

EditorialOpinion

November 14, 2014

Dennis Wichterman Sr., *Naples*

Officer's judgment

I was a bit confused after reading the article in your paper on Oct. 31 about the circumstances of the fatal shooting involving two Naples police officers.

The article recounts that on the night shots were fired, a sergeant on the Naples force went home under the influence of alcohol and argued at the home. She was pushed down and became unconscious. When she awoke, she got a gun from inside the house and confronted the other officer. He shot her, then took his life. Talk about a lapse of judgment. Must have been the liquor.

To summarize, you are under the influence, you argue, you are afraid, you get a gun by going into a house? And then point it at an officer trained to shoot when threatened with a gun?

Very poor judgment on the part of the sergeant. Run to a neighbor? Drive away? Call 911? Lock yourself in the bathroom? The last thing you do is threaten someone with a gun, especially a police officer. Police officers are trained to take cover and then shoot to kill

when threatened with a deadly weapon. Why? It's not TV or the movies. Most times someone dies and it's usually the one who shoots second.

Hopefully the sergeant has learned a lesson about personal behavior. Too many children were at risk that night in that household.

November 17, 2014

Linda Oberhaus, *Naples*

Executive director,

Shelter for Abused Women & Children

Don't blame victim

Re: Letter to the editor by Dennis Wichterman Sr. in Friday's edition, headlined "Officer's judgment."

As stated in his letter, Mr. Wichterman is "confused," as evidenced by his comments on the actions of Naples police Sgt. Amy Young on July 9. This letter serves as a textbook example of blaming the victim, which has been the historical response to incidents of domestic violence.

Whether alcohol was involved or not, any victim in fear for her life has an absolute right to protect herself by all means possible. To infer that Ms. Young was responsible for her own shooting is simply offering excuses for an unthinkable act for which officer Luis "Dave" Monroig, alone, was responsible.

If anyone is in need of "learning a lesson," it is people who continue to blame the victim and see domestic violence as a woman's issue. The shelter is grateful for the 50-plus members of its Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence initiative. Acting as role models for young men and boys, these gentle men regard domestic violence as a man's issue, opposing traditional stereotypes and breaking the cycle of abuse in our community.

We all have a role to play in preventing, protecting and prevailing over domestic violence. To learn how you can make a difference, go online to www.naplesshelter.org.