

# Journal contends physicians ignore domestic violence

CHICAGO (AP) — The most common cause of women's injuries — getting abused at home — occurs more often than auto accidents, muggings and rapes combined, but is largely ignored by doctors, a medical journal reports.

Twenty-two percent to 35 percent of women who visit emergency departments have abuse-related symptoms, either physical or stress-related, said the report in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"Thirty-four percent of all female homicide victims older than 15 years are killed by their husbands or intimate partners," said the report by JAMA Associate Editor Teri Randall, citing FBI data from 1976 to 1987.

"While most clinicians wouldn't consider discharging a patient with a life-threatening condition, data from emergency department records show that a majority of women who are victims of domestic abuse

are discharged without any arrangements made for their safety, to return to the same abusive relationships that caused their injuries," the report said.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg, director of injury control for the national Centers for Disease Control, told the journal, "The only physicians who ask about violence are psychiatrists, and they're only interested if it occurs in a dream. They rarely ask about the violent events that occur in real life."

But Dr. Jack Allison, vice president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, said the report overstated doctors' shortcomings and failed to indicate how often women are unwilling to implicate their batterers.

And "there are still times, unfortunately, when women go back to those relationships — they choose not to go to shelter, choose not to press charges, choose not to get out of the abusive situation."

# Board commutes convict's execution

ATLANTA (AP) — The state Board of Pardon and Paroles on Tuesday commuted the death sentence of a repentant convict after receiving pleas for mercy from Mother Teresa, Jesse Jackson and relatives of the murder victim.

William Neal Moore's defenders call him a born-again Christian who has been a positive influence on other prisoners. Moore, 39, had been scheduled to die Wednesday in Georgia's electric chair, but won a stay of execution earlier Tuesday from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moore was a depressed 23-year-old soldier from Fort Gordon when a friend told him about an old man who kept \$20,000 cash in his home, according to evidence in the case. Moore got drunk and entered the home of 77-year-old Fredger Stapleton. When Stapleton fired a gun at him, Moore said he panicked and shot back, killing the man.

Chairman Wayne Snow Jr. said he believed the board's unanimous decision was based largely on the fact that Moore, who pleaded guilty, did not have a jury trial. The board

members felt considerable information about Moore "might have come out in a trial of the case," Snow said.

He also noted that members of the victim's family had asked the board to spare Moore's life. "That's not something we often see," Snow said.

The parole board heard Monday from Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who called from Calcutta, India, and urged the panel to "do what Jesus would do," said staff member Marsha Bailey, who took the call. Jackson, the former Democratic presidential candidate, wired the board on Saturday to urge clemency.

Snow said Moore, under Georgia law, will not be eligible for parole consideration until he has served 25 years in prison, meaning Moore will have to wait nine more years.

Moore has written Stapleton's family members "a lot of times from prison, that he's sorry, and that he hopes the family can forgive him," said Loretta Jordan Farmer, Stapleton's great-niece. "And I can."

## If I had a hammer



Photo by Sondra Robbins  
John McMahon, a graduate student and resident director for Puryear Hall, builds a loft outside the dorm building

# Soviet revolutionary's murder commemorated in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Fifty years after Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky was assassinated with an ice axe in Mexico City, city fathers hailed him as a symbol of Mexico's policy of granting asylum to exiles regardless of political stripe.

Trotsky is being honored and called a visionary, and the restored Trotsky house was inaugurated as a city-run museum.

Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis said at Monday's ceremonies, "In current times, the most profound significance of this house is in communicating that what happened here should never again happen again: harassing and taking the life of someone who thinks differently."

"What Trotsky predicted — the end of the system that persecuted him — is today being achieved," said another speaker, political historian Adolfo Sanchez Vazquez.

Trotsky died on Aug. 22, 1940, 26 hours after Soviet dictator Josef Stalin had his political rival murderously assaulted at Trotsky's home-in-exile in the fashionable Mexico City neighborhood of Coyoacan.

