

# SPRINGFIELD TRAGEDY

## Springfield, Oregon High School Violence

## The Violent Child—What Can You Do?

"We at Bradley-Angle House are deeply saddened by this latest violent school tragedy at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon this morning. We wish to pass along our condolences to the students, families and community of Springfield and nearby Eugene, Oregon. We grieve along with you for the lives lost and the injuries inflicted during this horrible, senseless tragedy. We find these murders and attempted murders very disturbing and unfortunately feel we must address several related issues as we did at the time of the tragedy in Jonesboro, Arkansas," said Erika Silver, Executive Director.

Another apparent suicide attempt by another young boy in Onalaska, Washington who met his school bus with a gun, took his girlfriend off the bus and to his home, and then shot himself in the head, is additionally disconcerting and tragic.

As individuals and communities, we must look closely at these tragedies. We must question how and why these boys had access to lethal weapons. We must realize that this violence was not random but premeditated.

It is important to examine these boys' motives. Early unconfirmed reports from students indicate that the boy in Springfield often talked about guns, told students that he was going to commit this act of violence, and was upset over a recent breakup. He was expelled just the day before for attempting to bring a handgun to school. It appears clear there were warning signs. The youth in Onalaska is reported to have been upset after discussing the possibility of a breakup with his girlfriend.

Although Kipland Kinkel was expelled from school, were his threats ever conveyed to school teachers or administrators of Thurston High School, and if so, were they taken seriously? Have the students, parents, and/or school personnel been given appropriate information to support them in dealing with such a threat?

Although shocking, these murders are not random, isolated incidents. These murders are part of a larger pattern in our society of male violence often perpetrated against females, in a workplace, or in school, often in response to the end of a dating relationship.

Clearly there is no community, race, class, or culture immune to this violence. Until each and every segment of our society demonstrates clear boundaries and consequences for perpetrators of violence, this epidemic will continue. Until we collectively send the message of zero tolerance for violence especially by young men and all too often against women and girls, this violence will continue.

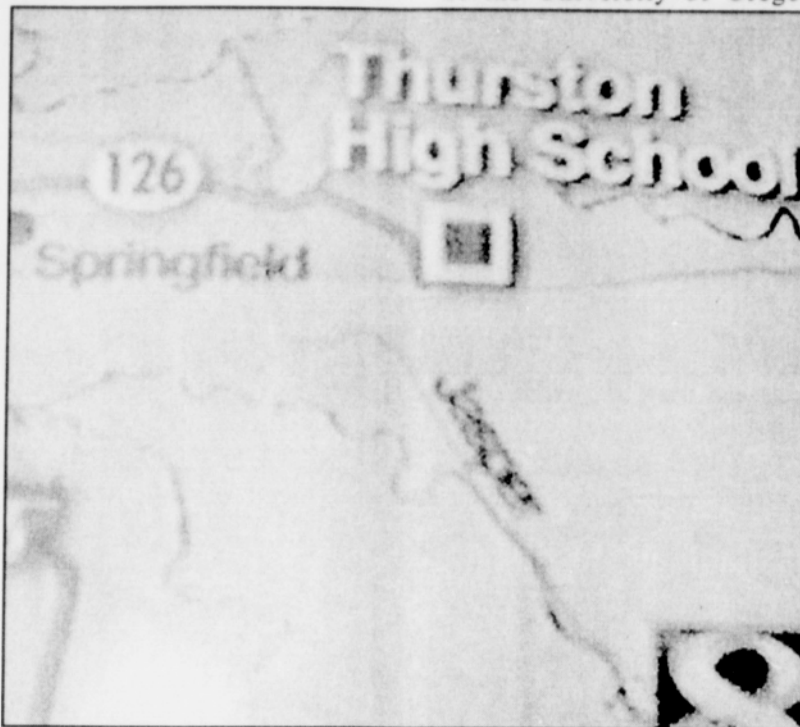
As violence more frequently touches our nation's schools, we wish to stress the importance of domestic and dating violence education, not only for students, but also for teachers, counselors, parents, and administrative staff. Bradley-Angle House, Community Advocates for Safety and Self-Reliance, and Portland Women's Crisis Line, offer school based curriculums and presentations.

These curriculums teach students how to recognize the signs of domestic and dating violence, support schools in their response to violence or the threat of violence, and most importantly, help to increase safety and support for victims of such violence. Education programs such as these must be funded, and must be offered each year to every student and staff member in all schools.

