

Research and News About Violence 1
From: www.your-martial-arts-resources.com

Date rape drug found in 4pc of nightclub drinks:

From: <http://news.telegraph.co.uk>
(November 11, 2003):

Undercover police were astonished to find that four per cent of drinks in a nightclub had been spiked with "date rape" drugs.

The findings have also surprised workers with a charity set up to help victims of drug rape, who have always insisted the problem was far greater than the authorities were prepared to accept.

Essex Police disclosed yesterday that two plainclothes officers and two scientists who visited a nightclub in Chelmsford last Friday evening had carried out tests on 200 empty glasses.

Initial results showed that seven contained benzodiazepine or similar tranquillisers normally only available under prescription for stress. The drugs can cause confusion, forgetfulness and drowsiness.

An eighth drink is thought to have contained either the horse tranquilliser ketamine - which causes amnesia and hallucinations - or GHB, which induces drowsiness and, sometimes, unconsciousness.

Sgt Nigel Dermott, one of the officers who took part in the operation, said that the glasses were taken mainly from women drinkers at the unnamed nightclub.

He had been "extremely surprised" to find that eight had been tampered with. "We had expected to find something in the region of one per cent," he said.

"It certainly is a serious issue but I don't think that the only motive for this is sexual assault or date rape. I think the main motivation is amusement and for other offences such as theft and robbery. There are many other motives but it certainly focuses the mind when you think that this is being done partly for the purposes of sexual assault."

The Essex operation was part of a campaign launched with the charity Roofie, set up to assist victims of date rape drugs and campaign against their use, to warn women of the dangers.

Police have long believed that the extent of the drug rape problem was massively under-reported. Graham Rhodes, chief executive of Roofie, said that no official figures existed showing the extent of the problem.

"I was not completely surprised by the Essex findings but I would have expected the level to have been about two per cent, not four," he said.

"In the past year about 6,000 people have phoned our helpline. Of those, 1,832 had their drinks spiked in pubs and 1,176 in nightclubs. Yet, despite all our efforts, no pub

or club chains or brewers have agreed to talk to us about what they can do to reduce the dangers.

"They have a moral responsibility and a duty of public safety, but they are ignoring it. I suppose they are frightened profits would be hit. But it should not be up to a voluntary organisation like our own or cash-strapped police to shoulder all the responsibility."

Publicity surrounding the problem has already led to major changes in drinking habits in many metropolitan areas, with some young women now insisting on only bottled beers or "alco-pops" and drinking directly from bottles in pubs and clubs.

They do not leave them unattended and frequently keep their thumbs over the tops when not drinking.

Women 'just as likely to beat up men':

From: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/thepress/0,2106,3566191a6530,00.html>
(February 9, 2006):

Young women are as likely to kick, punch and verbally assault their partners as they are to be victims of such attacks, new Christchurch research shows.

The School of Medicine survey of more than 800 people found "very similar" levels of domestic violence – ranging from minor psychological abuse to severe assault – inflicted by men and women. Both sexes reported similar rates of injury.

Lead researcher David Fergusson said agencies dealing with domestic violence should not assume men were the perpetrators or that women hit out only in self-defence. "In fact, women initiate violence more than men."

He said domestic violence typically involved both parties. "If one partner was violent, so was the other one. This contrasts quite sharply with the dominant popular view that domestic violence is largely perpetrated by men on women."

Seventy per cent of those surveyed, all aged 25, reported some conflict in their relationships. About 5% described severe physical assaults such as choking, kicking, punching and body slamming.

Both sexes suffered an increased risk of anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts after domestic violence.

The only difference was in the experience of fear, said Fergusson. "Women exposed to more extreme violence were more likely to report being fearful of their partner."

Fergusson said that of the 828 people questioned, none had reported police involvement, and only three needed medical treatment after an assault. Two of the patients were men.

Fergusson called for more research to understand why population studies such as his found no gender differences in rates of domestic violence, while police statistics and

women's refuges reported a predominance of male offenders. He said it was possible the more extreme violence was inflicted by men.

Canterbury University sociologist Greg Newbold said the latest research was consistent with international studies. "Men and women attack one another with roughly equal frequency."

