

Hotline helps document corporal punishment in schools

United Press International
Corporal punishment in schools has been documented in the calls of frantic parents to a hotline run by the National Committee for Citizens in Education.

Parents dialing the toll-free number, 800-NETWORK (dial letters of the word), during its first year asked for help in cases where paddling caused welts and bruises. They also sought guidance in responding to other inappropriate and de-

meaning punishments, including:

- Frequent episodes of mild paddling, a discipline measure creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among students. Some paddlers punish kids for not working up to potential. In one second grade, all who did not score 100 on a math test were paddled for neglecting to turn in homework.
- Students having hands taped to their desks to stop fidgeting.
- Tying boys together with a rope so they would stop fight-

ing and learn to get along.

• Placing children in cages in the classroom or in windowless closets.
Nancy Berla, director of the NCCE hotline project, said 17 percent of the 4000 calls during the first 12-months were about discipline matters and 90 percent dealt with corporal punishment or suspension.
Berla said corporal punishment usually is reserved for the disciplining of young students and suspension is used for older ones.
"In cases where the paddling

is severe enough to cause bruises or other injuries, parents often report to child abuse authorities, intending to place charges against the teacher or principal who inflict the paddling," Berla said.

"They soon learn that such incidents are not legally considered child abuse and cannot be investigated or acted upon by the agency.
"The parents may appeal to the school board, charging cruel and excessive punishment. But the school board members invariably back the teacher and principal and are not responsive to the parents' objections to this type of punishment.
"In many schools, teachers carry their paddles attached to their belts. The teachers are accustomed to using the paddle on children for petty or trivial behavior, such as being late to class, not having the right color

pencil, missing the school bus to go home, talking at lunch time, and being out of their seat without permission.
"These offenses could easily have been corrected by reprimands or penalties much less severe and less painful than being hit with a wooden paddle, a belt or a switch."

The hotline is attended 9-to-5, Mondays through Fridays. Other times callers' complaints are left on recording tape.
Berla said she usually advises parents to confront the teacher or principal and to also check up on the legality of corporal punishment in a particular school district or state.

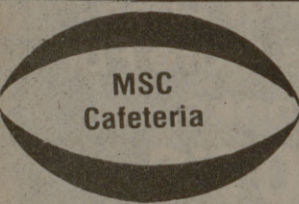
She recommends that Mom or Dad insist that a report on the incident be put in the child's file, along with a notation that the parent objected.
Berla said most parents are shocked that they get no immediate assistance from child abuse agencies.
"If the punishment is severe, I recommend that they complain to the school board," she said.

Dr. Carl L. Marburger, educator and a policy director of NCCE in Columbia, Md., broke down other hotline calls about school problems. He said they concerned lack of service and programs for handicapped students, 14 percent; placement in class such as being put in second grade when parents think the child belongs in third grade, 10 percent; about dealing with a poor principal or teacher, 7 percent; about parent rights, 6 to 7 percent; about student rights, 6 to 7 percent.

Other callers sought aid for problems connected with testing, transportation, evaluation of teachers, single parenting,

"We tend to get the calls," Marburger said, "that callers don't know else to turn for help, the hotline is meeting a needed purpose."
Marburger said corporal punishment is authorized law in 32 states and it appears to be allowed in 12 states that elected to remain silent on the subject.

He said New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, Hawaii prohibit it; California and Illinois allow it only if parental permission has been given.
"We have an awful lot of cases and it sounds bad," he said, "but the evidence we have is not a benchmark. Many city schools have outlawed corporal punishment."
"We encourage parents everywhere to work toward an end."