Several domestic and dating violence education curriculum are to be presented to Congress for nationwide implementation in schools. We urge Congress to pass a nationwide curriculum as soon as possible. We urge you to demand implementation of such a curriculum to help save lives.

Until each of us examines what we can do personally and as a community to stop violence, at home, at work, in our social and religious organizations, and at school -- even

elementary school -- this epidemic of violence will continue. We must take swift and continual action to prevent



this kind of violence from happening again.

Founded in 1975 to provide emergency shelter for women and their children escaping domestic abuse, Bradley-Angle House is the oldest domestic violence intervention agency on the west coast and one of the oldest in the United States. Today, Bradley-Angle house provides a variety of integrated programs at three different sites and throughout the community, including a 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, youth programs, transitional program, as well as domestic, sexual and dating violence education, curriculum and support groups.

The Bradley-Angle House "Chance for Change" domestic and dating violence curriculum, other materials and presentations are available by calling 232-7805. School presentations are scheduled for today and tomorrow in the greater Portland area. Please call 232-1528 for information on attendance of those presentations.

By HILL WALKER

Hill Walker is associate dean of the University of Oregon

communities like Springfield, Ore., or Jonesboro, Ark. They have "behavior problems" they won't outgrow.

When this group of identifiable antisocial children gets older, when they have had no effective intervention, we then begin to read their names in the paper-in arrest reports for burglary, vandalism, assault, homicide-even shocking killing rampages on their school grounds.

I've been working with antisocial children for more than 30 years. As director of the Center on Human Development at the University of Oregon, I've seen hundreds of very young children like Jason. Any child on the playground can recognize them. So can you.

Research has identified these clear warning signals that a child is out of control:

- \* Consistently bullies younger, weaker children
- \* Constantly steals
- \* Consistently tells lies
- \* Can't manage anger
- \* Sets fires

\* Tortures small animals

These problem kids can be helped, but only if we reach them very early--usually before they are nine years old.

When you see a young child with these symptoms, you can step in. If it's your child, get some help. A child psychologist can set up a counseling program and the school district may be able to help. If the family with the out-of-control child doesn't have the money to pay a counselor, talk to social service agencies. They'll help you find low-cost or free counseling programs.

Look for a program that will include the whole family. Most bad kids don't start out that way, but they may not be getting clear signals from their parents about

how to be good kids.

Many parents need to learn to send clearer messages to their children. Look for programs that can teach the whole family to:

- \* Use discipline in a fair and consistent way
- \* Keep track of what their children are doing
- \* Resolve conflicts without hitting
- \* Become involved in their children's lives
- \* Provide opportunities for healthy and fun pastimes

It's nearly as important to make sure your local schools are places where families are welcome. Find out if parents feel comfortable there. Do they share responsibility for what is happening? If not, work with teachers and administrators to turn schools into places where children and their families feel at home.

Don't forget to involve the children. Even very young children can learn how to control and manage anger and to negotiate disputes with others in non-violent ways. Several schools in Oregon are teaching six- and seven-year-olds how to mediate playground problems themselves. It has been quite successful.

In my research, I found many successful programs that can head off violent behavior in America's kids. If you don't have such a program in your school, you can help get one started.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned in my work is this: Parents and teachers must work together if we are to cure the violence that is creeping into every neighborhood in America.

## In Wake of Springfield Shooting, Public Ponders Safety, Deterrence

*Self Enhancement, Inc. is a model of youth violence prevention*

### Self Enhancement, Inc.

As youth violence becomes a dominating issue following the devastating shooting in Springfield, Ore., Self Enhancement, Inc. would like to share with the nation the key it's found to curbing youth violence.

### Statistics

- \* SEI recognized as a national model of violence prevention by US Centers for Disease Control.
- \* SEI kids were in 26% fewer fights after being an SEI members for three years while nearly 20% fewer kids carried weapons on a regular basis (RMC Research Corporation)
- \* SEI named one of America's Top 20 Community-based programs by William Bennett, former National Drug Control Policy Director
- \* More than two-thirds of SEI kids improve school attendance, grades and behavior, which is twice the national average for similar national programs.
- \* SEI ranked in the top 100 of President George Bush's Thousand Points of Light.
- \* SEI currently helps more than 1,200 at-risk children and family members with a one-on-one academic mentoring program unlike any other in the United States.

### Sources Available Today

SEI Vice President Marshall Haskins is currently available to discuss SEI's key to youth violence prevention and how schools across the nation can help alleviate this problem. President and Founder Tony Hopson will also be available next week.

