

The Guns and Our Community New Law

(HB2319, effective July 1, 1994)

It is against the law for anyone under age 18 to own, possess, or control any firearm (pistol, rifle, shotgun, etc.) of any kind in Seattle or Washington State.* If you are under age 18 and are caught with a gun, you will be convicted of a felony and the judge must sentence you to at least ten days confinement and up to 12 months of community supervision. The maximum penalty is 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. If you are over 18 and under 21, you can have a pistol only at your home or business.

It is against the law for any person of any age to own, possess or control any firearm (pistol, rifle, shotgun, etc.) if they have been convicted of a serious offense (violent crimes, felony with sexual motivation, felony with deadly weapons, child molestation, indecent liberties, controlled substances, homicide, leading organized crime, promoting prostitution, rape, sexual exploitation, vehicular assault, homicide) OR domestic violence including assault, harassment, a felony where a gun was used or displayed, violations of the Uniformed Controlled Substance Act, 3 DWI's within 5 years.

A person must be at least 21 years old to be issued a permit to carry a concealed pistol.

Use a gun, lose your driver's license. Persons under the age of 18 who are convicted of possessing a gun in a vehicle or who commit any offense while armed with a gun and the vehicle is involved in the offense, will have their driver's license revoked for one year.

Give or sell a gun to a kid, go to jail. It is against the law for any person to deliver a firearm to anyone under age 18 or to anyone convicted of a serious offense, or domestic violence, assault, harassment, etc. as listed above. The maximum penalty is 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Use a gun in a crime, spend more time in jail. Juveniles convicted of a felony offense where a firearm is used or the accomplice has a firearm, are subject to longer terms of confinement. Included are any violent offenses, escape, burglary 1 and 2, and felony drug offenses.

In Seattle, if you shoot a gun at a person, a house, a car, etc., you can be charged with a felony. The penalties can include prison time, up to a \$50,000 fine, or both.

If you are a juvenile aged 16 or 17, you will be tried in adult Superior Court if charged with a serious violent crime or if you have prior criminal convictions for violent or serious crimes.

Adults convicted of any violent offense where a deadly weapon/firearm is used are sentenced to an additional 12 months beyond the standard sentence range.

If you steal a gun or possess, sell or deliver a stolen gun, you will be convicted of a felony and the judge can sentence you to a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

It is a felony to possess a sawed off or short barreled shotgun or rifle; the maximum penalty is 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Building Peace in the Community

City of Seattle
Anti-Violence Program

Norman B. Rice, Mayor

*There are some exceptions for legal hunting, safety courses, etc.

Working together

we can make our community more peaceful

Each of us - adult, teenager and child - must make a personal commitment to treat one another with courtesy and respect.

Each of us must make a personal pledge to **end violence** in our own life, in our family and in our neighborhood.

As parents and adults, we must treat other adults and children with **respect and courtesy**.

As parents and adults, **we must establish acceptable standards of behavior**. Physical, verbal and mental abuse and other forms of violence including the use of guns, knives and other weapons is not acceptable behavior in our family or our community.

As youth and adults, **we must reject violent gangs, illegal gang activities and illegal gang behavior**. Instead, we must initiate and turn to peaceful, positive and constructive support groups. There are already many available; contact the **Anti-Violence Project** at 684-4507 for more information.

We must constantly teach children that any form of violence, including **the use of guns and knives to solve problems or settle disputes, is not acceptable behavior**.

We must teach ourselves and our children that good communication and **understanding** feelings of anger are keys to non-violent problem solving.

As parents and adults, we must make a personal commitment to **seek help or support** if we need to learn additional skills or just need a friend who will listen to our concerns.

As youth, **we must communicate** with adults and parents, and treat each other with respect and courtesy.

All of us, youth and adult, must respect ourselves enough to reject violence in our community.

Thanks to Mothers Against Violence in America.

Problem Solving Steps

Think about the problem that is bothering you.

Think about some **solutions** to the problem.

For each one of the possible solutions ask yourself:

Is it **safe**?

How might people I love and care about feel if I use this solution?

Is it **fair**? Is it **legal**?

Will it work?

Choose a solution and use it.

Is it working? If not, what can be done now? Start the solution process over again.

Remember, violence is NEVER an appropriate solution. The consequences of violence are always devastating.

angry

Think about how your body feels.

Calm down:

Take deep breaths.

Count backwards slowly.

Think nice thoughts.....really, it works!

Talk to yourself in a positive way.

Solve the problem, don't hurt someone else.

Think out loud to **solve the problem**. Talk to someone if possible.

Think about it later:

Why was I angry?

What did I do?

What worked?

What didn't work?

What would I do differently?

Did I do a good job?

Thanks to the Second Step Program.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:15 - 8:55 A.M.
Registration

Resource Room Open - 8:15 - 1:30

Come see non-violent alternatives for children's entertainment. A variety of selections from electronic, audio-visual, literary and creative media will be included.

9:00 - 9:30 A.M.

Opening Ceremonies

Artists and Lecture Center, Building #7

Welcome by Pamela Eakes, Founder

Introduction of Gloria DeGaetano by
Cheryl Terry, Chairman of the Board of MAVIA

Opening Address by Gloria DeGaetano
"Children's Play, Media Violence, and the Mainstream"

9:40 - 10:55 A.M.

Session 1 Workshops

Building 21

For Kids Only Workshop "Talk Back to Television"
Building 23, Room 306

11:00 - 12:15 P.M.

Session 2 Workshops

Building 21

12:15 - 12:50 P.M.

Lunch

The "Tazza" coffee shop at the Highline Community College cafeteria will be open for service from 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

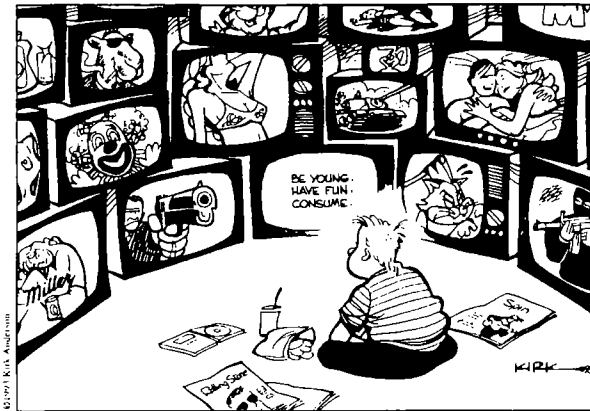
1:00 - 2:45 P.M.

Panel Discussion

Artist and Lecture Hall

2:45 P.M.

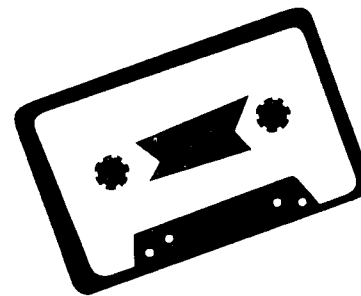
Johnny Holliday and the Community Choir



"By age 18 a young person will have spent more time being entertained by media than any other activity except sleeping."

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CO-SPONSORS:

Highline Community College Women's Health Services,
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Mother's Against Violence in America

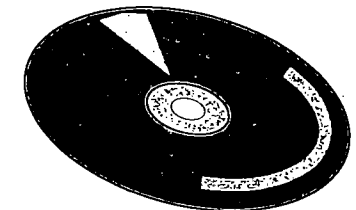
Presents

MIND OVER MEDIA



A Community Symposium on
Violence in the Media

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND PRESENTERS

Exploring the impact of media violence and promoting empowerment through media literacy.

Workshops

Each workshop offered both sessions

1. Bldg. 21 Room 202 **"Television and Violence —The Scale of the Problem and Where to Go from Here"—Dr. Brandon Centerwall**, professor at the University of Washington and expert on the effects of media violence, will share his research on the introduction of television and the resulting violence equation.
2. Room 205 **"Reading Media: Literacy Skills for the Whole Family"—Caryn Cline**, communication and media literacy expert and Coordinator of Interdisciplinary Media Resources for The Evergreen State College, will provide participants with strategies for "reading" moving images and will examine scenes from films, TV programs, and commercials.
3. Room 203 **"Counteracting Media Violence with Media Literacy"—Gloria DeGaetano**, author, lecturer and teacher will focus on why the developing brain needs to be protected from media violence, how a media violence habit can be counteracted with early and consistent media literacy education, and practical ways parents and educators can teach children to think critically about TV, movie, and video game violence.
4. Room 206 **"I Can't Buy That!" — Michael Danielson**, Seattle Prep High School teacher and media education consultant, looks at everything from toys and "The Terminator" to beer ads and soda sales, as examples of how the media try to get our teens' attention (and our dollars) using sex, violence, and a lot more.
5. Room 106 **"Looking at Media in the Year 2000" — Lynn Ziegler**, the Pacific Northwest's only children's media critic, with reviews published in Seattle Child and Eastside Parent will take participants into the next millennium.
6. Bldg. 23 Room 306 **For Kids Only Workshop** (this workshop will be 2 1/2 hrs.) **Talk Back to Television" — Sandra J. Cioffi and Malory Graham**, co-founders and co-directors of Fast Forward Media Lab, will help kids learn to use TV to get their own message across, learn the basics of production, and explore the many ways the media uses violent images to get our attention. **Then, working as a group, participants will storyboard and shoot their own video public service announcement!**

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Gloria DeGaetano, mother of two, is a lecturer, author, and teacher. She's been involved in public education for the past twenty years as a teacher, administrator, and University instructor. She is the author of *Television and the Lives of Our Children*, the co-author of the forthcoming *The Family Guide to Media Literacy*, and the executive producer of the parent training video, *How the Misuse of TV and Video Hurts Children and What to do About It*.

PANEL DISCUSSION



Don Williamson, panel moderator, is a professional print and broadcast journalist. In Seattle, Don was an editorial columnist with the *Seattle Times* and wrote a trice-weekly opinion column. He is currently a lecturer on subjects dealing with youth, violence, and diversity.

PANELISTS WILL INCLUDE:



Perrin Kaplan, Corporate Communications Manager, Nintendo of America Inc.

Lani Edenholt, Director, TCI Cable Productions

John Wilson, Senior Editor, *The Seattle Weekly*

Dr. Charles M. Johnston, Psychiatrist, Futurist, Author, Director, Institute for Creative Development.



Scott Rosenfelt, Film Producer and Director, "Home Alone" and "Mystic Pizza."



Peg Phillips, Actress, "Ruth Ann" on *Northern Exposure*, and volunteer at Echo Glen youth correctional center.



Nerissa Williams, TV News Anchor KIRO-TV

Dr. Bill Womack, Child Psychiatrist, Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry, University of Washington School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Stress Management Clinic at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

Richard White, Executive Director, Washington Music Industry Coalition

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MAVIA expresses our sincere appreciation to:

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Highline Community Hospital
IKEA

Horizon Air
South King Assoc. for the Education of Young Children

for their generous contribution to this conference

Musician **Johnny Holliday**,
and The Community Choir



Speak Up

32

SPEAK UP

**A HOW-TO GUIDE
FOR MAKING A
POSITIVE CHANGE IN
THE MEDIA**



*"Working together to reduce the violence
in our society and to promote the safety
and well-being of our children."*



*Working together to reduce the violence in our society and
to promote the safety and well-being of our children.*

A Personal Commitment

Twenty Ways to Help End the Violence

1. Join Mothers Against Violence In America and ask others to get involved.
2. Don't own a gun, but if you do, place trigger locks on firearms in your home.
3. Store ammunition separately from firearms.
4. Support broad and comprehensive anti-violence public policy.
5. Express concern to advertisers who sponsor violent programs.
6. Help children in the neighborhood find safe passage between school to home, and while at play.
7. Support legislation that addresses both the broad root causes and manifestations of violence.
8. Assess and address the level of violence in your personal relationships.
9. Let children see you stand up against bigoted behavior or comments.
10. Welcome community programs into your neighborhood that can help (rehabilitation services, child care, foster homes, group care).
11. Encourage local schools to offer anti-violence curricula.
12. No longer use violent language, such as "I was so mad I could have killed him."
13. Take personal responsibility to end violence in your home and community.
14. Don't purchase violent toys or games.
15. Volunteer to mentor a child in the juvenile justice system.
16. Volunteer with programs providing services to survivors of violence.
17. Learn who your neighbors are and share responsibility for safety in your neighborhood.
18. Point out and discuss violence while watching television and listening to music with your children.
19. Hire youth for short and long-term jobs.
20. Write "thank you" letters to local businesses who are involved in violence prevention programs in your community.



MAVIA's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAVIA's accomplishments have been far-reaching, capturing the heart and hope of the public, the ear of the policy makers, and the spirit of all those who know that violence by and against children must stop. Please join MAVIA as a member or make a financial contribution.

