

# Stalking: An Old Behavior, A New Crime

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# *Guete Morge...*



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# THE PSYCHOLOGY OF **STALKING**

Clinical and Forensic Perspectives



Edited by **J. REID MELOY**



Hoffmann

# Stalking

 Springer

# Elements of Criminal Stalking

- Unwanted pattern of pursuit
- Implicit or explicit threat
- Induction of fear or intent to induce fear in the victim

# Current Findings on Stalking

- An old behavior, a new crime
- Perpetrators are males, victims are females
- Age of both in 20s to 30s
- Prior criminal, psychiatric, and drug abuse histories
- Epidemiology (Spitzberg, 2007; Van der Aa & Kunst, 2009)
  - 6-32% women victimized during lifetime
  - 2-15% men victimized during lifetime
  - Method sensitive

# NCVS Stalking Victimization in the United States, 2009

- During a 12 month period, 14 out of 1000 adults were victims of stalking
- Young and divorced or separated women
- Less than half report to police
- 25% report cyberstalking
- 75% knew their offender in some capacity (30% prior sexual intimate)
- Risk decreases with age (18-24 highest risk)
- Victims of two or more races had highest frequency of stalking (32:1000) per year

■ “The exotic becomes erotic.”

■ Daryl Bem, Cornell University, 1996

# Further Demographics

- Stalkers are average IQ range
- Most are unemployed or underemployed
- Mean duration 2 years (10% >5 years)
- Modal duration 1 month
- If it exceeds two weeks, will go on for months
- Crime is only recognized in Westernized developed countries

# Professions at High Risk for Victimization

- Public Figures
- Mental Health Professionals
- Journalists
- Police Officers

■ Guldemann et al., 2015, submitted

# Mullen Typology (Am J Psychiatry, 1999, 2000, 2009)

- Rejected (most violent and longest duration)
- Intimacy Seekers (longest duration)
- Incompetent
- Resentful
- Predator (most violent and sexual)
  - Good discriminant validity: employment, stalking duration, number of methods, threats, assaults, prior criminal convictions.
  - Mean age 31-41 years, 69-100% males
  - No initial interjudge reliability

# RECON Typology—Mohandie, Meloy, McGowan and Williams (J Forensic Sciences, 2006)

- Intimate (n=502)
- Acquaintance (n=129)
- Public Figure (n=271)
- Private Stranger (n=103)
  - N=1005
  - Interjudge reliability 0.95 (ICC)
  - Discriminant validity

# Intimate Type (n=502)—most dangerous of four groups

- 94% male
- 50% violent criminal records
- 11% psychotic
- 67% use drugs
- More frequent and proximity-based approaches
- 83% threaten
- 92% reoffend
- Recidivism in 1.6 months
- 74% violent

# Dysphoric/Borderline Offender

- Often domestic violence
- Violence mainly limited to family members
- Low – moderate levels of criminal behaviour
- Idealization vs. hate (borderline dynamics)
- Masked dependency in relationship
- High levels of depression and anger
- Reacting with anger when he feels rejected or abandoned

# Overcontrolled Offender

- Socially well adapted
- Emotionally suppressed/repressed
- No violence history
- Ruminates and is depressive before the attack
- Often a cathartic homicide

# Psychopathic Offender

- Feeling of grandiosity
- Manipulative, charming, detached
- Cool and controlling even when being violent
- Power and control; may be sadistic
- Impulsive and/or deliberate violence
- Thrill seeking behaviour
- Sometimes criminal records, sometimes seems socially well adapted

# Psychiatric Characteristics: Cumulative Studies

- Many Axis I diagnoses: drug abuse or dependence, mood disorders, schizophrenia (McEwan & Strand, 2013)
- Delusional disorder unlikely (<10%)
- PD diagnoses: Cluster B, paranoid, dependent, OCPD
- Antisocial PD and psychopathy unlikely (<10%)
- Only 20% psychotic at time of stalking
- A pathology of attachment: often preoccupied

# Bartholomew's Model of Adult Attachment

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		<b>+</b>	<b>Self Reps</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>+</b>	<b>Other Reps</b>	<b>Secure</b>	<b>Preoccupied</b>	
<b>-</b>		<b>Dismissive</b>	<b>Fearful</b>	

Source: K. Bartholomew, 1990

# Stalkers' neurobiology

- Meloy & Fisher, J Forensic Sciences, 50:1472-1480, 2005
- Heightened activity of subcortical dopamine pathways
- Lowered activity of CNS serotonin
- May biologically support focused attention, energy, dysphoria, and longing

Johanna Justin-Jinich, May 6, 2009, Middletown,  
CT—predatory violence and stalking



# Fact Pattern

- 21 yo Wesleyan student
- Met Stephen Morgan at NYU during summer, 2007
- Emails and meals on few occasions together
- Began to harass her, saying she was not that attractive and Jewish people are greedy
- Did not attempt to press charges against him
- Kills her with 7 rounds from 9 mm pistol while wearing a wig and eyeglasses as she worked in a CT coffee shop **2 years later**
- Eluded police, then surrendered

# Fact Pattern

- Wrote in journal the day of attack, “I think it okay to kill Jews, and go on a killing spree at this school...Kill Johanna. She must die.”
- Told father day before he was moving to R.I.
- Cleared out most of belongings in guest bedroom
- Churchgoing family, privileged upbringing, prep school, unblemished stint in US Navy, then adrift
- Found NGRI in 2011, paranoid schizophrenic



