

Texas has 283,000 cases

Survey reveals child abuse

No less than 283,000 children in Texas aged 14 and under are likely to be the victim of child abuse during 1979. The figure may be as high as 400,000, a study released Tuesday says.

That finding is the result of a survey conducted by the Survey Research program of the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University for the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards.

A scientifically selected sample of 1,339 Texans participated in the study, which was designed to measure the extent of child abuse and neglect in Texas, as well as what the people of Texas would like to see done about the problem of child abuse and neglect. The study was conducted by Allen Sapp and David Carter, research associates at the Criminal Justice Center.

A total of 14.3 percent of the respondents reported that they were abused or neglected as children. Also, 8.5 percent reported that their children have been abused or neglected, 15 percent reported that children of their close friends have been abused or neglected, and 16.7 percent reported abuse or neglect of neighbors' children.

Regarding the reported cases of child abuse, it was found that 67 percent had experienced emotional abuse, 54 percent physical abuse, 37 percent sexual abuse, and 26 percent had experienced neglect.

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Of the respondents who reported that they had been abused as a child, only 25 percent reported it to anyone. The primary reasons for not reporting were fear of retribution, not knowing whom to report to, or a belief that other children were treated the same way.

The findings also revealed that less than one-half of the abuse or neglect cases involving the children of close friends or neighbors are

reported. Reasons for not reporting included ignorance of where to report the abuse, a belief that others would control the situation, and fear of lawsuits or reprisals.

About one-third of the respondents expressed the belief that abusing adults should be handled by the criminal justice system and 31 percent indicated that abusing adults should be handled by a counseling or treatment agency. Another 13 percent said this problem should be handled by a minister. The study did reveal a strong concern that not enough is being done with this type of person.

According to Sapp and Carter, the most revealing finding was that three-fourths of the respondents believe that state tax money should be used for the care of abused and neglected children. Also, more than two-thirds said that state tax money should be used for the care of abused and neglected children. More than two-thirds said that state tax money should be used for adults who abuse children.

Only 54 percent would like to see federal tax money used for treatment of these children, 49 percent would approve of county tax money being used, and 36 percent would approve of city tax money being used. A similar pattern was found regarding treatment of the abusing adult. Only 49 percent would like to see federal tax money used for this purpose, 37 percent would approve of county tax money being used, and 26 percent would approve of city tax money being used.

Dr. Raymond Teske Jr., director of the Survey Research Program at the Criminal Justice Center, called this the first comprehensive survey of the people of Texas regarding the problem of child abuse and neglect. He said that the sample of 1,339 Texans representing 178 different counties is statistically representative of the Texas adult population.

Mrs. Eleanor Tinsley of Houston, president of the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, said that "this carefully and scientifically researched document can lead the adults of Texas to recognize the extent of the serious problem of child abuse and neglect and demand responsible solutions."

Muscular dystrophy marathon to raise money for patient care

By STANTON RAY
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M Muscular Dystrophy Dance Marathon will give those who wear their dancing shoes a chance to win up to \$200 and an opportunity to help many who suffer from muscular dystrophy.

The dance marathon will be held Feb. 17 in Quonset Hut A from noon until midnight. It will be sponsored by Omega Phi Alpha, a nationally recognized service sorority.

The purpose of the dance is to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for patient care. Muscular dystrophy is the general name for a group of muscle-wasting diseases. It varies in hereditary pattern, age of onset, initial muscle attacked and rate of progression.

Participation in the dance is open to all students and faculty members at Texas A&M University. Money is raised by dancers getting friends and commercial businesses to sponsor them for a given amount of money per hour. Last year the dance raised \$5,000. This year's goal is \$10,000. The

money will be given to the Muscular Dystrophy Association on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon in the name of Texas A&M University.

There is a \$5 entry fee per couple for which the dancers will receive two Dance Marathon T-shirts, sponsor packets, and free food and drinks at the dance. Dancers may sign up

in the Memorial Student Center main corridor or the Commons lobby through Feb. 16.

Cash prizes will be awarded on the basis of the number of sponsors and the amount of money raised by each couple. First prize is \$200, second prize is \$150 and third prize is \$100.



