

Battered Women Victims Of Violence

by Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post
Fifty percent of all married women are beaten by their husbands. This shocking statistic has caused local women's organizations to seek a shelter for battered women here in Charlotte.

A program on battered women will be held Friday, November 3 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7th and Tryon. A benefit dinner for the Ella Spencer Defense Fund will begin at 6 p.m. (tickets \$3, \$1.50 children). A free film will follow at 7:30 entitled, "Battered Women: Violence Behind Closed Doors."

The program is sponsored by the Charlotte Equal Rights Council, Metrolina National Organization for Women, and MOVE—Crusader for Battered Women.

Khadajah Abdullah, a member of MOVE, will speak. Last year she conducted a door-to-door survey of 300 women in Charlotte and discovered that 55 percent of the women had been physically beaten by their husbands. Only one-third ever reported the attacks to the police.

"Almost all the women supported having a shelter where battered women could go for refuge and help," said Abdullah. "However, none exists in Charlotte at this time. MOVE is dedicated to securing such a shelter."

The practice of wife-beating is as old as marriage itself. While declared illegal in this country a century ago, the practice still continues in half our homes. It exists among black and white, rich and poor.

"Many battered wives cannot leave their homes. They are financially dependent on their husbands," said Carrie Graves of the Charlotte Equal Rights Council. "A woman will put up with a lot before she goes to her relatives. She is ashamed that this is happening to her."

Emotional and economic ties between husband and wife are strong and often the wife holds out hope that her husband will change. Usually she is also afraid for herself and her children, so she doesn't call for help. Fear, loss of self-esteem and economic dependency make it difficult for women to leave their homes.

The benefit dinner Friday is planned to help Ella Spencer. For 7 years she was a battered wife, a punching bag for her husband's drinking binges. The last time her husband threatened her life, she shot him in self-defense. Now she faces a 6-year prison sentence, having been found guilty of voluntary manslaughter.

Judge Frank Snapp told her during sentencing, "You took the law into your own hands." However, the law had failed to protect Spencer in the past. She had sworn out warrants for her husband's arrest, but the police took 2 to 3 weeks to serve them. Then her husband was released after an hour in jail.

Often the police will persuade a woman to go back to her husband. "Kiss and make up," they say. The woman may be going back into an extremely dangerous situation.

In other cases the courts have threatened women that they will lose their children if they leave their husbands.

"Wife beating belongs to a time when women were property of their husbands," said Graves. "But this attitude still exists, and is condoned by the law enforcement and court systems."

If Spencer had been attacked and her life threatened by a total stranger, her action would have been dismissed as self-defense.

According to Spencer, abused wives should get out of the situation as soon as it starts. "It only gets worse. If I had sought help right at the beginning, this wouldn't have happened to me."

Although there is not yet a shelter for battered women in Charlotte, victims of home violence do find help through the Victims Assistance Program (334-5656) and Child and Family Services, (332-9034).

For more information about Friday's program, contact 376-9138 (days).

For the delivery of THE CHARLOTTE POST in your neighborhood, call the Circulation Department 376-0496.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

A Halloween Party was sponsored for kindergarten students by the members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on Tuesday, October 31, from 3-5 p.m. in the University Memorial Union on the campus of Johnson C. Smith. The 42 students, ranging in age from 3-5 years, are members of the Clinton Chapel Day Care Center located on Rozzells Ferry Road. Six instructors from the Day Care Center were also present to join in with the fun-filled

activities of the evening. There were games, prizes for game winners and door prizes. Halloween stories were told to the children; they played musical chairs and candy was given. Refreshments were an added delight. These children really received their treat before the sun went down! This was one of many projects presented by the members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Pearl Street Park To Get Face Lifting

A Memorial Grove will be planted within Pearl Street Park near Charlotte-Mecklenburg Mall according to the City Landscaping Division. Initial plans call for the planting of 80 trees; 43 oaks and 37 weeping cherries.

Persons who wish to participate may make a donation of \$25 or more to help defray the cost of trees and flowering shrubs. The names of those in whose memory donations are received will be inscribed on a plaque to be placed in the

park. Donations or requests for information should be directed to Pearl Street Park, City of Charlotte, Landscaping Division, P.O. Box 8301, Charlotte N.C. 28208, telephone 568-6530.

To 80,000

First Competency Test Given

by Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer
The first Competency Test was given to 80,000 eleventh grade students on Nov. 1-2 in their school classrooms.

Passing this test is a requirement beginning with the class of 1980 to receive high school diplomas. Test results will be available in early January.

To graduate, students must pass the Competency Test and meet all other state and local graduation requirements.

Students who fail the test can have at least three more chances to pass. Those students will be given remedial instruction, and have opportunities to take the test up to the last month of their senior year or until a student reaches 21, the maximum school age.

Lynne Reyburn

Assumes Acting

Director Duties

Lynne Reyburn, Associate Director of the Charlotte YWCA, will assume the responsibilities of Acting Director of the YW for the months of November and December 1978, it was announced last week.

Ms. Reyburn's new duties begin Nov. 1, when Micki G. Riddick, terminates her assignment as Executive Director of the Charlotte YWCA to assume a new position with the National YWCA in New York.

A student will be retested only on those parts he failed.

The Competency Test was developed out of concern that all students achieve basic skills in reading and mathematics. The test was designed to make students use the reading and math skills taught in all North Carolina schools, and apply them to common problems faced in daily life, such as adding numbers and filling out job applications forms.

The Competency Test that students took was the result of research done by a Commission appointed by Governor Hunt. This Competency Test Commission studied all nationally recognized competency tests.

North Carolina teachers provided the Commission with their insights of what they thought should be included in

the tests.

In March 1978, math and reading tests were given to 11th graders in the state on a trial basis to select the most appropriate tests for North Carolina students.

Tests were screened and modified to remove cultural and sexual bias and improve weaknesses found during the trial testing.

The State Board of Education adopted a minimum passing score in October, 1978.

A student will receive a diploma if he meets all state and local course requirements and passes the North Carolina Competency Test.

He will get a certificate if he completes all state and local course requirements but fails the Competency Test.

A transcript will be issued whether a student receives a diploma or a certificate.

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