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Domestic Violence: The Battered Woman

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THE PROBLEM

Domestic violence is no longer "all in the family." Divided into child abuse and spouse battering, domestic violence is escalating at an alarming rate which has recently drawn wide national attention. There is a difference of opinion among those concerned as to whether the increase is real or imagined. Although all authorities agree it is of epidemic proportions, some say the statistics now available reflect increased reporting of what has been a chronic condition, while others believe such things as the women's movement, economic frustration, and the rise in violence generally have increased the actual incidence. In any case, experts believe the scope of the problem extends to include several million men, women and children in the United States. The exact numbers are difficult to assess, since those cases reported reflect only a small percentage of the actual violence committed annually by spouses upon each other and upon their children. For purposes of an introductory discussion of the problem, however, consider the following statistics, which reflect as good an estimate as is available from present data:

A recent survey of more than 2000 couples across the United States found that physical violence, ranging from slaps or shoves to the use of guns and knives, occurred at least once a year in 28 percent of the marriages. On a national scale, according to a panel participating in recent hearings in Washington, D.C., some 55 percent of the 47 million married couples in this country experience physical violence. Major problems with compiling accurate statistics lie



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in the reluctance of many people to admit to extremes of violence or frequency of abuse, and with families in which slapping or shoving is considered so routine as not to warrant mention.

Regarding violence between parent and child, the same study found:

—20 percent of the parents surveyed had hit a child with some object.

—4.2 percent indicated they had "beaten up" the child.

—2.8 percent reported having threatened the child with a knife or gun.

—2.9 percent actually used a knife or gun on the child.

This adds up to about 1.2 million children aged 3-17 whose parents had at some time attacked them with a lethal weapon.

One of the first studies in the nation on the relationship between spouse beating and child abuse is being conducted in San Diego County at the Family Stress Center in Chula Vista. Statistics gathered from 850 families seen during the first two and a half years of the study revealed that 40 percent of families which had episodes of actual or potential child abuse also experienced violence between other family members.

With the preceding statistics serving as a basis for a fundamental understanding of the enormity of the situation, the focus henceforth will be on the 1.8 million wives who are beaten by their husbands each year. Although domestic battering also includes men who are attacked by their wives, men are more often the perpetrators of the most dangerous and injurious forms of violence, and are more likely to repeat acts of violence. Additionally, the greater physical power of men makes it more likely that a woman will be seriously injured when beaten. In contrast, husband beating is often the result of a battered wife who is striking back.

SOME MYTHS AND THEIR ORIGINS

For the most part, the attitudes held by law enforcement regarding the problem of domestic violence stem from prevailing myths which often characterize the battered woman as deserving of what she gets. By no means do I intend to minimize the dangerous situation which confronts a police officer when responding to a call of a family disturbance. National statistics speak for themselves when viewed in terms of death and serious injury resulting to officers who find themselves in the midst of domestic quarrels. Recent figures reveal that approximately 20 to 25 percent of all police deaths and 40 percent of police injuries in the United States occur while they are investigating family disputes. By focusing on the origins of some of the more common myths associated with the battered woman, it is hoped that a new insight will allow law enforcement to revise its approach toward its role in dealing with the problem of domestic violence.

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Often the victims of battering must deal with the same misconceptions regarding their problem as do those who come into contact with them. It is important to recognize these myths to better understand the victim and, ultimately, to deal with the problem. A few of the most common ones:

A woman who is beaten must like it, otherwise she would leave. A number of complex factors figure in her decision to stay. If she calls the police she may be killed by her husband, or if she files for divorce he may retaliate against the children. Thus, fear is a primary motive for staying. There are religious, moral and family pressures upon the woman to stay and try to make the relationship work. Such commands stem from an American cultural concept stressing togetherness and which, until recently, have included societal taboos directed against the single parent and the divorced woman. Many battered women have acquired a tolerance of violence, for they were themselves victims of violence as children. Understandably many women would rather live with a known evil than face an unfamiliar police and court system. The lack of financial support, such as marketable skills following years of marriage without working, as well as the lack of emotional support from others, are two additional reasons why women stay. Even if shelter is found, and food and money are available, the battered woman is often isolated; frequently she does not even know about these resources. This is one area in which the beat officer can help, by spreading the word.