Organizational Growth and Development

- Founded in January, 1994 in Seattle as a grassroots, community mobilization organization.
- Formed a diverse Board of Directors made up of concerned citizens, community and business leaders, respected authorities and survivors of violence.
- Established three goals: 1) build a network of informed advocates to promote the safety and well-being of children/youth; 2) support local, state and national efforts to prevent violence by and against youth; 3) promote educational efforts that give children and parents tools to deal with conflict nonviolently and that will change attitudes and behavior away from violence and toward civility.
- Established 30 MAVIA community Satellites in Washington state with more than a dozen currently in development. Fifteen states are in the process of starting MAVIA organizations.
- Developed a member/supporter network of more than 2,500 advocates.
- Formed an Advisory Board of leading authorities in the fields of law enforcement, justice, medicine, education, government and business.
- Received funding and in-kind support from members, business and foundations, including The Boeing Company, Microsoft, GTE, The Seattle Foundation, Bogle and Gates, Ernst and Young Financial Consultants, Comprehensive Health Education Foundation, Key Bank, J. Rockey Public Relations, Tip Top Design and The Creative Department.

Education

- Held more than 200 community meetings to educate and motivate people to become committed to finding solutions to violence in their home, school and community.

To find out how to support MAVIA, please call:

MAVIA • 901 Fairview Avenue N., Suite 170, Seattle, WA 98109 • Tel: 206-343-0676, 1-800-897-7697, Fax: 206-292-7930



MAVIA's Accomplishments, continued

Education, continued

- Trained Satellite leadership in areas of grassroots organizing, working with media and government officials, leadership skills, group dynamics, building collaborations and empowering people.
- Held first annual "Finding Solutions to Violence in our Homes, Schools and Neighborhood" conference featuring more than 30 recognized national and local authorities on violence prevention. More than 250 parents and students attended the one-day conference at Franklin High School.
- Produced *Speak Up*, a resource handbook to enable members to respond to media violence.
- Produced and aired a 30-second informational commercial to educate the public regarding the federal crime bill and the inclusion of the assault weapons ban.
- Produced a school survey on violence to be used as a tool by Satellites to assess their local schools relative to violence prevention programs.
- Developed a Speaker's Bureau providing organizations with local MAVIA speakers on the issue of youth violence.
- Featured on KOMO-TV's Town Meeting to focus on solutions to youth violence.
- Co-sponsored conferences, events and materials to raise awareness about youth violence and solutions with a variety of groups, including University of Washington Graduate School of Public Policy, Mayor's Anti-Violence Program, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Victories Over Violence and others.
- Co-sponsored with the Federal Way Police Department a gun exchange program which resulted in 660 guns turned in, including more than a dozen assault weapons.
- Worked with rock musician Kurt Cobain's widow, Courtney Love, to remove and destroy the guns in the Cobain home. MAVIA's involvement received national/international attention and sent a message to young fans.
- Held press conferences to focus on state and federal public policy which reduces violence and crime.
- MAVIA's members created a "Chain of Remembrance" in memory of youth who have died violently.

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MAVIA's Accomplishments, continued

Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)

- **MAVIA** established a student organization (**SAVE**) dedicated to promoting nonviolent solutions to conflicts and fostering citizen involvement, leadership development and teamwork, as well as promoting role models of non-violent lifestyles.
- Organized more than a dozen **SAVE** chapters in high schools, middle schools and elementary schools. **MAVIA** members serve as community advisors.
- **SAVE** currently has approximately 300 members.
- Held a **SAVE** Summer Day Camp for **SAVE** students and **MAVIA** advisors to advance the organizational goals of chapters and to focus on conflict resolution/peer mediation concepts.
- **SAVE** activities are student-initiated by each chapter and have included meeting with state legislators, organizing fund raising to support the Federal Way gun exchange program, violent toy turn-in, bulletin boards in their schools, public speaking, helping new chapters get started, learning about options to conflicts, advocating for a youth center for their community, being honored as a KOMO-TV Home Town Hero and participating in the Seafair community parade, training on cultural diversity, planting bulbs as symbols of peace, etc.

Public Policy

- **MAVIA** members testified before the State Senate's Law and Justice Committee to urge lawmakers to consider a comprehensive approach to solving youth violence and crime.
- **MAVIA** supported raising the age of possession of firearms in Washington state from age 14 years to age 21 years. The law was changed to age 18.
- **MAVIA** supported passage of the federal Assault Weapons Ban of 19 types of semi-automatic weapons. The ban passed the House by two votes and was included in the Crime Bill which was signed by the President on September 13, 1994.
- **MAVIA** supported Referendum 43 which funded drug prevention and violence prevention programs. The Referendum passed.

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SAVE

STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE



"Together lets SAVE one another!"

For more information call the MAVIA office at (206) 343-0676



"Together lets SAVE one another!"

Dear Friend:

Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) is pleased to send you this packet of information about Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). In it you will discover SAVE's motto, mission and action plan to start a SAVE chapter at your school.

MAVIA is happy to sponsor SAVE and look forward to working with you in setting up an organization in your community or school.

The key to this program is that it is student initiated. It is a long range, pro-active approach to violence reduction in which members can become skilled in peer mediation and conflict resolution. SAVE students visit elementary, middle, junior and senior high schools to deliver a message of nonviolence.

As you begin to explore the possibility of starting a SAVE chapter in your school or community, please call us for further information and to schedule a time for a SAVE student representative and MAVIA representative to meet with you.

MAVIA is ready to support your efforts in every way we can. Learning from other SAVE students and working together we can "SAVE One Another."

Sincerely,

**Pamela Eakes
MAVIA Founder**

Students Against Violence Everywhere

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) is a student initiated program which promotes nonviolence within the school and community. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence, introduces students to peaceful methods of conflict resolution, and helps provide safe extracurricular activities for students, parents, and the community.

SAVE is open to all students who want to support an attitude of non-violence. The organization will meet regularly to learn about alternatives to violence and to promote its message to other schools and throughout the community. School participation requirements may vary.

HISTORY

With the help of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence in North Carolina, SAVE organizations have been established in several states. It is impressive that in these schools the number of students bringing weapons to school has dropped and incidents involving violence have decreased. Administrators assigned to these schools say student's attitudes about violence have changed, too.

Mothers Against Violence In America is sponsoring the SAVE organizations in Washington state. The first Washington state SAVE chapter was founded in January, 1994 by Mark McGillis and Travis Kirby, students at Mt. Rainer High School. That chapter now includes students from eight different schools in South King County.

Violence, whether related to the school or community, had effected the students who joined the first chapter in Washington several ways. One student's best friend was murdered on New Year's Day, apparently for his clothes, by two adults who used an assault military weapon; another student was robbed in the parking lot of a community grocery store with a

fully-loaded semi-automatic weapon; students in the school had been arrested for bringing weapons to schools; and sexual attacks were becoming more common. The students looked for answers to stop the violence. In the midst of their grief and anger, they join together to start an organization which would allow them to work toward solutions and find alternatives to violence. They came up with SAVE.

The SAVE chapters in our state promoted nonviolence through its participation in school and community events, visits to other schools, and action with the media. Members have prepared skits representing common situations that could lead to violence, with student actors showing how to resolve situations peacefully. Programs target entire student bodies or small groups of students who are at risk of being involved in violence.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Step-by-Step Organizational Guidelines

1. Get permission from your principal to form a SAVE chapter at your school.
2. Contact the Student Body President and Faculty Advisor and advised them of your interest in forming a SAVE chapter.
3. Discover an inspired faculty member or group to serve as your SAVE advisor(s). The local Mother Against Violence In America satellite leader will also provide support and an advisor.
4. Work with your MAVIA advisor to find a convenient time and place for the initial meeting to discuss the formation of the chapter.
5. Develop an agenda for the first meeting. Here is a sample:
 - a. The reason/need for SAVE.
 - b. Why SAVE exists (history).
 - c. Ask if attendees are committed to the goals and objectives of SAVE.

- d. **Announce the time, date, location of the next meeting. Require each person to bring at least one new person to the meeting. The agenda for the next meeting would include the election of officers and review the SAVE Constitution.**
 - e. **Ask for volunteers to serve on a steering committee which will at least have a rough draft of the constitution prepared for the next meeting (see sample attached).**
6. **Decide on dues (\$2.00 per student or a similarly low amount is suggested so as not exclude anyone). This money can be used to offset the costs of printing and mailing, etc.**
7. **Begin to plan activities and projects. Here are some ideas:**
- a. **Membership drives (bring a friend, recruiting other schools)**
 - b. **Community awareness (news media, police, posters, school newspaper).**
 - c. **Sponsorship of activities (dances, rallies, athletic events, etc)**
 - d. **Creating new organizations at other schools (helping them get started, guidelines, etc.)**
 - e. **Programs for other schools. (elementary/jr. highs)**
 - f. **Coordination with law enforcement. (training to include do's and don't's in violent situations, appropriate responses and behaviors, etc. Have a police officer come to meetings to foster better public relations).**

**Remember, your organization will be as good as you want it to be!
Lives are depending on its success.**

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR SAVE CHAPTERS

SAVE members can participate in a variety of activities to promote the organization and its message. Along with building a strong membership, the organization should strive to influence other students and people in the community. To increase the number of students in the club membership drive can be held during the early months of the school year in the school lobby at lunch time. Dues should be limited to \$2 to allow all students to participate and to cover the cost of the organization's minor expense, including the cost of banners and signs, and supplies and perhaps a \$500 scholarship awarded annually.

SAVE may promote its message of nonviolence at many school functions with signs and banners as well as announcements on the school intercom system. Community awareness is a main focus of the program and students are encouraged to participate in as many functions and events as possible to spread the word.

Suggested activities include Thanksgiving and winter holidays, your high schools homecoming parade through the neighborhood; a Martin Luther King Day parade; a booth at the local fair where students perform skits and distribute literature; media features, such as a one-hour cablevision presentation and a radio call-in show for students to promote SAVE. When they participate in other school functions, such as football or basketball games, students can hang banners or signs to remind spectators of the violence-free area. Community reaction will be positive! Comments during past radio talk shows indicate people are pleased with positive step being taken by students. When members march in parades, they are met with applause along the entire route as the community shows its appreciation. Another way to keep the organization visible is for SAVE to sponsor dances, rallies, and athletic events. The school image has improved and more students and parents are attending events.

The chapter should prepare a newsletter for its own members and for SAVE chapters at other schools. Members of other clubs should be invited to joining SAVE and to march in parades or participate in other events. The newsletter is also one way to share ideas about activities.

Skits can be used to introduce students to their topic involving situations that many face in their own lives, such as boyfriend-girlfriend conflicts or jealousy. Students may also learn new ways to deal with students who break into the cafeteria line, start a fight on the bus, or accidentally push someone. The SAVE players can act out situation and then reenact it in an appropriate manner to show how to resolve it without violence.

SAMPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY(S)/CRITICAL	EVALUATION	ANTICIPATED RESULTS
1 To create an organization to promote non-violence	1 Students form an organization to create a positive, safe school atmosphere.	1 The opportunity was provided for all students to join the organization	1 Membership consistently includes 150-250 students involved in promoting the program's goals.
2 To create an awareness of the organization	2 Students participate in school and community activities; actively work to promote SAVE; recruit new members and start new chapters.	2 Media coverage of SAVE events: membership continues to grow within school; other chapters have been established.	2 School and community have numerous opportunities to learn about SAVE.
3 To provide a safe atmosphere in which learning and extracurricular activities can take place.	3 Students provide frequent reminders through signs, publications, announcements, T-Shirts about the organization and its message.	3 Verbal feedback from participants who understand the importance of resolving conflict.	3 Conflict-free, non-violent activities are held.
4 To develop a consistently non-violent environment at all school functions.	4 Student members are present at most activities to create an awareness of the organization.	4 Members are visible at school functions and in the community.	4 Number of incidents related to violence has decreased.
5 To spread the message by helping other schools start chapters.	5 Students respond to schools interested in starting SAVE chapters and receiving information.	5 Members send materials, give presentations about how to start a chapter.	5 New chapters are started.
6 To publicize the program.	6 Students send out information packets to every middle and high school in the school system; contact local media about organization's activities; work with local media on situations related to violence.	6 Students outline what schools need information and how to publicize to the community.	6 Feature stories aired on local television stations; one-hour special aired on cable channel; newspaper articles printed and presentations made to more than half of the secondary schools in the school system.

SAMPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY(S)/CRITICAL	EVALUATION	ANTICIPATED RESULTS
7 To improve the image of the school system in the community.	7 Students present information through TV programs, school board presentations, local media, community meetings and new chapter presentations.	7 Feedback from students and parents shows favorable reaction.	7 Program expanding to other schools. Attendance at functions increasing; public shows confidence and is returning to school functions.
8 To reduce conflict in other schools.	8 Students respond to requests from staf and students who need help in solving problems related to fights.	8 Visit Schools and present skits to show alternatives to violence. Skits targeted to student body or to students who have a history of being in trouble.	8 Atmosphere has improved. New students recruited. Middle school students who have been promoted have joined the chapter.
9 To work closely with local police and support the school resource officer, if applicable.	9 The resource officer participates in the organization by making presentations and attending; police have increased visibility at school.	9 Feedback from police who say the involvement has opened lines of communication and assists them with their jobs both on campus and in the community.	9 SAVE activities help establish trust between students and police and help students feel more comfortable going to police with problems or rumors about potentially violence situations.
10 To increase membership.	10 Recruit new members weekly through the first quarter.	10 Members make conscious decisions to join the organization and think twice before becoming involved in situations which might lead to conflict.	10 Between 15 and 20 percent of the student body is involved in SAVE. It could become the schools largest organziation. No active SAVE members shall be involved in incidents leading to exclusion fro school.
11 To provide an outlet for students to act when a crisis occurs.	11 SAVE provides a way to help students find answers to recurring problems of community violence and to help students with the healing process.	11 Students hold special meetings to address what's happened in special situations.	11 Membership increases during ti as when students are drawn together following a crisis. Interest in SAVE grows because students are looking for ways to prevent further incidents.
12 To save lives.	12 Students learn how to deal with conflict and resolution and find alternatives to violence.	12 Program shows students how to deal with their emotions, frustrations and problems.	12 SAVE is one factor in helping students understand the outcome of violence. Members hope it influences behavior which could save lives.