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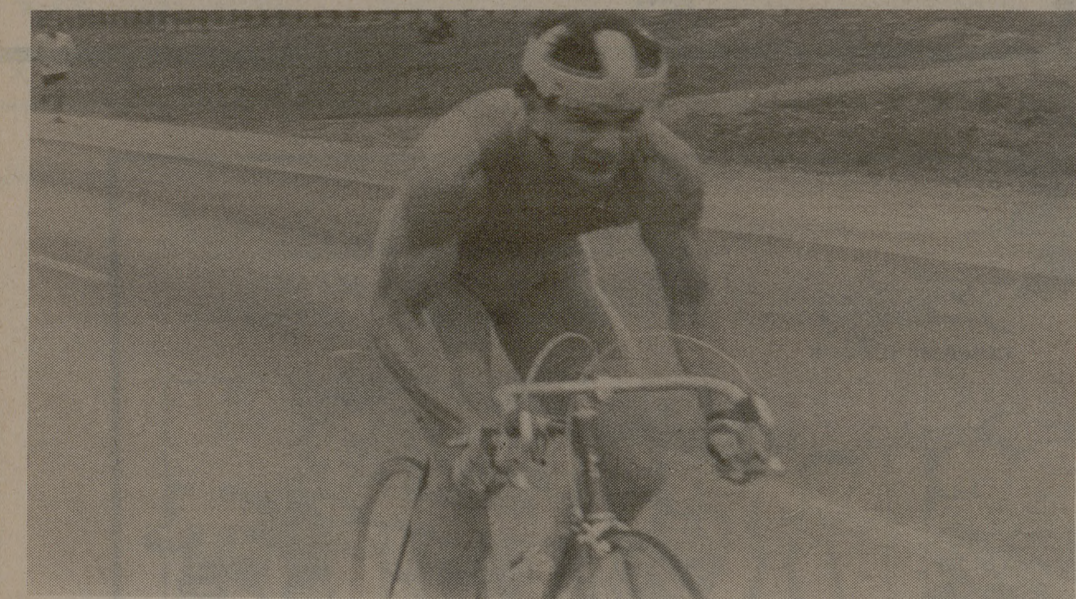
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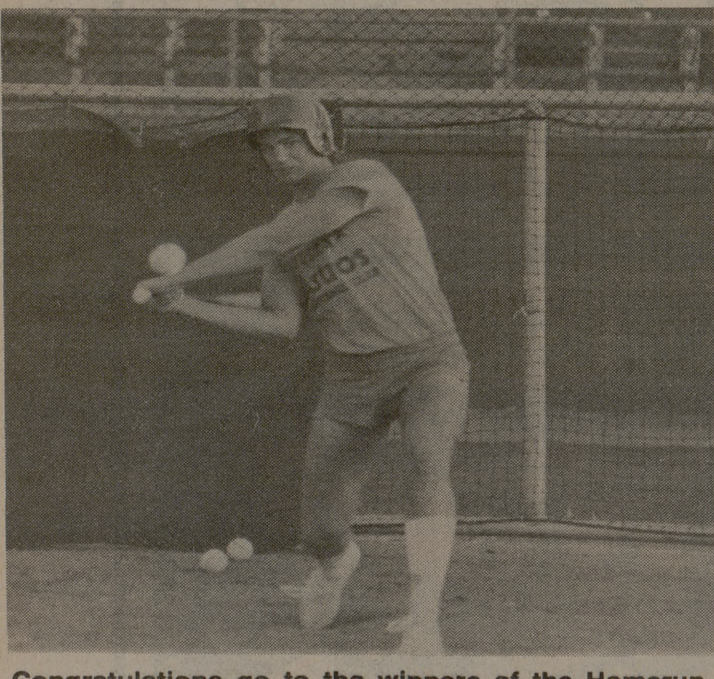
Shown here is a competitor in the Texas Triathlon Three completing the third event—bicycling 18windy miles.

