

Wife Beating: A 'Silent Crisis'

It's been called a "silent crisis," a "secret shame," even a "hidden crime."

But it's fast becoming vocal, public, and open, as private, government and church groups strive to bring it out of the closet where, for so long, it has lain hidden, festering, causing untold humiliation, pain heartache — even death.

It's labeled variously "wife beating," "spouse battering," or "interspousal violence."

But however labeled, it's now being considered sufficiently widespread in the United States to merit current attention by the Congress and state governments.

"Nobody knows how many American wives have been beaten," says a statement by the National Women's Congress.

"Most state laws don't give the victims adequate protection or even the right to sue their assailants. Police don't like to intervene in what appears to them to be a private family matter.

"We do know, however, that the physical abuse of women by their husbands is chronic and widespread at all economic and social levels."

Wife beating seems to be part of an ever-spiraling, mutually reinforcing pattern of domestic violence.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that at least 7.5 million married couples go through a "violent episode" on a kind of regular basis. Roger Langley and Richard C. Levy, authors of the book, *Wife Beating: a Silent Crisis*, estimate that there are some 28 million battered wives in the United States.

These same authors also maintain that several new sociological studies and their own research indicate that there are 12 million battered husbands in the U.S. — nearly 20 per cent of the total.

New research likewise shows a relationship — perhaps a chain reaction — between spouse beating and child abuse in some violent families.

Douglas Besharov, director of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C., told a House subcommittee in February that an investigation of child abuse cases in 25 unnamed states found that in 20 per cent of the cases a spouse also was beaten — though not necessarily at the same time.

"It is now apparent from the research we are doing and our treatment projects," said Dr. Besharov, "that the injury of spouses — predominantly women — and the injury of children are somewhat overlapping syndromes."

Research, he added, shows that while males are the abusers in only 40 per cent of all officially reported child abuse and neglect cases, males are perpetrators of 70 per cent of the child abuse cases that also involve an incidence of spouse abuse.

A March 1977 University of New Hampshire study reveals that the largest single category of murder victims consists of persons related to their assailant. In California, almost one-third of all female murder victims were killed by their husbands and 25 per cent of all women beaten were pregnant.

The federal government and some state governments have taken up the challenge of domestic violence.

Hearings on a new Senate bill on Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment began in Washington in March. The bill is a revision of Senate Bill 1728 introduced last year.

The New York State Assembly, last September, passed two laws designed to strengthen women's rights and aid battered spouses, the majority of whom are women.

One law allows a battered spouse to choose to take legal action in either criminal court or family court, rather than just in family court as was the case.

The other law allows the establishment of shelters where battered spouses and their children could stay together. Hitherto, there were legal provisions for shelters for children and shelters for battered spouses, but none for the two together.

Several other states have enacted, or are considering, what is called "civil injunction" or "restraining order" legislation.

In Connecticut, for example, in accord with a law that became effective late last year, women can get a restraining order from the courts, without starting divorce proceedings, to prevent abusive husbands from entering their home.

This kind of law allows the victim of abuse to remain at home and forces the abuser to get out.

Generally, an abused wife, to protect herself (and her children) would be advised to leave home and seek shelter elsewhere. This is still the case in most instances and to meet this contingency, shelters — though still far too few — have been set up in various parts of the country.

Interspousal violence is of course, not confined to American households. A world conference on violence in the family, held at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, last summer made it clear that the phenomena are part and parcel of the domestic scene in societies around the world.

Pope III
Vatican City (RNS)—Vatican Radio announced that Pope Paul was suffering from "the symptoms of influenza" and would be unable to attend his scheduled midweekly general audience on March 15. "Nevertheless," said the announcement, "His Holiness will appear at the window of his private apartment at 11:15 a.m. to greet and bless the pilgrims who are gathered in St. Peter's Square."

