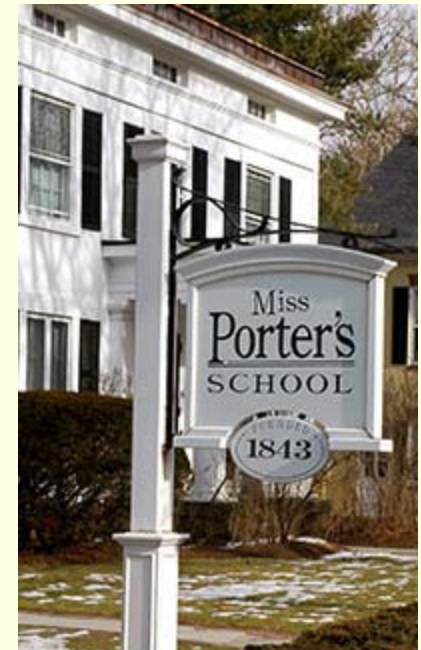


High Profile Nature of Case

- **Cheshire, CT**
 - Suburb of New Haven
 - **Population:** 28,583
 - **Median Household Income** (as of 2000 census): \$80,466
- **Victims:**
 - **Dr. William Petit Jr**, 50 (survivor)
 - Prominent endocrinologist
 - **Jennifer Hawke-Petit**, 48
 - Nurse at Cheshire Academy
 - **Hayley Petit**, 17
 - Attended elite private girl's school, Miss Porter's, in Farmington, CT. Set to attend Dartmouth College in fall 2007.
 - **Michaela Petit**, 11
 - Attended Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, CT.



Headlines

Hartford Courant.

- **“Women and Two Daughters Killed in CT Home Invasion”** – *The New York Times*
7/24/07
- **“Vicious Fiends Stalked Victims from Food Store”** – *New York Post* 7/27/07
- **“Dr. Petit Calls Parole System “Total Failure”** – WFSB 12/19/07

The New York Times

Front Page News

7 AUGUST 13, 2007

People

HOME INVASION MURDER **EVERY FAMILY'S NIGHTMARE**

Intruders terrorize a Connecticut doctor and his family, killing his wife and two daughters. How could this happen?



Dr. William Pest Jr. survived the attack that left wife Jennifer and Hayley, 17 (left), and Michaela, 11, dead



RUNAWAY GROOM!
Usher calls off wedding



BRITNEY
Is she a bad mom?



TRISTA & RYAN
A Baby Boy!

ISSN 1044-8113



www.people.com

NEW YORK POST Page Six

CONIL HOME INVASION TRAGEDY



Dad mourns wife, girls

Face of anguish

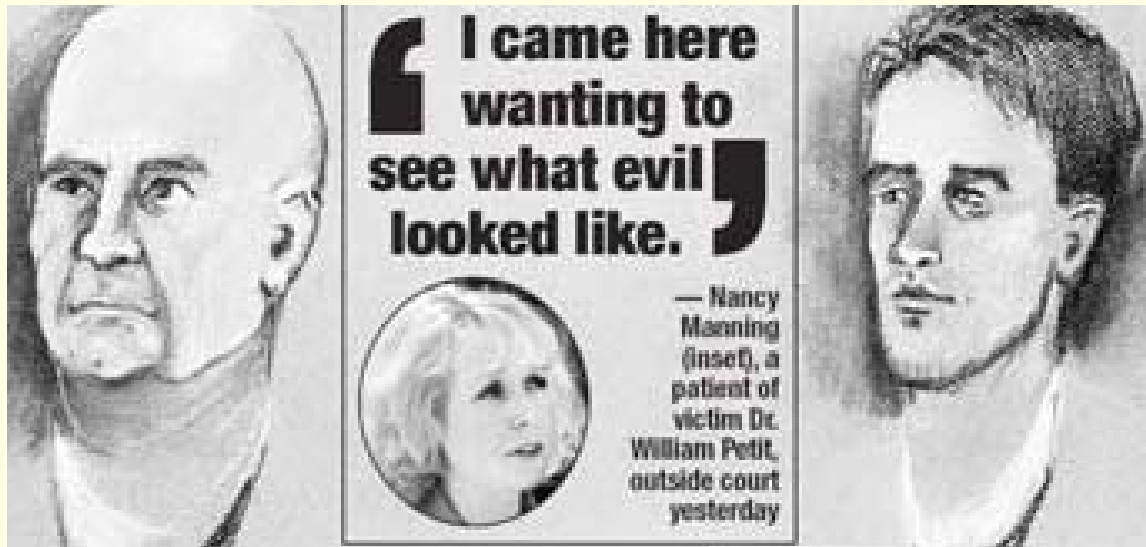


USHER CANCELS HUPS ON WEDDING DAY

Defendants Appear in Court

August 2008

NEW YORK POST



Dateline NBC

September 2007

- Dateline did a special on the Cheshire home invasion in September 2007 entitled “*Desperate Hours*”
- <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/20714739#20714739>



Public Outrage

Op-Ed Headlines

Unpardonable Neglect **Monsters in
Cheshire** Cheshire Killers Deserve the Express

Lane to Hell **Why weren't they**

locked up? How Could Anyone do

This? **Don't Delay Death**

Penalty

Hartford Courant

October 2007

- October 28, 2007 published article entitled **“Prelude to Horror”**
 - Contained detailed profiles of both defendants
 - Contained leaked details of July 23, 2007
 - “Many of the details of what happened next have been widely reported, but new information gleaned from law enforcement and other sources provides a clearer, if still incomplete, picture.”

