

Issue

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"He missed my carotid artery by a hair," Ashworth said in an interview last week. "I would have been dead. This guy is crazy. He needs to stay locked up."

In March 2006, Sailor allegedly assaulted two corrections officers at the Springfield jail and was charged with a pair of misdemeanor criminal counts. Those charges were dismissed after a psychiatric evaluation that year determined Sailor was incompetent to stand trial.

The motion to dismiss the attempted murder charge carries much greater ramifications. A conviction of that felony charge carries a minimum 20-year sentence and potential lifetime incarceration.

But while she's seeking an end to the criminal charges, Brenner is not asking for Sailor to be set

free. Instead, she wants her client removed from the Charlie Unit of the Springfield jail — where he has been locked up since Tropical Storm Irene closed the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury — and moved to an undisclosed facility where he would receive psychiatric treatment in a less restrictive environment.

Sailor's defense attorney isn't the only one who believes that keeping him in prison-type surroundings is detrimental to the treatment he's been receiving.

In a motion filed in Rutland criminal court in July, the state Department of Mental Health asked that Sailor be discharged from the jail and moved to a different type of treatment center.

"It is the opinion of (Sailor's) treating psychiatrist ... that (Sailor) has reached a point in his treatment where he no longer requires continuing inpatient psychiatric care," wrote Kristin Chandler, an assistant Vermont attorney

general assigned to the Department of Mental Health.

The state and Brenner will argue for Sailor's discharge — a proposal opposed by Rutland County State's Attorney Marc Briere — on Tuesday in Rutland criminal court.

DMH Commissioner Patrick Flood declined Friday to say where his agency would like to place Sailor, but he said security would be a major part of the proposed treatment plan.

"There would be extra supervision at the facility," he said. "He wouldn't be able to come and go as he pleases."

But Flood acknowledged that the environment wouldn't be a lockdown setting. Instead, he said Sailor's security would be provided by the constant presence of staff.

"We understand why there are concerns and questions," he said. "That's why we have a pretty rigorous program in place and it's important to keep in mind that the people who

are diagnosed and treated are probably far less of a risk than the people who go to jail and get out."

But Briere filed motions opposing both Brenner's motion to dismiss the criminal charge and the state's motion to discharge him from the Springfield jail.

In his filing opposing the dismissal of the criminal charge, the prosecutor said removing the charge would undermine public reassurance in the justice system.

"The impact of dismissal on public confidence in the judicial system would, in the state's opinion, be of substantial adverse impact," Briere wrote.

"The pending criminal charges serve to protect the public," he added. "They put the public on notice as to the seriousness of the circumstances that resulted in the charges in 2005. ... (Sailor) cannot be tried at this time, but he could be found competent at any time."

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Debt

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Paige proposes a 2 percent tax on private parcel companies for most deliveries to help the debt-ridden U.S. Postal Service, legalizing marijuana to create a cash crop for farmers and add tax revenue, and replacing income taxes with a 10 percent national sales tax with an exemption to allow refunds based on low-income status.

MacGovern sought a congressional seat for Massachusetts in 1990 and lost in a close race, and has tried repeatedly to land a state Legislature seat in Vermont.

MacGovern said he's the candidate for anyone who is dissatisfied with the federal government.

In a Vermont Public Radio debate last week, he said government agencies mismanage whatever services they run, and sug-

gested government-run health care would be no different.

Among other changes, he said he would like to see people be able to buy insurance across state lines.

MacGovern also seeks to remove credit deductions and loopholes and make the tax code "flatter, fairer, simpler and more encouraging of growth."

Paige, a history buff, said MacGovern and Sanders both point out problems but don't provide solutions. He suggested the government, rather than Social Security, should finance Medicaid.

"The government has such huge revenues that come in that it's just squandered away," Paige said. "I think we could save a third of the entire budget through just streamlining things, devolving things back to the state."

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Family

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between the two of you informs them about how to be in relationship with others. When kids feel good about themselves — and that's a result of the relationship they're in with you — they keep showing up as their best, so the pesky behaviors tend to dissipate or dissolve altogether."

Hoefle knows what some of you are thinking: She hasn't met my child. But the teacher says her technique has worked not only with her own teenagers and twenty-somethings but also for thousands of families who've turned her business, Parenting On Track, into a profitable provider of classes, CDs and DVDs.

