

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Anti-Violence Education Urged

American educators must choose between turning schools into virtual prisons or putting the emphasis on steering students away from guns and fighting, according to a national expert on violent youth.

Many schools are trying to solve the problem with security guards, surveillance cameras and metal detectors.

"How is America responding to school violence? It's responding as we do to most issues in America - with technology," Syracuse University professor Arnold Goldstein told school psychologists at a recent convention in Florida.

Goldstein favors a more complicated approach that combines some security with lots of education to teach students how to act without aggression. An author of many books on youth violence, Goldstein also is director of the New York State Task Force on Juvenile Gangs and creator of a 20-year-old curriculum that teaches youth to become less aggressive.

Goldstein's workshops, planned

last year, came at a critical time, when the need to find ways to prevent violence in schools is so evident, said Lissette Villaneuva, a school psychologist.

"We can't close our minds to the fact that children are in desperate need of learning how to deal with the issues they're confronted with," Villaneuva said.

Educators nationally are buying metal detectors and other electronic equipment after violent incidents. Many school systems are taking even more drastic steps.

For example, Goldstein said, a \$41 million school in Texas was built with security as a primary focus. The school has 37 surveillance cameras. To help administrators and police keep an eye out for trouble, an observation area was built above the cafeteria and other common areas.

"I ask you, as we move toward blending schools and prisons, is this the teacher of the future?" Goldstein said, turning to a slide that showed a man in riot gear with a helmet and protective padding. Magazines for

educators urge teachers to buy personal attack alarms. Schools are removing lockers, hiring more police officers and in many cases, lengthening the time students are in classrooms to keep them out of hallways where there's more trouble. Those actions may reduce the chance for violence, but don't lead to a lasting solution, Goldstein said.

Students learn to be aggressive by what they see around them at school and in society, he said. Schools need to teach students non-aggressive ways to behave. His curriculum includes exercises students do to practice social skills.

Instead of yelling at a teacher when they're angry, students practice how to discuss the situation calmly and rationally.

School psychologists said they hope they can convince school districts to give them more time for such instruction.

"I've seen a lot more aggressive kids since I started working in schools five years ago," school psychologist Elizabeth Lebeau said.

Spanking Linked To Violence

If spanking really worked, the United States would have one of the lowest crime rates in the world instead of one of the highest, family science students were told at Washington State University.

Joan Durrant, a family studies professor at the University of Manitoba, reported to WSU students on her research on corporal punishment in Canada, Sweden and the United States. She said study after study correlates physical punishment with aggressive behavior, not only in childhood, but in the adult who was spanked as a child.

She said U.S. citizens who look at the country's high reliance on corporal punishment and its high crime rate should realize spanking doesn't work in the long run.

"If corporal punishment really worked in terms of socializing children and teaching them appropriate behavior, you would have a low crime rate," Durrant said. She also noted that most child abuse starts as discipline.

"Belief in physical force and being in a state of high frustration or anger is a fatal combination," she said.

Data show that 18 percent of all child deaths in Sweden were due to family violence in the early 1970s. After the country became the first nation in the world to outlaw spanking, even by parents, the child death rate from family violence dropped to zero.

Today, six nations have similar laws. Joining Sweden are Norway, Denmark, Finland, Austria and Cyprus. Since Sweden outlawed

spanking, use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs among 15-year-olds has dropped significantly. Teenage crimes such as illegal use of narcotics and burglary are down 12 percent and auto theft is down 30 percent, Durrant says.

Sweden's murder rate of teenagers has fallen to 1 out of 2,000, compared with 2.3 such deaths per thousand in Canada and 16.9 per thousand in the United States, according to data for 1990-1991. Durrant says the United States and Canada have laws that condone corporal punishment.

Sweden repealed such a law in 1957 and made spanking illegal in 1979. In 1965 she said 53 percent of Swedish citizens believed spanking is necessary to discipline children.

The figure fell to 35 percent in 1971 to 26 percent in 1981 and now stands at only 11 percent. Most people in Canada and the United States take it for granted that all children need to be spanked. Durrant is challenging the assumption that spanking is necessary or even good. She believes spanking reflects the value cultures place on children, that Sweden values them more than Canada or the United States.

A 1991 study showed that 93 percent of U.S. parents have received physical punishment, 90 percent have administered it; 87 percent say they approve of spanking and 84 percent agreed with the statement: "It is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking."

