

Survey finds 'pervasive' violence in relationships



WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen percent of American women say they have been battered by husbands or boyfriends, according to a survey released Monday that found a "pervasive amount of violence in private relationships."

"More women are seriously injured by beatings than by car accidents, muggings, and rape combined," said Esta Soler, executive director of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, a San Francisco-based advocacy group that financed the survey.

"Domestic violence fills emergency rooms and morgues, contributes to juvenile delinquency and destroys families."

Soler said in releasing the survey at a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and the environment.

Based on telephone interviews with 1,900 Americans 18 and older, the survey found that 34 percent of Americans say they have witnessed an episode of domestic violence.

"They're not unaffected bystanders," said Dr. Mark Rosenberg, a psychiatrist and acting associate director for public health practices at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, a part of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Their lives are affected by what they're witnessing. Boys who witness violence in

the home have an increased chance of growing up to be perpetrators of violence when they create their own family, and girls who witness repeated violence in the home have an increased likelihood of growing up and becoming victims of their spouse," Rosenberg said in an interview from the CDC in Atlanta.

President Clinton's 1994 budget proposal includes \$10 million for a new national prevention and public education program on violence against women, including family violence and violence against women by strangers or their dates.

Soler's survey, which has a statistical margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent, found half of all women believe batter-

ing is not uncommon in relationships with men.

"Our personal lives are not free from violence or fear of physical harm from the people we love. Americans acknowledge a pervasive amount of violence in private relationships," the group's report said.

The researchers said they found that shoving, pushing and throwing things are not rare when a man and woman fight. But as the level of physical violence escalates, both men and women acknowledge that men harm women more than women harm men.

The public, according to the survey, no longer blames the woman or excuses the man for domestic violence.

California school tries year-round experiment

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Nathan Inwood's school year starts Sept. 1 and ends Aug. 31. He likes it that way.

"I don't have to wait for after school to have fun," the 17-year-old senior says. "I'm having fun in school."

Inwood is one of about 350 students attending the private Beacon Day and High School, one of only a handful of schools in the nation with a continuous school year.

The schools are open 10 1/2 hours a day and the longest break is a week between Christmas and New Year's. Other than that, students who want to vacation do what their parents do — ask for time off and schedule a week or two as necessary.

It's a big change from the traditional school year, where June heralds the textbook-tossing start of what can seem like an endless summer vacation.

But Inwood said it isn't a big wrench getting up and going to school in July: "It's not like I am on my own with it."

Set in a converted warehouse along Oakland's gritty waterfront, Beacon attracts a diverse student body. The high school is about 60 percent white, 30 percent black, 5 percent Asian and 5 percent Hispanic, said co-founder

Leslie Medine. Fees are \$450 a month for elementary students, \$550 a month for the high school.

Class time takes up about six hours a day, with before- and after-school programs available. Day schoolers attend 240 days; high school students have a 215-day year, compared to the typical public school year of about 180 days.

"It's a lot of serious work," said school spokeswoman Diana Gordon.

Beacon's innovative approach drew a visit in March from the National Education Commission on Time and Learning, which will report to Congress next year on whether American kids should spend more time in school.

Medine said the idea behind the schedule was to both improve the curriculum and cut out wasted review time each fall.

Students say more time means they don't have to panic if they are slow to grasp a particular concept. Another advantage is that they are placed according to developmental level in various subjects, not by age, and there is little formal testing.

The concept of year-round school is not new. Schools in Japan and Europe have long had extended school years and days.

'I don't have to wait for after school to have fun. I'm having fun in school.'

— Nathan Inwood, 17-year-old senior

But few schools in the United States have followed suit, said Gary Marx, spokesman for the American Association of School Administrators.

"There are skyrocketing expectations for schools in this country but there's also a fairly substantial public commitment to maintaining adequate summer time off," he said.

Some private schools offer special summer sessions, and some public schools have started keeping schools open year-round, mainly to accommodate crowded districts.

