

# BATTERED LIVES

## THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS

# Seven months later, a murder

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whom she was separated, or with other men. He lost his job with the West Mil-

ford public works crew when he was arrested for rape.

"You lose your son, you lose your family, you lose your job — what have you got to live for?" his brother asked.

DeFreese looked for an answer in booze, sinking deeper and deeper into an alcoholic haze that fueled his rage, his brother said. He became obsessed with Van Dunk, dismissing her attempts to break up with him.

"It was weird," his brother said. "I used to tell him 'I've had a lot of women. We break up. We say good-bye.'

"What the hell did this woman have on him? Why was he possessed by her? Was she the last woman on Earth? I just couldn't understand it."

During the calm after the rape, Van Dunk told police, DeFreese described his feelings.

"Val, I love you so much," he said. "I loved my wife at one time, but I love you so much that no one else will have you. If I don't have you, I'm gonna have you."