# Female RECON stalkers (n=143); Meloy et al., Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 2011

- ✱ Single, separated or divorced
- ✱ Mid-30s with a psychiatric diagnosis
- ✱ More likely to pursue an acquaintance than a prior sexual intimate
- ✱ Less criminal, less threatening, less violent
- ✱ Less proximal pursuit behaviors
- ✱ 17 months duration average, modal 2 months
- ✱ Recidivism 50%

# Female RECON stalkers (contd)

- Any prior actual relationship significantly increased frequency of threats and violence
- Majority of prior intimates both threatened and were violent
- Predictor variables for violence: threats increased risk, letter writing decreased risk—with moderate effect sizes; validated McEwan et al., 2009 findings on violence predictors

# RECON study violence data

- 46% violent
- 30% violent toward object of pursuit
- 26% damaged or stole property
- 7% violent toward third party
- 2% killed or injured a pet
- 5% sexually assaulted
- 3% abducted object of pursuit
- 19% used a weapon (knives most common)
- 0.5% committed homicide

# RECON Types-**Personal violence**

■ Intimate	56%
■ Acquaintance	27%
■ Public Figure	1.3%
■ Private Stranger	19%

# Stalking and Violence: Cumulative Data

- Overall frequency is 20-40%
- Average is one third are violent
- Prior sexually intimate frequency >50%
- Private stalking: No weapon, minor injury, cars at risk as weapons and targets
- Homicide rate 0.25% (1:400)
- 80% of spousal homicide victims previously stalked by the perpetrator

# NCVS 2009 Survey

- 21% Attacked victim
- 12.3% hit, slapped, knocked down
- 4.2% choked or strangled
- 4.0% attacked with weapon (22% handgun)
- 3.5% chased or dragged by car
- 1.6% raped or sexually assaulted
- 7.3% attacked in some other way
- 15% attacked another person or pet

# Predicting Femicide

- Kropp & Cook, Int Handbook of Threat Assessment, 2014
  - Proprietariness (Ownership)
  - Possession or availability of firearm
  - Escalation in severity or frequency of violence
  - Mental problems
  - Stalking
  - Recent separation or divorce, especially first few months

# Regression Tree Approach (Rosenfeld & Lewis, 2005)

- Subgroups with probability estimates of violence from actuarial data
- Interaction effects of predictor variables
- Most powerful model
- AUC for this nine variable model: .79-.85

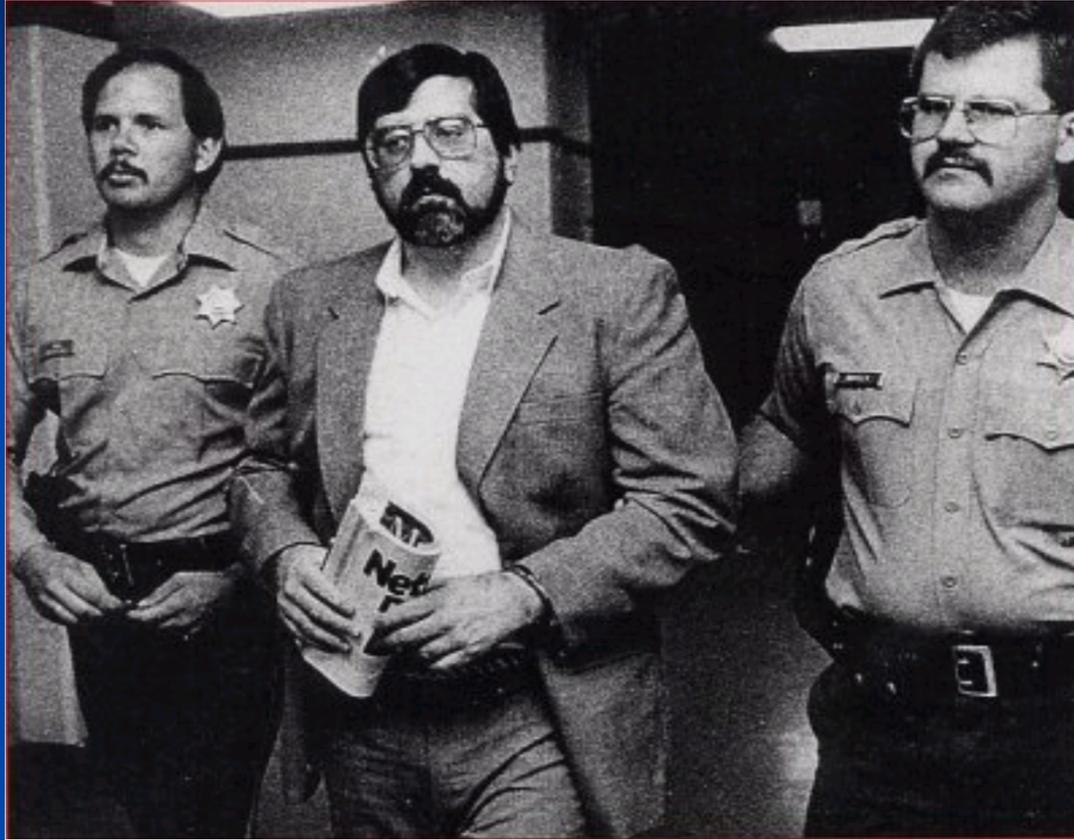
# Regression Tree Model

- Age under 30 years
- Education less than high school
- Threatened victim
- Prior intimate relationship with victim
- Revenge motivation
- Psychotic disorder
- Personality disorder
- Substance abuse history
- Criminal history

# Does the stalker pose a threat?

- Posing a threat is much more significant than making a threat
- Fein & Vossekuil, 1995, 1998, 1999
- U.S. Secret Service ECSP

