



STATE & LOCAL

OCTOBER: NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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According to the NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence), one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and is dedicated to helping spread knowledge and awareness to one day put an end to domestic abuse. Domestic violence is a demon that plagues more than 1.3 million women a year. However, there are potentially even more cases than this, because most violent domestic disputes are never reported to police. Domestic violence affects more than the victim and abuser. The NCADV suggests that children who witness violence between parents in the home are prone to pass that violent behavior from one generation to the next.

At the beginning of October, President Obama announced this month as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. His proclamation expressed his concern with domestic violence in America, by noting that the a violent "home becomes a place of fear, hopelessness, and desperation when a woman is battered by her partner, a child witnesses the abuse of a loved one, or a senior is victimized by family members." He also brought up ways that the current state of the economy does not allow for women to get out of an abusive relationship very easily. He explained that in an effort to make leaving a violent relationship a little easier, "the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$325 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This funding will supplement the Federal VAWA and VOCA dollars that flow to communities every year, and enable states, local governments, tribes, and victim service providers to retain and hire personnel that can serve victims and hold offenders accountable." He also stressed the urgent need for Americans to do everything in their power to help end domestic violence.

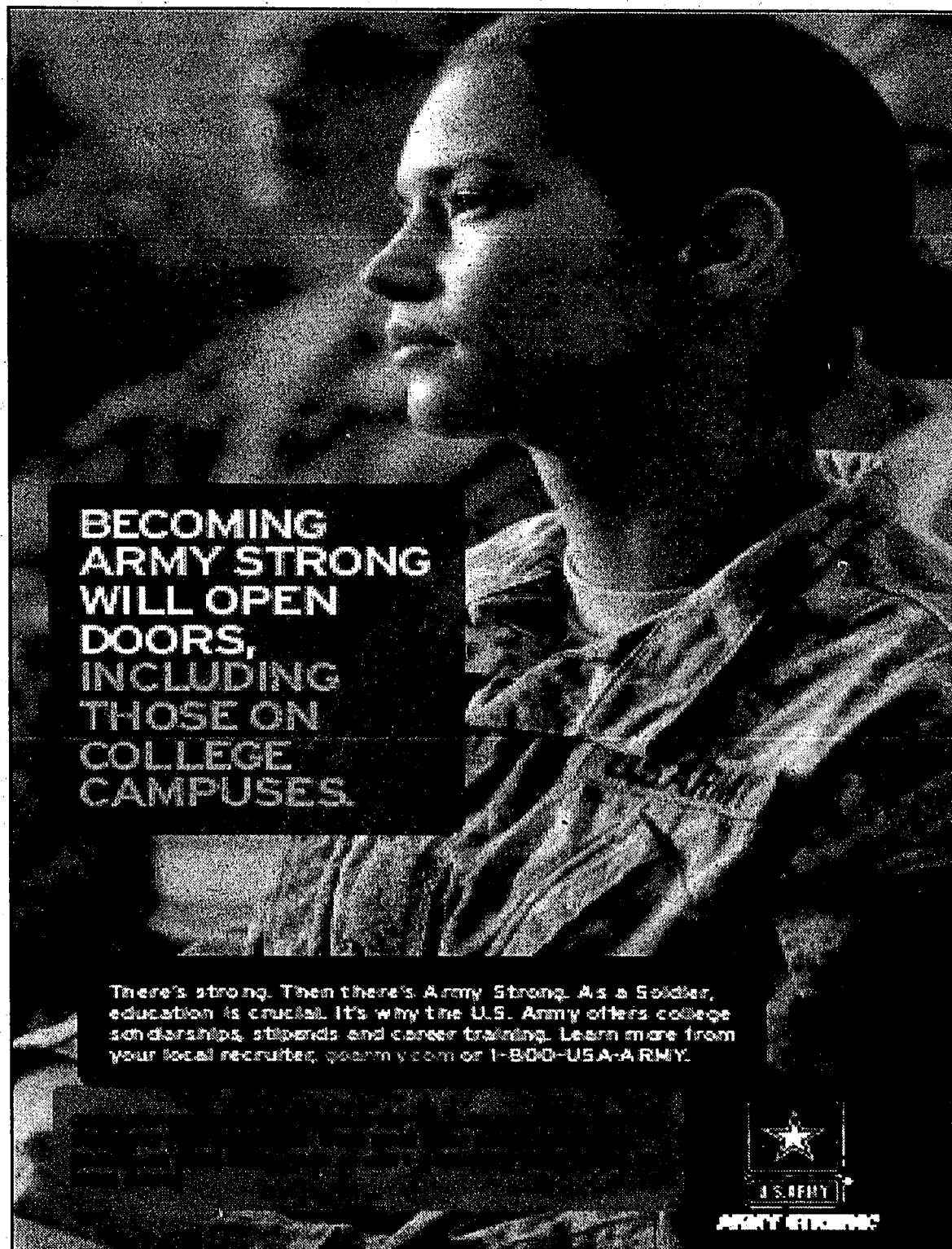
Domestic abuse involves not only physical brutality but also psychological and emotional pain. The NCADV defines domestic violence as "the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another." It is often the psychological abuse

that goes undiscovered. Many times, physical abuse can be noticed through bruises and other injuries; it is the emotional damage that can be exceedingly difficult to assess. The NCADV appropriately refers to domestic violence as being "an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background."

In Raleigh, over fifty people gathered at the Wake County Courthouse and marched down Fayetteville Street in memory of Jammie Street, who was murdered earlier this month. According to the News and Observer, some activists gave up their lunch break to participate in the march. The N & O reports that Jammie Street was killed in front of her children's daycare center on October 7 by her

boyfriend. She was shot in the head, chest and arm. After shooting Jammie, Daniel Montgomery, apparently turned the gun on himself. The shot to his chest was not fatal, and he is being treated at Wake Med. According to Street's family members, Montgomery was "angry" over their separation and "threatened to 'make her pay'" for it.

This awful incident is unfortunately only one of many that occurs daily across America, and the world. As human beings, we should do everything in our power to prevent crimes such as these from taking place. Statistics show that domestic abuse is not discriminating and could potentially affect anyone. This month is dedicated to honoring those who have suffered in any way from domestic violence.



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