

Students fearful of school safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — Metal detectors and surveillance cameras have sharply reduced weapons and crime at the nation's schools, but a government report says students are more fearful of their safety because of a problem that hasn't changed: the school bully.

"Away from school, kids can stay away from their enemy. On campus they can't really escape," said Curt Lavarello, who works with school police officers.

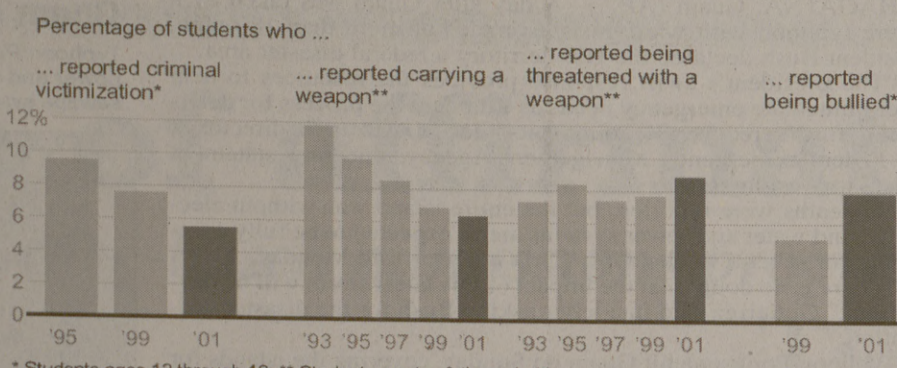
Over the years, the percentage of assaults, theft and other crimes at schools has steadily gone down. Six percent of students ages 12 to 18 said they were victims of crimes last year, compared with 10 percent in 1995. The largest drop came for students in seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

In a 1995 survey, 12 percent of high school students said they carried a weapon at school in the past 30 days. That dropped to 6 percent in 2001, according to a joint report by the Education and Justice departments.

While security measures have helped stop guns and knives from getting into schools, they can't do much

Crime in schools

The percentage of students who said they had been victims of crime while at school has dropped, although reports of bullying are on the rise, according to a government report released Monday.



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics

about the bully.

Nine percent of the students said they had been threatened or injured with a weapon last year, up slightly from two years ago. There also was a 3 percent increase in students who reported being bullied.

"Bullying was accepted as part of the tradition of the school. That has to change," said William Modzeleski, who heads the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. "We're starting to recognize that this is a serious issue and beginning to address it."

Modzeleski said school

administrators need to treat bullying the same way they treat other aggressive behavior.

"Bullying can lead to more assaultive behavior," Modzeleski said.

A survey last year by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that 10,000 children stayed home from school at least once a month because they feared bullies, and half the children surveyed said they were bullied once a week.

Sandy Clifton-Bacon, an assistant superintendent at Redondo Beach Unified School

District near Los Angeles, said teachers and other adults on campus are becoming better trained to deal with bullies.

"We have to. It's a serious problem. And lately, schools are becoming more liable for those things," she said.

Last month, parents of a 13-year-old boy filed a federal lawsuit against a rural school district in central Pennsylvania for allegedly ignoring the bullying of their son.

A growing number of schools across the country have adopted bullying intervention programs.

Protestor planning event in Crawford

HOUSTON (AP) — A persistent protester who recently was arrested for scaling the front gate of the White House to hang a "No War on Iraq" banner says she is now setting her sites on President Bush's Texas ranch.

Diane Wilson, a 54-year-old grandmother from the southeast Texas town Seadrift, said a Washington D.C. judge advised her last week to go home to Texas or risk a future arrest and some serious jail time.

But she doesn't plan to stay in Seadrift for long. She has big plans for Bush's Christmas in Crawford.

"Right now I'm just dreamin' and schemin'," Wilson said. "We want to do a surprise inspection at a presidential palace."

Wilson's court-appointed attorney, Reginald Towe, returned calls from the Chronicle seeking clarification, and a transcript of Wilson's hearing Tuesday was not yet available.