# Richard Farley: 1988 ESL Sunnyvale, CA



**“I’ ll leave you alone...when you let me call you up like a normal person and you accept.”**

# Case Facts (1)

- February 16, 1988 at ESL in Sunnyvale, CA
- Killed 7 employees
- Wounded 3 others, including object of his obsession, Laura Black
- Surrendered to SWAT team 5 hours later
- Serving life sentence in San Quentin

# Case Facts (2)

- Terminated 21 mos. previously for sexually harassing Laura Black.
- She consistently rejected his overtures
- Nearly 4 years of letters/messages, notes, on her desk, on car, in doorway; incessant phone calls and messages
- Followed her to aerobics class, watched her at company softball games
- She got TRO 2 weeks before incident
- He circled in company parking lot 2 hours prior to attack, in van with arsenal

# Video Interview

- Farley video interview following arrest, conviction, and imprisonment conducted by Chris Hatcher, Ph.D.
- Thanks to Kris Mohandie, Ph.D., for permission to use
- See California Supreme Court decision, 2009, People v. Farley, for further details

# Farley' s Psychology

- Nondelusional obsession (“borderline erotomania”)
- The target is initially idealized, then envied and hated
- Intentional blending of fantasy and reality - he secretly took pictures of her and then showed them to his friends, claiming they had been on trip together
- Blatantly contradictory perceptions - he wanted only to wound her so that she would know the suffering *her* behavior had caused
- Striking sense of entitlement and indifference to other

# Excerpts from Farley's Letters to Laura Black

- “You can't push me. Do you have any idea of what I'm willing to do if I'm pushed beyond what I'm willing to accept? (Feb. 13, 1987)
  - 12 months prior to attack
- “If I have to choose between being with Mei [his current girlfriend] and fighting with you, Mei will lose.” (July, 1987)
  - 7 months prior to attack

# Excerpts from Farley's Letters to Laura Black

- “I wouldn't show my letters to anyone anymore. They might get the wrong impression and do something stupid and it would spiral beyond any hope of recovery... You could always commit suicide [since he was “testing” her], but since I don't have much regard for human life, that isn't going to hurt me... I have your parents' address, so if you run I can follow.” (November 13, 1987)
- 3 months prior to attack

# About Two Weeks Before the Attack

HI LAURA

Peterson came over to my truck while I was waiting for you. He told me to move. I told him, he didn't own the road and I have no intention of moving. He then asked me when I was going to leave you alone. I told him probably never (I should have said when you let me call you up and ask you out like a normal person and you accept). He then threatened me and said "I was going to jail."

I told him that's nice and he was going to cause a lot of trouble.

You'd better tell him to mind his own business. I didn't listen to Chuck and I don't intend to listen to him and it's not in your best interest for him to interfere.

He doesn't have any idea what he's getting into. You'd better tell him, I'd better never see any police around me.

Take care

Rich Farley

CALL ME SUNDAY MORNING

MF

# STALKING, THREATENING, and ATTACKING PUBLIC FIGURES



**A Psychological and Behavioral Analysis**

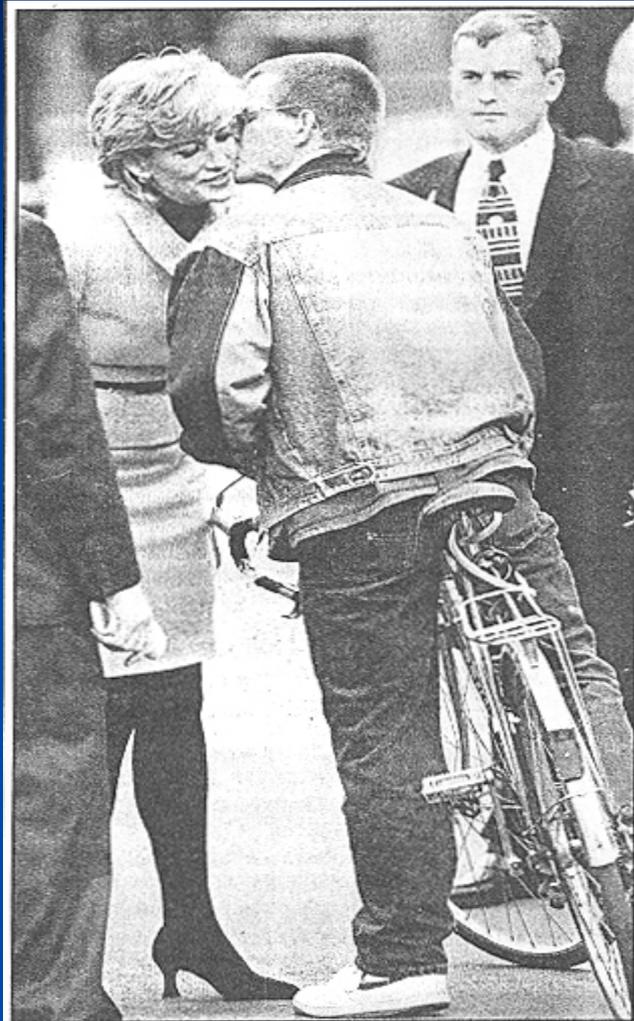
Edited by

J. Reid Meloy • Lorraine Sheridan • Jens Hoffmann

# Public Figure Stalking

- Very high prevalence of (>80%) mental disorder among those who abnormally approach (US, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada)

# Problematic Approaches



Scouse about that . . . the lad gives Di a kiss Pictures: ARTHUR EDWARDS

- Approach following abnormal communication associated with six factors:
  - No direct threats
  - Exhibits severe mental illness symptoms
  - Multiple means of communication to target
  - Multiple contacts and secondary targets
  - Requests for help
  - No antagonistic communication (Meloy et al., J Forensic Sciences, 2011)