S.A.V.E.

Students Against Violence Everywhere

SAMPLE CONSTITUTION

PURPOSE

The Purpose of S.A.V.E. is to promote Non-Violence in the school and community environment. S.A.V.E. will provide education about the effects and consequences of violence and provide safe extra-curricular activities for students.

MEMBERSHIP

S.A.V.E. will be open to all students with no regard to academic performance or school and community participation. The involvement of both members and officers will be evaluated through a point system. Each member and officer will be required to obtain a set number of points determined by the importance of the activity. (i.e. Visiting an elementary school to teach children ways to avoid violence = 30 points. Coming to S.A.V.E. meetings = 5 points). Failure to reach the set number of points will result in the suspension of members and the demotion of officers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All candidates for offices will have to have been a member of S.A.V.E. the previous year. They have to have earned a minimum number of points (determined by the current officers). Elections will be held according to parliamentary procedure. In the event of the demotion of an officer, the member(s) who have accumulated the most points will be eligible for the position.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

S.A.V.E. will have the following officers:

President: Preside over meetings and be responsible for all public relations communication.

Vice President: Assume President's responsibilities when he/she is not present.

Secretary/Treasurer: Record minutes of meetings and receive Monetary donations.

MEETINGS

S.A.V.E. meetings will be held at least twice a month. All decisions will be made according to parliamentary procedure.

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

SAVE

Students Against Violence Everywhere

A PERSONAL COMMITMENT *Fifteen Ways to Help End Violence*

1. Support broad and comprehensive anti-violence public policy.
2. Assess and address the level of violence in your personal relationships.
3. Stand up against bigoted behavior or comments.
4. Welcome helpful community programs.
5. No longer use violent language, such as "I was so mad I could have killed him!"
6. Express intolerance for gangs, fighting, teasing and drug/alcohol abuse.
7. Do not carry a gun.
8. Do not purchase violent games or toys.
9. Volunteer to mentor a child.
10. Inform others about **SAVE**.
11. Volunteer to help victims of violence.
12. Be a positive role model for others.
13. Learn about conflict resolution and anger management.
14. Raise awareness of the violence issue among peers.
15. Volunteer with programs offering positive alternatives to violence.



901 Fairview Avenue North , Suite A140, Seattle WA 98109 206-343-0676

"Together Lets SAVE One Another"

SAVE Membership Information

Please Print

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

School Attending _____ Grade _____

Please check areas you wish to be involved:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Government/Legislation | ☐ Conflict Resolution Training |
| ☐ Mentoring younger students | ☐ Media Violence |
| ☐ Identifying School Violence | ☐ Community Youth Programs |
| ☐ Public Relations/Newsletter | ☐ Gun Control |
| ☐ Membership Expansion | ☐ Diversity Outreach |
| ☐ SAVE Expansion | ☐ Speaker's Bureau |
| ☐ Community Service Projects | ☐ Special Projects |
| ☐ SAVE Fundraising Activities | ☐ Education Programs |
| ☐ Other | |



Chapter Registration Form

Contact Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Advisors:

Teacher:

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

MAVIA

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

Date Chapter Started: _____

Membership List: Please attached and update every month.

Please return this form to:

Mothers Against Violence in America
901 Fairview Avenue, North, Suite A-140
Seattle, Wa. 98109
(206) 343-0676

SAVE

STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE



"Together lets SAVE one another!"

For more information call the MAVIA office at (206) 343-0676

Youth fights for change

By Danielle Dupree

Heather Thompson believes violence is a learned behavior. After talking to Washington's Attorney General, she believes that all of the inmates on death row suffered abuse between infancy and age six.

She is a 19-year-old working to make the world a more peaceful place. A recent graduate of Redmond High School, she is the spokeswoman and founder of Redmond's S.A.V.E. chapter.

Students Against Violence Everywhere, S.A.V.E., is a program started by students that encourages non-violence in the schools and community through the use of proactive, non-violent solutions.

With the energy of a cheerleader, the friendliness of a politician and a strong sense of optimism, she feels that if you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem.

According to Thompson, 14 children die every day because of random acts of violence. Society, particularly the inner city, is becoming desensitized and apathetic. People see the headlines that tell of tragedy, death and destruction every day and still are cynical, said Thompson.

Washington's S.A.V.E. roots trace back to Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines. There are nine satellite chapters, with over 1,200 members in the Seattle area. All groups are sponsored by M.A.V.I.A., Mother's Against Violence In America. Each chapter is designed uniquely to solve the individual violence problems within its own community.

Redmond's chapter began in April when students became aware of their community's growing violence problem.

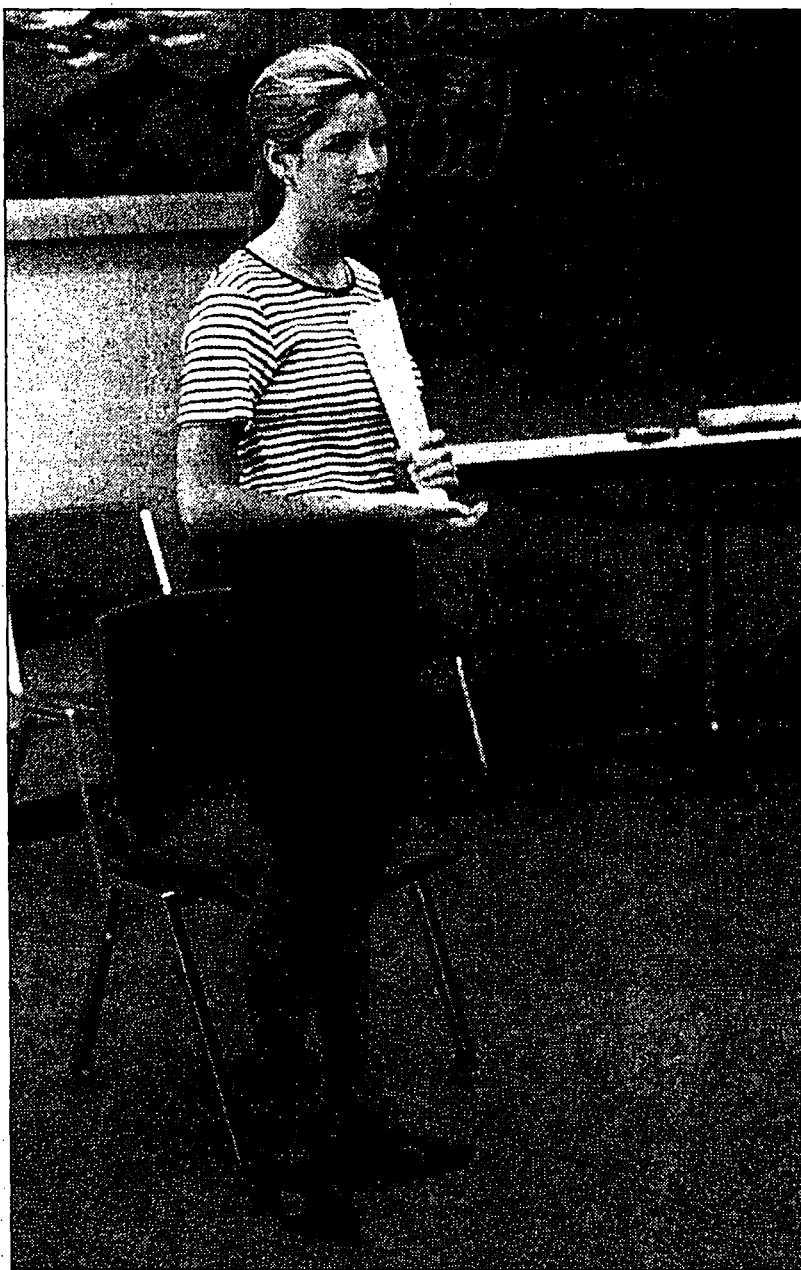
"We really care to stop the problem of violence," Thompson says. "We're not here to save you. We're just saying we're like you. What can we do to help you?"

Thompson's group has visited Rainier Beach, North Seattle Learning Center and almost every high school and middle school in the Lake Washington School District to get in touch with other adolescents, relate to them and break stereotypes.

For now, her chapter is receiving much needed community support from parents and the Redmond police chief. These adults commend S.A.V.E. for using peer pressure in a positive way. Thompson and her S.A.V.E. cohorts see their school visits as a method of spreading the message that violence and illegal activity aren't acceptable.

The visits seem to work. Thompson recalls once a girl admitted she had been using drugs every day but wanted to change her lifestyle.

Despite Thompson's efforts, at a recent gathering of high school students, many questioned how much she knew about the problems of the inner city. They thought she had



Alyse Jenkins/Voice photographer

Heather Thompson, spokeswoman for S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere), encourages students to become more aware of violence.

good intentions but was unrealistic.

"The media seems to be drawn only to areas where violence isn't supposed to happen, but it's everywhere. Redmond has been stereotyped as a perfect yuppie community and it's not," said Thompson. "It is, however, very sheltered and naive."

Ninety-two rapes were reported there between 1988 and 1992, compared to Seattle which had 2,242 rapes reported during the same period according to the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health's report, "Too Many, Too Young: Violence in Seattle and King County."

Thompson maintains that violence results from many different avenues. Anger, abuse, peer pressure, ignorance and family problems often cause violence. Violent behaviors usually begin to develop in elementary school, she said. S.A.V.E. supports programs such as conflict resolution, peer mediation and anger management to be taught in primary schools so youth are prepared to deal with conflicts as young adults.

She strongly supports the use of intervention, rehabilitation, prevention and prosecution to help stop violence. Thompson feels that violence as a public health issue is just starting to gain recognition and hopes that it's not a media trend. She thinks people can help end violence by trying to understand and appreciate the beauty of differences. This requires a change in attitude, a gradual process. Communities need to begin to work together and learn to communicate.

S.A.V.E. wants people to make a conscious effort by raising their awareness through education, assessing problems and deciding not to tolerate violence any longer, said Thompson.

To start a S.A.V.E. chapter, contact the student body president and faculty adviser and get permission from the principal. Then a M.A.V.I.A. member must act as your S.A.V.E. adviser. The founder then works with the M.A.V.I.A. adviser to set up an agenda and plan projects and activities.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1994

Ms. Pamela Eakes
President
Mothers Against Violence
in America
Suite A140
901 Fairview Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109

Dear Pam:

Yesterday's vote in the House of Representatives was a great victory for all Americans. It's also a victory for all of us who have endeavored for many years to do something smart and tough about the crime and violence that have ripped this country apart for too long.

You can take great pride in the support your organization lent to this important effort. It came at a crucial time, and I am very grateful for that.

This Crime Bill will put 100,000 police officers on our streets. It will keep repeat violent criminals off our streets with longer sentences, with the "three strikes and you're out" law, and with funds to build more prisons. It will prohibit juveniles from owning handguns, ban deadly assault weapons, provide prevention funds to our local communities to give our children something to say yes to, and provide the opportunity to teach our children right from wrong.

Unfortunately, this fight is far from over. We now move to the Senate, which must pass the bill this week. But I hope that the Senators -- Republicans and Democrats -- will work together for the safety of the people of the United States and for the mothers of this country, who want to give all of our children their childhood back.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "B" and "C".

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MAVIA Newsline

*Working together to reduce the violence in our society
and to promote the safety and well being of our children.*

VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES: CREATING AGGRESSION?

by Gloria DeGaetano

"Oh, I'll finish her off by ripping out her heart."
"No, cut off her head, instead."
"But I want to rip her heart out."
"Well, I want to see her head fly."
"Oh, alright, I'll cut her head off."
"Yeah, cool, real cool."



Gloria DeGaetano

This conversation isn't between two psychotic killers discussing plans for their latest victim, rather it is between two sixth grade boys playing the video game, Mortal Combat. I don't know about you, but I find it disconcerting, and chilling, that child's play has come to this. Now with Mortal Combat II, which grossed \$50 million in its first week on the market, children can now see blood spouting across the screen in the midst of the severed body parts. Nintendo and

Sega want our children to feel powerful as they decapitate, mutilate, and inflict harm in increasingly outrageous ways. Kids learn that domination works. Hurting someone makes you a winner and the more you hurt someone, the cooler you are. Forget about the "under age 17 warning." Millions of preadolescent kids are going to play it because screen violence captivates and they have long been fascinated by it.

Consider the escalation of violent images in our society. When The Untouchables made its debut in 1957, it was the first really violent TV program. Considered extremely violent at the time, it captured a huge viewing audience. Today, The Untouchables would be laughable. Violent? No way. We have come to expect, and need, more graphic, more outrageous images of horror. Or else we simply don't pay attention.