Try Our **sea food** Specials for Easter

- FRESH HADDOCK
- FRESH FILETS
- LOBSTER TAILS
- CLAMS CASINO
- SHRIMP, cooked or fresh
- OYSTERS
- CLAMS
- CRABMEAT
- SALADS

Large selection of fried foods & salads to go

Price's Sea Foods
1875 Monroe Ave. at 12 Corners
Open Daily at 9 a.m. **461-2400**
QUALITY SEA FOOD IS OUR BUSINESS... NOT A SIDELINE

HAPPY EASTER? HERE'S HOW!

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

When are you happiest? Happiness lies in giving. You're happiest when you give yourself to the people who need you most. . . . A mother, for instance, hums with happiness when she bathes and dresses her baby. A good nurse always has time for a smile. Good fathers whistle at their work. . . . The best sort of giving involves more than writing checks—still, how better can you help the children now who need you overseas? Boys and girls who are blind, lepers, deaf-mutes, orphans—your money gifts, large and small, will feed them, teach them, cure them, give them a chance in life. . . . Want to be happier this Easter? Give some happiness to a child. You'll be happy, too!

GIVE SOME HAPPINESS TO A CHILD

HAPPINESS IS A SISTER OF YOUR OWN
In Erumathala, south India, a young Indian girl in training to be a Sister of the Destitute will learn, among other things, how to care for orphans. Her training costs \$300 all told (\$12.50 a month, \$150.00 a year), a small investment for a Sister's lifetime of service. Like to be her sponsor? We'll send you her name and she will write to you.

HAPPINESS IS A HOME OF THEIR OWN
For only \$200 in Ernakulam you can build a decent house for a family that now sleeps on the sidewalks. Simply send your check to us. Cardinal Parecatil will write to thank you also.

HAPPINESS IS CLOTHING
Brighten the heart of a blind boy in the Gaza Strip (where Samson lived). \$5 gives him shoes, \$10 a set of braille readers, \$25 clothes!

HAPPINESS IS TO BE EDUCATED
Where there is none in south India, you can build a six-room permanent school for only \$4,000. Archbishop Mar Gregorios will select the village, supervise construction and write to thank you. The children will pray for you, and you may name the school for your favorite saint, in your loved ones' memory!

Dear Monsignor Nolan: _____ RJ

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____

FOR _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Please return coupon with your offering

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- QUALITY STANDARDS
- DIGNITY IN SERVICE
- INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS

BURNS - HANNA FUNERAL HOME
1795 Ridge Rd. E. 467-5745

Paul W. Harris FUNERAL HOME INC
570 Kings Highway South (corner Titus)

SPACIOUS PARKING Private casket selection room 544-2041 AIR CONDITIONED

ARNDT FUNERAL HOME
1118 Long Pond Road near Maiden Lane 225-6350
Ronald John Arndt — Funeral Director
Parishioner at St. John the Evangelist
On Premise Casket Selection — Parking for over 70 cars

Bridal Corner

KAKE KORNOR 1688 CLIFFORD AVE. near Goodman
3 tier serves up to 100, \$29 PHONE 482-1133
4 tier serves 175 to 200, \$45
4 tier fountain cake, \$80
3 tier whipped cream, custard filling serves up to 100 \$45 We Deliver
Decorator cakes, whipped cream & strawberry, lemon, pineapple, custard filling; 1/4 sheet, \$5.00; 1/2 sheet, \$8.00; full sheet \$15.00; Decorator cakes, butter cream frostings, half sheet \$7.00, full sheet \$13.

BURT SHAPIRO Photography Studio
WEDDINGS from \$99 Phone 244-3554

FOR RATE INFORMATION CALL 454-7050

NEAR EAST MISSIONS

TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE, President
MSGR. JOHN G. NOLAN, National Secretary
Write: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOC.
1011 First Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10022
Telephone: 212/826-1450

Resi Hon we l Satu Sch the St. f Mar Gav Mo Coll high Irist of H Elsi

A hom area the the Jewi to p fact they cho

TI IC L EI rece ma Sch The secc "I anol pres clas

of th touc that orgi nive 11 c una con Cou "he men Con mig whe