

# Abusive male requires help for his behavior

By JACIE B. PALMER  
Herald Special

A few days ago I overheard a conversation in which some young adults were discussing assaults. A young man commented that when police are called to intervene in an assault incident they ought to cart both parties off to jail. He went on to say that assaults are results of arguments because each person pushes the buttons of the other person.

That is wrong! A man beats up his victim because he wants to control her. He needs to dominate her and if his attempts at psychological control don't work well enough he resorts to violent acts. Most assaults are not preceded by verbal arguments.

The abusive male requires help for the uncontrollable rage that demonstrated his hostile personality. If you know or suspect one of your neighbors is being abused you have a legal responsibility to report your suspicions to police.

Just as important, a responsive neighbor should help the abusive male to obtain help.

A recent Arnold Rincover article in The Toronto Star discussed the hostile personality. It stated that hostility lowers life expectancy and has definite moral, emotional and behavioral components. Although anger may be a normal reaction to some circumstances, the anger expressed by the hostile personality is indicative of the cynicism, suspiciousness and contempt which pervades much of that person's life.

Psychologists studies have shown that hostile behavior is linked to heart disease. Probably a corollary compounding the problem is the fact that hostile persons have fewer friends and therefore a greatly diminished support system.

Whether this is because the hostile personality is mistrustful of others or people don't wish to be around a hostile person is another matter.

Studies also show that hostile people don't learn to adapt and effectively solve their problems. This often leads to more conflict in the lives of those around them.



The male abuser is a danger to his own physical well-being as well as his own mental health.

The abusive male by not receiving the help he needs is shortening his own life. Wife battering is an epidemic in our society and until we all take some responsibility in recognizing and ensuring abusers get proper counselling it will continue to manifest itself across the cultural and economic fabric of our nation.

The discussion I referred to at the beginning of this article is indicative of public misinformation and misguided perceptions.

All too often, the public encourage abusers by reinforcing the perception that the "victim" deserves the abuse or did something to cause the abusive incident. Some counsellors over a period of time and through lack of appropriate training in dealing with abusive males may actually reinforce the abusive behavior by placing some blame on the victim. A counsellor may also terminate therapy prematurely.

These actions may ensure physical violence continues with, at least, a diminished intensity. Psychological warfare may indeed increase. Victims may feel comfortable and optimistic because their partners are receiving counselling and may be expecting a miracle. This can leave their physical health at risk

to an abuser who has not received the right kind of treatment.

Better counselling with more stringent long term follow-up is necessary to ensure abusive males have altered their behavior. At the same time, better public education surrounding issues of abuse must ensure that

stereotypical viewpoints on why abuse occurs are shattered.

Feel free to contact Jacie by directing letters to her attention at The Herald. All correspondence will remain confidential.

Should you wish to speak to Jacie, call the Distress Centre at 877-1211 and your call will be returned. If you are a woman or child in crisis or an abusive male wanting help, call the Distress Centre or dial 911.