This escalation effect has been happening for the past forty years. Mainstream visual images continue to get more and more violent. And we, as a society, get more and more desensitized to them, introducing our children earlier and earlier to gratuitous violence as a legitimate way to amuse themselves.

Human brains, especially young ones, can be conditioned. Yes, we're much smarter than rats, but we also have instinctual and feeling brain centers which can become habituated, and even addicted, to the pseudo-excitement manufactured horror brings. When little ones start out watching television programs that glorify violence, and begin playing violent video games at

around age eight or nine, and then continue playing violent video games into their teens, what do parents and educators notice?

Are these the kids who beg their parents for educational computer software for Christmas? Are they the kids who value reading and learning? Do they spend as much or more time with thoughtful video games such as SimCity than they do with violent video games? Unfortunately, probably not. More and more, academic and psychological research is finding striking correlations between kids who are addicted to violent video games and their at-risk behavior in the classroom. These children are unmotivated, unwilling to learn in the slower, 3-D world, unable to

pay attention long enough to complete a project or design something of personal value, and overly pre-occupied with the need for excitement. Sadly, they are out of touch with



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Growing Up on Media

"By age 18 a young person will have spent more time being entertained by media than any other activity except sleeping."

continued on page 5

PASSAGE OF REFERENDUM 43 A VICTORY FOR GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

On November 8, 1994, the voters of Washington State overwhelmingly approved Referendum 43. Ref-43 extended existing taxes on cigarettes, alcohol, and soda pop syrup to fund proven anti-drug and anti-crime efforts and to establish new programs under the Youth Violence Prevention Act of 1994. Statewide, the measure received a positive vote of over 57%.

This victory was a direct result of a strong and active coalition campaign in which Mothers Against Violence in American played a major role. Represented on the campaign's steering committee by MAVIA Board Member Robin Boehler, MAVIA was prominently featured in

continued on page 3

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MAVIA Newsline

*Working together to reduce the violence in our society
and to promote the safety and well being of our children.*

"SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE" STIMULATING AND SUCCESSFUL

By Kristin Knight

MAVIA's first annual "Solutions to Violence" conference was held on Saturday, October 8, at Franklin High School in Seattle. The conference addressed the question, "What can I do to help make my home, school and neighborhood safer and less violent?" with presentations by 36 nationally and locally known experts and activists in the field of violence prevention.



Pam Bartlett

The day opened with **Dr. Roland D. Maiuro**, Director of Anger Management and Domestic Violence programs for Harborview Hospital in Seattle and member of MAVIA's Advisory Board, talking about the effects of domestic violence on children. Maiuro revealed that a child who has been exposed to domestic violence is eight times more likely to commit a violent act than someone who has

not, but countered that bleak picture with data on the success of intervention programs such as those he has developed at Harborview. Maiuro acknowledged that breaking the cycle of violence is difficult, but concluded, "I believe very sincerely that we can change the tide . . . intervention can make a difference."

Following Maiuro's address 150-200 attendees selected from a menu of more than a dozen workshops in the first of three such "tracks" offered throughout the day. "It was so hard to decide," said **Shirley Ganse**, Chair of the Satellite Development Committee. "There were just so many that I wanted to attend."

Between the morning and afternoon tracks, those attending the conference were treated to a special performance by the **Nature Boys**, an "a cappella" group that entertained at the annual MAVIA meeting last spring.

The day ended with a performance by the **GAP** (Growth and Prevention) Theater Company of its original production, "The Hurt of One." The local, multi-cultural cast has toured nationally with this musical exploration of racism, bigotry and personal pain. The performance raised provocative questions about the nature of racism, and led to a moving discussion by GAP actors and conference participants of feelings and attitudes they experienced following the performance.

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continued on page 3



(left to right) Cheryl Terry, Mary Glenn with New York Police Officer, Tom Scotto, Jenny Wieland, and Pamela Eakes at the White House for the signing of the Crime Bill including the Ban on Assault Weapons.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN PASSES WITH CRIME BILL

by Alison Wells

It was a close call. But after all the shuffling and amending and cutting and rhetoric, Senate passage of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 came down to a single procedural vote on the constitutionality of some of the funding that had earlier been approved for the measure. Hours before the vote, it was still uncertain which way it would go. But in the end, the Senate approved the giant legislation—including a key provision banning 19 types of assault weapons.

What made the difference this time? Many legislators said afterward that they simply were too embarrassed to go home and face constituents without having done

continued on page 9

Editorial

MAVIA a way to counter violence

Violence. We watch it on the nightly news. We fear it. We wring our hands.

We worry that the popular culture glorifies gangs, guns and knee-jerk violence as the way to resolve conflicts. We see rap music, television shows, movies, and graphic video games portraying increasingly violent acts, with seemingly no end to the blood and gore dished out in lyrics and on the screen. We worry about the mind-numbing effects of a culture of violence on our children.

Most of the time we feel helpless to do anything about it.

But a grass-roots effort is rising up right here, started by Mercer Islander Pam Eakes, to reduce violence in our communities and promote the well-being of children.

Mothers Against Violence in America is a growing statewide organization aimed at stopping violence by and against youngsters. It will not only focus on legislative issues such as gun control, but also education and prevention, such as teaching our children nonviolent ways of dealing with conflict.

When mothers rise up to fight for their young, it's time to stand up and take notice. Just as Mothers Against Drunk Driving has had an enormous effect on reducing drunk driving and raising public awareness, so to Mothers Against Violence in America promises to be a powerful, politically savvy organization to promote safe communities.

It's time. In the past, we might have been lulled into believing that we'd escape violence by living on Mercer Island. And, indeed, the Island is a relatively safe place to live. But violence has become pervasive, often random, and no longer respects geographical boundaries.

In this session of the Legislature, Gov. Lowry is introducing a plan to reduce youth violence through tougher sentences, expanded educational and job programs, greater enforcement of gun laws, funding for community groups. And there are a number of proposals at the federal level to reduce violence.

New laws and government programs can help, but they must work in concert with individual efforts beginning in our own homes and families, in our streets and neighborhoods.

And that's why an organization like Mothers Against Violence in America is so important now.

MAVIA offers hope

A teenager gets gunned down for his clothes. Another is robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of the neighborhood supermarket. What's our society coming to?

If you're concerned about increasing episodes such as these, there's something you can do.

Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) has the grassroots support to make a tangible impact on the way we market, legislate and think about violence. Don't be de-

ceived by the title. The group welcomes fathers, brothers, sisters; anyone who cares and wants to work toward change.

It can be as simple as taking a minute to phone your legislator. It doesn't take much time. It does make a difference.

MAVIA organizers admit changing societal attitude won't be easy, but it can be done. They're in it for the long haul. If you want to help create a safer world for your children and grandchildren, why don't you join them?

This



Pam Eakes, left, wants to stop violence. The daughter of Tammy Fernandes, right, was shot in front of Ballard High.

Mothers of the world, unite

A Mercer Island mom leads the fight against crime

By Edward Hegstrom

Pamela Eakes does not fit anybody's stereotype of a grassroots organizer working against crime. She has never lost a loved one to an act of violence. And she lives far from the mean streets, in a safe and affluent neighborhood of Mercer Island.

But the image of a typical suburban mom may actually work to Eakes' advantage in organizing the phenomenally successful Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA), a group that in its first eight months has attracted 2,000 members and national attention during the crime-bill debate. Eakes recruits mothers to her group by persuading them that crime against youth is a concern to them, whether it

happens down the street or across the lake.

"If a child dies, I feel it's my responsibility," says Eakes, in a recent interview. "As an American, it's my child." And if the call to civic responsibility does not work, Eakes also reminds parents that crime is something they will never be able to escape. "Every once in a while, I hear from people who say they want to move to get away from crime. And I say: you can't escape it. Crime will come to you."

Modeled after Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MAVIA hopes to eventually establish an influential national network to give parents a productive, proactive outlet in the fight against crime. Education will also serve as an important function of the group. In addition, MAVIA has founded a splinter organization, Students Against Violence Everywhere, run by teen-agers,

to help prevent crime at the source.

The organization's tax-exempt status will prevent it from getting directly involved in partisan campaigning, but that has not kept Eakes from taking a keen interest in the political process. During the ongoing debate on the crime bill in Congress, Eakes organized a well-attended press conference to support the legislation, including the ban on assault weapons. It was no coincidence that the group set up its conference near the district office of Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, a Republican who opposes the bill.

In support of the weapons ban, MAVIA handed out information at the conference noting that eight people have died from assault rifles in Washington state this year

three in an incident earlier this month near Northgate, four at Fairchild Air

Activists

This

Force Base, and one, 16-year-old Melissa Fernandes, outside Ballard High School. MAVIA also ran its own television commercials in Washington, DC, to influence members of Congress during the debate on the crime bill.

Most of the more prominent citizen crime-fighting activists have been motivated to get involved after suffering a personal tragedy. Sarah Brady took up her campaign against handguns after her husband, James, was shot during the assassination attempt against President Reagan. Carolyn McCarthy became a familiar name in New York politics after her husband was murdered and her son seriously injured during the Long Island Railroad shooting late last year. Locally, Ida Ballasiotes, another Mercer Islander, became an activist and then a state legislator after her daughter was murdered in Pioneer Square.

But for Eakes, the process was one step removed. Like many in the area, Eakes says she was disturbed after reading the newspaper stories last year of a 9-year-old girl murdered over a simple traffic incident in Seattle. She says she could feel for the mother. The 47-year-old mother of two teen-age sons had read plenty of disturbing stories in the past, but this time she felt inclined to take action and

began putting together a plan to put her maternal righteous indignation to work. MAVIA was born several months later. Though the group has sought relatives of crime victims to promote the cause, Eakes has made a major point of reaching out to people like herself—mothers who are frustrated by crime though not yet directly affected by it.

Eakes clearly brings some important skills to the leadership of the movement. She has several years of experience in the advertising industry and has also worked as a trainer for marketing specialists. Her background appears to be paying off, at least when combined with the poignant issue of crime prevention. The group is now in the process of organizing chapters in 12 other states. Eakes won't discuss how much money she has raised, because she intends to disclose the total at a special news conference, which gives the clear impression that there are large sums flowing in.

Eakes may also be drawing on her background in politics as well. She has worked as an organizer for EMILY's List, a group that donates to Democratic women candidates. But Eakes says the issue of crime is far too important to be reduced to partisan bickering. "This is not a political issue," she says. "It should be an issue everyone wants to resolve." ●

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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The voice of the Northwest since 1863

Thursday
March 23, 1995 ★
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★ ★ ★

Children cast away violence

By Debera Carlton Harrell
P-I Reporter

Brent Bort, 5, was holding up the line. Ordinarily, this might be considered rude. Yesterday, it seemed heroic.

"... 10 ... 11 ... 12 ... 13! Thirteen guns and knives! Wow! Way to go, Brent!" shouted a Loyal Heights Elementary school teacher, counting Brent's lifelong toy weapons stockpile as it vanished into a 50-gallon trash bin.

"Next!"

An 8-year-old pirate stepped up. So long, sweet sword.

A young knight relinquished his battle-ax, pledging henceforth to watch only "nice" cartoons.

A girl, 8, dumped her "supersoaker" water gun, saying she'd rather read.

More than 400 toy weapons — pistols, rifles, knives, swords, hatchets, daggers, BB guns, slingshots, laser guns, squirt guns, Nerf guns and missile launchers — were turned in yesterday at three Seattle elementary schools as part of a "violent toy buy-back" pilot project.

Boys and girls at Loyal Heights,



Loyal Heights students line up to discard their violence-associated toys. They are to get rewards, including a pizza feed, in return, and a good lesson to boot.

Whittier and Adams elementary schools were encouraged to bring their weapons to school and discard them in return for incentives such as a pizza party sponsored by the PTA.

The mostly plastic toys will be melted down and turned into "usable art" — a park bench — intended to circulate among schools.

The project was developed by the Ballard chapter of Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) with a

\$1,000 grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and \$300 from the Ballard District Council's anti-violence task force.

Seattle Public Schools and the parent-teacher associations supported the effort, which is modeled after police buy-backs of more deadly hardware.

The buy-back is part of a compre-

See **TOYS**, Page B3

Toys: Next, peace will be celebrated

From Page B1

hensive violence awareness campaign, backed by MAVIA and the Ballard community, called "Peace It Together." The campaign featured informational newsletters, classroom discussions of mutual respect, anger management, conflict resolution and other projects.

The grand finale will be Saturday, with a "community celebration of peace" at the Ballard High School gym from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature games, prizes, live music and free refreshments.

The event coincides with the anniversary of the gang-related shooting death one year ago today of Ballard High School student Melissa Fernandes. But Deborah Taylor, president of the Ballard chapter of MAVIA, said the timing was not intentional.

She emphasized that the celebration aims to focus on peace as a tribute to all children who have died violently, and is not a memorial.

MAVIA members, as well as many educators, social service providers and parents, believe national studies that show links between increased aggression in children and actual, witnessed or viewed television violence.

"Violence is an attitude — accepted as a way of life, as a way to resolve problems — and that needs to be changed," said Taylor, who hopes the "Peace It Together" campaign will be expanded districtwide or even statewide.

Yesterday, the message seemed to have reached parents and kids. While Brent Bort said giving up his toys was hard, most were less wistful.