If a woman were a better wife or loved the man more, he would not beat her. Like the argument made concerning the woman who hitchhikes, this logic relegates responsibility in the wrong place. It must be remembered the woman is the *victim* of battering, not the cause. She often finds herself the scapegoat for the man's own frustrations and insecurities. He will vent

these upon her at the slightest provocation—for failing to prepare a meal the way he wishes, or for ironing his shirt "improperly," or for being too "up-pity." Some women are even awakened from sleep by an obviously unprovoked beating.

It is the man's right and duty to head the family, so he can do whatever is necessary to keep the woman in line. I agree with those who believe battering traces its origins to the times of the caveman, when strength was necessary for survival and physical force was the accepted method employed to acquire a mate. We are all familiar with the cartoon characterization of the prehistoric matrimonial rites in which the "groom" is seen with a club over his shoulder, dragging the "bride" by the hair into his cave. She is obviously unconscious and sports a large knot on her head. Although this concept of the patriarchal society has been refined somewhat since the time of the caveman, its methods have been consistently condoned. Emphasis on, and acceptance of, various forms of violence as methods of dealing with life's frustrations have been reinforced. The evolution of forced role models for both men and women have also helped perpetuate this system. As the reasons for this patriarchal system have disappeared, the parties involved in setting up and maintaining family order began to feel guilty. In particular, they began to feel inadequate in the traditional roles. These role differences in turn are at the core of the battered woman's problem.

Repeated studies indicate that male batterers believe they do not measure up to society's ideal of masculinity. Part of that whole image embraces violence: that real "he men" like to hunt, fight, play football, etc., all signs of what could be called "conditional masculinity." Further, as women in increasing numbers venture into the work world where men have traditionally been the bread winners, they present yet another threat to the fragile structure of conditioned

masculinity. With alarming frequency, men with these pressures resort to that one thing which can never be equalized—their strength pitted against a woman's. In this arena they almost always emerge victorious.

There is no essential difference between men and women that indicates one sex should have more rights, responsibilities, or power than the other. Every person in a family needs to have autonomy and an equal share in family matters. When viewed in light of their cultural, economic and financial origins, the familial frustrations with which a field officer may find himself confronted can be better understood. But they must be kept in perspective. *Beatings are never justified.*

Domestic violence occurs primarily in the ghetto and among lower class and working class families. The stereotyped batterer—black, lower class, alcoholic, unemployed, welfare recipient, bully—does exist, but one cannot stop here. Studies show that women of all ethnic groups, lifestyles, economic and educational levels are victims. The batterers must also reflect these classifications. Some years ago the former wife of one United States Senator came forward with her story of how she had been beaten for years by her husband, including a brutal attack in a Washington, D.C. hotel room while he was in office. Doctors, lawyers, business executives, airline pilots—all are represented.

Research reveals that rather than belonging to any of the groups listed above, batterers tend to come from violent homes where they were victims of their own parents' violence, or where they witnessed their mothers beaten. Neither a lengthy marriage nor the presence of children is a prerequisite for a woman to be battered. It is common, however, for women to be beaten while pregnant, for this is a particularly frustrating time for the conditioned masculinity. The battered woman does not fit a profile which can be used to spot her. She may not even have

visible signs of battering. Many batterers know how to hurt a woman without leaving marks, such as beatings about the head and beneath the neckline where hair and clothing will cover bruises. As has been mentioned before, a man who batters his wife often abuses his children as well and his behavior will at times cause the woman to be physically violent with or emotionally dependent upon her children.

The bottom line one reaches in considering the problem is the condoning of violence as an acceptable method for venting frustrations and for enforcing individual desires on others. Whoever is stronger will win, and this is usually the husband. Until society, including law enforcement, the criminal justice system and the judiciary, takes major steps toward condemning these accepted practices, stemming the rising tide of domestic violence, much less preventing it, is impossible.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A MODEL

It is a widely held opinion among experts that the criminal justice system is not the forum for dealing with domestic violence. Where intimate relations are concerned, victims cannot and often will not cooperate in prosecutions. However, the system can be used as an effective tool in several significant ways.