# However, those who directly communicate threats can also approach

- Dietz Hollywood 23.0%
- Dietz US Congress 33.0%
- Scalora US Congress 21.4%
- Scalora Random Congress 41.3%
- Meloy Hollywood 35.0%

# Electronic communications research

- Virtually none
- E mailers and letter writers to US Congress compared
  - Letter writers more problematic
    - Severely mental ill
    - Multiple target contacts
    - Multiple methods of contact
    - More likely to physically approach
    - Threatening language did not differentiate
      - Schoeneman-Morris et al., 2007, J Forensic Sciences
      - Schoeneman et al., 2011, Behavioral Sciences and Law

# *Grandiosity and entitled reciprocity*

- Exaggerated sense of self importance in communications (delusional or not)
  - Predicted an approach (UK Royal Family)
- Public figure owes the subject time and attention because of the subject's time and attention paid to the public figure
  - Possible predictor of resentment, perhaps aggression

# BRF Data

- Grandiosity predicted an approach or no approach among communicators with 73% accuracy
  - Aspect of pathological narcissism
  - Supports “entitled reciprocity” (Meloy et al., 2008)
  - Likely to be delusional, not just exaggerated
  - AUC 0.74 (95% CI 0.65-0.82)

DATE RECEIVED July 30, 2008

04 AUG 2008

25396

The Prince of Wales's Office

Dear Charles,

God dam it, God dam you! Charles  
Prince of Wales!

You know that the Catholic Church is a  
cult, right? You do know that, don't you? Well,  
it is. And you shouldn't be worshipping  
the virgin Mary. She's not the Queen of  
Heaven. I AM! I'm God's Wife,  
and you better make room for me there  
now! How dare you make me grovel in  
the dirt, Charles, I'm your Heavenly  
Mother! And you best start respecting  
me as such with a whole lot of hugs  
and kisses (on the cheek), well wishes,  
and tender, loving care, or you are going  
to die a very long death starting  
right now!

Stick to the Word of God, Charles.

# Celebrity Stalking Study—Meloy, Mohandie & Green, 2008

- N=159 celebrity victims (US TV and film)
- n=5 attacks (3% frequency)
- Majority were affectively violent and no weapon
- Attempts to grab the celebrity in public
- 2 females, 3 males (37.6 years old)
- 80% had a psychotic diagnosis



# Public Figure Attacks

- See: Meloy J.R. (2011). Approaching and attacking public figures: a contemporary analysis of communications and behavior. In: C. Chauvin, ed., Threatening Communications and Behavior. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
- Available for free at [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu)
- Revised and expanded in current issue of Journal of Threat Assessment (1:4, 2014)

# Attacks and Assassinations



# The importance of *fixation*

- Pathological fixations are obsessive preoccupations which result in deterioration of subject's intimate, social, and occupational life
- They focus upon a *person* or a *cause*

# What is associated with “fixation”?

- Obsessively and irrationally pursuing a highly idiosyncratic personal grievance or cause

■ Death or serious injury	0.54 phi
■ Attacker a loner	1.0
■ Warning behaviors shown	0.76
■ Definitely psychotic	0.76
■ Definitely deluded	0.76

- James et al., Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica, 116:334-344, 2007

# Nonpolitical homicidal celebrity attackers (Schlesinger & Mesa, 2008)

- N=21 (1949-2004) in North America
  - 11 killed or attempted to kill celebrity
  - 3 displaced violence toward related object
  - 3 displaced violence toward unrelated object
  - 4 attempted or committed suicide in context of stalking celebrity
  - Only 2 cases prior to 1980

# Targets

- Eddie Watkins
- John Lennon
- Theresa Saldana
- Rebecca Schaeffer
- Sharon Gless
- Jerry Lewis
- Bjork Gudmundsdottir
- Jill Dando
- George Harrison
- Ken Dodd
- Darrell Abbott
- Peggy Lennon
- Steffi Graf
- Michael Landon
- Jodie Foster
- Olivia Newton-John
- Justine Bateman
- Andrea Evans
- David Letterman
- Michael Douglas

# Nonpolitical celebrity attackers

- 38% threatened
- 62% sought close physical proximity beforehand
- 62% showed bizarre (warning) behaviors
- Majority stalked 3 or more years before attack
- 71% used a firearm, 18% a knife
- 1 used a bomb, 1 committed arson
- Of those who attacked the celebrity, lethality rate was 36%, casualty rate 71%

# Nonpolitical celebrity attackers

- 52% had a psychiatric diagnosis
- Majority were delusional
- All planned their attack
- Three “red flags”
  - Pathologically obsessed
  - Unrealistic or delusional expectations
  - Angry about a personal behavior of the celebrity that served as a triggering event