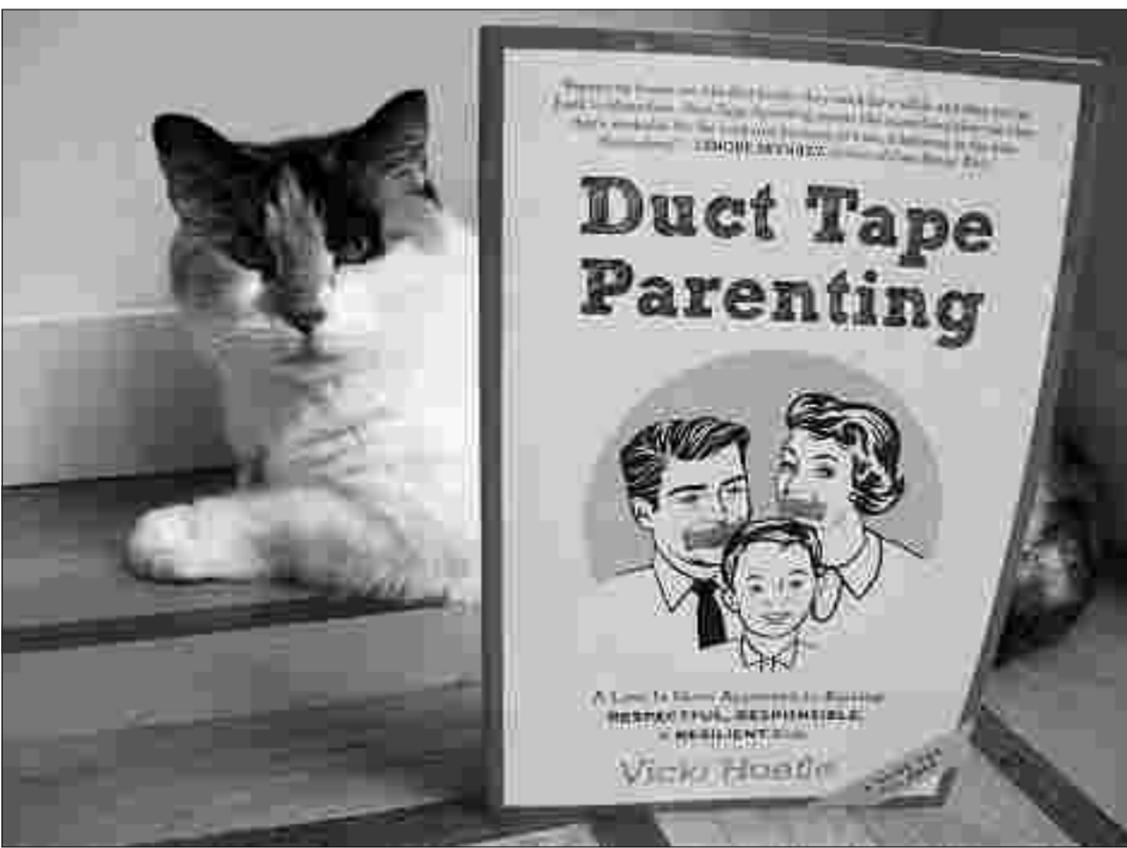
Hoefle was content to focus on such audiovisuals when she received a call from the Boston-based Bibliomotion print and e-book publishing house. A brother of one of the principals had taken her course and raved about the results. Would she consider sharing her concepts in a 250-page paperback?

Parents who point at a difficult youngster don't necessarily like to be reminded the rest of their fingers are curled back at them. That's why Hoefle approaches her subject with equal parts honesty and humor.

"If you're saying to your child, 'I can't talk to you while you're whining,' guess what?" she writes. "You're still talking! If the goal for the child is to draw mom and dad closer, then whatever it takes to accomplish that goal is logical to the child. The bigger the reaction kids receive from their parents, the more likely they are to continue using the behavior."

Hoefle tags some parents as authoritarian, others permissive. She advocates being neither a dictator nor a doormat but instead a disciple of the middle way. Her publisher, however, wanted to start at the beginning — specifically, with a title.

"We sent 25 very sophisticated, intellectual, aesthetically pleasing titles — and every one was a snooze-fest," she



KEVIN O'CONNOR / STAFF PHOTO

The author's cat poses with a copy of her paperback.

says. "Then I put down 'Duct Tape Parenting' because that's my call to action."