He said a change of mindset was needed to understand the complex dynamics of domestic violence. "Physical violence is not something which just goes one way."

A national crime survey published in 2003 by the Justice Ministry found 26% of women and 18% of men who had partners had experienced physical violence. In Britain, several safe houses for battered men have opened, with a government report estimating that one in six men suffered repeated abuse at home.

Canterbury University masters student Jenny Cross said it was difficult for male victims of domestic violence to be recognised as such by the police.

"There are lots of barriers for male victims. They are more reluctant to call police and then to have their complaints taken seriously," she said.

Christchurch MensTrust member Donald Pettitt said even if violence inflicted by women did not result in serious injury, it should be taken seriously. "If women are modelling violent behaviour to their children, that perpetuates the cycle."

In Christchurch last year, 78% of nearly 1800 domestic violence incidents reported to police were males assaulting females.

Spurning violence works in parenting:

From: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au>
(February 13, 2006):

Parents who teach their children that using violence is unacceptable, even in self-defence, are more likely to raise teenagers who don't get into fights.

However, almost 40 per cent of parents tell their children that it's okay to use violence if they are physically threatened.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota interviewed 134 teenagers aged 10 to 15 and their parents. They found teenagers who were clearly told by their parents that violence was unacceptable were less likely to get into fights than their peers.

"Implications of the study findings are that parents need to clearly define what violence is and state to their children what to do when faced with violence," lead researcher Sally-Ann Ohene told The Australian.

Australian therapist and parenting guru Steve Biddulph, whose books have sold more than four million copies worldwide, claims children who spend a large part of their infancy in childcare are more likely to be aggressive and antisocial than children who are raised at home full-time.

Mr Biddulph has spent the past five years researching childcare centres for his new book, *Raising Babies: Should Under 3s Go To Nursery?*. He said long hours spent in nurseries fostered aggression and disobedience.

"The best nurseries struggled to meet the needs of very young children in a group setting," Biddulph told the *British Sunday Times*.

Anne Hollonds, CEO of Relationships Australia NSW, said parents were struggling to teach children how to handle violent situations. "This is obviously a difficult area, especially if kids are dealing with bullying and a range of aggression," she said.

"It's very hard and parents are not recognising that from the earliest of years they need to take on a coaching role to prepare young people for those sorts of situations, particularly if they are raising boys.

"The message about violence being right or wrong should not be taught in isolation from other messages about how to communicate whether or not something is okay, and how to stand your ground in particular situations."

The study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, also found teenagers who were spanked were more likely to be violent.

"Adolescents who reported parental use of corporal punishment as discipline were more likely to have violence-related behaviours and attitudes such as bullying and intentions to fight when provoked," Dr Ohene said.

"The use of corporal punishment by parents may suggest to the adolescent that the use of physical force is an appropriate way to deal with a problem."

However, Ms Hollonds said an occasional smack would not make children more violent.

"It's ... inconsistent parenting that is most damaging to children, not the occasional smack when they have really stepped over the line," she said.

"If one day it's okay for kids to leave their food out on the table but the next day they get whacked for doing it, that's damaging."

Another day, another attack on a teacher:

From: <http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk>
(February 13, 2006):

Soaring numbers of teachers are being attacked in North East schools.

But unions warn the figure could be even higher as many incidents go unreported.

A Chronicle probe of local education authorities has found more than 400 teachers and school staff were victims of assaults last year.

Teachers have been hit with chairs, books and even stones. One in County Durham was struck with a broom handle and another attacked with a cigarette lighter. Others have been kicked, bitten, punched and pushed.

Cleaners and dinner ladies have also been attacked.

In North Tyneside there were 71 attacks in 2005 resulting in three pupils being expelled and 68 suspended.

The highest recorded number was in Sunderland with 121.

South Tyneside followed with 97, and 93 attacks were recorded by Durham LEA.

Although Northumberland was not been able to provide an exact figure, during the previous year 76 teachers were assaulted.

In Gateshead there were 21 recorded attacks and in Newcastle just two.

But the figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed how differently LEAs record attacks.

And today teaching unions called for a universal system.

