

# Domestic abuse victims needn't suffer in silence

**From A3**  
you have, where to go on dates?

- Is your relationship free from constant put downs, embarrassment, or public humiliation by your partner?
- Can you break off the relationship without fearing your partner's reaction?
- Do you feel safe in this relationship?
- Do both of you have meaningful personal friendships outside the relationship?
- Can both of you have other friends and separate activities without either one feeling jealous or possessive?

And those are just a few of the questions, but if you answered yes to any of them, this just might be the right time to take a deeper look at this relationship and talk to someone, according to the DVCC. To take the complete quiz, visit their Web site at <http://www.dvccct.org/>.

Knowing that you have rights is also important. If you ever feel threatened, know that you have the right to call the police, without feeling like you're the one who did something wrong, the right to have that person removed from your home, without the fear that you might also be arrested. Now this is important, especially for the ladies. Because of all the laws in Connecticut, that's what might

just happen to you. Trust me, it can happen.  
So be smart, know your rights and follow through. Remember, domestic abuse can happen to anyone and although everybody's situation is different, being smart about how you handle the situation is important.  
There are many advocacy groups like the Domestic Violence Crisis Center that help individuals and families explore their rights and options. They can provide counseling and support.

Even if you are not a victim of domestic abuse you can help by volunteering your time and donating, not just money, but your talents also. Speak out about what you see. Voice your opinions about violence in the media, and encourage others within your community to do the same. Every little bit counts.  
And if you are a victim or know someone who is, give them this number: 1-888-774-2900. It's the 24 hour Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact them here in Norwalk at (203) 853-0418.

That's it for your girl this week, signing off until next week. Remember to take care of yourselves and don't forget to holla at me at [storyideas@snet.net](mailto:storyideas@snet.net).



Hour photo /ERIK TRAUTMANN

## Neighborhood cleanup

Laurel Lindstom, president of the Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association, picks up trash off East Avenue as part of the organization's neighborhood clean up effort Saturday.

# Festival of Words speaker describes his rainbow childhood

**From A3**  
the possibilities that exist in America when people have an open mind," he said.  
The city of Norwalk chose the book for its second annual "One Book, One Community" project that encourages community members to read and discuss the same book at the same time. The program has hosted book talks and discussions at the library during the past several weeks.

The author's speech was colored with political tones as he referenced his opposition to the war in Iraq and his support for immigrants, an issue that has sparked debate throughout the country in recent weeks.  
"We are all immigrants in this room," McBride said. "I'm proud to be the descendant of an immigrant."

McBride voiced his support for community colleges, calling them "the gateway through which so many of our young people live the American dream."  
He will receive an honorary

"We are all immigrants in this room. I'm proud to be the descendant of an immigrant."

James McBride

degree from NCC on May 18.  
"If I'd known so many people were going to read that book, I swear I would've written a better book," he joked.

The Festival of Words, built around the theme "family and memory," featured a diverse array of writers and artists, including Lucy Anne Hurston, niece and biographer of the famous writer Zora Neale Hurston, historian and children's author Catherine Clinton and Megan Marshall, author of "The Peabody Sisters."

Poetry, photography and live music rounded out the planned schedule of events for the day.

Meaghan Barr can be contacted via e-mail at [mbarr@the-hour.com](mailto:mbarr@the-hour.com).

## Suspect found asleep on school lawn

**Associated Press**

PLYMOUTH — A robbery suspect was nabbed while napping on the lawn of a Bristol high school, police said.

Edward Maloy, 40, is the suspect in a robbery attempt at the Terryville Package Store in Plymouth on March 1, police said.

Sgt. Jay Biernacki said Maloy allegedly went into the store and asked for alcohol and cigarettes, then waved a knife at the clerk and demanded money.

Police say the clerk raised

his hands and ran away. The suspect ran away too, without any money.

Police obtained a warrant for his arrest but could not find him because he had no known address.

Someone called police Friday morning to complain about a man sleeping on the lawn of the school.

Maloy was charged with criminal attempt to commit second-degree robbery and is being held on \$75,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear Monday in Bristol Superior Court.

# Twins win laurels for Law Day essays on Internet dangers

**From A3**  
DiBuono said in a Wednesday interview that the twins' papers received "A" grades and that "they're both really good students."

Although MySpace has an age limit of 14, Megan Wrinn said many of her friends are below that age and have pages on the site.

"MySpace is what 'the kids' are doing," she wrote. "If you don't have a MySpace, you probably won't be deemed 'cool' in your school. MySpace has become similar to a cigarette; peer pressure forces you to have one and once your (sic) addicted, you really can't stop."

The essays were among 20 that All Saints teacher Nancy DiBuono chose from her eighth-grade advanced literature class.

DiBuono said in a Wednesday interview that the twins' papers received "A" grades and that "they're both really good students."

She didn't guide her students' writing or try to influence their opinions, the teacher said. Instead, she facilitated a classroom discussion about the topic and urged them to use a strong opening, strong closing, and logical defense of their opinions.

"I think it has to be their work," DiBuono said. "Going to high school, I think they have to have their own opinions on things."

The class of 22 was particularly tuned in to the Web site topic because it is relevant to

their lives, she said, adding that most agreed that the sites should have restrictions placed on them.

"Sometimes you get contests that don't grab the kids' interest. This did."

The Wrinn twins agreed, saying the task of writing about MySpace.com and other Web sites was fun, because they have strong opinions on the subject.