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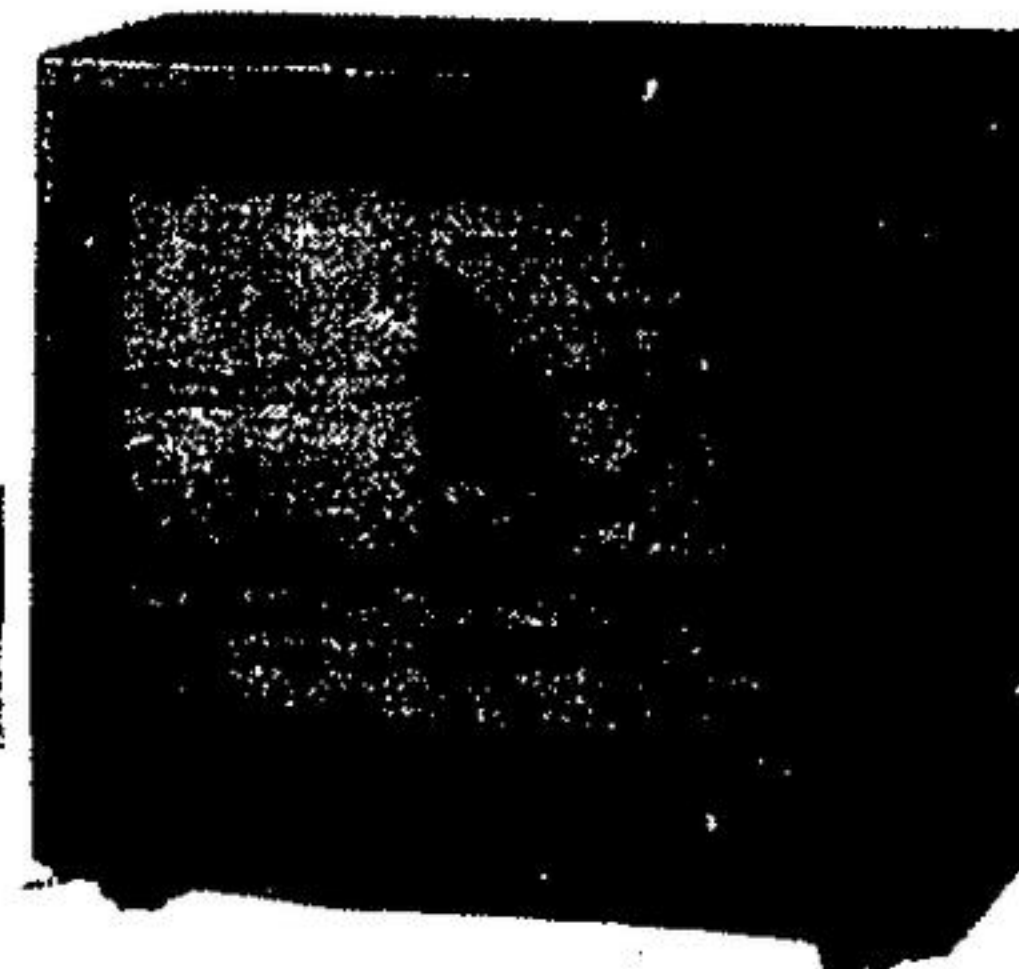
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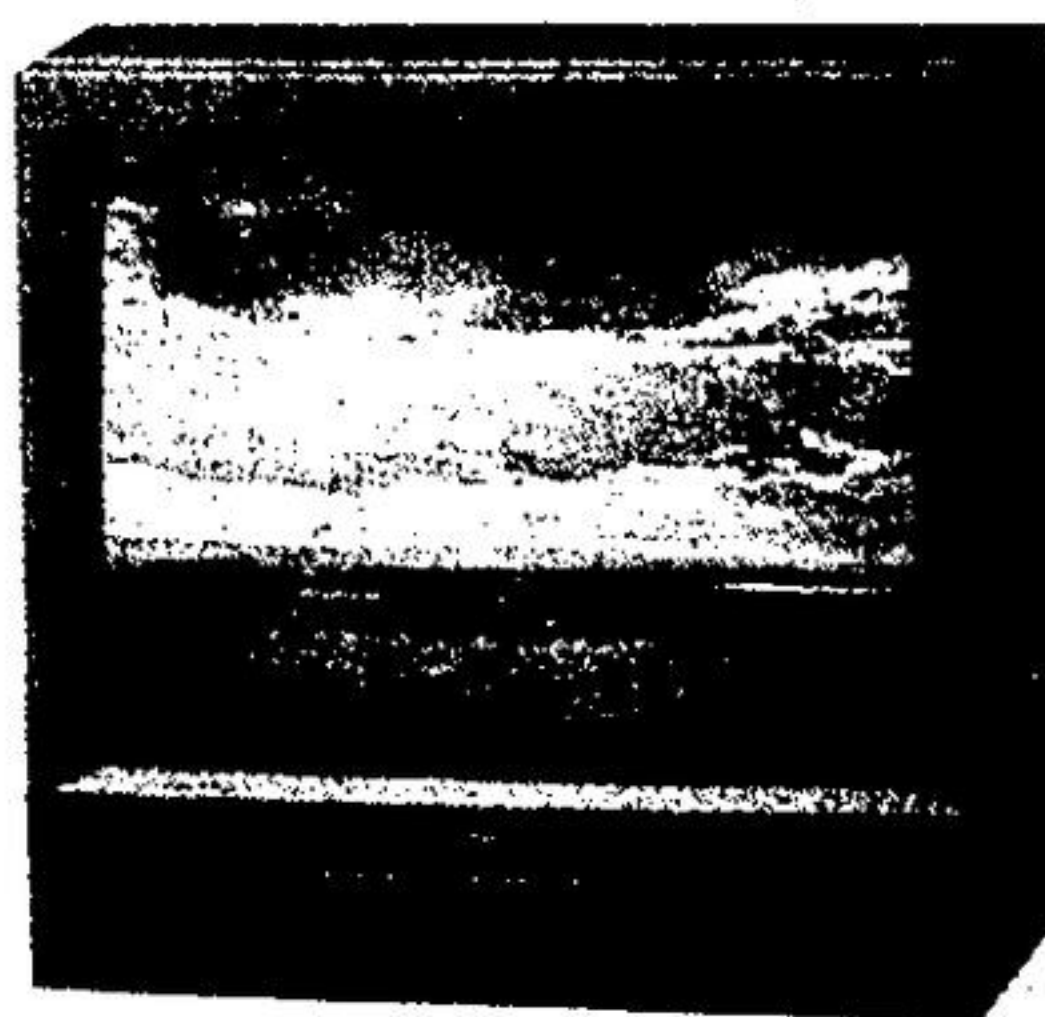
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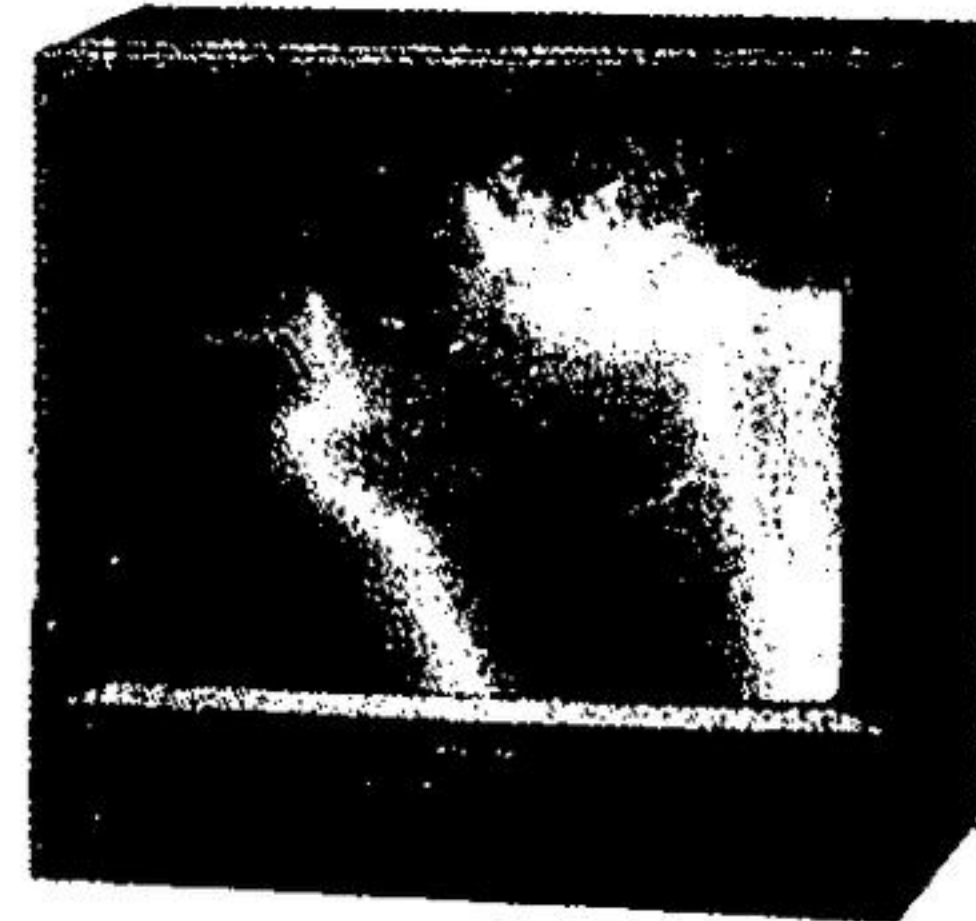
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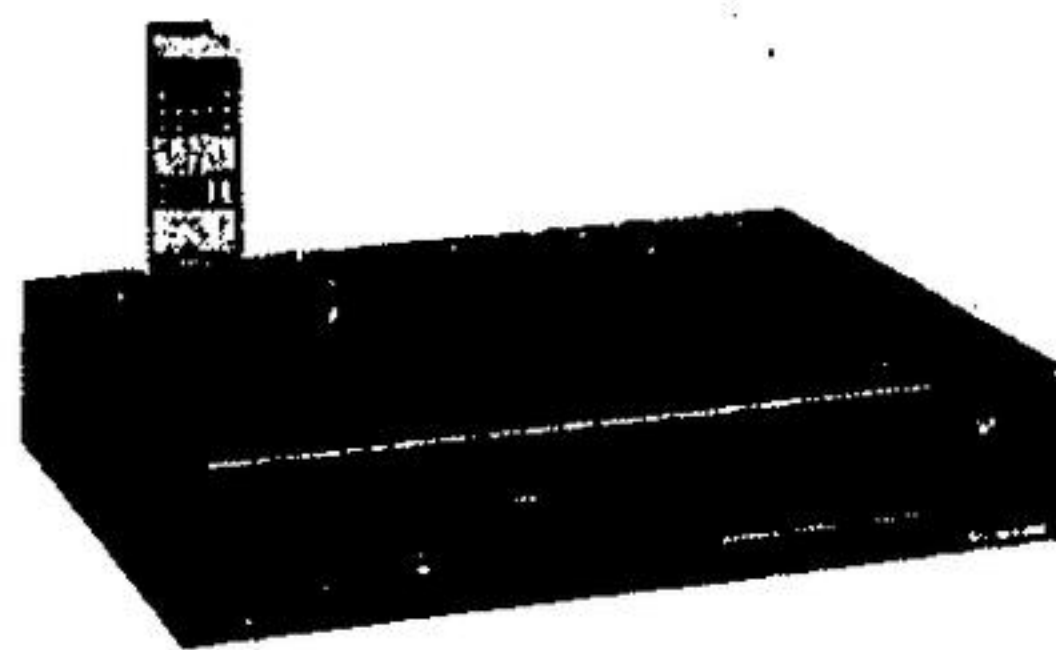


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## PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE STEELES AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION FROM SIXTH LINE SOUTH TO TRAFALGAR ROAD TOWN OF HALTON HILLS REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN

★★★★

A Public Information Centre will be held:

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 1991  
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Hornby Community Centre  
Steeles Ave., West of Trafalgar Road  
Town of Halton Hills

This Information Centre is being held to provide the public with the opportunity to review the preliminary design drawings for the proposed reconstruction of Steeles Ave. from east of the 6th Line South to west of Trafalgar Road.

Interested persons are invited to drop in any time during the above hours to view and comment on the proposed works. Region's staff and the Consultant will be available to answer your questions.

For further information regarding this presentation, please contact Ms. K. Blom, P. Eng., Public Works Department, Regional Municipality of Halton at the following telephone numbers, extension 7612

From Burlington, Milton and Oakville 825-6000  
From Georgetown 878-8113  
From Acton 853-0501  
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