Gateshead Council director of learning and schools David Mitchell said its figure was because the borough's schools are "calm and orderly places that are well managed by staff and governors" and violent incidents are "very rare indeed".

But Gateshead and Newcastle's figures were criticised by unions.

Gateshead LEA only records the number of pupils who have been excluded due to an attack. While in Newcastle, only incidents where a "violent incident report form" was completed are logged.

The two incidents in Newcastle was a teacher shoulder charged by a pupil, later suspended, and a member of staff punched by a pupil, later expelled.

Ian Grayson, Newcastle branch secretary for the NUT, said: "I don't believe for a second that for the whole of 2005 only two teachers were assaulted in Newcastle schools.

"This figure is not accurate or valid. That is not to say there are more incidents happening in Newcastle than anywhere else in the North East, but I believe the true figure will be similar to neighbouring authorities."

Mr Grayson said headteachers do not have to inform the LEA of everything that happens in schools, but when it comes to teacher protection, he said education chiefs should have accurate data.

The unions realise the LEAs are not wholly responsible for figures they have on record. A spokeswoman for Newcastle City Council said staff in schools were

"encouraged to report all incidents of violence through reporting procedures", but it "is a matter for the individual member of staff concerned".

However, Durham County Council has guidelines and procedures in place which reassure schools and teachers to report such incidents.

Last year in the county 14 teachers were attacked with weapons, which included a board spray, pupils using books, two using stones, three a stick and four with a chair.

Also 11 teachers were pushed, four bitten, 22 punched or hit, 10 kicked, one grabbed and 22 were victims of verbal abuse and seven of threatening behaviour.

A council spokeswoman said: "We offer training courses for teachers and headteachers on how to deal with these situations and we have guidelines and policies on physical intervention by teachers."

Mick Lyons, North East executive member of NASUWT, in County Durham, said: "There are some teachers who don't know they should be reporting attacks and some teachers are concerned that if they report being attacked it could make them look as though it was a result of poor teaching or they can not handle unruly pupils."

Incidents where teachers have been attacked by violent pupils in the North East include:

A female teacher from Newcastle was scalded on the arm and chest when a pupil poured a kettle of hot water over her.

A male teacher slipped and broke his arm after being threatened by a pupil.

A headteacher in South Shields was punched by a mother after her son was excluded for unruly behaviour.

Teacher union officials at a middle school in Newcastle called for 20 pupils to be kept out of the classroom for their numerous physical and verbal assaults on staff.

An 11-year-old was expelled from her primary school in Newcastle after she punched the deputy headteacher.

A nine-year-old pupil was temporarily excluded from school after he grabbed a teacher by the neck before hitting him.

Teachers at Joseph Swan School in Gateshead won a 18-month battle not to teach a violent pupil who had assaulted a male teacher.

£220,000 for reveller left brain-damaged by bouncer's punch:

From: <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=273812006>
(February 22, 2006):

A man who suffered brain damage after being punched by a bouncer outside a nightclub has been awarded £220,000 in compensation.

Rock Steady Security was ordered to pay the damages to Colin Ashmore, 31, whose skull was fractured following a confrontation with a doorman after being thrown out of the nightspot for being drunk.

Mr Ashmore, who was on a stag weekend, was punched by Scott Moncrieff and fell back and struck his head on the pavement. Mr Moncrieff, 33, insisted he had acted in self-defence, but a judge dismissed the plea and ordered his employer, Rock Steady Security, to pay the damages.

Lord Emslie said at the Court of Session that the award would have been £274,000, but he ruled Mr Ashmore had provoked the incident and was 20 per cent to blame.

Mr Ashmore, of Dublin, worked as an IT consultant at the time, in April 2000, and his last memory of the weekend was being in a bar in Edinburgh city centre about 7pm. He next remembered waking up in hospital six days later.

Mr Moncrieff subsequently stood trial for assault, but a jury found the charge not proven.

In the damages action, which required a lower standard of proof, Mr Ashmore's lawyers maintained that Rock Steady was liable for an assault which had caused a fractured skull and diffuse brain-damage, and severe and lasting consequences. Mr Ashmore now worked as a painter in a car repair business.