Brent Rogers, 7, said unarming himself was no sacrifice. Minus his slingshot, he said, he still has in-line skates and sports.

"Guns are dumb," he said. "So are Power Rangers."

Bobbie Rogers, his mother, praised the toy-return effort.

"This was a perfect opportunity to get rid of all the violent junk," she said. "It's only a Band-Aid on the bigger problem, but it's a start."

Kaelan Chadwick, 6, emptied his arsenal, unloading 10 toys.

Asked if he'll miss his missile launchers and Chinese sword, Kaelan said: "Nahhhh!

"We need peace."

The Seattle Times

MINDY CAMERON / Times editorial page editor

Wiser, more realistic tone elevates debate on violence



FEAR and violence continue to march through urban America. The recent shooting at Garfield, one of Seattle's finest high schools, has been portrayed — accurately — as an isolated incident at that campus.

Perhaps it is some small comfort to students, teachers and parents at Garfield that the moments of mayhem in a crowded hallway were out of character for the school. But across America such events, once unthinkable *anywhere*, are happening with frightening frequency. In schools. On playgrounds. On the street. In daylight.

Last Saturday afternoon, a 16-year-old Marysville youth was killed in a drive-by shooting in SeaTac. (Was it only a few short years ago that we knew no such thing as a "drive-by shooting?")

The first month of 1995 is barely three weeks old and already the agonizing fears of random, youthful violence that grew through the first half of the decade are stalking the second half.

Yet, even as the horrors continue there are small, promising signs that the debate fostered by this national nightmare is entering a new phase.

Yes, there is still political posturing and sloganeering. And, yes, simplistic ideas are still being offered up as real solutions. Harsher treatment of prisoners. Longer sentences for more crimes (and never mind bothering with cost-benefit analyses).

Of course, the gun nuts still ignore reality and rant about your fundamental right to own any firearm you want without

government regulation.

Forget for now the rhetorical swirl in state and national legislative arenas. Outside those hothouse, hero-making environments the debate sounds different; it's a wiser, more realistic blend of compassion and toughness.

I like this juxtaposition from last week's news.

At a community meeting to vent emotions and talk solutions after the Garfield shootings, 15-year-old Rachel Thompson, who was wounded, said she was "not really mad at" the boy who shot her. "I feel sorry for him."

The next day, King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng decided to charge the youth as an adult for first-degree attempted murder and assault.

Compassionate citizens and tough prosecutors — that's not a bad combination.

That mix is what Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) is all about. In little over a year, the local grass-roots organization has grown from a few grieving mothers and savvy organizers into a network of more than 2,500 supporters and 30 satellites around the state. It is now being exported; start-up groups are organizing in 15 other states.

MAVIA works in a variety of ways to reduce violence and promote the safety of children. (Its January newsletter lists the names of 18 children who died violently in King and Pierce counties last year.)

They are about to launch a new campaign: Zero Tolerance for Kids with Guns. They want to encourage use of 911 as a place to call to report kids with guns and enlist support of police and prosecutors to follow

up on the reports.

MAVIA also has picked up on another theme that is emerging in conversations about the nation's dilemma over youth and violent crime — the absence of fathers.

Kenneth Eakes is the husband of Pamela Eakes, founder of MAVIA. They are the parents of two teenagers. Kenneth is now embarked on his own campaign to help fathers be a bigger part of the solution.

He is inspired by the emotional intensity of mothers working together for child welfare, and by this simple fact: The single best indicator of incarceration is a home without a father.

Eakes is in search of a neighborhood where fathers are willing to work together in a father-to-father pilot project to help men be the best fathers they can be.

Most encouraging of all is the growing realization that what's happening here is happening elsewhere. And, finally, *that* story is being told on prime-time television.

The year began with three nights of PBS specials, Bill Moyers and a Frontline documentary, on violence in America. Thursday, CBS will broadcast a three-hour special, "In the Killing Fields of America."

I watched most of the PBS reports and sat down one night last week with a tape of the CBS special. I no longer watch nightly news reports, largely because I am offended by the breathless, careless quality of local reporting and its over-emphasis on crime and violence. It is out of whack with my sense of what is important, useful and interesting information about that day in my community.

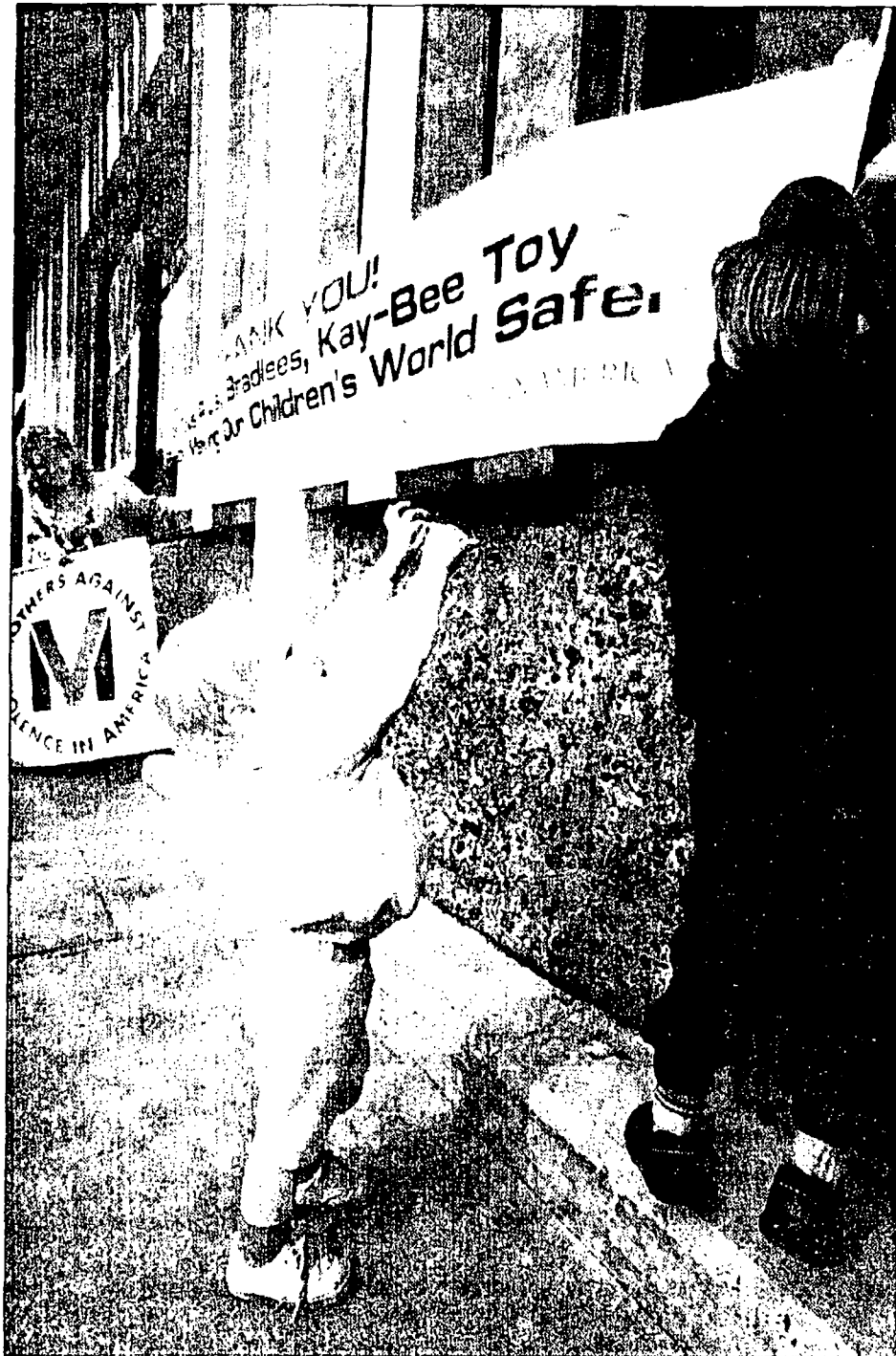
By largely ignoring the politicians and focusing on the people who live with violence — victims, perpetrators, doctors, police, judges — the PBS and CBS specials show once again the power of television put to useful purpose, furthering a critical national debate.

It is a debate that deserves better than it is getting from politicians. From Garfield high to MAVIA organizers to network television, that may finally be happening.

Mindy Cameron's column appears Sunday on editorial pages of The Times. Her e-mail address is mcam-new@seattimes.com.

The Seattle Times

Sign of the times



SUNDAY
October 23, 1994

GREG GILBERT / SEATTLE TIMES

Tatiana Kaehler helps her brother, **Stefan** (at right, back to camera) put up a sign at the **Bellerue Toys R Us** store yesterday in appreciation for its decision to ban

JOURNAL AMERICAN

THE EASTSIDE'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Group rallies to thank toy store

Mothers Against Violence applauds 'no-guns' decision

By Barbara Brachtl
Journal American Staff Writer

BELLEVUE — The Bellevue chapter of Mothers Against Violence in America wanted to say thank you to Toys R Us, Bradley and Kay-Bee Toys for promising to stop selling toy guns.

So they gathered in front of Toys R Us at noon Saturday to present a certificate to store representative Elayne Rains and to hold a friendly rally.

They were joined by members of other Seattle-area Mothers Against Violence chapters and by Pamela Eakes, the Mercer Island resident who founded the now-national organization.

Eakes was pleased with the Bellevue group's action. "The rapid response to good corporate behavior I think is important," she said. "We're encouraging other merchandisers to follow this lead. We don't want what

happened in New York to happen here."

Eakes was referring to an incident in which a 13-year-old was shot and killed by a police officer who mistook his toy gun for a real one.

Indeed, according to Bellevue Mothers Against Violence chapter co-leader Michelle Alten-Kaehler, the event was a factor in the national toy chain's decision to no longer stock realistic-looking toy guns, including rifles and cowboy pistols. (Alten-Kaehler said guns presently in stock would remain on the shelves until sold.)

"We've gotten to the point where we realize we've got to stop accepting violence as a part of society," said Alten-Kaehler. "Toy guns are just one part of the problem. There are so many pieces to the puzzle. Every decision that's made like what Toys R Us did is one more contribution to the solution."



Rick Schweinhart/Journal American

Lindsay Robinson, 11, and **Michelle Hathaway**, 9, (right) hand out brochures in front of Toys R Us in Bellevue. They were part of a rally Saturday to applaud the store for promising not to stock any more realistic-looking toy guns.

Alten-Kaehler added that the Bellevue chapter of Mothers Against Violence in America is working to extend a Seattle hotline for reporting weapons in schools to Bellevue and the rest of King County.

"They live for today because they know there may be no tomorrow"

JUDY POSTEN
Mother of Jesse Posten, 21-year-old gang member

Mothers standing strong against the spread of violence

By Michael Hwu

On one side of the table sits the mother of a murdered teenage girl. On the other sits the mother of a gang member. Two very different women haunted by violence. They come together to share personal and widespread goals as Mothers Against Violence in America.

Jenny Wieland's 17-year-old daughter Amy Ragan was shot in the head at point-blank range when a long-time friend waved a gun at his peers while under the influence of alcohol. The gun went off as Amy tried to push the barrel away from her head.

Judy Posten went through heart-wrenching pain four years ago after finding out that her 17-year-old son Jesse was a gang member. However, instead of drowning in denial, she educated herself and vowed to save her son from gang involvement.

Wieland and Posten joined Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA), a group of parents

devoted to taking a stand against violence. Led by Pamela Eakes, the organization tries to influence legislation to promote education, conflict resolution and peer mediation.

Wieland said she stared at Amy lying in the hospital with her head almost completely bandaged. "I couldn't believe it was my daughter. I didn't want to accept it," Wieland said.

"Sometimes I hear a song, and tears come to my eyes as visions of Amy flood my mind."

Wieland wants to use her experience to help people cope with the pain. She advises other parents to refrain from denial, recognize the signs of gang problems and seek solutions, such as youth centers and police intervention to counsel the entire family.

Wieland was angered by a headline after Amy's murder that gave the image she was shot by her boyfriend at a party.

"What would the people who knew Amy think?" asked Wieland because of the erroneous facts of Amy's relationship with the murderer and location. "Reporters need to think about the impact of what they write."

She is deeply disturbed at how the media "glamorizes" stories and said they need to take responsibility for their actions. Wieland described how the media "crucify the family of the victim" and don't realize the impact that a story has on the lives of the victim's family. In this way, she found the need to reach out to other victims to support each other.

Wieland thinks people can't ignore the problem and encouraged every person to step out from "living in a make-believe world." She called for everyone to get involved somewhere whether it is involvement in the legislature, the community, or a personal commitment in their own relationship.

"Don't wait until something happens," she said. "If we continue to live in a fantasy, it won't work."

Wieland said "the hopeless acts of poverty"

were one of the causes of violence. For a lot of poor families, gangs and drugs are their only salvation. She hopes MAVIA will change the attitudes and expectations of these people suffocating from violence.

Counseling and anger management before high school is one of Wieland's solution to violence. She stressed the need to concentrate on how kids deal with conflicts, saying, "Schools don't need to wait for problems to occur."

Because violence impacts minds at such an early age, Wieland called for implementing anti-violence programs and more funding in the school districts.