One attempt to involve the criminal justice system in the battle against domestic violence was undertaken by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office in 1975-76. Funded by LEAA and known as the Battered Women's Project of the Citizen Victim Complaint Unit, it was founded on the following three propositions: (1) The battered woman case often relates to crimes such as child abuse and murder; (2) to deter the battery of women would be to deter an inclination toward violence that, according to certain studies, passes from one generation to the next; and (3) such deterrence would be possible only

with specialized support for battered women who, understandably, assume the criminal justice system holds no solutions.

A vital part of the program was the inclusion of the woman in seeking solutions. She was urged to consider alternatives: she could do nothing, leave the man, seek professional counseling for the man, for herself, or for her family; she could enlist the deterrent powers of the District Attorney, or press criminal charges with immediate issuance of a warrant. In addition, emergency housing and medical care were secured.

If a divorce was desired, the woman was frequently referred to a "do-your-own divorce" group staffed by women who had secured their own divorces. Very often the woman would ask the DA to warn the man, or he could be "ordered in" for a conference with the woman and the DA. This "ordering in" was usually for first offenders, those who had no prior contact with the criminal justice system. After being given their *Miranda* rights they almost always admitted their guilt, expressed regret, and pledged it would never happen again. The project had several ways by which to enforce the pledge. For example, if the battery derived from alcoholism, the DA would require that the man participate in a treatment program or face prosecution. The man would be warned that the case would be "held open" and that a recurrence would result in two charges being filed against him, along with his arrest and advice to the court that the man already had been given a chance to prove himself.

Another important aspect of the project was the staffing, which included not only district attorneys but a social worker and clerical staff, all of whom were bilingual. Also crucial was a good rapport with community groups and with the courts. Social workers maintained direct communication with any program supervising an offender during the "hold open" period. The DA maintained contact with

the woman who, in turn, worked with support groups including the Task Force on Battered Women of Milwaukee's Women's Coalition. In the most serious cases, two other units participated. The Witness Support Unit guided the woman through the court system, advised the court to view the crime as far more serious than a quarrel or family spat, and provided child care, transportation, or whatever was needed to facilitate the woman's participation in the system. The Witness Emergency Unit, consisting of deputy sheriffs, provided 24-hour protection for those women under continuing threat while awaiting trial.

Several experiences of the Milwaukee County Battered Women's Project provide essential lessons for consideration:

1. A woman desperate or courageous enough to come to a district attorney's office almost never lies and, indeed, rarely exaggerates the duration or extent of injury.

2. Immediate issuance of an arrest warrant is usually the least protection for and service to the battered woman.

3. Active participation of the battered woman in deciding how the DA's Office might serve her is crucial to the woman's dignity and the success of the decision.

4. Existence of strong women's groups in the community, independent of but working with the DA's Office, is crucial to the ability of the prosecution to develop sensitivity and skill in assisting the battered woman.

5. Threat of criminal prosecution and its resulting damage to the reputation of the "first offender" is a more effective deterrent than actual prosecution which ordinarily results in a fine, probation, or suspended sentence.

6. Issuance of a criminal charge must be accompanied by efforts that impress upon a court that less serious cases have been diverted from the court system, so that, by contrast, the instant case should be viewed as one of serious violence.

7. Since police rarely witness domestic violence, their partici-

pation in a criminal case is limited.

Although police officers may not participate during the prosecution stage of spouse abuse, there is an important role for them outside of the courtroom. If law enforcement, from the policy making level to the officer on the beat, is sensitized to the problem, a big stride will have been made toward ultimate prevention. If an officer is well trained within the department, when he arrives on the scene of a family disturbance he can make a far more sophisticated assessment of what he is dealing with: Is there need to get the woman away? Should the man be arrested? How do the children appear?