Mr Moncrieff told the court Mr Ashmore had been aggressive and verbally abusive as he tried persistently to get back into Club 30, on Frederick Street, in the early hours. He said Mr Ashmore headbutted him, and he retaliated with a punch. It was an immediate reaction, he added. He had just defended himself in the blink of an eye.

Lord Emslie said CCTV footage taken just before Mr Ashmore was punched showed him being "intermittently argumentative and abusive".

However, Lord Emslie said, while there was contact between Mr Ashmore's head and Mr Moncrieff's face "any headbutt was minor and ineffectual" and did not justify Mr Moncrieff's response. The judge accepted Mr Ashmore's behaviour had been provocative, but said he was satisfied "the major share of responsibility for what subsequently happened must remain with Moncrieff".

Blade attacks cost NHS £1/2BN:

From: <http://www.kfor.com>
(March 4, 2006):

Exclusive Plan to halt 'senseless bloodshed'

Violent crime in Scotland costs the health service more than £500million a year.

And hospital staff say they are dealing with "a scourge" of bloodshed on the streets.

The shocking figure was revealed yesterday as organisations gathered for the launch of a 12 month anti-violence drive.

Michael Sheridan, an accident and emergency consultant at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital told the conference in the city: "Five per cent of our health budget is spent on violent crime. That's about half a billion pounds annually.

"People who carry out such attacks have no idea of the consequences of their actions. This weekend, I worked two 9am to 9pm shifts during which I dealt with a person struck on the head with a machete, another who suffered knife wounds requiring surgery and a third who was knifed in the chest."

"All these people will require long-standing care and this is just one example of what is happening."

"If someone leaves their house with a knife or samurai sword, they are leaving their house with a potential murder weapon."

The Safer Scotland campaign - organised by police chiefs and the new Violence Reduction Unit - will bid to stop violence before it starts and includes a nationwide knives amnesty in May.

Scotland has one of Europe's highest murder rates. Each week last year in Strathclyde there was a murder and almost seven attempted murders.

Across Scotland in 2005 there were 137 murders, of which 72 involved the use of a knife or blade.

Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson said: "We now have an opportunity to work together across the criminal justice system, health service, education system and beyond to ensure we stop this senseless bloodshed once and for all."

Referee-attack:

From: <http://www.kfor.co>
(March 6, 2006):

Cedar City, Utah (AP) Call it a case of ref rage. A Nevada mother is being charged with assaulting a pregnant woman who was refereeing a children's basketball game in Cedar City, Utah.

Melissa Cheeney also faces a count of public intoxication. Police say Cheeney's ten-year-old son fouled out of the game and she confronted the referee.

According to authorities, Cheeney grabbed the pregnant woman her by the hair, pulled her to the ground and kicked her.

But Cheeney tells the A-P the ref pushed first.

Acquittal in attempted rape case:

From: http://www.berkshireagle.com/headlines/ci_3615409
(March 18, 2006):

A Berkshire Superior Court jury on Wednesday acquitted an Adams man who had been accused of the attempted rape of a 42-year-old woman behind a sandwich shop in Pittsfield two years ago.

Wayne A. Thomas, 43, of Howland Avenue was found not guilty of single counts of kidnapping, of assault with intent to commit rape and of threatening to commit a crime — to wit, murder.

As the court clerk read the verdict, Thomas lifted his head to express his relief.

"I told them from the very beginning that I was innocent and they had the wrong guy," Thomas said, once outside the courtroom. "They took me away from my daughter, I lost my job — the whole thing ruined my life. Now I finally get to see my daughter and start my life again."

Public defender Nathaniel K. Green thanked the jury for its thoughtfulness and consideration in reaching its verdict. "We also sympathize with (the victim)," he added.

Second Assistant District Attorney Joan M. McMenemy said she was disappointed but respected the jury's decision.

Thomas was accused of attacking the woman behind Angelina's Sub Shop at 133 Elm St. on the night of Dec. 22, 2004.

Throughout the case, Thomas had maintained his innocence. Green argued a defense of mistaken identity during the trial.

