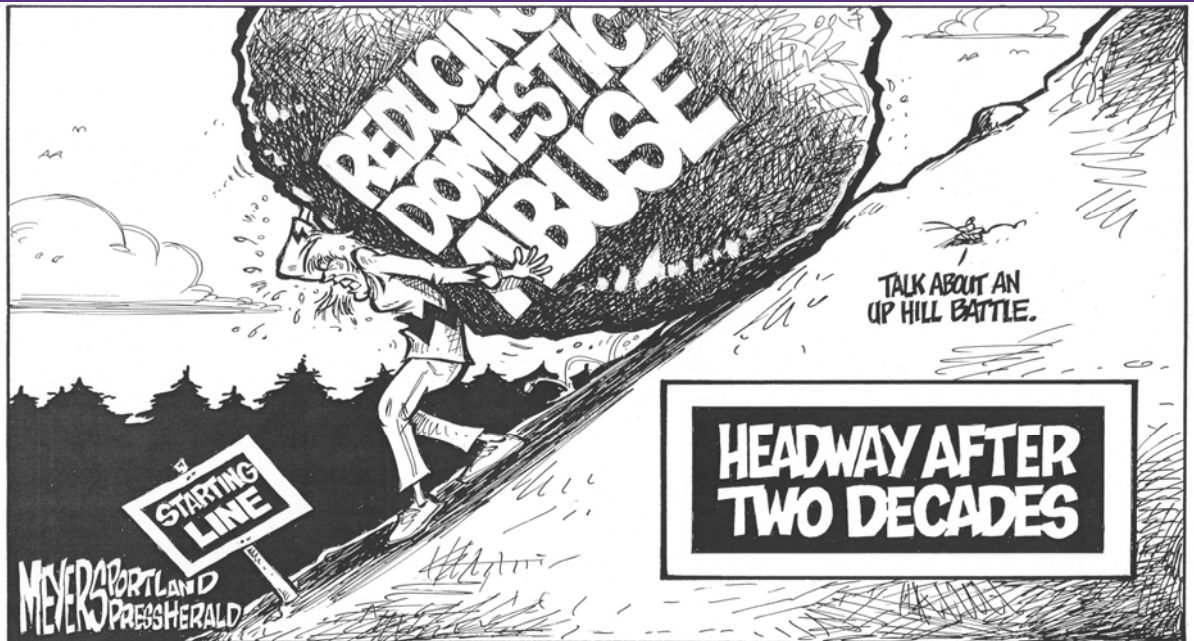
Battered Women's
Project



Family Crisis
Services



New Hope
For Women



Thank you to artist Steven Meyers & the Portland Press Herald for allowing MCEDV to use this cartoon.

Since we began the New Year, the 9 domestic violence prevention projects have felt a loss of State funding from the curtailment. These and the potential additional cuts are expected to reduce vital crisis and prevention services including:

- The closing of outreach offices
- Less court advocacy for victims
- Fewer housing opportunities
- A drastic cut to prevention programming, including including work in our schools designed to interrupt & end domestic violence.

Last year most of the legislature recognized the need for increased attention and funding for Domestic Violence prevention program and intervention services. We requested 4.2 million/year and were appropriated \$900,000 in 06/07 and 1 million in 08/09. In the curtailment order we lost the last quarter of the 06/07 funding. The supplemental budget cuts all this funding.

We realize that the Legislature is facing a difficult situation. Despite the serious budget challenges and difficult decisions that need to be made, we ask that you keep in mind the people who will be lost behind the dollar signs and spreadsheets. DV providers are by nature, and necessity, frugal, but the continued tradition of cutting domestic violence service money has the potential to further place Maine people in harms way and jeopardizes victims who are seeking safety. Everyone who is already struggling is going to face even graver challenges, which could profoundly affect their lives.

We are very discouraged that with such need, such support, and such legislative intent last year, we are not making progress, and we are all reeling from the news of the year's first domestic homicides.

On January 23rd of this year, three young children witnessed the murder of their mother, Katie Cabana, 29, of Marshfield, allegedly by ex-boyfriend, Richard Widdecomb Jr., 25 of Machias. Allegedly Mr. Widdecomb also murdered Katie's friend, Aaron Settipani, 41, of Eastport. Cabana's 6-year-old daughter, Autumn Rodgers, suffered a gunshot wound to the foot.

We will be looking again to the legislature for your support. We ask you not to support this cut in the supplemental budget, and instead to maintain the funding that you granted last year.

The best time to stop a man from being violent is before he becomes a man.

Maine's Closed Domestic Homicides, January 1, 2007 to December, 31, 2007

Compiled by the Maine Dept. of Public Safety, Public Information Office
21 HOMICIDES – UPDATED – 1/4/2008

1-12 Fairfield *Rhonda Wakefield Reynolds*, 37, shot inside her home. Her estranged husband, 40 year old Richard Reynolds is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

3-3 Standish *Donald McKay*, 60, stabbed to death inside his home. His 21 year old son, Kristian McKay, is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

3-24 Auburn Eight month old *Emmy-Leigh Cole* dies of a head injury. The live-in boyfriend of the girl's mother, 24 year old Todd Gamache is indicted and arrested for murder on 4/4. **DOMESTIC**

3-30 Auburn *Margaret Peters*, 70, is shot and killed outside her home by her 42 year old son, James Peters, who is later killed by police. **DOMESTIC**

7-8 Wells *Nicole Oliver*, 24, shot and killed by her estranged husband, Thomas Oliver, 30, who kills himself. **DOMESTIC – MURDER-SUICIDE**

7-16 Newcastle *John S. Okie*, 59, is stabbed to death inside his home. His 20 year old son, John A. Okie, is charged with his murder. **DOMESTIC** (Okie is also charged with the homicide on July 9 of Alexandra Mills.)

10-25 Portland *Jennifer Soto*, 25, is stabbed and strangled inside her Portland home. Her body is found in the Cathance River in Bowdoinham on 10/27. Her longtime boyfriend, Joel Olavarria, is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

11-29 Lagrange *Kristin Smart*, 25, shot to death at her home. Her husband, Jeremy Hart, 34, is charged with murder. **DOMESTIC**

Eight (8) individual men murdered eight (8) people in acts of Domestic Violence homicide from January 1, 2007 to December, 31, 2007. The Homicide Victims relationships to their murderers are, two (2) female intimate partners; three (3) wives; and three (3) mothers.

Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than convert. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.