Another vital function which can be served by the police officer and law enforcement in general is the gathering of accurate statistics involving battered women. All too often these cases are lumped together under the heading of "family disturbance," or 415 P.C., disturbing the peace. There is no way to assess needs and match them to services without knowledge of the scope and extent of the problem.

In addition to knowing what to look for, an officer must be able to offer the woman some immediate alternatives determined by what he finds at the scene. In order to do this, police officers must be aware of the community support services available to the battered woman. A list of such services and agencies in San Diego follows at the end of this article.

THE CHANGING SCENE

Within the past year there has been a proliferation of community support programs to aid the battered woman in San Diego County. Legislation at the state level and congressional hearings at the federal level have been encouraging as well. With knowledge of what is happening, where help can be found, and how it all works, law enforcement is in a unique position to help when it counts.

The Battered Woman's Pilot Project was founded in August

1977 and is federally funded through June 1978. It has a two-fold purpose: to research the needs of the physically abused women in San Diego County and to provide referral and support services. The referral and support services include a women's support group, crisis intervention and counseling, children's advocacy, welfare advocacy, emergency housing and legal referrals. There is also a 24-hour hotline. The project is administered through the County Commission on the Status of Women and Equal Opportunity Management Office.

In September 1977, a group of people from many local organizations associated in an attempt to confront the problem of the batterer. Virtually every human care service agency in the county was represented in this group. After several meetings and much planning, the group announced the official formation in December 1977 of the Task Force on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. As far as is known, it is the first unified effort in the nation to be devoted to dealing therapeutically with the batterer.

The Battered Women's Coalition was also formed in the summer of 1977 from the combined membership of many local human care agencies and organizations. A "Statement of Purpose" was adopted, along with a series of goals which truly encompass the entire scope of the problem at hand and which bear repeating here:

"We are determined that the physical abuse of women which occurs in domestic relationships in our society is a crime that must no longer be tolerated. We are joining together to demonstrate our concern and to seek solutions to the problems of battered women.

GOALS

- "1. To develop unity among agencies, organizations and individuals concerned with the issue of physically abused (battered) women.
- "2. To serve as an information clearinghouse for groups providing services to bat-

tered women.

- "3. To support existing services and the establishment of necessary additional services, particularly emergency shelters for physically abused women and their children.
- "4. To inform physically abused (battered) women of their rights and alternatives.
- "5. To educate the wider community as to the problem and extent of domestic violence and to the means of prevention.
- "6. To advocate legislative and public policy changes that will enhance the opportunities of victims of domestic violence to achieve a life free from physical abuse."

Since last summer the coalition has focused on two major areas of concern:

(1) Emergency shelter for battered women and their children, and

(2) legal protection.

Much is being done on a statewide level in both of those areas. State Senate Bill 91 (SB 91) has recently gone into effect, allocating funds (approximately \$280,000) for up to five pilot projects throughout California for urgently needed shelter facilities for battered women. Through the efforts of strong support groups, the YWCA and the Battered Women's Coalition, a shelter project has already commenced in San Diego. Through a united effort there is a chance for San Diego to be designated as the location for one of the pilot projects sanctioned by SB 91. This would be the single most important achievement to date for local efforts in confronting the immediate problem of aid for the already battered woman. It is uniformly agreed that the most critical problem facing those attempting to stem the tide of rising domestic violence is the lack of shelter for the battered woman and her children. This does not mean an overnight stay, nor even a two to three day arrangement, but rather a lodging of some duration — whatever time it takes for a criminal case

to be processed through the system, for a much needed separation during a cooling off period, or while there is ongoing counseling pursuant to a court order.

In order to more effectively deal with the problem of shelter for battered women, there has developed what has come to be known as Shelter Networks. These "networks" allow pooling of the limited resources available to remove a woman from the violence with which she has been living, and to relocate her in another part of the state or another state altogether. Today there is a West Coast Network, a District Network (basically Southern California), and a rapidly developing National Network. The networks also offer promise for large-scale collective political and legislative exposure which hopefully will lead to more support and public awareness.