The attacker, whose head was covered with the hood of his sweat shirt, had grabbed the woman by the throat and threatened to kill her if she screamed for help, according to court records. He shoved her to the ground and began undoing her clothing, but she fought back and escaped after he dragged her behind a trash container to avoid being seen by a passing car, the records state.

The woman reported the crime to Pittsfield Police, describing her attacker as a white man in his late 30s to early 40s, between 5 feet 6 and 5 feet 8 inches tall, and wearing a gray, hooded sweat shirt and denim jacket, according to court records.

Police immediately began a search and found Thomas, who they claimed fit the description, walking near the sub shop, according to court records. The woman positively identified him as her assailant at the police station.

District Attorney David F. Capeless noted that the case was built on the woman's identification of her assailant.

"We believed that Thomas was the one who committed the offense and would not have prosecuted him otherwise," Capeless said. "The irony is that, because the woman thwarted her attacker, we did not have the kinds of physical forensic evidence needed in a case like this."

Peering into the mind of a stalker:

From: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/2006/114286436966657.html>

(March 20, 2006):

Sex offender expert says stalking is a cycle of practicing and perfecting a technique on the streets

For months now the Victor Valley has been the stalking grounds of a sick mind.

There have been numerous reports of one or more individuals attempting to snatch children off the street. The latest attempt was Friday afternoon in Hesperia. An 8-year-old told San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies that after stepping off the school bus she was attacked by a 30-year-old Hispanic man with a shaved head.

The description is similar to the perpetrator in several other attempted abductions in the town of Apple Valley, Adelanto and Hesperia.

On Friday the girl escaped, as have all the other children, but the fear is that sooner or later the schoolchild stalker may be successful.

"My fear is that if some kid gets in this guy's car she is never going to come back alive," said Greig Veeder, executive director of Teaching Humane Existence, a non-profit organization in Colorado devoted to implementing effective control of and treatments for sex offenders.

He has spent years trying to understand the minds of sex offenders — once even going so far as riding in the backseat of a repeat offender's car as he stalked women. T.H.E. was instrumental in recent updates to Colorado law that toughened penalties for sex crimes, which are now the basis of the proposed Jessica's Law here in California.

Veeder said the person stalking the streets of the Victor Valley is perhaps practicing, developing his technique. Leading a double life of child stalker and normal member of society, the offender — whoever he is or they are — is enjoying the thrill.

"This is sort of like on a roller coaster ride for him — this is a very dramatic game," Veeder said. "He is into this, this is part of his lifestyle now."

Every time the schoolchild stalker strikes he not only gets a thrill out of it, but he refines his craft that much more.

"This guy is practicing. He has got to decide if it is a good opportunity or not," Veeder said.

Between incidents he is more than likely reading local newspaper accounts.

"Maybe he is enjoying watching people try to figure out who did this," Veeder said. Such behavior is also common among some arsonists.

And what is reported in the papers and what crimes are reported to the sheriff's department are probably the tip of the iceberg.

"He is probably doing more stalking than is reported," Veeder said.

It is a cycle that the offender seems intent on repeating again and again until he is caught. The average convicted sex offender commits his crimes for 16 years before being arrested, Veeder said.

"Basically you got a guy that is cycling through the process. You are watching him relive his abuse process in front of your very eyes — not as a victim, but as a perpetrator," Veeder said. "What you are seeing is a segment of his cycle of abuse."

Killing in Texas spotlights attacks on social workers:

From: <http://www.nytimes.com>
(March 20, 2006):

Austin, Texas, March 19 — In six years as a social worker with the state's Child Protective Services, Holly Jones has been cursed, chased by dogs and run out of houses by angry parents.

Threats are a daily part of the job for caseworkers who investigate accusations of child abuse and neglect and often remove children from their homes. But the killing of a social worker in South Texas last week has prompted Ms. Jones and her colleagues to re-evaluate the steps they take to keep safe and has raised questions about what the state can do to better protect them.

"We don't have weapons, we don't have training in self-defense, we didn't go through a police academy and we're dealing with the same people they are," Ms. Jones said.

The social worker who was killed last week, Sally Blackwell, 53, was found in a field in Victoria on Wednesday. Her family said she had received threats in her position as program director, overseeing several offices of caseworkers. The authorities have ruled the case a homicide but have not said whether her death was related to her job.