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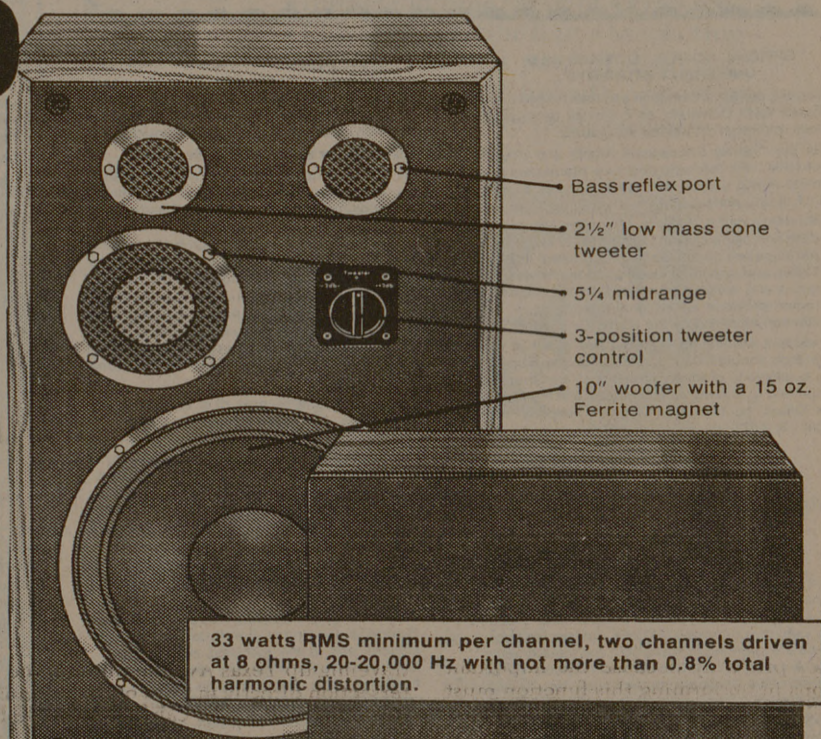
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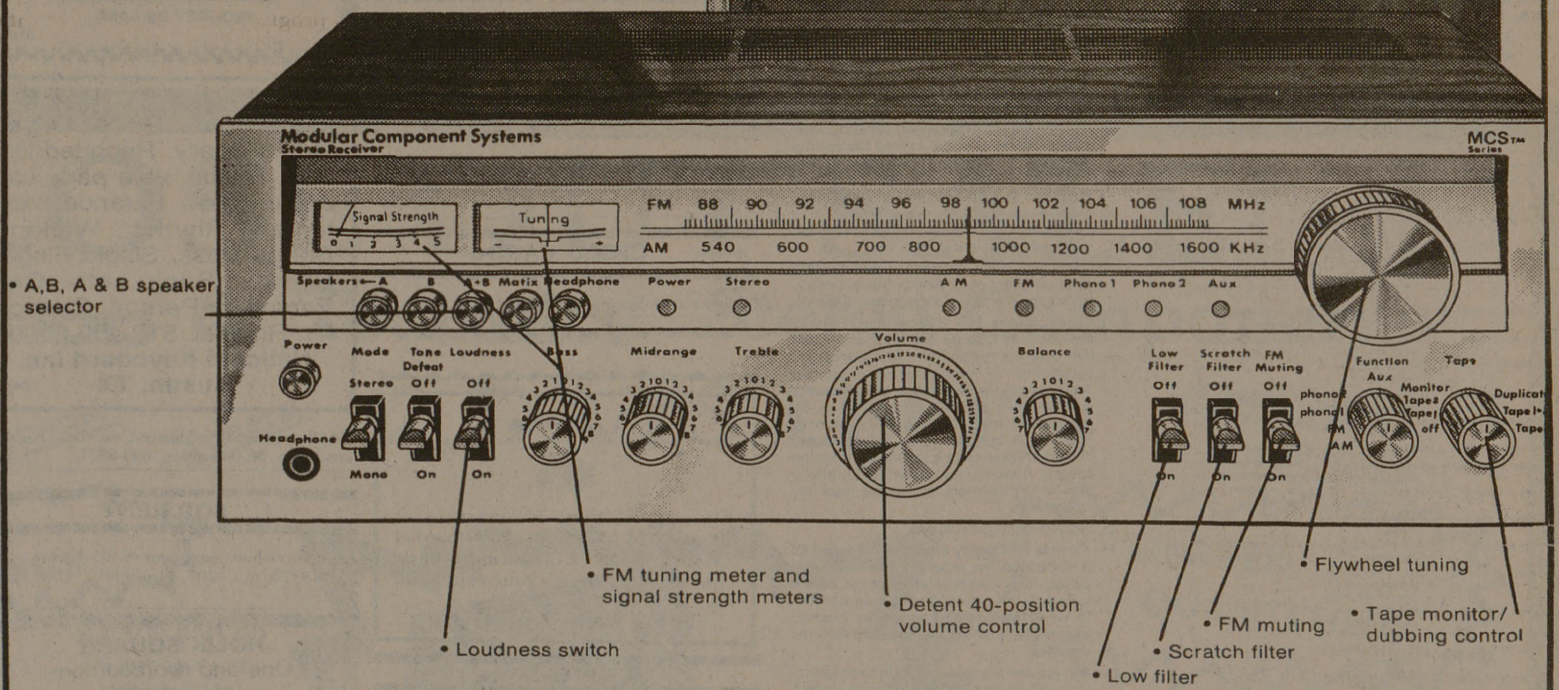
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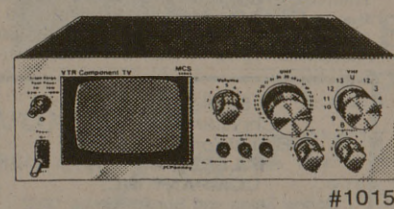


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