

Bee Editorial

Take the steps needed to avoid becoming a victim

Nobody has the *right* to impose fear on someone else. Yet it happens everyday, from large cities to small towns. It happens to children and women far too often. It's happening here, but women in Amherst have come together to put a stop to their vulnerability.

More than 40 women gathered at Town Hall on Tuesday to better educate themselves on the dangers of predators. The seminar stemmed from a business in the Village of Williamsville whose employees were allegedly stalked by a man three times the age of the women. It was inappropriate, wrong and illegal. A suspect was arrested last week.

The "Women Take Charge" seminar invited Amherst women to learn what they can do if they become the victim of harassment or stalking. A lengthy list of tips was handed out by Amherst Safety Officer Cathy Onions, a

27-year veteran with the department.

We encourage those women to memorize and live by those tips. Share them with your co-workers, family members and friends. Onions said criminals are opportunists, so take away their opportunity to commit a crime.

It seems that lately it's impossible to read the news or watch TV without hearing of a woman falling victim to man. A town in Kansas mourned the loss of 18-year-old Kelsey Smith who was killed after being forced into a car in a store parking lot in the early evening hours. This past week another man in his 60s was arrested for stalking in Springville. His target, according to police, was a young girl. In Ohio a woman was killed less than a month before she was due to give birth, allegedly by a man she had been involved with. Here in Amherst we dealt with the horror of the bike path rapist, who preyed on many women.

In each case the victim was a female, but what varied was how well the criminal knew that female. In some cases it was a stranger, in others a neighbor and even a boyfriend.

Reading these news stories can be painful and leaves readers almost with a sense of hopelessness, but don't let it. There are stories of victory, potential victims who were able to get away. Take those as encouragement, as well as the stories of loss, to motivate you to say, "I won't be a victim."

Educate and train yourself to be aware of what's around you. Make smart decisions when walking or parking your car.

If you think you are being harassed or stalked, call the police. Take all threats seriously. Onions said that many times people report an incident but don't prosecute. Don't be afraid to say no, and take the steps to be as prepared as possible.

Spindle items



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• **QUITE A SIGHT** — I honestly don't know how many years it has been since I was on a bicycle — let's just say it's been long enough that it makes me question the possibility of the phrase, "just like getting back on a bike." So I have great admiration

for those who can bike for miles at a time. As I came to the corner of John James Audubon Parkway and North Forest Road on Saturday I had to stop and wait for a group of bicyclists on their way through the Ride for Roswell route. I was moved by the sight of participants, from

babies being pulled in a bike trailer to elderly riders, making their way toward the University at Buffalo's North Campus. I wanted to show the riders my appreciation by honking my horn but rethought the idea, not wanting to disrupt the race or startle those directing traffic. So I just smiled and went on my way to the Amherst police station.

The Ride for Roswell Web site is reporting that Saturday's ride was the "biggest ever," with 5,000 cyclists and more than \$1.5 million raised.

• **THE BEST YEARS** — I spent a good part of my Monday going through the photos from this past weekend's graduations. They all had one thing in common — the appearance of pride on the students' faces. I want to congratulate all the graduates and wish them the best on what comes next, whether it be entering the career field, attending college or joining the military.

On a personal note I applaud all the

soon-to-be Oswego State University students. As an alumna, I must add that the winds are really that bad, but you should appreciate Lake Ontario only yards away and make a stop at Bev's Ice Cream while walking the path along the lake. Hopefully, the 100 inches of snow this past winter was a fluke. Good luck.

• **STADIUM SLUMBER** — The first "Great Sleep Out for the Homeless" will be held from 5:30 p.m. July 13 to 8:30 a.m. July 14 at the University at Buffalo's North Campus at the stadium. The event is being organized by Buffalo City Mission to educate attendees on homelessness, how to make good choices and how to make a difference in their communities.