The local judiciary has commenced an active role in the area of domestic violence through the innovative efforts of Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund. While assigned to Department Two, the Family Law and Motion Department, during the year 1977, Judge Ehrenfreund was shocked at the extent and severity of domestic violence in cases which came before him. Working with a trained support staff, the judge was instrumental in establishing a special Conciliation Court, the first of its kind in the nation. The program allows a superior court judge to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) on petition of a married person with children, if the petitioner is willing to schedule and attend at least one joint counseling session to discuss either a reconciliation or a more amicable breakup. The batterer may be required to appear for this session and the court may order him to desist from further violence toward his wife. The TRO is good for 30-day periods; and if the husband either refuses to appear in court when ordered in or violates the terms of the TRO, the court has the power to hold him in contempt and impose a

fine and/or jail time. In order to be eligible to petition the court for relief under the provisions of this program, no dissolution action needs to be filed, no attorney is necessary, and there is no filing fee. The Conciliation Court will accept emergency walk-ins during business hours, although appointments are preferred. The forms for the petition and further information regarding their preparation may be obtained at the Conciliation Court (236-2681) located at 110 West "C" Street, Suite 1301, in San Diego.

The local Conciliation Court has served as a prototype for what will soon be a statewide effort to combat domestic violence at the judicial level. Assembly Bill 1019 (AB 1019) amends section 527 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CCP), granting authority to the superior courts throughout the state to issue the same type of TRO's, to accomplish the same ends, as Judge Ehrenfreund's program. Under the new law, which became effective January 1, 1978, eligibility for the court's aid extends not only to those in a marital relationship but to those in any kind of a "domestic relationship." In other words, those who are cohabiting or have recently cohabited may be assisted by this program. Although this procedure does not require an accompanying petition for dissolution, there is a filing fee of \$55.50, the same amount as for a petition for dissolution. Further information and forms for filing an CCP 527 petition may be obtained through private counsel, Lawyer Referral Service of San Diego, Legal Aid Society, or in propria persona if warranted. Inquiries may also be directed to the Clerk of the Superior Court located on the first floor of the County Courthouse at 220 West Broadway.

San Diego will continue to offer the services of both the Conciliation Court and the CCP 527 program. The benefit of the local Conciliation Court program over the CCP 527 plan is the requirement that the parties attend counseling in the former. It is rare that persons having

reached the stage of violence in their relationship will be able to deal with their problem unaided. The feature of mandatory counseling gives chances for remedial efforts a "leg up" over a program which only deals with the immediate problem. There are some significant features in the latter plan, however, which do require attention.

AB 1019 provides that the county clerk be required to transmit a copy of any TRO, extensions, or modifications issued pursuant to its authority, to the appropriate local law enforcement agency or agencies. These agencies are then authorized to make available information as to the existence of such TRO's to officers responding to scenes of domestic disturbances. The officer should also inquire of the victim at the scene as to the existence of any such order. Victims sometimes show officers what appear to be various restraining orders whose authenticity the officers are hesitant to accept. These orders should be carefully examined by the officer to see if they are certified by the court, such certification being ample evidence of validity. The officer may also check to see if the order is a "conformed copy," which means it bears the stamp of the name of a superior court judge. This too is evidence of authenticity. The order may specifically authorize arrest of the violator pursuant to Penal Code section 166.4. This section makes it a misdemeanor to willfully disobey any process or order lawfully issued by any court. If, when the officer arrives on the scene, he witnesses a violation of the order, he may arrest the offender for committing a misdemeanor in his presence. If the violation has instead been reported to him by the victim upon his arrival on the scene, and it does not amount to a felony, the officer may instruct the victim as to a citizen's arrest. Although this Penal Code section has existed for some time, law enforcement has been reluctant to invoke it in domestic disturbances. It is hoped that in the future this tool can be used more

effectively and at an early stage of what is usually an explosive situation. What is needed are policy guidelines for officers in the field to follow. As it stands now, the very least an officer can do is use the TRO to warn or threaten the violator if the offense for which the officer has been called does not amount to a crime. If the offense could or does amount to a crime and there is an existing TRO, an officer will have a fair amount of clout to deal with the offender.