The activist's Washington troubles began Sept. 18, when she and other protesters calling themselves "Unreasonable Women" disrupted a congressional hearing on Bush's plans to use military force against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Wilson and Medea Benjamin, a San Francisco activist and founder of the human rights group Global Exchange, unfurled a banner reading "U.N. Inspections, Not War" behind Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as he tried to testify before the House Armed Services Committee.

After shouting questions at Rumsfeld, the women were removed from the room by Capitol police. They were not arrested, but the stunt earned the protesters a spot on CNN and photos in several major newspapers.

Still, Wilson is disturbed by what she considers an order from District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Robert Rigsby banning her from the capital city for a full year.

"He told me I could not be arrested for protesting again for a whole year, and I had to get out of Dodge City. I was kicked out," Wilson said in Monday's editions of the Houston Chronicle. "They said if they saw my face in Washington, I would be arrested immediately."

Wilson's court file shows no such order, which she says was delivered verbally. Neither the judge nor Wilson's court-appointed attorney,

Reginald Towe, returned calls from the Chronicle seeking clarification, and a transcript of Wilson's hearing Tuesday was not yet available.

Wilson's file indicates only that if she manages to avoid arrest in the next year, a misdemeanor charge of unlawful entry for the White House incident could be dismissed.

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Two charged in death of man found in car

CORTLAND, N.Y. (AP) — Police charged two people in the death of a man found slumped over in a car in a hospital parking lot. Police believe the man was mauled to death by a dog.

State police arrested James Heath and his girlfriend Michelle Lee Malmberg, both 24, on Route 17 in the town of Union, Broome County, at about 5 p.m. Friday.

The former Cortland residents were charged in the death of 24-year-old Eric Tallman, who was found on Wednesday in a car parked at Cortland Memorial Hospital, 30 miles south of Syracuse. His face was injured so severely in an animal attack that he drowned in his own blood, police said. He was reported missing by his family a week earlier when he failed to show up for Thanksgiving dinner.

Police were investigating the case as a homicide and believe Tallman was mauled to death by a dog, Cortland Police Chief James Nichols said.

A pit bull taken from the vehicle the suspects were riding in Saturday was secured by Broome County, Nichols said.

"We believe it was a dog. I'm not going to say this was the particular dog that caused it," he said.

Heath, a fugitive from justice in Jourdan, Texas, 40 miles south of San Antonio, was arraigned and was sent to Broome County Jail without bail to await extradition. He was wanted by the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department on a felony marijuana possession charge, Atascosa Chief Deputy David Soward said.

Authorities said he, Malmberg and Tallman smuggled 48 pounds of marijuana from South Padre Island, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico and planned to sell it on the East Coast.

Police arrested Heath on Oct. 31 in a rented car with two pounds of marijuana near a motel where all three were staying. That led police to another rental car parked at San Antonio International Airport, 30 miles away. They found 48 pounds of marijuana in the car. Soward said all three, and maybe two others, used the cars to drive the marijuana to Florida to sell.

"Our investigation showed that they were part of a marijuana smuggling operation," Soward said. He could not say how long the operation had gone on.

Tallman was with Heath and Malmberg in Texas on Oct. 31, Soward said, but flew to Buffalo that day before deputies arrested Heath.

Malmberg and Tallman were to be charged with felony possession of marijuana, Soward said.

"We expect to charge her on Monday," Soward said. "The only reason we won't be charging him (Tallman) is because he's dead."

Police have said Tallman, of Semproun, a small village 15 miles southeast of Cortland, left his 10-month old baby with his mother to run some errands the afternoon before Thanksgiving.

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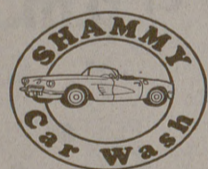
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
4:00		Math 366		Blinn Math 1350 (starts at 3:30)
5:30	Math 131	Physics 202	Math 131	Physics 202
7:00	Math 142		Math 142	
8:30		Physics 201	Math 166	Physics 201
10:00		Math 151	Blinn, Math 1325	Math 151

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