The killing comes a year after a woman fired a shotgun at two caseworkers who had come to her home near Alice, about 45 miles west of Corpus Christi, to investigate a child abuse complaint. The caseworkers fled. The woman was convicted in December of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Ms. Jones, 28, who recently became a supervisor for a Child Protective Services unit in suburban Austin, said caseworkers needed to know how to protect themselves.

A study released last week by the National Association of Social Workers found that 55 percent of 5,000 licensed social workers surveyed said they faced safety issues on the job. Sixty-eight percent of them said their employers had not adequately addressed their concerns. A survey in 2002 of 800 workers found 19 percent had been victims of violence and 63 percent had been threatened.

As the investigation into Ms. Blackwell's death continues, state protective services officials are thinking about ways to make the job safer, the Family and Protective Services commissioner, Carey Cockerell, said in an e-mail message to employees on Thursday.

Currently, social workers in Texas receive a half day of safety training, and the issue frequently comes up in a 12-week course, said a spokesman, Chris Van Deusen.

The child services department has no way of tracking how many threats its roughly 3,000 caseworkers receive, said Patrick Crimmins, spokesman for the Department of Family and Protective Services. But even people who have spent their entire careers with the agency can remember only a few instances in which threats escalated to violence, Mr. Crimmins said.

In 2001, Michigan lawmakers toughened the penalties for people who threaten or attack social workers after a child welfare caseworker was beaten, bound, gagged and suffocated while checking on a family. The law also required safety training for workers who make home visits.

The death of a Kansas mental health social worker prompted Representative Dennis Moore, Democrat of Kansas, to introduce a resolution last fall that would encourage state and local agencies to improve the safety of social workers. The resolution is pending.

Mean girls - the rise of the violent femmes:

From: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2006/04/07/1143916722751.html>
(April 8, 2006):

It's been dubbed the phenomenon of the violent femmes, an ugly social trend identified in the US and Britain. Now, it is being documented in Australia - and the numbers suggest this is not a mere statistical blip.

According to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics, violence among young girls has grown at almost four times the rate of its rise among young boys - and has doubled over the past 10 years.

Upward trends have also been noted in charges for offensive language, offensive behaviour and exceeding the prescribed limit of alcohol, suggesting that when it comes to risk-taking and crimes traditionally dominated by teenage boys, girl power has developed a darker side.

In 1995 for example, the rate per 100,000 head of population of 10- to 14-year-old girls involved in assault was 175. By 2005, this had nearly tripled, to 487.

Among 15- to 17-year-old girls, the rate has almost doubled from 567 to 1046. Among 18- to 24-year-olds, the rise is a little lower, from 351 to 561.

Now, the very youngest group of girls represents nearly 13 per cent of all females who have been involved in an assault - a jump from 8.9 per cent 10 years ago.

According to Professor James Garbarino, an American psychologist and expert in juvenile violence, "girl power" has indeed been a shaping force, one which has motivated them, encouraged their entry into contact sports and to enjoy and be proud of their physicality. Slowly but surely, it has overtaken and replaced the old notion that little girls are just "sugar and spice and all things nice".

In his new book, *See Jane Hit* (Penguin Press, New York), Professor Garbarino also argues that while this societal shift is generally enormously positive, it has not occurred without consequences, and some girls, particularly troubled girls, are now expressing themselves too aggressively, even dangerously.

Speaking to the Herald from Loyola University in Chicago, Professor Garbarino said that an examination of the phenomenon had to begin from the understanding that aggression in very young children is universal. "Toddlers are violent, they hit, they pull hair, they push each other over and more," he said, "and small boys and girls are almost equally aggressive. The question is not how do they learn violence in adolescence - given they all start aggressive - but how do they unlearn it?"

That process, he says, is shaped by two forces: what are known as cognitive structuring and behaviour rehearsal. "The first is the ideas that kids have about aggression, the messages, the images, the scenarios and the values that are represented to kids by adults and other children. At least in the US, this has changed a lot ... from the old message that 'girls don't hit' to 'girls kick ass'," he said.

