

# Domestic violence campaign increases awareness

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and Megan Friedow  
Staff Writers

Are you - or is someone you know - a victim of domestic violence?

You may not even realize what domestic violence is.

If you have ever experienced or been threatened with physical harm, been sexually assaulted, been afraid of your husband or someone you have dated, backed down from an argument in fear of another person's anger, or had sex when you did not want to because you were afraid, then you have been victimized.

President Clinton has declared October the month for Domestic Violence awareness.

A national campaign has been organized to help the public become more aware of the violence against women. The Body

Shop, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and Outward Bound USA are all participants in educating the public.

Outward Bound is a program that is set up for survivors of domestic violence. With the YWCA being around for over 90 years, it has a lot of successful power to help victims of domestic violence.

The passing of the Crime Bill in 1994 allowed shelters and organizations to get financial support to help fund community programs. The goal of this current campaign is to urge Congress to live up to its commitment, by providing the full 1.6 billion dollars in federal funding over six years, including the \$306,650,000 that was promised for programs to stop violence against women in the next fiscal year. This goal has not been met and these facilities are still struggling.

Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop Inc., has added the support of her company to the campaign.

"Women want to be free to choose from the same range of options that men take for granted," Roddick said. "In our quest for equal pay, equal access to education and opportunities, we have made great strides. But until women can move freely and think freely in their homes, on the streets, in the work place without the fear of violence, there can be no real freedom."

One way that the Body Shop helped this effort was by having customers sign post cards to Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole. This will enable Congress to realize that there is still a need for funds all across America. The campaign was held Oct. 8-20, but even though it is over the public needs

to know that the problem isn't solved and that this campaign is only the beginning of the education process.

U.S. Department of Justice statistics show that three out of four women will be victims of violence in their lifetime. Physical violence is the most obvious form of abuse. It can range from pushing and shoving, to hitting, beating, rape and murder. It can happen in the home, on the streets-anywhere. Every nine seconds a woman is physically abused. It continues today, partly because it is tolerated and even has been condoned for centuries.

A major misconception is that violence only happens to certain people of low income and lack of education. Violence does not discriminate. According to Health Response Ability Systems, two to four million incidences occur every year.

Men can be victims of battering, but 95 percent of victims are women, according to U.S. Justice Department statistics. Many of these studies further confirm that more than one million women seek medical assistance every year for injuries caused by battering.

"Battering is America's greatest problem - probably worse than breast cancer," says Anne Jones in her book, *Next Time She'll Be Dead*.

In addition to being victimized by obvious physical violence, women are also frequently victimized by other forms of abuse and control. These contributing factors, such as emotional psychological abuse, sexual harassment and rape, continue to degrade and promote the isolation of women.

There is a wide range of tactics to undermine and lower women's self esteem. Abusive language, insults, humiliation in front of others, emotional blackmail, financial abuse and accusations of blame disempower

women, especially women with children.

Domestic violence affects children, and research shows that battering is a learned behavior. Twenty percent of survivors' children are injured during an assault on the mother.

One study shows that as many as 80 percent of abusive males grew up in homes where they saw, or were victims of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

As a result of continuing abuse, women suffer psychological and emotional damage.

Sexual harassment humiliates, intimidates, and embarrasses the victim. It can be anywhere from verbal, sexist remarks, to obscene phone calls or sexual propositions. Studies estimate that 20 to 30 percent of women experience some form of sexual harassment while in college, yet only 2 out of 3 percent ever report these instances.

Sexual assault is another way of demeaning people. It can take the form of spousal rape, incest, date rape, or acquaintance rape. According to a criminology study by Koss, Woodruff and Koss, only 5 percent of college women who are raped report the incident even though 90 percent know their attacker.

Any form of abuse, no matter what sex the victim is, should not be tolerated anywhere. Educating the public and addressing violence problems will hopefully help promote awareness and make a change for a better America.

If you have questions or would like further information about shelter programs, contact any of these hotline numbers: the YWCA resource center, 294-7444; the Portland Women's Crisis Hotline, 235-5333; Metro Crisis, 223-6161; the YWCA Vancouver, (360) 395-0501; and Alcoholics Anonymous, 223-8569.



photo by Tim Countryman

Retired Costa Ricans on exchange visit the ELC with Carlota Holley as their guide.

## ELC hosts 'Autumn Open House'

Pamela Sirianni  
Staff Writer

The Environmental Learning Center is presenting its "Autumn Open House" this Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The theme for this open house is Fall Harvest Halloween. The open house will be a great opportunity to meet the new Executive Director of the ELC, Vaughn Brown.

The entire Environmental Learning Center will be open for tours and to answer questions. Sandy Fox, board of directors member for the ELC, says that this will be a great opportunity to learn about the "new" ELC. There will be a description of the types of memberships and their benefits to members and ELC.

There will be a Birds of Prey show at 2:30 p.m. This show will introduce several species of raptors that reside at the John Inskip Environmental Learning Center's Birds of Prey facility. Everyone will have the opportunity to meet Arapahoe, the new Golden Eagle.

The tour of ELC will be expanded to the Native Plants Nursery, which will be open with many plants available to purchase.

The Composite Lumber Shop will be open with a display of materials and products made from recycled materials. See the new composite lumber picnic benches.

The Haggart Memorial Observatory, the only year round public observatory in Oregon, will be open. The construction of Haggart Observatory began in the summer of 1988 and was finished and opened in time for the solar eclipse on March 7, 1989. If you have not seen the observatory this will be a good time to see what it

is like.

A light buffet, sponsored by Lacey's Bomber Catering, will be served in the Lakeside Education Hall. RSVP 657-6958 ext. 2351.

The members of ELC encourage everyone to come see what is new at their facilities. They will be there to answer questions and describe their programs.

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