The assassin, who struck Trotsky in the skull with a mountaineer's ice axe after Trotsky returned from a seafood restaurant, spent 20 years in prison. His identity was a mystery, but he was thought to be a Spaniard, Ramon del Rio Mercader, also known as Jacques Mornard and Frank Jackson.

The house, formerly maintained on meager funds donated by Trotsky's grandson, Esteban Volkov, and members of the Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers Party, was given a meticulous facelift.

The city spent more than \$230,000 to refurbish it and build the adjacent Asylum Rights and Public Freedom Institute.

The institute affirms Mexico's policy of providing

political asylum to exiles, regardless of ideology, officials said at the ceremony.

"It is a transformation of history into an instrument of rights," institute board member Javier Wimer told about 200 people.

Trotsky and his wife, Natalia Sedova, arrived in Mexico in January 1937, after Stalin ordered Trotsky's exile and execution. The two leaders of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution were locked in a power struggle as the health of Vladimir I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, waned.

Camacho said Trotsky's exile in Mexico was an example of this country's overall international and internal policy — "Everyone was against Trotsky and the president of the republic received him in Mexico."

**"In current times, the most profound significance of this house is in communicating that what happened here should never again happen again: harassing and taking the life of someone who thinks differently."**

—Manuel Camacho Solis, mayor of Mexico City

He lauded the government's policy on political asylum, but added that Camacho's presence "doesn't change the fact that there are other rights that are not respected by the government of the Institutional Revolutionary Party."

# Commission says fear, bigotry hamper treatment of rural Americans with AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — An "epidemic of fear and bigotry" prevents many rural Americans infected with the AIDS virus from getting needed care, the National Commission on Aids said in a report Tuesday.

The commission also said too few minorities, women and children are included in experimental-drug testing and that too many physicians and dentists still won't treat people with AIDS.

"We have to do much better to educate everybody to this durable new threat (of AIDS) in our environment," said Dr. June Osborn, chairwoman of the 15-member commission that advises Congress and the White House.

The report was the commission's third, and as with the earlier two, the panel emphasized the urgency of the situation and called for "swift action."

"We're very late in responding to a massive problem, but getting later makes no sense at all," said Osborn, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

The report said that "in rural America, there is an epidemic of fear and bigotry, fanned by the absence of education and knowledge," surrounding AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, that causes the disease.

Panel members, who earlier this year went to Georgia and Texas to learn about the impact of AIDS, said education about the disease is "virtually nonexistent and desperately needed in rural communities."

The report described the experiences of people who had been rejected by their church, lost their jobs and were evicted from their apartments because of their AIDS infection.

"Ignorance and misinformation are seriously hampering, if not crippling efforts to treat rural Americans with AIDS," it said.

The report recognized federal efforts to include more minorities in government-funded clinical trials, but said, "We can and must do better."

African-Americans and Hispanics account for 43 percent of all AIDS cases, but they make up only 23 percent of clinical trial participants, the report said.

Children and women of child-bearing age usually have been excluded from clinical trials, but the panel said that must change.

The report also said the National Institutes of Health had moved too slowly to find drugs to manage opportunistic infections, which are the cause of death for most AIDS patients.

The panel said NIH should give that research a higher priority while continuing work on drugs that act on the AIDS virus.

Turning to health-care personnel, the commission said it "heard repeatedly about a serious shortage of dentists willing to treat people with HIV infection and AIDS."

The report related the experience of one witness who said the only two dentists in his community who would accept Medicaid declined to see him because he was infected with HIV.

"One dentist's excuse was that his office was carpeted and he would not be able to sterilize the room after the visit," the report said. "The other dentist said she had plants and could not take the risk of him infecting her other patients."

Too many physicians also are refusing to see AIDS patients.

And like many dentists, they appear to be unaware that the virus is spread through blood and body fluids — mostly through sex or needle-sharing by intravenous drug users — not casual contact, the commission said.

"Effective AIDS education programs are needed for all health care workers," the report said.

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