"Second, you say, 'Well, what about behavioural rehearsal?' That is the actual experiences kids have behaving in ways that are aggressive or peaceful. Girls today are in situations more and more where aggression is not only expected but it is tolerated and modelled. One place where this is particularly significant is in sports ... girls play football, soccer, learn martial arts. Largely positive and to be celebrated, it also means that these are places where girls practice aggression as the default option."

This day-to-day physicality has effectively removed what he describes as "cultural foot binding", the social mores that once stopped girls from embracing and using their own physical powers. Once again, this has been externally reinforced via the use of more and more physically aggressive female role models on TV, in music video and film. "When Hermione punched Malfoy in the Harry Potter movie, the audience cheered ... every desensitisation increases the risk of aggressive behaviour."

"Of course, every movie that succeeds with a violent female character usually leads to another one being made and the violence needs to be ratcheted up to [elicit] the same thrill or response from audiences."

Garbarino says that it took 15 years of TV broadcasting for the effect of televised violence to be noted and measured on boys. A generation of girls has yet to come through the changed social and media environment and it is likely that the full ramifications have yet to show up.

So what can parents - or society - do?

"By and large, society and parents do a reasonably good job with most boys and there is no reason we can't do a good job with most girls ... but people, teachers, coaches,

they have to get it into their heads that things have changed," he said. "We cannot assume simply that girls are just naturally nicer, naturally more gentle. A fixed feminine nature is not true and there is much variability there. People in schools have not caught up yet ... they see more girl fights but they're scratching their heads with the girls. They don't take it as seriously, don't want to be too punitive. What we need to do is have all the things in place that we use to deal with and socialise aggressive boys and apply the same with girls.

"We cannot presume that culture will take care of it because this culture does not. Not any more."

Domestic violence claims lives of 3,043 women last year':

From: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2006/04/20/d60420060266.htm>
(April 20, 2006):

At least 3,043 women died in different incidents of domestic violence last year and of them, 1041 victims committed suicide, according to a report released by the Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) recently.

Repression and sexual harassment led most women to take their own lives while rape and abduction were identified as most common violations of child rights in 2005.

The women fell victim to repression and violence mainly because of dowry, conflicts in conjugal life and poverty, said the report.

The Mass-line Media Centre, supported by donor consortium Manusher Jonno, prepared the report titled 'State of women and children, 2005' on the basis of reports published in 12 national dailies and 198 regional dailies last year.

Among the six divisions, Rajshahi tops the list of suicide with 425 victims, followed by Khulna with 285 victims while 229 women committed suicide in Dhaka, 106 in Chittagong, 24 in Sylhet and 81 in Barisal, the report said.

Most of the victims took their own lives either by taking poison or chemicals, or hanging themselves.

During the one year period from January to December, a total of 54,954 women fell victim to different forms of rights violations.

The report said 875 women were raped during the period and 165 were killed after rape. And 275 rape incidents, the highest at divisional level, took place in Rajshahi.

Some 1235 women fell victim to repression over dowry. Of them, 505 victims were killed and 428 others injured. Rajshahi division witnessed the most such incidents.

The forms of repression include beating, stabbing, acid attack, burning and forced starvation, the report said.

A total of four women were killed and 189 others injured in acid attacks during the period, but only 66 cases were filed and 50 arrested in this connection.

Besides, at least 195 women were abducted while 329 others fell victim to trafficking. The women were trafficked with a lure of job or marriage, the report said.

On violence against children, the report said 4,125 children were killed and 2,891 injured during the period.

Some 1427 children also fell victim to rape and sexual harassment and 95 children were killed after rape. Ages of one-fourth of such victims range between one and ten.

Besides, 775 children were abducted while 435 were trafficked and 204 went missing. The highest number of 264 trafficking incidents took place in Khulna, the report said.

Despite a number of awareness programme conducted at government and non-government level, 112 incidents of early marriages were recorded during the period.

The number of child rights violations was the highest in Rajshahi with 433 incidents while 339 such incidents took place in Dhaka, 229 in Khulna, 227 in Chittagong, 139 in Barisal and 60 in Sylhet.

Discrimination between girls and boys still prevails in society, the report said, adding that 14 girl children were killed after birth.