Most parents tell Hoefle they want children who are capable, cooperative, responsible and respectful. Then they turn around and save their youngsters from making the slightest mistake. Such parents, the teacher says, are making a big one themselves.

"Mistakes are opportunities to learn," she writes. "We have to allow for mountains of mistakes and pause before we intervene, not to solve, but to find out what the child is learning from the experience. Once we know where the child is, we can put in place a plan to build on the experience."

Her motto: Unless a choice is physically or morally dangerous, let a child make it and learn what happens.

Hoefle began her own study of parenting just before the birth of her oldest child 23 years ago when she discovered the theories of the late Alfred Adler, an Austrian-born physician and psychiatrist who espoused treating everyone with equal dignity and respect.

That doesn't mean parents acquiesce to their children. Instead, Hoefle believes all members of a family should have both rights and responsibilities.

"If they can walk, they can work," she says.

"The mother who does everything for the child turns her child into a young adult who can't do anything for himself."

Hoefle taught her children to carry their cups and plates by age 2, set the kitchen table for everyone by 4 and load and unload the dishwasher by 6 — all while helping them master how to clean themselves, their clothes and the rest of the house.

As Hoefle sees it, children preparing for college or a career should be ready to live on their own by 18, so they'll want to know at least a quarter of the skills they'll need by 4½, half by 9 and three-quarters by 13½.

Many parents, however, believe their children can't even make their own breakfast. Hoefle's book excerpts one class exchange:

Hoefle: "You really don't believe they will do anything without your assistance?"

Parent: "Well, they might try to do a few things, but they will either leave a mess or they will fight with each other, or they will just give up,

or they will eat a candy bar."

Hoefle: "And you know all of this will happen — how? Have you ever left them alone in the morning?"

Parent: "No. Never. I can't."

Hoefle: "So you think you know what your kids will do if you aren't nagging, reminding, lecturing and so on, but you don't really know for a fact what will happen because you've never stepped back and watched. And is there an age at which your children will suddenly be able to do all these things on their own, perfectly, or will you continue to nag, remind and lecture until they leave home at 18?"

Hoefle says that last question is usually met by silence. And that simple moment of contemplation, she attests, can be the start of a lifetime of change.

For parents seeking answers, Hoefle's book details solutions to every behavioral problem from not getting out of bed in the morning to not going to sleep at night.

Some suggestions are

big picture: Rather than "punish," for example, help children see the consequences of their actions. Others are pinpoint precise: To cool a child in meltdown mode, she calls for trying a "clever, left-field distraction" such as "Hey, I know you are in the middle of something, and I don't want you to stop, but I'm going to go

kiss Daddy — I'll be back in a second." Or simply walking away.

"If the child screams louder, then storms in to get you to react, you know the performance is for you," she writes. "However, if the child continues without looking your way, then maybe he really is in distress. This would be a reasonable time to try giving a big hug and a kiss. Your child may relax her body, soften into your arms and let out tears of relief."

As Hoefle says in a book disclaimer: "PLEASE NOTE: I am not suggesting that you stop parenting. All I am suggesting is that you stop using anything that interferes with the relationship you have with your children and their ability to become independent, responsible, respectful and resilient people."

Hoefle has two final words for parents who take her advice: Be consistent. You may get crying, stomping or screaming at first, but remain firm and friendly rather than fuel the upset and everyone will learn.

"Remember that your child's actions are his choice," she says, "but your reaction is your choice."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF VERMONT PUBLIC HEARING BLOCK GRANTS

The Agency of Human Services has scheduled a public hearing for August 30, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Secretary's conference room at 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT. The hearing is to receive comments on Vermont's proposed use and distribution of Federal block grant funds to be received from the Federal government for fiscal year 2013.

For further information about any of the block grants listed below, contact James Giffin, Chief Fiscal Officer, Agency of Human Services, Waterbury, Vermont, 05671-0201, (802) 871-3262.

- Social Services
- Maternal and Child Health
- Preventive Health and Health Care Services
- Community Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment
- Community Services
- Low Income Energy Assistance

Summary information regarding the block grants is available for public review from Sherie Barbour, Central Office, Agency of Human Services, (802) 871-3262.

Those who may be affected are persons receiving services under programs covered in these block grants and served by the Departments administering the block grants.

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