As part of its training program, the California State Attorney General's office organized its first statewide conference on domestic violence in April 1978, which was held in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The program was directed to all those who are likely to deal with domestic violence — from military chaplain's and women's crisis groups, to social workers and probation officers, police and prosecutors, to attorneys and counselors. The program discussed new developments, needs and goals, advised of change in the law, described support services and counseling, and presented innovative models and training techniques for consideration of those attending. Among high priority target groups were policy level law enforcement personnel and their training officers. Invitations were extended to police chiefs and their training staff throughout the state. The conference was the first such endeavor on a statewide level to bring all forces together to begin an integrated attack on the problem of domestic violence. As it was the inaugural program, it was not a training session per se but rather a brainstorming session in an effort to pool existing resources for use in future training programs.

The bottom line has been reached. *The buck stops here.* Domestic violence can no longer remain a private matter, all in the family.

HELP CENTERS

Battered Women's Project, 565-7155, 2187 Ulrich, San Diego, hotline number (24 hours)

565-7197, business hours 8-5 M-F. Most of the services of the Project were described previously in this article. In addition to those services, there is a 24-hour hotline, support crisis counseling, children's advocacy, assistance in moving with police and when needed, general information on the battered woman for community groups, schools, and referrals. Services are bilingual.

Women's Legal Center, 239-3954, 1012 "C" St. (located in the downtown YWCA). Provided here is legal representation counseling for women, and men as well, in civil matters affecting women. There are referrals to attorneys and to appropriate supportive agencies and general information.

Center for Women's Studies Services (CWSS) Storefront Underground Railroad, 233-3088, 910 "F" St., San Diego, business hours 8:30-5:30. This project began in June 1977, at a time when CWSS was getting five to six calls per day from physically abused women. Likened to the underground used to aid slaves in their escape from oppression in the South, a plea went out to private homes that would take in abused women and their children on an emergency basis. The response was good, and working in conjunction with San Diego Women for Shelter, CWSS was soon able to put women "underground" and away from danger. While "underground" the women work with a counselor who provides advocacy, counseling, transportation and legal referrals. Arrangements are made to get restraining orders, relationship counseling if desired, find a permanent place to stay, job referrals, medical assistance, food, childcare, or whatever else is needed to assist the woman.

Union of Pan Asian Communities, 232-6454, 2459 Market St., San Diego, business hours 8:30-5:30 M-F, known as UPAC. This agency provides services for women of Oriental and Asian background and has counselors who speak such languages as Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese,

Korean, Samoan, etc. In all, 11 countries are represented by members of the staff. A battered woman of Oriental or Asian descent who speaks little or no English can be best served here. In addition to the language problem, there is a cultural barrier which can best be understood by those of similar background. Following referral, which must be done initially during regular business hours, the woman is assigned a caseworker and can be provided up to two weeks emergency shelter, food, and other necessities. There is also counseling, legal assistance, and referrals to other support agencies.

Salvation Army, 239-6221 (24-hour number), 726 "F" St., San Diego. Provides maximum of ten days emergency housing for families and women with children, five days for single women. Also, referrals to community support services.

Southeast Emergency Quarters, 263-9286 (24-hour number), 4996 Holly St., San Diego. Provides up to seven days emergency housing, counseling, supportive services and referrals.

Southeast Family Service, 232-5078, 325 Dewey St., San Diego, business hours 9-5 M-F and Thurs. eves., has 24-hour answering service at above number. Provides counseling to families in distress, crisis intervention and emergency referrals.

Family Stress Center, 577 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 425-5322 (24-hour number) and 648 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 420-6110. This agency offers a 24-hour hotline for all types of family problems, including domestic violence. Battered women are counseled if the children in the family are also involved in the abuse. Emergency crisis intervention is available, including a licensed foster mother who will step in as caretaker for children, either in their own home or at the center. There is also an emergency daycare center (420-6110). Soon there will be a program specifically geared to counseling the batterer, possibly the first such program in the nation.