The girls are intensely competitive with each other and said they get built-in inspiration from their caring but combative relationship, which sometimes involves proof-reading each other's work.

Blumenthal said in a Tuesday statement that he will "undoubtedly consider" the messages of the essays as he conducts ongoing negotiations with MySpace and similar sites.  
"These students expressed themselves persuasively and personally — making sense of a complex issue," he said. "These essays provide important insight into a critical topic — the vital balance between our First Amendment rights and the safety of our children on the Internet."

Noelle Frampton covers education. She can be reached via e-mail at [education@thehour.com](mailto:education@thehour.com).

*Sarah's Flowers*

**Mother's Day Special**  
beautiful arrangements in your choice from at least 5 floral varieties

**Only \$20.00!!**

224 Main Street, Norwalk • 203.846.9775

**Concerned About Heating Costs?**

If you're planning a new home or considering replacement of an inefficient heating system, you can't make a better choice for comfort and efficiency than System 2000.

Homeowners who install System 2000 enjoy many benefits including:

- Virtually Unlimited Hot Water
- Multi-zone Control for Maximum Comfort and Savings
- Whisper Quiet Operation
- Chimney and Chimneyless Vent Installation
- Natural Gas or Oil Heat
- Limited Lifetime Warranty

*Don't be concerned be comfortable.*

**Sono Energy**  
"Your Homeowner Heating Oil Company"

203.866.7711  
**SYSTEM 2000**  
ENERGY KINETICS  
[www.energykinetics.com](http://www.energykinetics.com)

©2000 Energy Kinetics, Inc. All rights reserved. As an ENERGY STAR® Partner, Energy Kinetics has determined that this product meets the ENERGY STAR guidelines for energy efficiency.

**Disc Herniation?**  
New FDA Approved Technology Treats Herniated Discs Without Drugs or Surgery

NORWALK - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering surgery free new hope for disc pain sufferers. Research has proven that FDA approved non-surgical spinal decompression has a 86% success rate for treating debilitating back pain including sciatica and multiple herniated disc. It looks like another NASA discovery has led to the most promising non-surgical disc treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-256-9690 and listen to the toll free 24 hr recorded message for all the details or go to [www.fixmylowback.com](http://www.fixmylowback.com). These free reports are available for a limited time.

**WHERE IS DAWN?**

She's Serving Breakfast at **Sonny's Breakfast**

**501 West Ave Norwalk**  
5 a.m. to 11a.m.  
**STOP IN AND SEE HER!**

Artistic Director **Tazewell Thompson**  
Executive Director **Allison Harris**  
Associate Artistic Director **Anne Keefe**  
Artistic Director Emeritus **Joanne Woodward**

**Westport Country Playhouse**

**ON STAGE NOW THROUGH MAY 21**

**LIMITED ENGAGEMENT!**  
Only 12 more performances!

**James Earl Jones**  
**Thurgood**  
By George Stevens, Jr. • Directed by Leonard Foglia  
Now through May 21  
A world premiere about one of America's greatest heroes — Thurgood Marshall.  
Illustration by Linda Fennimore/Illustration design by Fraver/EMG

**Sweet Treat for Mom...**  
Free dessert on Mother's Day!

Kids and Dads! Vote for "The Best All American Mom!"  
Come in, or vote online at [americansteakhouse.com](http://americansteakhouse.com)

**AMERICAN STEAKHOUSE**

**The Right Food. Right price. Right now.**  
595 CONNECTICUT AVENUE • NORWALK • 853-8869  
Bridgeport • Meriden • Waterbury • West Haven  
Order gift certificates at [www.americansteakhouse.com](http://www.americansteakhouse.com)

**LOREDANA CUCCIA, M.D.**  
Your natural beauty should be revealed! Not your age!

**Free Consultation!!!**  
Laser Hair Reduction • Laser Vein Removal  
Laser Facials • Chemical Peels  
Botox • Sun Damage  
MEDICAL GRADE SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

149 East Avenue, Suite 5B, Norwalk, CT • 203-523-0189

**NEXT ON STAGE JUNE 1 - 18**

**THE MUSIC OF KURT WEILL**  
**Jam & Spice**  
A world premiere conceived by Tazewell Thompson & Dianne Adams McDowell  
Directed by Tazewell Thompson  
June 1 - 18  
Mack the Knife, My Ship, It Never Was You, September Songs, Lost in the Stars, Pirate Jenny — the list goes on! Join us and rediscover the musical genius of Kurt Weill, whose body of work — filled with tremendous heart — is still startlingly alive today.  
Illustration by Christopher Young

Call **203.227.4177**  
[www.westportplayhouse.org](http://www.westportplayhouse.org)  
For groups of 10 or more call 203.227.5137 x120  
ALL TITLES, ARTISTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING**  
**SOUTH NORWALK ELECTRIC AND WATER**  
[www.snew.org](http://www.snew.org)

During the week of May 8th to May 12th South Norwalk Electric and Water will be flushing hydrants from midnight until 5 a.m. in the vicinity of the following streets:

**Norwalk:** Lexington Ave, Martin Luther King Dr, Ely Ave, Roodner Ct, Rockland Rd, Chestnut St, Concord St, South Main St, Woodward Ave, Meadow St, Wilson Ave and Grayrock Rd

Customers may experience fluctuations in pressure and/or discoloration of their water during flushing. If you experience discolored water, run the cold tap in your bathtub until it clears.

**PLEASE CHECK THE COLOR OF YOUR WATER BEFORE USING.**