### Contact Information:

Marshall Haskins and Tony Hopson  
Self Enhancement, Inc.  
(503) 249-1721  
Suzanne Bell or Chris Bartell  
KVO Public Relations  
(503) 221-1551

## Oregon's Bloody Thursday

**Springfield, Oregon: 15 Year Old Goes On Shooting Rampage**

A drawn and distraught Governor John Kitzhaber pondered aloud, "We must ask ourselves what this implies for our future?" A question that now strikes fear into the hearts of every parent with a kid in public school.

Gov. Kitzhaber went on to say: "This society owes it to itself, to its children, and to its future to make a commitment to prevention that is equally as serious as the commitment we have made to punishment."

These are fine, but empty words. The same election year rhetoric we heard from Kitzhaber in 1994. Meanwhile the business of punishment is booming. Kitzhaber is not building classrooms, he's too busy building and filling prisons cells. Let's not forget we are a state and a country at "war" with

itself. Prevention efforts are doomed in this "general level of atmospheric toxicity" as William Raspberry so eloquently put it, of adults waging multiple "wars" of double standards and double messages. The kids remind us we can't have it both ways.

"Cognitive dissonance is the order of the day. Many kids are confused, scared and depressed because our government, its institutions, the press and media are sending them the worse possible messages: war is normal, violence acceptable, a fascist police state inevitable," noted League director Floyd Landrath.

"Feed that kind of crap along with prozac to an already depressed, neglected, abused and/or desensitized kid ... and we've got a walking time-bomb like Kip Kinkel," Landrath said. "Given

recent events around the country it almost seems deliberate, like a secret government experiment or a conspiracy designed to destabilize and terrorize society," he added.

While it's more often than not impossible to predict or control individual acts of violence, we can and must control our government and the "messages" it sends to kids. Government's drug war - regardless its proverbial good intentions - is rooted in violence and too often these days the children are poisoned by its forbidden, yet nonetheless abundant and easy to get fruits of guns and drugs.

How we respond at this juncture is crucial and we adults would be wise to remember the old saying: "War is not healthy for children and other living things."

## Public Notice of Oregon Pacific Power Price Increase Application

On May 5, 1998, the Oregon Public Utility Commission approved a request by Pacific Power to adopt a new alternative form of regulation that links customer prices more to company performance than to changes in costs.

The new form of regulation streamlines the regulatory process by permitting prices to change under the plan according to increases in designated price indexes reduced by a productivity adjustment. The proposal also includes service quality standards and penalties if the company fails to meet the standards, and incentives to continue Pacific Power's investment in renewable forms of energy (such as wind, solar and geothermal).

The company's alternative form of regulation demonstrates a commitment to moderate the impact of cost increases on customer prices while retaining high quality service.

### Details of this Application:

As a result of the timing of the approval of the alternative form of regulation, two small price increases are being requested. If approved by the OPUC:

1. On June 3, 1998, the following increases will go into effect:
  - Residential Service 0.6 percent
  - General Service Schedule 25 0.7 percent
  - Large General Service Schedules 27 and 48T 0.3 percent
  - Agricultural Pumping Schedule 41 0.7 percent

This translates into a monthly increase of \$0.39 for a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month. This will increase overall annual revenue by \$3.5 million or 0.51 percent.

2. On July 1, 1998, the following increases go into effect:
  - Residential Service 0.7 percent
  - General Service Schedule 25 0.5 percent
  - Large General Service Schedules 27 and 48T 0.3 percent
  - Agricultural Pumping Schedule 41 0.5 percent

This translates into a monthly increase of \$0.40 for a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month. This will increase overall annual revenue by \$3.3 million or 0.47 percent.

Customers may review copies of Pacific Power's application at the company's main office, 920 S.W. Sixth Ave., Portland, Ore., 97204. For further information, they may also write to Pacific Power at that same address or call toll-free (888) 221-7070. This information is also posted on the PacificCorp's internet website at <http://www.pacificcorp.com>. Customers may call or write the commission at 550 Capital Street N.E., Salem, Ore., 97310, or contact them at (800) 522-2404 to receive additional information on this proposal.

The purpose of this announcement is to provide customers with general information regarding Pacific Power's proposed price changes under its new alternative form of regulation plan. Calculations and statements contained in this notice are not binding on the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

**PACIFIC POWER**  
A PacificCorp Company