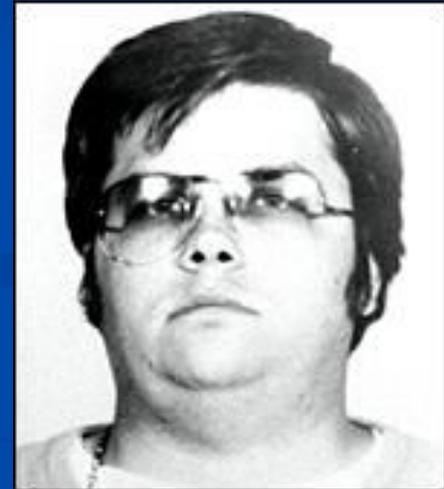
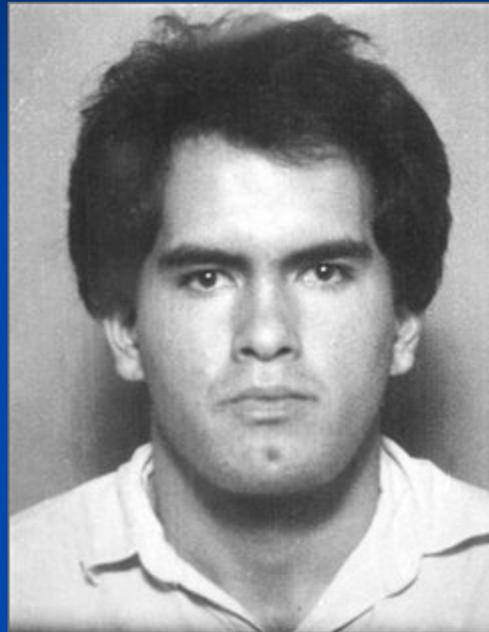
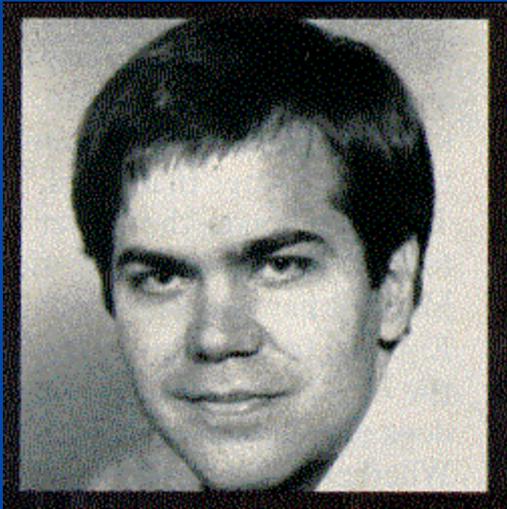
# Chronic catathymia

- Strong, underlying emotionally charged conflict that leads to conviction that homicide and/or suicide is necessary
- Often transference-based
- Maier (1912) and Wertham (1937)
- Three stages
  - Incubation
  - Violence
  - Relief





# Hinckley, Bardo, Chapman





29025 6 \* \$2.95 (IN CANADA \$3.95) \* A BANTAM BOOK

# THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

J. D. SALINGER

- Meloy JR, Mohandie K, Knoll J, Hoffmann, J. (2015). The concept of identification in threat assessment. Behavioral Sciences and the Law, DOI: 10.1002/bsl.2166

# Words of Mark David Chapman at first parole hearing 2000

- “I was feeling like I was worthless, and maybe the root of it is a self-esteem issue...I felt like nothing, and I felt if I shot him, I would become something, which is not true at all.”
  - Assassin of John Lennon, Dec., 1980

■ Fame without achievement





# Stalking Risk Profile

- MacKenzie et al., 2009
- Monash University, Victoria, Australia
- Risk of Stalking Violence
- Risk of Persistence
- Risk of Recurrence
- Risk of Psychosocial Damage to Stalker
- Management
- Public Figure Addendum

# Risk of Stalking Violence

- Red Flag Risk Factors
  - Suicidal ideation
  - Homicidal ideation
  - Last resort thinking
  - High risk psychotic phenomena
  - Psychopathy

# Risk of Stalking Violence

- General Risk Factors
  - Prior violence
  - Property damage
  - Access to or affinity with weapons
  - Approach behaviors
  - Impulsivity
  - Poor emotional control
  - Substance misuse

# Risk of Stalking Violence by Motivational Type

- Rejected
- Resentful
- Intimacy Seekers
- Incompetent Suitors
- Predatory stalkers

# For example,

- Rejected
  - Threats
  - Breached restraining order
  - Awareness of victim location and accessibility
  - Disputes over children/shared property
  - Elevated anger/thoughts of vengeance

# Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM)

- Kropp, Hart & Lyon, 2008
- [www.proactive-resolutions.com](http://www.proactive-resolutions.com)

# Step 1: Case Information

- Identifying information
- Source of information
- Brief narrative

# Nature of stalking risk

- N1: Communicates about victim
- N2: Communicates with victim
- N3: Approaches victim
- N4: Direct contact with victim
- N5: Intimidates victim

# Nature of stalking risk

- N6: Threatens victim
- N7: Violent toward victim
- N8: Stalking is persistent
- N9: Stalking is escalating
- N10: Stalking involves supervision violations

# Perpetrator Risk

- P1: Angry
- P2: Obsessed
- P3: Irrational
- P4: Unrepentant
- P5: Antisocial lifestyle

# Perpetrator Risk

- P6: Intimate relationship problems
- P7: Non-intimate relationship problems
- P8: Distressed
- P9: Substance use problems
- P10: Employment and financial problems

# Victim vulnerability

- V1: Inconsistent behavior toward perpetrator
- V2: Inconsistent attitude toward perpetrator
- V3: Inadequate access to resources
- V4: Unsafe living situation
- V5: Problems caring for dependents

# Victim vulnerability

- V6: Intimate relationship problems
- V7: Non-intimate relationship problems
- V8: Distressed
- V9: Substance use problems
- V10: Employment and financial problems

# Risk Scenarios

- ✦ Identify and describe scenarios of future stalking
  - ✦ Repeat (same as before)
  - ✦ Twist (completely outside the box)
  - ✦ Escalation (worst case)
  - ✦ Improvement (best case)

# Evaluate Scenarios

- Which ones are plausible?
- Which ones are useful?
- Which ones are agreed to by consensus?