Wieland emphasized the need for more education on guns and violence. She encouraged more funding for prevention and schools instead of concentrating on correction facilities.

"Parents need to confront the school board with exactly what they want because the higher officials are elected to their positions and will have to listen," she said.

Wieland supports the "Three Strikes, You're Out," initiative that targets third-time felons.

Posten, however, felt from the stand-point of an

however, is deeply rooted into his lifestyle.

Posten said that anger, disappointment and sadness fill her youngest son Andrew. He is not gang affiliated and has little respect for his older brother. According to Posten, "he has made it a point not to go in the same path."

She has become more structured and strict with Andrew. She provides him with a lot of information and brings him to her organization meetings in order for him to see both sides and make a wise decision between the morals of society and the morals of himself.

The menacing possibilities of an unpromising future that threaten the children of today force Posten to deal with elementary school kids in the same way as adults. Young kids are exposed to violence in the same manner and magnitude as adults these days. With the wrong message flowing through media, comics, and even cartoons, Posten sees the need to be as open and straight forward to attack the problem head on.

Posten noticed how many kids in gangs have lost all hope. They do not look out over the horizon and think about the future. "They live for today because they know there may be no tomor-

"Don't wait until something happens. If we continue to live in a fantasy, it won't work."

JENNY WIELAND
Mother of Amy Ragan, 17-year-old victim of gunshot wound



Thao Nguyen / Voice photogra

Judy Posten and Jenny Wieland are members of Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA). Posten's son is involved in a gang and Wieland's daughter was shot by one of her best friends.

African-American that the initiative targets blacks more, pointing out that the first person to be sentenced in such a way was a black man.

Although her son Jesse is an active gang member, Posten feels she "didn't lose him fully." With a firmly bonded relationship, she and Jesse get along as any family would; they talk, shop and eat together. He is not drug dependent and still wants to get out of the gang, she said. His involvement,

row," Posten said.

With MAVIA, however, she hopes to change their outlook on life.

Wieland and Posten join forces to face the issue of violence. Their mental endurance and involvement with MAVIA is a powerful factor in reaching out to all victims of violence to help them navigate through bitter times to find hope for the future.

A P-I SPECIAL REPORT

Mom keeps her bitterness at bay with action

By Steven Goldsmith
P-I Reporter



PART FOUR

Jenny Wieland of Marysville belongs to a club no one wants to join.

A 14-year-old armed with a stolen Colt .38 conferred membership in the waning days of 1992 when he killed Wieland's only child, Amy Ragan.

Wieland has never been so busy. Through TV appearances, speeches and the phone tree, she has become an informal social director for parents of Seattle-area kids who have been murdered.

"There are too many victims right now," Wieland says. "I can't keep up with them all."

Like the Argentine mothers of the 1970s who stood defiant vigil for their desaparecidos — the "missing ones" whisked away by soldiers — Wieland and other parents are standing up for safer streets for their offspring.

In April 1993, 9-year-old Loetta Coston was shot to death after her mother honked the car horn. The senselessness of the killing left many Seattlites feeling like helpless victims.

Since then, thousands have become activists. Citizens have flocked to join programs that counsel, teach and hire kids, and have begun campaigns to take guns from young people.

Wieland got involved in Families and Friends of Missing

Persons and Violent Crime Victims, a nonprofit agency that provides free support services to crime victims.

And she was a charter member of Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA), which in its first few months played a major role in pushing the Legislature to raise the age for gun possession to 18.

The group was inspired by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, which was founded in 1980 by the mother of a hit-and-run victim and grew to 122 chapters. U.S. drunken-driving deaths have dropped 30 percent since 1982.

MAVIA has pulled parents to meetings from Burien to Bothell and amassed a mailing list of more than 1,200 since a Mercer Island mom started it in January.

"No matter where you live," says MAVIA President Pamela Eakes, "we're all mothers."

With a similar grass-roots bent, the King County Organizing Project is training 100 South Seattle and

See **YOUNG PEOPLE**, Page A6

► On June 1, copies of the entire series will be available for pickup at the Post-Intelligencer, 101 Elliott Ave. W., 2nd floor.



PAUL JOSEPH BROWN/P-I

Jenny Wieland became involved in the anti-violence movement after her daughter, Amy Ragan, was murdered in 1992. "There are too many victims right now," she says.

Young people are looking for their own solutions

From Page 1

South King County teens to be youth leaders. The effort to counter youth violence is the activist group's first major campaign after more than a year of holding planning meetings with 24 church congregations and community councils.

An organization called Save Our Kids Crusade drew more than 750 people in Island County to its first meeting in January and continues to work on prevention, education and lobbying.

"What we've tapped into is power," says Trudy Sundberg, the group's chairwoman. "It's like geothermal energy."

The south Puget Sound region also is full of parents desperate to stop the violence, says Virginia Penn of Thurston County, a founding member of Mothers Against Gangs.

Young people, meanwhile, have stopped waiting for their elders to help them.

Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), founded by several high-schoolers, has just moved into a donated Burien office. The teen-agers plan to publish a newsletter, produce anti-violence skits for middle- and elementary-school kids and lobby for more recreation centers and other activities.

Peer counseling and even student-staffed security details are catching on at area high schools. In addition, a growing number of ex-gang members in their teens and 20s are volunteering to talk sense to crime-prone youngsters.

"When we go into schools, the kids are open-minded because of the lives we've lived," says Kuo Yang, 26, who ran with gangs at Franklin High School until a stint in the Marines turned him around. "We speak their language."

Kuo's group, Peace Through Education, includes a man who has spent 20 of his 36 years behind bars. The group has gathered young people at Rainier Beach High School and the High Point YMCA.

Some of the most successful anti-violence efforts are blending adult clout with the jolt of reality that comes from direct involvement by teens.

The South Snohomish County Youth Coalition was energized last year when its leaders started inviting more young people; they now flock by the dozens to monthly meetings where they munch on pizza and serve back to the police officers, politicians and school representatives frank truths about the obstacles teens face.

The Snohomish County teens cross stereotypical boundaries between jocks and druggies, gangbangers and achievers, cowboys and punks.

Demetria Chamberlin, 18, came to a recent meeting with fresh scratches on her face from a street fight with three girls over an ex-boyfriend.

But since she started attending Youth Coalition meetings, her grade-point average at Meadowdale High has soared from a D-minus to nearly an A. She even got rid of her .25-caliber pistol — giving it to a relative — after her 4-year-old brother came across it in her bedroom.

Donny Ballard, 18, a Youth Coalition board member, doesn't depend any longer on the .32-caliber pistol a friend gave him after a smaller boy threatened him at school.

"I knew he wasn't big enough to beat me up, so I got worried," Donny says. "I started carrying a knife on me and keeping a gun nearby."

Despite a past that includes living on the streets and petty theft, Donny is taking classes at Edmonds Community College and has begun to walk a safer path in life with the help of adults — teachers, counselors and family friends — who saw his potential. But he isn't renouncing his street persona — he wants to be an advocate for kids in trouble. He recently served as a state Senate intern and had to quit the chess club because he was too busy with his duties as a board member at a youth shelter.

Activists determined to get guns off the streets repeatedly point to MADD's success in changing the way people think about drinking and driving.

Jay Winsten, the Harvard public health professor who designed the Designated Driver publicity campaign that made staying sober socially acceptable, has rolled out a new campaign. "Squash It" commercials soon will be urging kids to defuse tense situations by flashing a "T," or "time-out," gesture.

Billboards urging young people to denounce youth violence have sprouted around Seattle this year.

But it takes more than slogans to stop violence. For starters, teens must navigate in a world in which they often are not welcomed.

Teens are among the most powerless citizens; they sometimes lack money, transportation or even a place where they are allowed to congregate. Not all area cities have opened late-night recreation centers. Students in Renton, for example, say there's nowhere to go after a dance or game. Fast-food places make kids leave after they eat.

"We need our own parking lot to hang out in," says Hazen High student Shawn Tate.

Sometimes they need more than that. Sometimes they need intensive counseling, tutoring and training.

Abdul Luna, a Rainier Beach senior, says a youth summer program at Central Youth and Family Services two years ago steered his life away from a violent course.

"A couple of my friends were arrested for murder," he says. "If I hadn't been in the program, maybe I'd be charged with murder."

Today he is getting ready to graduate and plans to become a lawyer.

Disarming today's kids takes a multipronged approach, says Barbara Butler, who supervises gang-intervention specialists at King County Youth Services.

"We need more mental health services," she says, "we need transitional living, we need opportunities for employment."

Her list does not necessarily include more punishment. She points instead to a program called New Direction run by the Central Area Motivation Program that transformed five former hard-core gang members into outreach workers.

"We don't need to throw everybody away and lock 'em up," Butler says. "One young man was convicted of murder, and now he's graduated from UW."

Still, juvenile courts and lockups remain the parent of last resort for some teen-agers.

But these institutions have limited powers. At the King County Youth Services Center on 12th Avenue near Yesler Way, offenders stay an average of fewer than 10 days. Harold Della, the director, says there's not enough time to instill crucial social skills or straighten out severe emotional problems.

"My staff is clearly not dealing with shoplifters," Della says. "They're dealing with severely dysfunctional kids and their families. Our systems do not deal with families in a holistic way."

In dozens of juvenile cases the Post-Intelligencer reviewed throughout the region, the outcome was the same. Teen-age thieves and thugs were dealt with lightly, conviction after conviction, until they committed a crime so heinous that lengthy incarceration could not be avoided.

Lt. Sue Rahr, head of the gang unit of the King County police department, says the justice system is sending young people the wrong message.

"At the first sign of problems," she says, "we need to flood the kid with a sense of responsibility and all the services available to him."

Young people, however, say their peers wear arrest records like a badge. They praise the food in juvenile detention and the chance to chat with friends.

"I know people who have gone there. They like it. There are things to do: watch TV, play Nintendo, play basketball," says Megan Ashurst, 16, a student at Hazen

High in Renton.

When told that one Renton youth was ordered to do community service for brandishing a gun, a class full of Hazen students scoffs.

"If they're going to give community service for pulling out guns, something is screwed up," says Brandon Hills, 17.

"There's no magic bullet that's going to cure this situation," says Joshua Horwitz, executive director of the Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence, based in Washington, D.C. "This has had a 20- or 30-year buildup, and it's going to have to have a 20- or 30-year cure."

Some of the most innovative counter-measures against youth violence are coming from churches.

Lutheran Social Services of Washington for example, is sponsoring a "Welcome the Child" program that helps congregations learn about youths at risk through special inserts in Sunday bulletins.

About 30 congregations are participating, says Marie Jamieson, Northwest director.

The Lutheran agency also is promoting a children's sabbath, which would set aside one Sunday service in October to focus exclusively on children. About 150 congregations from various denominations have asked for information, Jamieson says.

"The truth is that you need to bring together churches and political leaders —

all the elements of the community," says David Okimoto, who helped organize a March summit of the Church Council of Greater Seattle that focused on creating a "healthy village" supportive of youths.

Among the actions emerging from the summit are more church-sponsored afternoon tutoring programs, Okimoto says.

"One of the things we're seeing so consistently is the need for basic after-school activities; kids consistently give us that message, and we don't get it," says Okimoto, who heads the Atlantic Street Center, a nonprofit social service agency that specializes in counseling young people.

Another summit is scheduled for June 2.

Churches around the region also are focusing on healing damaged families and easing the stresses on parents. Youth violence often starts with family violence, according to a recent survey. It found that 98 percent of girls and two of three boys in King County youth detention said they had been sexually abused at some time.

"Our children are a reflection of the environment they grew up in," Delia says. "When you see these stats, it's not hard to see why children are growing up violent."

While intended to protect young people from abusive parents, the state Juvenile Justice Act of 1977 stripped well-meaning parents of the authority to bring home runaway children and force them to obey. Delia believes parents were "disenfranchised" by the law. He calls for efforts to "re-engage" them.

Okimoto says it's not a question of whether today's kids need more punishment or more social services. What young people need, he says, is to be held accountable by grown-ups who care about them.

"A lot of kids just do not have an adult around who will hold them accountable," he says. That adult does not have to be a parent; it can be a school counselor, a coach or a big brother or sister.

While their approaches vary, a growing number of Puget Sound-area residents are turning their anger into action.

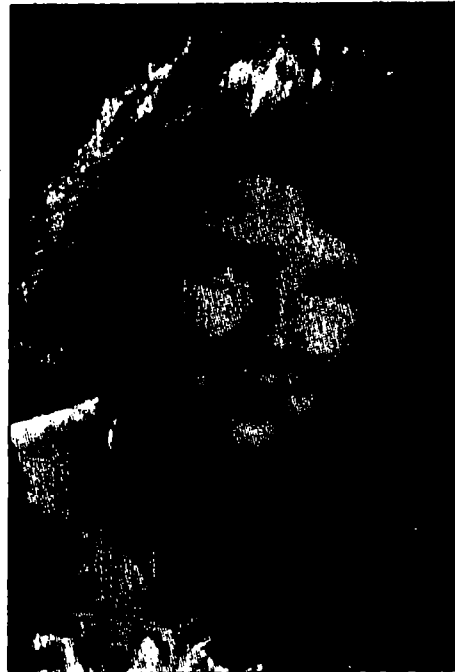
Within weeks of burying her animated, outdoors-loving daughter, Wieland was testifying to Congress and speaking out on television about youth violence.