I M - R E C SPORTS OFFICE ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS
Beginning Monday, April 23, the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office will be open the following hours:
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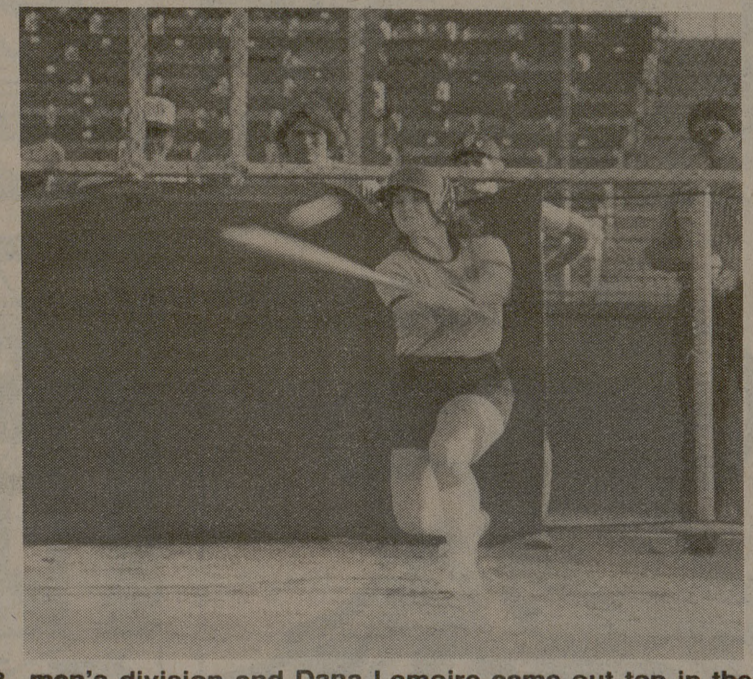
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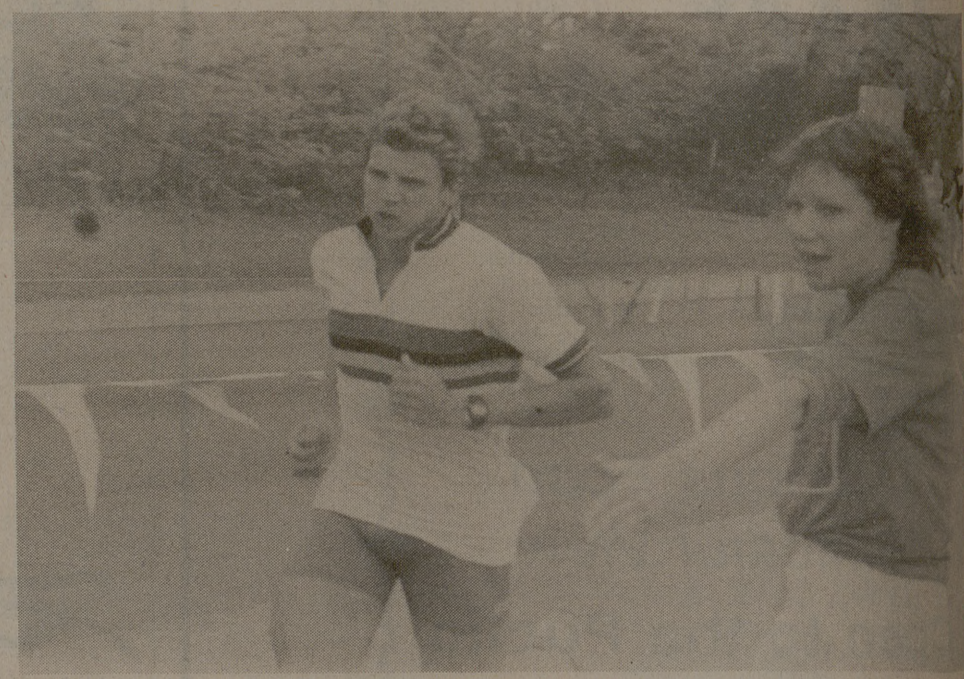
Here Douglas Pepping of Houston finishes up the 1000 M swim—the first event of the Texas Triathlon Three.



Congratulations go to the winners of the Homerun & men's division and Dana Lemoire came out top in the Baseball Hitting Contest! Jeff Salo took 1st place in the



men's division and Dana Lemoire came out top in the



This Texas Triathlon Three competitor is finishing up a very windy 10 K run, and about to begin the bicycling event.

San Antonio research park established

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A newly-formed, non-profit foundation has taken a giant step toward making the city a major biomedical center with the estab-

lishment of a 1,500-acre scientific research park that could generate "tens of thousands of jobs," officials said.
Robert F. McDermott, president of the United Services Au-

tomobile Association and chairman of the San Antonio Biotechnology Foundation, said the park will provide a base for private industrial researchers and academically oriented scientists to collaborate in producing new products.
A formal announcement of the park's establishment was scheduled Monday by officials from the foundation and the University of Texas Health Science Center.

McDermott said the park will also house an entrepreneurial, applied development center that will work to turn basic research into marketable, biomedical products.
The park will be built on San Antonio's economically-depressed west side near the Southwest Research Institute and the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.
Plans also call for the University of Texas Health Science Center to establish the Institute of Biotechnology on 50 acres adjacent to the research park.
The UT Institute will include a Center for Molecular Targeting, which will conduct advanced research on human cells and cancer research, said Dr. Frank Harrison, president of

the Health Science Center.
Surrounding the park is a large development of acres, master-planned to accommodate commercial, dental and public services support the research center, McDermott said.
"This park will put San Antonio in a strong position to race among American cities to become a major center for science and technology," McDermott said. "The potential economic growth, which produce more and better jobs for the people of this city, is tremendous."

He said the park will have potential "to generate thousands of jobs in the San Antonio area."
Mayor Henry Cisneros has spearheaded efforts to make San Antonio a technology center, called the park one of the most significant developments in the city's history.
"With this park and the combined research excellence it brings together, we can realize the dream of being a biotechnological and engineering center," Cisneros

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