# Use Scenarios for Risk Management Planning

- Strategies—what responses advance us toward our long term goals?
- Tactics—what short term responses contribute to our long term strategies?
- How do we coordinate this risk management plan?
- Strategy = Joining of means and ends

# Management Strategies & Conclutory Opinions

- Recommend strategies for managing stalking risks--interviewing
- Document summary judgments of:
  - Case prioritization
  - Continued stalking
  - Serious physical harm
  - Reasonableness of fear
  - Immediate action required
  - Case review scheduling

# Who should do the interview?

- Never victims or people who are emotionally involved
- Threat assessment expert
- Police
- Supervisor
- Psychologist/Psychiatrist
- HR

# Objectives of the interview

- ✦ To set boundaries
- ✦ To show consequences
- ✦ To get more information
- ✦ To offer help and support

# What should you expect?

- ✱ Do not expect monsters
- ✱ Stalkers are often in a desperate or depressive mood, sometimes angry, seldom emotionally detached
- ✱ Cognitive distortions, eg, projection
- ✱ You may see another side of the stalker than the victim
- ✱ Understanding of the problem and remorse can be uttered in a convincing way
- ✱ They often believe what they say

# Interview strategies

- ✦ Be clear and always respectful
- ✦ Forward-looking
- ✦ Focus on possible solutions
- ✦ Focus on behavior and not on the mindset or motivation of the stalker
- ✦ Do not announce consequences that you are not willing or able to implement
- ✦ Do not try to convince the stalker of your point of view
- ✦ Don't argue or intellectualize

# Interview strategies

- ✿ Do not try to change their point of view regarding the victim
- ✿ Do talk as little as possible about the victim
- ✿ Avoid mentioning the name of the victim
- ✿ Avoid describing in detail the suffering of the victim
- ✿ Avoid talking about the past and who did what and why
- ✿ Ask for future perspectives

# DYRIAS

- ✱ DYRIAS = Dynamic Risk Assessment System
- ✱ Online Instrument
- ✱ DYRIAS Intimpartner assesses the risk of a current or former intimate partner of committing an act of severe violence
- ✱ Behavioral description of risk factors
- ✱ Dynamic = if new information or a change in the behavioral pattern, DYRIAS can reassess the case

# Risk Management (Meloy, Am J Psychotherapy, 1997)

- Team approach
- Personal responsibility for safety
- Document/record
- Do not initiate contact!
- Protective (restraining) orders
- Law enforcement and prosecution
- Treatment if indicated
- Segregation and incarceration if necessary
- Periodic violence risk assessments
- “Dramatic moments”



*"What sort of flowers say, 'I promise to obey the restraining order'?"*

# Protection (Restraining) Orders

- 32 studies (Spitzberg, 2002)
- 23,799 cases
- Noncompliance 40%
- Escalation of violence or stalking 21%

# Decide each case separately

- Have previous orders been effective?
- Has there been a history of violence toward the protectee?
- How effective is local enforcement?
- How obsessed is he?
  - Frequency of thought
  - Affective intensity



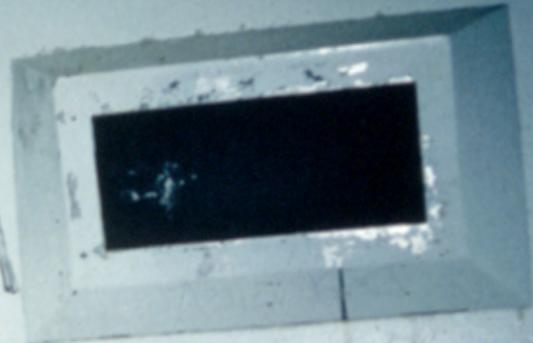
*"...I feel it made his fantasies come true.  
I'm sitting in front of him, and that's  
what he wants."*

**Madonna Ciccone  
Testimony Jan. 3, 1996  
People v. Robert Hoskins**



christ

MADONNA  
LOVE  
ME



6150  
201 94  
201 94

LOVE  
wife  
127'96

127  
MA DONNA  
STALKER

127'96



B. Smaller

*"He's playing very hard to get—he's got a restraining order."*

# Email received Feb. 29, 2012

- After seeing what a *moron* thinks about. Your website is SICK as any child's drawing. You belong in jail. The nonsense on your website *means you are* a psychotic killer and needs to be locked up. You *ignorant moron*. People like you *always* get it wrong. *ALWAYS*. We *always* find out how wrong you are AFTER someone's in jail 20 years. Or after they get the death penalty. *Mother fuckers* like you need to be stopped. What a piece of *shit* you are. *You lie*. Then you ask for money. You gay looking *dirtbag*. You need a camera not a website. You seem to think you are something important. You're a joke.

# www.threattriage.com

- Psycholinguistic content analysis developed by Sharon Smith, Ph.D. (Smith, 2008)—9 variables
- This particular note:
  - Rude language reduced threat of action
  - Low conceptual complexity reduced threat of action
  - Indicating victim increased threat of action
  - Multiple contacts increased threat of action
  - Assessment: Low Risk (10% false negative) for action (approaching, stalking, or attacking)

# Threatening Communications

- Very common among Intimates (>50%)
- NCVS 2009 Survey 43.2% threatened
- Most are false positives (41-75%)
- Relationship to violence could be positive, negative, or none
- Instrumental or expressive
- False negative rates 13-23% for prior relationship stalking
- Beta weights  $-0.24$  to  $0.36$ : predictive correlations

# New Threat Research

- Warren et al., Psychological Medicine, 38:599-605, 2008
- Warren et al. Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 29:141-154, 2011
- Warren et al., Psychiatry, Psychology and Law, 2012, published online
- Warren et al., In Meloy & Hoffmann, eds. International Handbook of Threat Assessment, Oxford Univ. Press, 2014