It was either that, she says, or turn bitter.

"I don't want to see any more victims," she says. "Every day, I ask God to not allow me to turn bitter."

“When we go into schools, the kids are open-minded because of the lives we’ve lived.”

— Amy Ragan, through Education and Violence group



Amy Ragan

Photo courtesy of the family

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The Seattle Times

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EDITORIALS

Best of Puget Sound: A year of 'holding on'

1994 was a year of holding on — holding on to community, preserving the tapestry of the mountains and Sound and retaining something that is often overlooked: the way the people of this bounteous region care for each other. In 1994, these were among the Puget Sound region's best citizens:

About this time a year ago, Pamela and Kenneth Eakes were just getting started, seeing if a new, all-volunteer, grassroots organization to fight violence would take hold. One year later the Mercer Island couple is deeply immersed in Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA). It has attracted 2,500 volunteers from the Puget Sound area and spawned Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). Volunteers are involved in efforts to keep guns off the streets and out of the hands of kids, as well as training and public education aimed at reducing violence.

Kenneth Eakes is now developing a father-to-father program, and Pamela Eakes is pondering whether MAVIA is ready to go national.

1994

Editorial

So children do not die in vain

MAVIA a way to counter violence

SAVE: Students
unite against crime

Moms raise voices,
demand to be heard
in fight against crime

New group speaks out to fight violence

Mothers of the world, unite

Seeking victory over violence

MAVIA offers hope

Strangers with a gun steal Shaun

Mothers organize to push back violence in area

Kids band together to help SAVE lives

'We're so desensitized by all the violence on TV, radio and in the newspapers. We have to wake up.'

**Local moms take offensive
in fighting youth violence**

**Mom keeps her
bitterness at bay
with action**

**Mothers standing strong against the
spread of violence**

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NEW YORK STATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 1995 STATE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The 1995 New York State S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women implementation plan was prepared by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in cooperation with the NYS Violence Against Women Advisory Board. The plan is being submitted for approval by the Office of Justice Programs' Violence Against Women (VAW) Grants Office to qualify for the receipt of formula grant funding provided under the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act.

These funds will be utilized by New York State to assist law enforcement, prosecution, victim services and State agencies in improving and strengthening New York's coordination of services and response to violence against women.

This one year plan includes all information required by OJP's Violence Against Women Grants Office for a one year implementation plan. Priorities for funding identified by the NYS VAW Advisory Board for funding are: identify the needs of NYS violence against women programs and identify model programs; expand and enhance the system of legal advocates; enhance the level of domestic violence and sexual assault training; improve outreach to underserved populations; enhance and improve automated data collection and communication systems; and enhance service delivery of domestic violence and sexual assault programs. An evaluation strategy will be developed to assess the impact and effectiveness of the funded programs.

The plan was prepared in conformance with guidelines established by the Violence Against Women Grants Office and contains the following sections:

The Statewide Planning Process presents the process by which New York State selected the members of the Advisory Board and developed the State plan.

Description of Problem in New York State presents a summary of the problem of violence against women in New York State.

Description of Current Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Victim Service Efforts presents a summary of the current efforts and statistical data on sexual assault and domestic violence in New York State.

Program Goal and Objectives presents a brief overview of the statewide goal, objectives, and strategies.

Special Requirements of Violence Against Women Act presents a discussion of how New York State will address the special requirements outlined in the Act.

Sincere thanks are extended to those individuals in the various state and local criminal justice and victim service agencies who contributed to the preparation of this plan.

STATEWIDE PLANNING PROCESS:

The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services provides critical support, funding and technical assistance to the State's criminal justice system. The Division is the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, Byrne Formula Grant Program and Federal Juvenile Justice Formula Grant Program and also administers over \$60 million in State Aid for local criminal justice. Through the Division's leadership, successful partnerships and linkages have been built between the State's criminal justice agencies and the communities they serve.

The Division's Office of Funding and Program Assistance (OFPA) appointed an in-house work team to prepare the VAW application and to coordinate the process of preparing the statewide implementation plan. To gather input from local criminal justice and victim services agencies and to insure that the plan reflected local needs, the VAW work team conducted a series of informational hearings in various regions of New York State.

Using the eight local criminal justice planners to recruit participants and set up the information sessions, the VAW work team discussed the VAW program at these regional meetings and asked for input on local needs and problems, local efforts and services, and local recommendations on priorities for use of the VAW funds.

Approximately 200 people attended the sessions and the following groups were represented at the sessions: law enforcement, prosecution, probation, the judiciary, social service agencies, legal aid, and victim service agencies. Not-for-profit agencies along with county, city, village and town government representatives were also present.

The following areas of New York State were visited, giving the VAW team a cross section of rural, urban, and suburban representation:

Rochester, NY (Monroe County)
Batavia, NY (Genesee and Orleans Counties)
Buffalo, NY (Erie and Niagara Counties)
Mineola, NY (Nassau and Suffolk Counties)
Binghamton, NY (Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Cayuga and Otsego Counties)

New York City, NY (Kings, Queens, New York, Richmond and Bronx Counties)
White Plains, NY(Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Ulster Counties)
Utica, NY(Herkimer and Oneida Counties)

The VAW team next held information sessions with representatives of the following New York State government agencies and coalitions working in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault:

NYS Department of Health - Injury Control Unit
NYS Department of Social Services
NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
NYS Department of Health - Rape Crisis Program
NYS Crime Victims Board
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault
NYS Office of National & Community Service, Division of the Budget.

To foster a coordinated and integrated approach and ensure partnerships among law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim advocates and service providers, Mr. Paul Shechtman, New York State Director of Criminal Justice and Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, requested representation of the following organizations (member list attached) on an Advisory Board to assist in developing a statewide implementation plan:

NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault
New York State Police
NYS Unified Court System
NYS District Attorney's Association
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
NYS Department of Health

Members of the State VAW Advisory Board attended the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Conference in Washington July 27 -29, 1995 to begin work on the state plan and to strengthen cooperation. Additional meetings were held by the Board to prepare the plan after the Washington conference.

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:

Violence against women including the crimes of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence are heinous, life threatening, violent crimes that result in severe physical and emotional trauma for victims. The pain endured by the victim is often exacerbated by a society that places the blame for these crimes on the victims. Although any person can be a victim of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence, the most frequent victims are women.

Family and sexual violence are closely related to other forms of anti-social behavior. The vast majority of young people who have problems in school, abuse drugs and alcohol, and engage in violence and other delinquent behaviors come from violent homes. Seventy percent of girls in NYS Division for Youth (DFY) facilities come from families with histories of family violence. Virtually all girls in DFY facilities have been physically or sexually abused at home or in dating relationships. Recent research indicates the correlation of teen pregnancy with sexual assault by older men. Efforts to address violence on the streets or in schools must be accompanied by initiatives to address violence in the home.

Reports of child abuse and maltreatment are recorded by the State's Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment. In 1985, there were approximately 85,000 reports of child abuse and neglect, since then the number of reports has increased annually, exceeding 138,000 in 1993.

Elder abuse is the least measured type of family violence. Some research estimates that approximately 3 out of 1000 persons over 65 are physically assaulted by relatives. Approximately one-tenth that number are officially known to police in New York State.

Women who are separated or divorced stand a greater chance of being assaulted by a former husband or ex-boyfriend than women who are married or co-habiting. Domestic homicide of women is more likely to occur when the battered women attempts to leave or divorce her abusive partner.

Sexual Assault

In contrast to recently reported downward trends in other violent crimes, reports of sexual assault continue to rise. In 1993, a total of 21,351 sexual assault related crimes were reported by law enforcement agencies to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, an increase of 10% since 1990. This number has risen consistently over the past several years (DCJS, Crime and Justice Annual Report for New York State, 1990, 1993).

Studies show that only a fraction (10 -50%) of sex crimes are ever reported to law enforcement (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bulletin NCJ-104274 and Report on the National Victim Center Survey, National Victim Center, April, 1992). The number of individuals seeking services from Department of Health rape crisis centers far exceeds those reported to law enforcement, with 34,000 seeking services in 1990 and over 52,000 in 1993-94.

DCJS' 1993 Crime and Justice Annual Report indicated the number of forcible rapes reported statewide in 1993 decreased 2.9 percent compared to 1992. This reported decrease does not reflect that, during the same time period, victims seeking services from DOH funded rape crisis centers increased by 3 per cent from 47,471 to 48,922. Also, from 1992 to 1993 other sex offenses in the DCJS Annual Report increased by 4 per cent from 15,807 to 16,375. According

to a fact sheet published by the NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault, approximately 5000 forcible rapes were reported to police in New York State in 1993 and of these, 2800 were in New York City. In 1993, NYS prosecuted 1465 rapes, less than one-third of the reported crimes and only 40% of the 715 convicted rapists received prison terms.

The trauma experienced by a sexual assault survivor often includes more than the emotional devastation one would expect. Physical injuries, exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and pregnancy are among the health-related issues of the assault that must be faced by the victim and the response system. Evidence collection, dealing with family members, potential involvement with law enforcement and the court system add to an already onerous burden. The pain, humiliation and shock of the assault may be exacerbated by health, law enforcement and human service professionals unprepared to provide appropriate care. Together, these stressors may impede a survivor's ability to recover and can reinforce reluctance to seek further help.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has a profound and lasting impact on its victims and on our communities. It is estimated that over 4 million women are assaulted by their male partners each year. According to the Surgeon General and the American Medical Association, more women between the ages of 15 and 44 are injured as a result of domestic violence than in auto accidents, assaults and rape combined. Over half of all family homicide victims are killed by partners or former partners.

While the human and social costs may be immeasurable, the financial costs are not. One study in New York City conservatively estimated that the annual costs of treating battered women in the city's emergency rooms is 77.5 million dollars. Battered women represent 30% of women presenting with injuries, 59% of mothers of abused children, 25% of women who attempt suicide and 25% of women utilizing emergency psychiatric services.

The criminal justice system similarly feels the stresses of domestic violence. In 1993, police agencies in NYS reported 84,433 cases of domestic violence, an increase of 118% since 1983. We know that this number does not reflect the true dimension of law enforcement involvement, since the data system did not reflect calls that did not culminate in a report. And certainly the numbers do not reflect the many women who do not call for help to begin with, fearing greater harm by their abuser.

Domestic violence reaches far beyond its adult victims. Children who are raised in families where adult domestic violence is present also risk serious emotional and physical harm. Research consistently shows that a large number of batterers - up to 70% - also abuse their children. Because domestic violence increases in frequency and severity over time, the risks to children also increase as time passes without intervention. New York City Child Welfare Agency's Fatality Review Panel found domestic violence was present in 71% of households in

which a child was killed. A statewide study conducted by the Department of Social Services revealed domestic violence as a factor in 45% of all foster care, 28% of all preventive and 65% of all protective cases. Abuse also reaches across generations: over 75% of adult male batterers report experiencing violence in their homes as children.

In 1994, over 12,000 women and children were provided emergency shelter services. Nearly 23,000 received nonresidential services. Yet over 27,000 were turned away in the same year, primarily due to lack of space. New York's domestic violence programs provide excellent services. Most programs, particularly outside New York City, are small shelters with a limited bed capacity. In some areas of the state, victims must rely on a network of family homes for safety.

Beyond the issue of domestic violence services is the question of how the criminal justice system responds to both the victim and the perpetrator. The answer to the question varies with each community. Communities have varying strengths; some have a police administrator who is well informed about domestic violence and attempts to enforce a strict and consistent police policy. Others have limited direction from the top, but some committed line staff. Some courts have judges who are well informed and aggressive on domestic violence; others are less informed and committed. Some communities are well coordinated, while others do not have the coordination or resources to deal with the problem.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION AND VICTIM SERVICE EFFORTS

New York State is a diversified State with a population of approximately 18 million residents. New York City has almost 8 million of New York State's 18 million residents. New York State has two other major metropolitan areas, Buffalo/ Erie County area and Nassau/Suffolk Counties (Long Island), each with a population of over 1 million, and each encompassing rural, and suburban areas as well as urban sites. In contrast, 13 of the State's 62 counties have populations of less than 50,000. Rural Hamilton County has a population of only 5,279 residents.

The criminal justice system is as large and diversified as the State itself. It includes the following law enforcement agencies: State Police with 4,636 officers in 11 troops, three county police agencies, 67 city police departments, 131 town police Departments, 276 village police departments, and 62 sheriffs departments. The New York City Police Department has 39,442 staff persons in 76 precincts and Housing Police and Transit Police Bureaus. There are 62 county district attorneys and three special prosecutors; 62 public defender programs; 62 superior courts, 61 city courts, 2 district courts and 62 family courts; 2300 town and village courts; 62 county probation departments and the 13 units of the New York City Department of Probation. The State government has 11 divisions, departments or commissions targeting criminal justice issues, including the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Even though there is cooperation and coordination between the various agencies, the integrated approach for dealing with violence against women needs to be enhanced. Many law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices have specialized units dealing with the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault. A needs assessment of all agencies and their services is required to develop a clearer understanding of service gaps and possible partnerships.