One obstacle to year-round school, officials say, is paying teachers for the extra time and getting them to agree to the lost holiday.

But teachers at Beacon said the lost time off is a small price for the pleasure of being able to teach properly.

Medine declined to give her teachers' salary range; she said they are paid more, commensurate to the added time they must

work. She said she runs Beacon on about the same amount of money per student as her public school peers, with the advantage of not paying for "all those folks downtown doing whatever it is they're doing down there."

Parent Judi Yeager, who is also a teacher at Oakland High School, said she has adapted some of Beacon's ideas to the magnet program in which she teaches and would like to see more innovations to a system plagued by violence and low test scores.

"Kids are OK when they come in. The system can break down a kid's love of learning," she said.

Oakland schools spokeswoman Sherri Willis said public schools are doing their best under the constrictions of state and federal controls and dwindling funds.

"Sure students deserve more instruction, but given the umbrellas that we work underneath we have to get approval from the bottom and the top before we can do anything," she said.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

IFC will hear budgets today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 244 Gilbert. For more information, call 346-3749.

UOUES Sister University Project will meet today at 5:15 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-3194.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-0630.

Returning Students Association will meet today at 5 p.m. in EMU Room 27. For more information, call 346-4305.

MISCELLANEOUS

Black Student Union will sponsor "The Causes and Effects of the Los Angeles Riots" with guest Michael Zizem, a former member of the Black Panthers, today at 5:30 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 1475 Ferry St. For more information, call 485-1755.

Jewish Student Union will present "U.S. Rescue Efforts in Politics of Total War" by Professor Dalia Ofer of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who will speak on allies and the fate of European Jewry, tonight at 7 in the EMU Gunwood Room. For more information, call 346-4366.

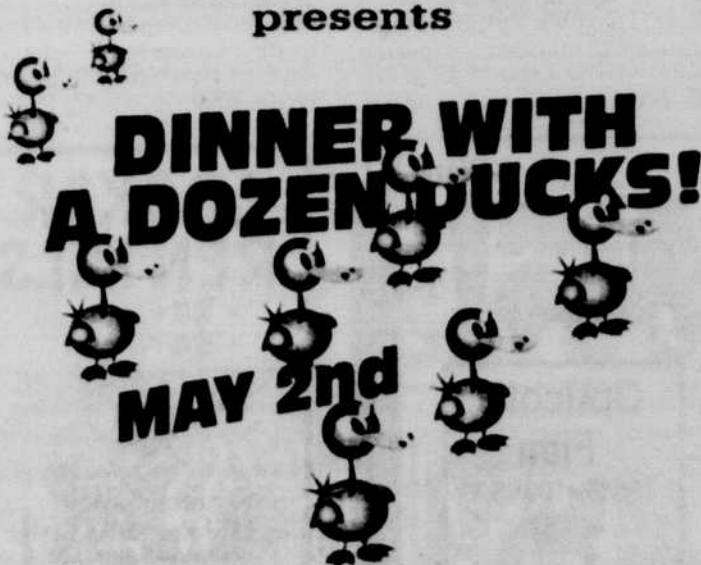
Outdoor Program will sponsor "Basic Backcountry First Aid" tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Outdoor Program Room. For more information, call 346-4365.

UOUES Sister University Project will show the slide show "Amnesty or Justice: El Salvador Faces the Future" tonight at 7 in the EMU Maple Room. For more information, call 346-3194.

Oregon Humanities Center will present Sally Pinkas, pianist and artist in residence at Dartmouth College, to speak on "The Poetic Image in Piano Music of the 20th Century" today at 4 p.m. at Beall Hall. For more information, call 346-3934.

"Sharing Creativity," a network-building conference about arts education, arts training and arts participation will take place Saturday, May 8. For registration and more information, call 485-2278.

Student University Relations Council presents



Eat dinner with U of O alums, faculty, and administrators.

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