Judge Damiani Imposes Gag Order

November 2007

“The attorneys said they want to block future publication of information similar to what police already have provided to news reporters - information the defense attorneys say has hurt the two men's chances of being tried by an impartial jury.” – *Hartford Courant* 11/06/07

Impact on Sentencing

- Connecticut Sentencing Task Force
- Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force
- No Parole
- Legislative Special Session
- Three-Strikes Law
- Persistent Offender Bill
- Abolition of the Death Penalty
 - Governor's Veto

Connecticut Sentencing Task Force

- Created by the passage of *Public Act 06-193* in 2006
- **Purpose:** To review criminal justice and sentencing policies and laws of this state for the purpose of creating a more just, effective and efficient system of criminal sentencing



Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force

August 2007

- **Purpose:** to conduct a “top-to-bottom assessment of all the procedures and processes involved in charging, sentencing, and releasing those convicted of crimes in Connecticut.”
- Consists of Judges, Corrections officers, Police officers, Attorneys, among others.
 - *“I want the facts of the Cheshire tragedy to be used as a touchstone during the course of this examination.”*

Gov. Rell Halts Parole

September 2007

- After Cheshire and other crimes occurred involving suspects on parole Rell indefinitely stopped paroles of violent offenders
 - *“I will not allow public safety to be jeopardized because parolees return to a life of crime.”*



Legislative Special Session

January 2008

- Passed law that made “home invasion” a **class A felony**
 - 25 year sentence
- Burglary at night upgraded to **class B felony**
- Anyone convicted of 2nd degree burglary not eligible for parole until they have completed **85%** of their sentence
- Tried to pass 3-strikes, rejected



Three Strikes Law

March 2008

- Legislative Judiciary Committee struck down “Three-Strikes” bill.
 - would have allowed prosecutors to seek mandatory minimum of life without parole for a person convicted of three violent crimes.
 - Members of Petit family testified in favor of the bill
 - Bill was supported by Governor Rell and other Republicans, opposed by Democrats

Persistent Offender Bill

April 2008

- Double and Triple Sentences for “Persistent Offenders”
 - Repeat offenders would face double the mandatory minimum sentence for a second felony conviction, triple the minimum for the third.
 - \$10 million in funding for additional prosecutors, public defenders, programs, expansion of cold-case unit.



Death Penalty

Public Opinion

- Quinnipiac University poll taken a few months after the home invasion asked opinions on the death penalty
 - 63% **support** death penalty for convicted murderers
 - 27% **opposed**
- asked if the two defendants in this case should be executed if convicted
 - 73% said **yes**
 - 23% said **no**

Death Penalty Debate

March 2009

- Connecticut Legislature re-opened debate of the death penalty
- Dr. Petit and Joanna Chapman (Jennifer Hawke-Petit's sister) testified in favor of the death penalty
 - *My family got the death penalty and you want to give life to murderers, that is not justice." - Dr. Petit*



Death Penalty Debate

May 2009

- Dr. Petit sent letter to many Connecticut newspapers reacting to the legislative vote to abolish death penalty
 - *“I am deeply saddened that the legislators of the state of CT have walked away from justice.”*
 - *“Judiciary Committee and the Public Defender's Office appear to have little interest in victims.”*
 - *“There are heinous murderers who have forfeited their rights to continue to live among us. I suspect many murder victims and their families would like the legislature to provide a magical mechanism for them to delay the cruel and heinous murders of our own loved ones-but these legislators seem far more interested in the murderers than the law-abiding citizens of the state.”*

Death Penalty Debate

May 2009

- In May 2009 the Connecticut Legislature passed **HB 6578, *An Act Concerning the Penalty for a Capital Felony***, the bill that would abolish the death penalty
 - House passed 90-56
 - Senate passed 19-17
- On June 5, 2009 Governor Rell vetoed the bill
 - *“I believe that the current law is workable and effective and I would propose that it not be changed “*



Governor Rell's Veto

June 2009

Governor Rell quoted Dr. William Petit in Veto:

- “Dr. William Petit recently quoted Lord Justice Denning, Master of the Rolls of the Court of Appeals in the United Kingdom, who said: *‘Punishment is the way in which society expresses its denunciation of wrong doing: and, in order to maintain respect for law, it is essential that the punishment inflicted for grave crimes should adequately reflect the revulsion felt by the great majority of citizens for them. It is a mistake to consider the objects of punishment as being deterrent or reformatory or preventive and nothing else. . . . The truth is that some crimes are so outrageous that society insists on adequate punishment, because the wrong-doer deserves it, irrespective of whether it is a deterrent or not.’*”
- Lord Denning’s ultimate view on the death penalty has since changed

Governor Rell's Veto

June 2009

- The same day as the veto, Dr. Petit released a statement thanking Governor Rell for vetoing the bill:
 - *"Thankfully, Governor Rell has a sense of what is required to maintain the fabric of our society. Finally the victims have a reasonable voice and some consideration over the deluded thinkers who feel that rights should only be accorded to convicted felons."*

Motion for No Contact Order

July 2009

- In July 2009 the Office of the Victim Advocate filed a Motion for No Contact after a “victim liason” hired by Komisarjevsky’s attorneys contacted Dr. Petit.
- The hearing received national media attention.
- Judge Damiani did not rule on this motion.