In 1994 New York State passed the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act. This act amended the Family Court Act, the Executive Law, the Penal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Domestic Relations Law and the Public Health Law. It will have a major impact on the issue of domestic violence in New York State. Highlights of the Act include:

- choice of forum - family or criminal court;
- choice to proceed in both family court and criminal court on the same action;
- victim rights notification given or read to the petitioner in English or Spanish;
- development of a standard Domestic Violence Incident Report Form (copy attached) to be used by all law enforcement authorities in all domestic violence cases;
- concurrent jurisdiction over family offenses by a criminal court and a family court;
- requirement of an arrest when a felony has occurred or when an order of protection is in effect and the respondent has violated the "stay away" provision or has committed a family offense, or requirement of an arrest in a misdemeanor family offense unless the victim requests otherwise;
- modification by criminal court of a temporary order of protection issued by the family court when the family court is not in session; and
- the development of a comprehensive plan to establish a statewide computer registry of orders of protection.

The Act also requires the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and DCJS to jointly analyze the impact of the mandatory arrest procedures on the incidence of family offenses. OPDV is required to consult with Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) to develop policies and procedures consistent with the new act which make provisions for education and training in the interpretation and enforcement of the family offense laws. OPDV will also consult with MPTC to develop a training program for veteran municipal police officers concerning the provisions of the Act. It is clear that the authors of the Act included all segments of the criminal justice system in this comprehensive plan for change.

In addition to government agencies there are 185 State supported organizations (service providers) including rape crisis programs, domestic violence programs and crime victim compensation programs dealing with the issue of violence against women. The Department of Health, Department of Social Services, the Crime Victims Board, Office for the Prevention of

Domestic Violence and the Division of Criminal Justice Services fund many of these victim service providers in New York State.

NYS Department of Health

The Department of Health Rape Crisis Program endeavors to assure that all people in New York State have access to basic treatment and prevention services related to sexual assault. This is the only State program that directs its efforts specifically to rape and sexual assault issues. The goals of the program are to reduce the incidence of rape and sexual assaults in the State, to alleviate the immediate and long-term negative physical and emotional effects that sexual assault has on individuals, and to ensure that all people in the State have access to appropriate services on a 24-hour basis.

To achieve these goals, the Department provides small grants to agencies in the five boroughs of New York City and 56 upstate counties. Several grantees provide services in more than one area or county, resulting in a total of 74 service sites. Utilizing volunteers and within the constraints of very small budgets, these projects provide a full range of services including twenty-four hour crisis hotlines, face to face counseling, advocacy or accompaniment through the medical or criminal justice system, referral and follow up, community and prevention education, and professional training. This professional training is provided to hospital staff, law enforcement personnel, district attorneys, teachers and others who, in the course of their work, have some interaction with persons who have been sexually assaulted. In 1993, New York's rape crisis centers reached 173,810 children and adults with sexual assault prevention programs and provided 13,000 professionals with training on sexual assault issues.

NYS Crimes Victim Board

The New York State Crime Victims Board (CVB) was established in 1966 to provide financial compensation to innocent victims of violent crime and their dependents. Since that time, the mission of the CVB has expanded to include advocacy as well as compensation. Compensation is provided for funeral expenses and loss of income or support, as well as out-of-pocket losses including medical expenses, counseling expenses, vocational rehabilitation costs, the cost of residential services for battered spouses and children, and replacement of essential personal property. Currently, the Board's major programs include the provision of comprehensive financial assistance for crime victims who report their victimization to the proper authorities, funding of community-based service programs to meet the short and long term needs of victims and their families, and advocating for the needs of victims. Funds support seventy-two local programs. Of the seventy-two programs, 50% maintain 24-hour hotline.

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

In August 1992, the Governor of New York signed Chapter 463 of the Laws of 1992 establishing the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV). This act made the

Task Force on Domestic Violence, begun in 1979, a permanent state office. The OPDV's major goals are to evaluate, coordinate and strengthen the services that government agencies offer; to develop state and local policies; to provide professional training, public education and technical assistance; to administer and evaluate New York State's Batterers Intervention Programs; and to advise the Governor and Legislature on the most effective ways for the State to respond to the problems associated with domestic violence.

Police professional development, training and education are key to promoting positive changes in responses to domestic violence. The OPDV provides technical assistance to government agencies and statewide organizations to develop policies to guide their responses to domestic violence. The training and education are tailored to the specific role of the organization or training audience. Each program provides an in-depth examination of the nature and dynamics of the problem and assists trainees in identifying, assessing, and referring those affected by domestic violence.

The Office conducts policy seminars, instructor development schools, train the trainer programs and training for line staff. These programs assist public officials and service providers with the development of standard operating procedures and policies and help ensure the provision of appropriate, effective services.

OPDV also provides the following resources: support of the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence; district attorneys' training on domestic violence; judicial training; police policy development and training; technical assistance; model state and county policies on domestic violence; training for probation administrators; and the development of statewide standards for probation training.

NYS Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) efforts to respond to domestic violence come from Chapter 838 of the Laws of 1987, The Domestic Violence and Prevention Act. Chapter 53 of the Laws of 1991 and subsequent Aid to Localities budgets furthered the goals of the Act. Provisions of these laws include: requiring social services districts to provide residential and non-residential services at an approved program, regardless of a victims financial eligibility; authorizing DSS to establish per diem reimbursement rates for residential programs; requiring the county where a victim resides at the time of the incident to pay for the shelter stay; and providing 50% reimbursement for victims not eligible for public assistance.

Implementation of the Prevention Act required the Department to undertake a variety of major initiatives including promulgation of residential and non-residential program regulations, approval of residential programs, distribution of over \$1 million annually in federal and state funds and the annual establishment of individual program per diem rates. The result of these initiatives has been an improvement in the overall stability of the domestic violence service delivery system and consequently the quality of life for families affected by domestic violence.

As of January 1, 1995 there were a total of 91 licensed domestic violence residential programs consisting of 1,197 beds in New York State. This includes 17 programs in NYC involving 12 agencies, with a total of 499 beds and 39 safe homes. There are 74 licensed programs with a total of 698 beds and 187 safe homes in the rest of New York State.

In addition to the per-diem system to support residential programs and the Title XX overclaim to support nonresidential programs, the State appropriation for domestic violence in SFY 1994 was \$320,000 for the continued support of the two statewide hotlines in English and Spanish and the Pace University Battered Women's Justice Project. Additionally, the Department was awarded approximately \$9 million in federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds and the authority to spend unallocated state funds from prior years for one-time-only special initiatives.

The Department is required to collect statistics on the estimated number of persons receiving assistance through programs covered by this act. In 1994 there were 12,018 residential program admissions, 22,888 non-residential program admissions and 596 transitional housing admissions. Conversely, there were 16,367 adults and 10,874 children denied shelter or services in 1994. The Department maintains records on 10 reporting requirements such as: the number of persons estimated to have been denied shelter and/or services; the amount of public and private funds for approved programs by service type on an annual basis; the amount of funding used for the administration and staffing of such programs; the occupancy rate and length of stay by residential program; the name and description of new programs developed by service type; the name and description of programs in danger of closing that received funds and the status of such programs; the name and description of programs that closed during the reporting year and the reason for such closure; the number of individuals who requested and received transitional housing services and the effect of providing such services to victims of domestic violence and their families; and the name and description of programs which received technical assistance and the effect of such assistance.

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) addresses the issue of Violence Against Women through the funding of domestic violence, family violence, sexual assault and victim/ witness assistance programs; the publication of the State Crime and Justice Annual Report; the collection of statistics for the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act of 1994; and approval of curriculum for law enforcement training.

DCJS' Office of Funding and Program Assistance (OFPA) currently funds 16 programs for \$1,143,187 relating to violence against women. OFPA also distributes supplies of the standardized NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit to NYS hospitals free-of-charge. DCJS is also responsible for distribution of the New York State Standardized Domestic Incident Report Form. The Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act of 1994 also stipulated that a data base be developed and maintained by DCJS for collection of statistics from

the Standardized Domestic Incident Report Form. DCJS' Bureau for Municipal Police is responsible for curriculum development and for approval of domestic violence and sexual assault training conducted in police officer basic, supervisory and in-service training, and peace officer annual training.

PROGRAM GOAL :

The goal of the Federal Violence Against Women Act is to encourage states and localities to restructure and strengthen the criminal justice response; to be proactive in dealing with this problem; to draw on the experience of all the players in the system, including the advocate community; and to develop a comprehensive set of strategies to deal with this complex problem.

- A) The Goal of the New York State plan, as agreed to by the VAW Advisory Board, is to improve and strengthen New York State's coordination of services and response to Violence Against Women.

Seven program objectives and their complimentary strategies (chart attached) will allow New York State to utilize the limited amount of funds available the first year to continue to develop cooperative relationships between criminal justice and victim service agencies; to assess the needs of the victims of violence against women; to impact all geographic areas of the State and their very diverse needs ; and to continue the planning process for future years. Although all objectives will be addressed during the first year, the Advisory Board does not expect that they will be attained in year one.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

- A1. Identify needs and identify model programs.
 - A1a. Conduct needs assessment
 - A1b. Catalogue model programs, policies, protocols
- A2. Develop a network of legal advocates.
 - A2a. Develop a training manual for legal advocates
 - A2b. Conduct a legal advocates conference
 - A2c. Institute a legal advocates "train the trainer program"
- A3. Enhance the level of domestic violence and sexual assault training
 - A3a. Review law enforcement, victim services, prosecution and courts training guidelines.
 - A3b. Provide training for victim services, prosecution, and court personnel.

- A4. Improve services to underserved populations.
 - A4a. Include representative of underserved populations in the development of the state plan.
 - A4b. Develop and distribute services for underserved populations.
- A5. Enhance and improve the automated data collection systems and data communication systems linking police, prosecution, courts, and victim services
 - A5a. Review and assess current automated data collection and data communications systems
 - A5b. Improve and enhance automated data collection systems and data communications systems.
- A6. Enhance service delivery by domestic violence and sexual assault programs
 - A6a. Target funds for direct service delivery by domestic violence and sexual assault victim service programs.
- A7. Continue collaborative effort on Statewide level to ensure stated purposes are fulfilled.
 - A7a. Continue State Advisory Board meetings.
 - A7b. Expand Advisory Board as needed.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- 90.16 b. 1. Give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need.

New York State will use the funding to affect as many areas of the State as possible. The objectives of identifying needs and model programs, expanding and enhancing the system of legal advocates, enhancing training, enhancing the automated data collection and communications systems, and continuing the collaborative efforts will affect all areas of the State. Further information will be submitted at the time of subgrant awards.

- 90.16 b. 2. Determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served.

This will be submitted at the time of the subgrantee awards.

- 90.16.b 3. Equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including non-urban and rural areas of various geographic sizes.

The objectives generally affect all areas of the State including urban, suburban and rural areas. This requirement will be addressed at the time of the subgrant awards.

- 90.16 b 4. Recognize and address the needs of underserved populations.

The needs of underserved populations was a priority discussed at all the information gathering sessions, state agency meetings and advisory board meetings. Objective A4 addresses a plan to improve outreach services to underserved populations. New York State, especially NYC, has one of the most diverse populations in the country. By including representatives of underserved populations in developing an outreach plan, New York State will address these needs in all projects.

- 90.16 b 5. States must certify that a minimum of 25% of each year's grant award (75 percent total) will be allocated, without duplication, to each of the following areas: prosecution, law enforcement, victim services.

New York State will ensure at the time of the subgrant awards that the equitable distribution of grant money will comply with this regulation. The funding breakdown of the \$426,364 award amount will be as follows:

\$21,318 (5%)	Administration
\$25,000	Planning funds
\$95,012 (25%)	Law Enforcement
\$95,012 (25%)	Prosecution
\$95,012 (25%)	Victim Services
\$95,000 (25%)	Discretionary

90.21 Evaluation

- a. A special condition will be added to subgrant contracts to cooperate with federally-sponsored evaluations of their projects.
- b. All subgrants administered by the Office of Funding and Program Assistance are issued contracts with written with goals, objectives, tasks and performance indicators. On-site administrative reviews are completed at different levels of intensity based on project type. Quarterly progress reports and a final report are required. An implementation study, effectiveness and assessment strategy of the program will be considered after the plan is approved.

For additional information, please contact Tom Dovolos or Beth Ryan at (518) 457-3670.

NEW YORK STATE S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 25, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR MAGGIE WILLIAMS

From: Alexis Herman 
Subject: Crime and Violence Briefing Book

Attached please find the final version of the Crime and Violence briefing book compiled by the White House Office of Public Liaison for distribution to the participants of our weekly Crime Leadership Briefings. These briefings bring together community leaders in law enforcement, government and education for a substantive presentation and discussion time with the Vice President and three Cabinet Secretaries on the President's crime initiative.

Thank you for all of your assistance in putting together both this book and the briefings themselves. Your input has been an invaluable part of this process.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks again for your help.

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*File
Review*

CRIME *and* VIOLENCE



Let's give our children a future. Let us take away their guns and give them books. Let us overcome their despair and replace it with hope. Let us, by our example, teach them to obey the law, respect our neighbors, and cherish our values. Let us weave these sturdy threads into a new American community that can once more stand strong against the forces of despair and evil because everybody has a chance to walk into a better tomorrow.

– President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 25, 1994

Briefing Synopsis

File
crime/
Violence