# General Findings

- Significantly higher rates of subsequent violence toward target threatened, others, and self at one year and ten years post-threat.
- Similar to findings from MacDonald, Homicidal Threats, Charles C. Thomas, 1968
- First studies since then

# Some specific findings

- After 10 years, subjects who criminally threatened (N=613) had:
  - 44% risk of any violent offense
  - 14% risk of any victimization of target
  - 10% assault risk toward target
  - 1% risk of homicide of target

# Some specific findings

- After one year followup, subjects who had threatened (N=144) had:
  - 42% risk of reoffense
  - 23% risk of violent reoffense
  - 0.7% risk of killing target
  - 12.5% risk of assaulting target
  - 60% of all violence directed toward target

# Take home message

- Consider all direct threats serious
- Remember the “intimacy effect:” direct threats are more common and predictive of subsequent violence the more intimate the prior relationship has been with the target (Calhoun & Weston, 2003)

# Stalking and Prior Sexual Intimacy Risks on Campus

- Stalking is a major risk factor for violence
- Most violent subgroup of stalkers are prior sexual intimates (>50%)

- Mohandie et al., J Forensic Sciences, 2006

■ Prior sexual intimate	56%
■ Acquaintance	27%
■ Private stranger	19%
■ Public Figure	1.3%

- N=1005 cases

# Juvenile stalking, J Forensic Sciences, Evans & Meloy, 2010

- Socially awkward
  - Anxious, dependent, preoccupied
  - Risk of violence **low**
- Angry/disgruntled
  - Narcissistic, angry, dismissive
  - Risk of violence **moderate to high**

# Juvenile stalking, Brit J Psychiatry, Purcell et al., 2009

- N=299 juvenile stalkers
- 64% male perps, 69% female victims
- 98% previously knew victim
- Direct approaches or communications
- 75% threatened
- 54% physically or sexually assaulted

# Motivations for juvenile stalkers

- 28% Bullying
- 22% Retaliation for perceived harm
- 22% Reaction to rejection
- 5% Sexual predation
- 2% Infatuation
- 21% Unknown

# Campus Stalking--Spitzberg

- Meta-analysis: 23 studies, N=7,243 students
- 39.8% claimed unwanted pursuit
- 34.5% claimed they were stalked (+ fear)
- 14.8% said they stalked
- Females 35% more likely to claim victimization

# Campus Stalking

- Females 80% more likely to claim fear
- Males 2.5 times more likely to stalk than females
- Males pursued less frequently, but longer (14 mos)
- Females pursued more frequently, but shorter (9 mos)

- Spitzberg, B. H. (2010). Analysis of college-based data from stalking meta-analysis.
- Personal communication. School of Communication, San Diego State University. Available: [spitz@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:spitz@mail.sdsu.edu)

# What motivates stalking?

- Primary conscious motivation is anger
- Victims perceive control
- Denial, minimization, projection
  - “I’m not stalking her!”
  - “I just want a date!”
  - “She’s stalking me!”

# The Unconscious in Stalkers

- Loneliness
- Isolation
- Poor social skills
- Pathological Narcissism
- Attachment Pathology
- Aggression



Stewart's not much of a mingler.





ENVY



PRIDE



WRATH

# Stalking: The Pursuit of the Object (Victim)

---

Narcissistic linking fantasy:  
special, loved, idealized,  
admired by, superior to,  
destined to be with the object

Acute or chronic rejection

Feelings of shame/humiliation

Defended against with rage

Fuels behavioral pursuit:  
To hurt, to control,  
to damage or destroy

Restores narcissistic  
linking fantasy



“She comes to me from time to time in my dreams  
and it's always a positive dream. Occasionally  
I dream that I single-handedly solve the case”