Durrant is researching links between attitudes towards corporal punishment and broader cultural

views. Her own research shows an adverse correlation between individualism and child welfare. She said the U.S. culture has the highest index rating for individualism among 40 countries studied. Canada's individualism index is somewhat lower and Sweden's is lower yet. Of the three countries included in her lecture to WSU students, only the United States doesn't provide public health insurance. Neither Canada nor the United States provides public child care. The United States provides the least parental leave of the three nations.

Durrant says the results are reflected in measures of child well being. The U.S. infant mortality rate is 9 per thousand deaths, the highest of any industrialized nation. Canada's rate is 7 per thousand and Sweden's, 5 per thousand. Results also are reflected in the data on children being raised in poverty. Twenty percent of U.S. children are being raised in poverty compared with 9 percent in Canada and less than 2 percent in Sweden.

Durrant says poverty increases stress and stress is a major component in child abuse.

The family scientist says Sweden is leading the way by treating its citizens the way it wants them to treat children. Sweden relies more on education and assistance than on punishment. Durrant believes an important element in Sweden's success in changing public attitudes about corporal punishment and greatly reducing its practice lies in the lack of penalties in the law against spanking.

Ossie Tudman Turns 100!

Ossie Tudman recently celebrated her 100th birthday at Del's Care Center in northeast Portland.

Tudman was born Nov. 7, 1895 in Texas and moved to Portland in the 1940s. She lived on a farm most of her life and continues to enjoy being outdoors when the weather is nice.

She makes her daily rounds at Del's, smiling and holding hands with staff. She also enjoys the homemade cornbread and cold milk other residents prepare in the cooking group.

"She also loves hard candy - it always brings a smile to her face," said Karen Jenkins, activity director. Happy Birthday, Ossie!



Ossie Tudman

Capitol Hill Elementary Offers Parenting Skills Class

Turning Sibling Rivalry into Sibling Harmony and Managing Stress as a Parent are just some of the topics Southwest Portland parents and community members will explore Wednesday (Nov. 15) during "An Evening for Parents" from 6:45-8:45 p.m. at Capitol Hill Elementary School (8401 S.W. 17th).

Speakers from Western Psychological & Counseling Services also will discuss Homework Hassles, Anger in Children and Adolescents and Supporting Your Children Through Divorce.

The free event is open to parents and neighbors of Southwest Portland elementary schools including Capitol Hill, Smith, Maplewood, Reike, Stephenson, Markham, Bridlemile, Hayhurst and St. Clair's Catholic School.

For more information, contact Pam Wilson, child development specialist, Capitol Hill Elementary, 280-6306.

Happy Thanksgiving

State-Of-The-Art Community Survey

The U.S. Census Bureau is unveiling the state-of-the-art American Community Survey in Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon. This is an innovative survey designed to determine the size and make-up of America's communities every year. Lawrence McGinn of the Census Bureau says, "this survey has the potential to change the way federal, state, and local governments conduct business because they will have accurate profiles of their communities yearly. It is an unparalleled opportunity for Portland and Multnomah County residents to participate in a historic event that will benefit them."

Specifically, The American Community Survey will enable our leaders to keep up-to-date on our ever-changing country, not

just at the national level but in America's states, counties, cities and towns as well. The American Community Survey will produce current social and economic profiles of communities. For example, income, poverty and employment profiles will be available every year. Never before has the Census Bureau been able to provide local data so frequently. This survey will enable federal, state, and local governments to better understand the needs of the people they serve and ultimately to plan more effectively for the future.

So be on the lookout for your opportunity to help Portland and Multnomah County! Beginning in November and over the next year, a random group of house-

holds in Portland and Multnomah County will receive a questionnaire from the U.S. Census Bureau. If your household is selected to participate in the American Community Survey, you will be asked to complete this questionnaire and return it to the Census Bureau.

The American Community Survey is initially being conducted in selected areas during 1996. The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to implement the full nationwide program in 1999. Other sites selected for 1996 include two urban counties: Rockland County, New York, and Brevard County, Florida, and one rural county: Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

Help plan your community's future. Participate in The American Community Survey!

Shoppers Get Help From Charity Store

Holiday shoppers will get a helping hand this year, courtesy of Our Children's Store, a seasonal store open through the holidays with proceeds benefiting area children in crisis.

The store's "Take 5" program promises to help shoppers find "Five gifts in five minutes" and still have time for lunch. In-store shopping assistants will be available at the outlet on the third floor of the Galleria. Merchandise will be arranged by price range, age and gender appropriate.

