



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Panelists Janis Lion, Susan Ellison, Dale Myers, and Michael Goldberg discussed the legal aspects of domestic violence on Oct. 26.

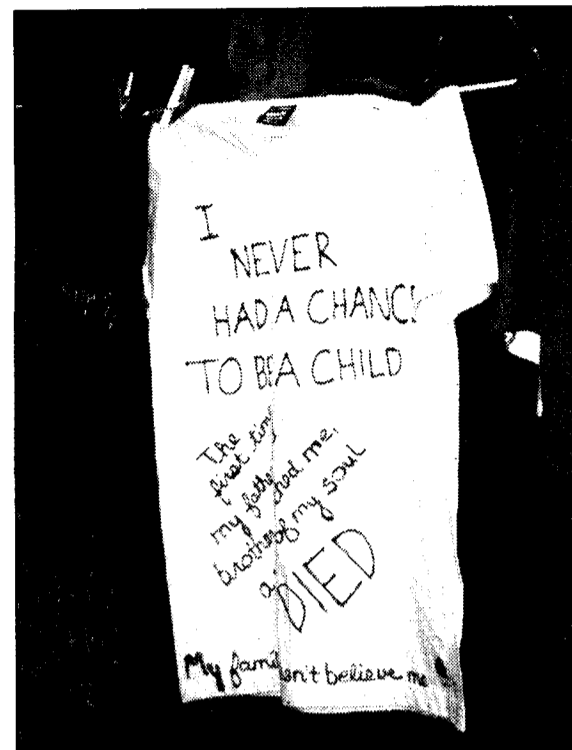


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Clothesline project T-shirt.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities a Success

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Harrisburg.

According to literature on the project, the goal of the memorial is to "promote peace, healing and responsibility in adult relationships in order to eliminate domestic murders in the United States by the year 2010."

The impact of domestic violence got even more personal as events continued on Oct. 25. A small group of women and men gathered in Vartan Plaza for a candlelight vigil in the long afternoon shadows.

Participants sheltered small candle flames from the breeze

while they quietly took turns sharing poems, prayers or stories of the impact of domestic violence on their lives.

Bill Brown's voice quivered and his leg shook as he spoke. Brown's sister, Kim LaRosa, would have been 39 years old the day of the PSH vigil.

Brown and his brother Jon shared memories of their sister growing up and their pain over her murder in August by

LaRosa's estranged husband, Paul. Much of that anger is directed at the judicial system. "We don't blame Paul," Brown said.

According to the brothers, the victim's husband was released early from prison, where he was being held for violation of a protection from abuse order, two weeks before killing LaRosa and himself. The Browns are now actively

surrounding Domestic Violence.

The video "Speaking Up: Ending Domestic Violence in our Communities," was the first part of Dr. DuPont-Morales' Women in the Criminal Justice System class Oct. 26.

Hope McDonald, a PSH student majoring in Psychology, was unimpressed with the video.

According to McDonald, the skits "seemed corny." She felt that the video "didn't portray the severity of the abuse that can occur."

Then, she paused and reconsidered. "Not that any

abuse is minor," McDonald said quietly. Coordinators of the PSH Domestic Violence Awareness Month program purposely saturated campus with a broad range of activities on the domestic violence issue.

Dr. DuPont-Morales has heard some negative comments from students during the series

"People got more educated this week.

That's all I can ask."

-- Angela Keen,

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Coordinator

involved in the struggle to prevent similar tragedies.

The candlelight vigil ended with an outpouring of hugs and tears as the participants extinguished the candles and quietly wandered away from the group.

While the events and displays that ended with the candlelight vigil focused on awareness and remembrance, the activities on Oct. 26 focused on advocacy and the legal issues

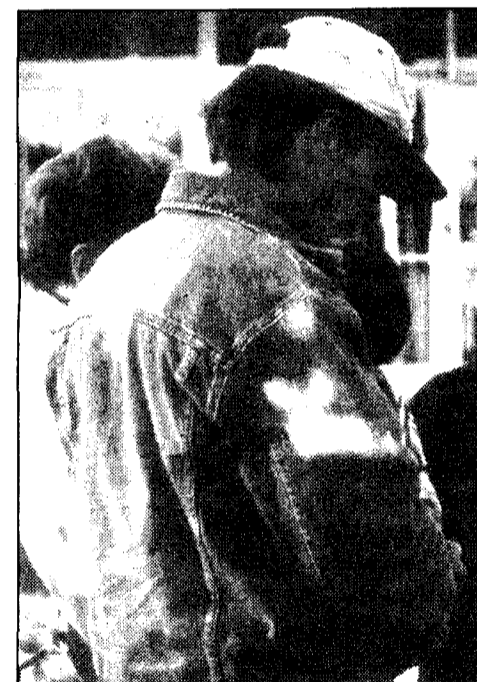


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Bill Brown bows his head in respect during the candlelight vigil.



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Jon Brown and Janet Widoff shelter candle flames during the vigil.

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