Pathways, 274-0626, 10-7 M-Thurs., 10-4 F, 4312 Cass St., Pacific Beach. This is the counseling and community education component of the Beach Area Community Clinic. Funded by the County Department of Substance Abuse, it is a regional drug abuse services program that covers the coastal communities of San Diego from Ocean Beach to San Dieguito. While drug/alcohol abuse is frequently associated with family violence, this is not the sole criterion for being seen. Any individual or family unit can be seen by a counselor for treatment or for emergency referrals. Emphasis is on violent relationships within the family.

Crisis House of the Crisis Intervention Center, 268 E. Camden, El Cajon, 444-1194 (24-hour number). Although there is no shelter here, there is crisis intervention, emergency food and necessities, supportive services, legal counseling and referrals.

Casa Familiar, 428-1115, 119 W. Hall Ave., San Ysidro, business hours 9-5 M-F. Bilingual services are provided here, including supportive and psychological counseling, advocacy, information and referrals to other human care service agencies.

Centro de Servicios (Chicano Federation), 1960 National Avenue, San Diego, 236-1228, business hours 8-5 M-F. Bilingual services, including crisis counseling, legal assistance, information and referrals.

San Ysidro Health Care Center (Centro de Salud), 4040 Beyer Blvd., San Ysidro, 428-5561, business hours 9-5:30 M-F, medical treatment number 428-4463. Provides referrals to temporary shelters, food and other necessities, emergency supportive services, counseling, and transportation to the various referral agencies. In addition, services are bilingual and there is a medical treatment facility.

Women's Resource Center, 757-3500 (24-hour number), 4070 Mission Ave., San Luis Rey. Has a 24-hour hotline and

is bilingual. Its Casa de Emparo provides shelter for abused children and supportive services to the battered woman. It also has a program providing counseling for families involved with domestic violence if child abuse is also involved, called Child Parent Resource (CPR).

San Diego Women for Shelter, 232-7528. This group began in July of 1977 with the express purpose of establishing a safe shelter for battered women and their children. Currently this organization is operating a battered women's hotline in conjunction with the CWSS Underground Railroad. This number is operative from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. A woman can call the hotline and receive emergency assistance and referrals.

San Diego Community Relations Department 24-Hour Hotline, 231-7847. Provides women emergency assistance and referrals.

Family Service Association of San Diego County, 279-0400 (24-hour number), business hours 8:30-5 M-F. There are several locations within San Diego County. A call to the above number will bring a referral to the nearest location to the victim. Family and individual counseling are available to those involved with domestic violence. Also legal counseling, referrals for emergency housing, medical aid and advocacy.

Neighborhood House Association, 263-7761, 841 South 41st St., San Diego, business hours 8:30-5:30 M-F, appointments available for other times. There are various locations throughout the county, with two multi-purpose offices, one in Linda Vista, the other in Southeast San Diego. These are the two where help for the battered woman can be found. The phone number above should be used. There is family counseling, crisis intervention, referrals, and services for the counseling of child abuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This article represents original efforts in that I

have spent considerable time compiling information from many sources. However, much of the material is drawn from the work of others and I would like to acknowledge their more original efforts.

Much of the material on the problem of domestic violence was gathered from articles appearing in the February 1977 issue of the *Congressional Record*, a monthly publication of Community Congress of San Diego. Authors of these articles include Mary Franklin and Elly Newman. The latter is the coordinator of the Women's Legal Center in San Diego. Many of the statistics and their interpretations were taken from studies done for public hearings conducted recently in Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The panelists included Dr. Diane Hilberman, a psychiatrist from the University of North Carolina; Leonore Walker, a psychologist from Colorado Women's College; and Murray Strauss, a sociologist from the University of New Hampshire.

The section of this article dealing with myths and their origins was greatly aided by the work of a former battered woman, Kay Lieberknecht, in an article entitled "*Working With the Battered Woman.*" The prosecutorial model program was recounted from an article prepared on the subject by Charles B. Schudson, Assistant Milwaukee County District Attorney, who helped develop and run the Battered Women Project. Finally, a special thanks for proofreading this article for accuracy goes to Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund, Nanci Clinch, and others more knowledgeable than I as to the resources available in San Diego for the battered woman.



END