

# The Day

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## Domestic Violence Is Not A Laughing Matter

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I'm writing about the Tank McNamara comic in The Day on July 19. The comic depicts a coach directing the following message to his athletes, and I quote, "Violence against women counts as two strikes in the three-tolerance policy. And whatever you do, do not get caught living with your girlfriend. In this state, domestic violence is a more serious crime than simple assault. Our lawyers recommend that if you feel the compulsion to beat up a girl, find a stranger."

I am the community education coordinator for the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut and have worked in the domestic violence field for five years. Through my work, I have heard the stories of thousands of victims of domestic violence in Southeastern Connecticut. Their pain is no laughing matter.

As to the comment about finding a female stranger to beat up, that's not funny either. I'm sure that all people who have women and girls in their lives whom they love would agree that their safety is nothing to joke about. I love a good laugh, but not at the expense of others.

Domestic violence is the No. 1 cause of injury to women — superseding car accidents, rapes and muggings combined. One in three woman will be the victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. The fact that we live in a society that finds a comic that makes light of violence against women amusing is the reason women continue to be abused. If you find this comic offensive, I encourage you to speak out. Silence is acceptance and it is time society stops condoning violence against women.

My dream is that one day, our community will believe abuse is not acceptable and that all deserve to be treated with respect.

*Michelle Bussolotti  
Ledyard*