The event is open to adults and youths from grade seven through college. Registration will close on July 6. To reserve a spot, call Aubrey Calhoun at 348-3101 or visit www.buffalocitymission.org. The event will include live music, guest

speaker Mark Cahill, an awards breakfast and activities planned throughout the night. Awards will be given out for fundraising/community service and sleep shelter design.

• **DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY** — The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation is accepting inquiries in its 2007 Development Disabilities Grant category. Organizations in Erie and Niagara counties serving children and adolescents with developmental disabilities may be eligible for funds. The due date for the letter inquiry is Aug. 22. For more information, visit the foundation's Web site at www.thetowerfoundation.org.

• **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — The Blocher Homes Adult Care Facility in Williamsville, 135 Evans St., is currently in need of volunteers to assist with activities, visits and outdoor walks, as well as work in the boutique. Call 504-3488 for details.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago June 29, 1882

Blasting has been commenced in the creek, preparatory to building the new stone bridge across Main Street.

How to celebrate the Fourth of July? Go to the popular grocery store of J.W. Van Peyma, where can be found the largest stock of fire crackers, flags, nuts, etc. ever brought into the Village.

The celebration of her seventieth birthday of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe brings to mind the greatest of her books, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." With the exception of the Bible, more copies of it were sold than of any other book ever written.

"Oleomargarine, despite its high-sounding name, is butter fraud, after all."

"We're in a pickle now," said a man in a crowd. 'A regular jam,' said another. 'Heaven preserve us,' moaned an old woman."

"A very kind drug store clerk said to the little girl, 'Now be sure to tell your papa to take this medicine according to the directions on the bottle. An overdose might affect his brain.' The little girl replied, 'Oh, there's no danger of that, for I've heard mamma tell him lots of times he never had any.'"

100 Years Ago June 27, 1907

Mr. Jasper S. Youngs, president, has announced the annual Williamsville Old Home Day picnic will

be held on the first Saturday after the 22nd of July, which this year will be July 27. Arrangements have been made for a union service the following day, July 28.

Confirmation will be administered to 100 boys and girls at SS. Peter and Paul this Saturday.

75 Years Ago June 30, 1932

Next Monday, July 4, local business places and the Bank of Williamsville and the Bank of Snyder will be closed to observe the holiday. No mails will be received or dispatched.

At the end of June, approximately 900 men were employed by the Erie County Highway Department on various phases of road building and maintenance. In the Clarence District, which also includes Amherst, Newstead, Cheektowaga and Alden, the employment roll was somewhat over 150.

The services of the town nurse will be dispensed with on July 1 on account of a lack of funds.

Heading the bill of entertainment for those who visit the Glen Park on Monday is the mystical Moro. He is frozen alive in ice, is completely enclosed in ice wearing conventional summer garments and no air is allowed to reach him. Yet he comes out of the cake of ice alive and natural, even as you and I.

A name long known to the community — John Berkes — is removed in his passing on Friday, June 24, 1932. He was one of the organizers of the Eggertsville Hose Company, having been among the three who, by their financial aid, made its establishment possible.

50 Years Ago June 27, 1957

Herbert E. Zimmerman was awarded the oath of office as Amherst Police Chief at last Monday evening's meeting of the Town Board.

A summer recreation feature designed to please young and old will be the square and round dancing series to begin on Tuesday, July 2 in the pavilion in Williamsville's Island Park.

Paul V. Batt of Williamsville has bought the Buick dealership at 5175 Broadway, Lancaster. The new and used car agency was formerly owned by Jack Stevens Inc.

"Lucky Pierre," disc jockey of WEBR, entertained teen-agers at the Bar-B-Quik luncheonette at Bailey and Sheridan last Thursday evening.

25 Years Ago June 23, 1982

The Amherst Government Study Committee may recommend that the town construct a new court building adjacent to police headquarters on John James Audubon Parkway.

Leo E. Leavers of Snyder has five more states to visit before attaining his goal of visiting the gravesites of all former presidents of the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Carl Armin Viehe, senior minister of St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ on Wehrle Drive, will retire on June 30 after serving the local congregation for more than 23 years.