Newsweek June 23, 1997

*Gwyneth Paltrow  
304 21st Street  
Santa Monica, California 90402*

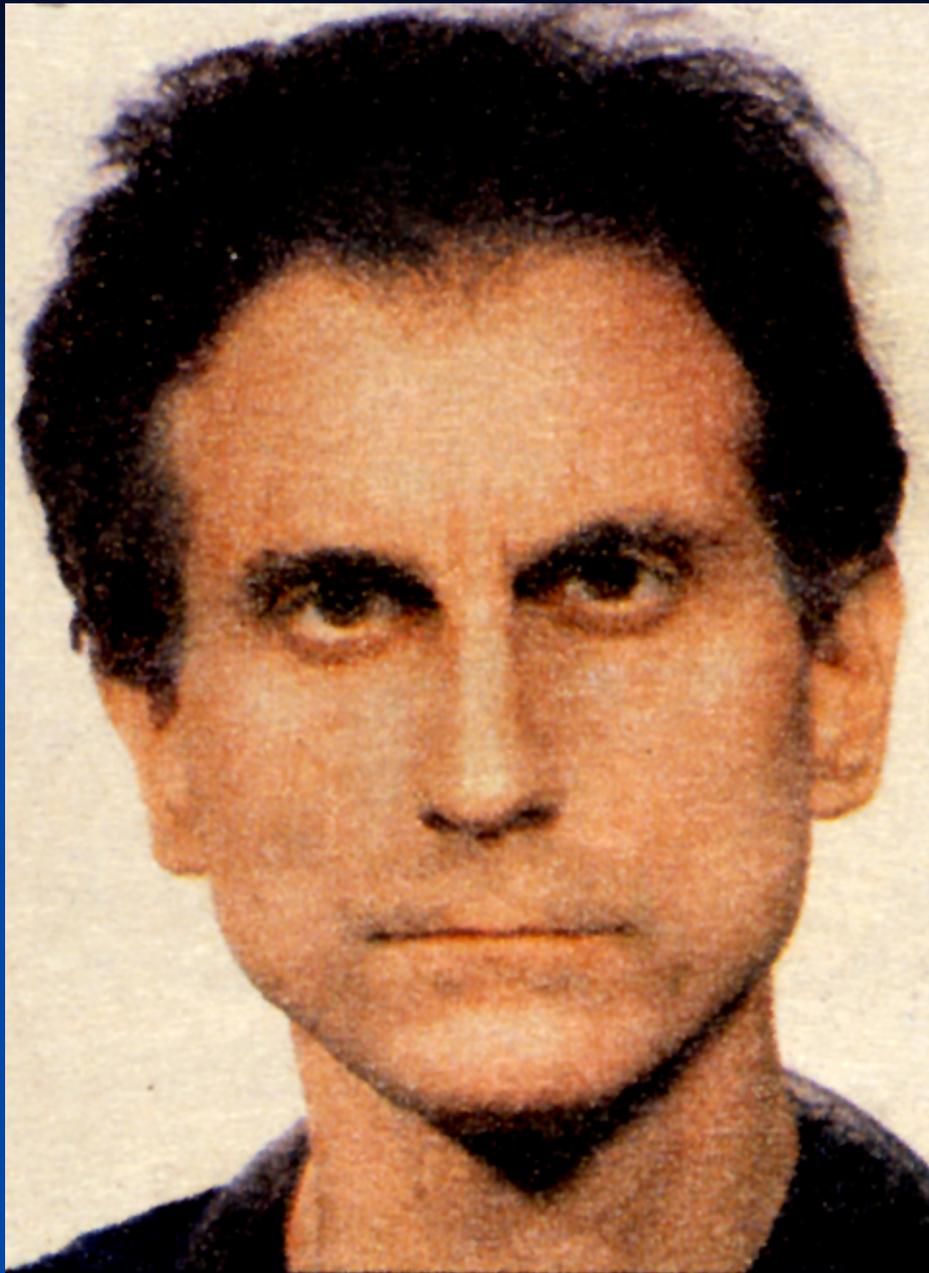
*April 24, 1999*

*I shall be a Big Motivational Speaker; I shall run for President of the United States; I shall be a Minister; I shall be an Actor; I shall be a Writer of Stories and Writer of Lovers; and most important of all, I shall make Gwyneth Paltrow a Queen, A Queen of My Hearts Desire, and the Lover of My Own.*

*Dante Michael Soiu ..it means "The Prince."  
858 Kinnear Road, Suite 107  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
(614) 488-8976 ... Changing E-Mail.*

*PS.*

*Enclosed is a true life story, written for a Silver Screen. It is one of many of my true life's Adventures. Read it over and see if we can make money on it. I will use the money from the screen play and copyright to treat you. Love Always,  
Dante.*

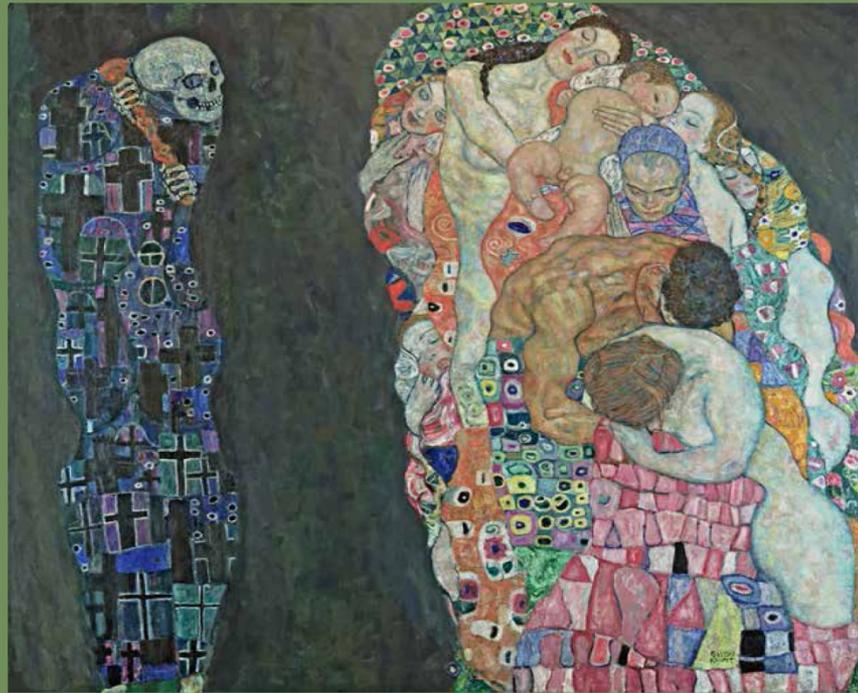


# Victim Impact of Stalking (N=19 studies; Spitzberg, 2002)

- General disturbance (64%)
- Affective health (58%)
- Cognitive health (23%)
- Physical health (20%)
- Social health (47%)
- Resource health (40%)
- Resilience

# Coping Tactics of Victims

- Moving toward or with the stalker
- Move away from the stalker
- Move against the stalker
- Move inward
- Move outward



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# The map is not the territory

- Research results will never exactly reflect reality
- Known unknowns and unknown unknowns
- Kahneman. Thinking, Fast and Slow, 2011

# Sherlock Holmes

- “I think you know me well enough, Watson, to understand that I am by no means a nervous man. At the same time it is stupidity rather than courage to refuse to recognize danger when it is close upon you.”
  - The Final Problem, December, 1893

# Thank You!

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