Every children's store receipt will entitle shoppers to lunch discounts at participating Galleria restaurants. In lieu of a discount, some

Galleria restaurants are donating a percentage of sales to Our Children's Store when customers display receipts from OCS.

"We wanted to find a way to make holiday shopping painless for downtown workers, who sometimes have to squeeze a lot into a lunch hour," said Ann Carter, OCS co-chair. "By combining a quick in-and-out shopping experience with lunch discounts in the Galleria restaurants, we think we've succeeded."

"In addition, gifts purchased at Our Children's Store give twice because all proceeds go to Portland and Vancouver area children in crisis," Carter said.

Campaign Connects Families With Schools

The first annual National Take Our Parents to School Week, Nov. 12-18, promotes the importance of parent involvement in education - both at home and in school through partnerships with their children's teachers.

The event is part of a multi-year educational awareness campaign, Hand in Hand: Parents, Schools, Communities United for Kids, jointly sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership and the Mattel Foundation.

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, mayors, superintendents and celebrities are participating in special school-based events around National Take Our Parents to School Week in order to highlight community efforts to strengthen family involvement in education.

"National Take Our Parents to School Week is a time to create or strengthen partnerships in education among those who influence a child's academic success the most - families and educators," said Jill Barad, President and Chief Operating Officer of Mattel, Inc. "But sup-

port from the community and corporate world is critical to parents having the time to get fully involved in their children's schools."

Parent involvement in education - both at home and in school - is fundamental to children achieving. Yet a recent national survey found that parents of elementary-age kids are highly active in their child's education at home but less involved at school. Lack of time and understanding of how to participate in schools are two major obstacles parents report to getting more involved in their children's education.

"As Americans face busier schedules, and many schools face growing staffing demands and financial constraints, kids need the support of their families to make their education as enriching as possible," said Michael Usdan, President of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

"National Take Our Parents to School Week is a vehicle designed to link parents more closely to school activity and thus foster stronger parent-teacher communication, which is so important to children achieving."

Hand in Hand's eight target cities, where some of the most comprehensive programs are being developed, include Portland, Birmingham, Ala.; Los Angeles; Tampa, Fla.; Chicago; New York City; Philadelphia; and San Antonio, Texas.

"We strongly believe that parent involvement is the necessary quotient to improve the environment for learning," said Joan Dykstra, National PTA President and a National Advisor to the Hand in Hand campaign.

"This campaign reflects the National PTA's mission of encouraging parents to be involved as first educators in the home, as partners with the schools, and as advocates for all children and youth in society," Dykstra said.

The Institute for Educational Leadership is an independent, not-for-profit national organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. which seeks to improve policy and practice in public education by developing and supporting leaders who work together at the national, state, and local levels.

Speakers Motivate At Masters Series



Guy Kawasaki

BY CORA SMITH

Two outstanding motivational speakers were recently profiled as part of the Masters of Excellence series at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion.

Olympic speed skater Dan Jansen talked on "Going for the Gold," in which he demonstrated how 20 years of hard work paid off when he brought home a gold medal in the 1994 Olympics. The victory followed several unsuccessful attempts, coupled with family mishaps.

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal," he said.

After failing at the Olympics in Sarajevo, losing by 1/16 of a second, his father commented on the importance of winning - and indicating there was more to life than skating around in circles. Jansen advised listeners to take one step at



Dan Jansen

a time - that there was no such thing as setting your goals too high.

"Getting up and going on, go out there and do the best you can do - your belief system must stay focused. You cannot explore the ocean if you lose sight of the shore," he said. "You are never through preparing until you are on the finish line and remember to maintain balance, its important to your success."

Jansen said at his winning moment, he knew God was by his side. Jansen now spends much of his team teaching, stating that dreams do come true!

Guy Kawasaki, author of "Selling the Dream" and "How to Drive your Competition Crazy" was the marketing genius behind Apple's Macintosh computer.

Kawasaki now spends much of his time teaching the "process of convincing people to believe in your



Les Brown

product, company or idea as much as you do."

Customer service is a priority, he said, focus on the customer not fluff. Growing adamant when discussing the Apple rival, Microsoft, he commented "when pigs floss" will Windows 95 compare to Mackintosh.

Inspiring and full of pep in his presentation, Kawasaki took the audience through the process of finding a cause, making it grow, and harvesting the results, encouraging anyone without computer skills to learn the process.

The next series speaker will be Les Brown "It's Possible - It's Necessary - It's Hard - It's Worth It!" on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the Oregon Convention Center at 6 p.m., with networking and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$129. Call 1-800-996-8338.