

Family Violence

Reader complains Jacies last column sexist in tone

By JACIE B. PALMER  
Herald Special

This week has been a bumper week for Jacie. Last week's column on verbal abuse seemed to hit the nerves of a few women. One woman called to thank me for writing the articles and indicated she found a little piece of her own relationships in many of them. I ran into another woman on the street and she stated that the column seemed to deal with all forms of abuse and often struck cords for her.

Then there was my first call. It came from a woman who was upset by what she felt was a sexist and feminist tone to the article. It was the first time she'd read the column. She seemed frustrated by all the recent coverage of Family Violence articles in the news. November was "Wife Assault Awareness Month" and the nightly news and daily papers have been excellent in their coverage of the issues surrounding violence against women and children.

She was really telling me that there are lots of good, kind and wonderful men out there and that my column is painting all men as being abusers.

Certainly that is not my intention, nor is it the intention of my articles. I simply want members of our community to recognize that one in four women in Halton is abused and that there are men

in our community abusing them. Our children are suffering.

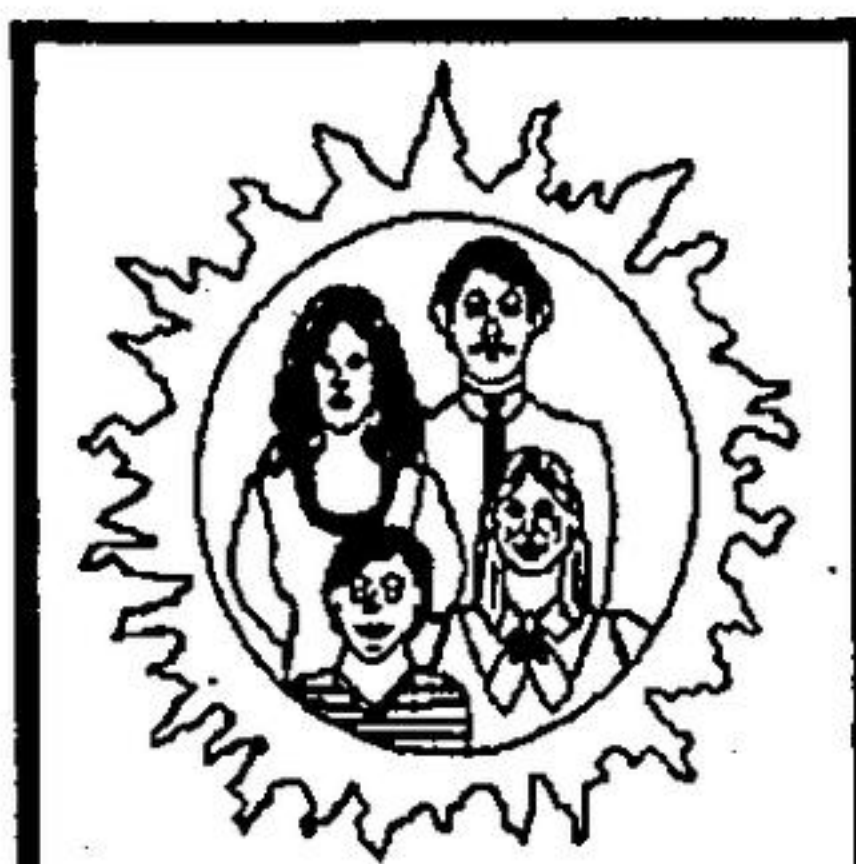
I agreed with her when she said that women can inflict verbal abuse. In past articles I've stated that while the majority of abusers are men, women do make up about seven percent of physical abusers.

Surely, we can all learn to be more effective communicators, better parents and more supportive mates.

And YES, we can all be abusive. No doubt about it. I know that I learned to abuse from an abusive relationship. I can be very good at it. Probably I can verbally abuse better than most. I do not state that with pride. I just learned from an expert. I was taught well. The big difference between me and my former male abusive partner is that I know it is wrong, wrong, wrong. He believes abuse is normal-verbal and otherwise.

Even in our community, women have attempted suicide and the roots of their problems and depressions are in previous abusive relationships. These women are not mentally unbalanced. They are out of control because of the effects of the violence on their minds. It is easy

to state that women today have a choice. We all have choices which we make daily. Yet, even high income, highly intelligent and pro-



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professionally competent individuals become involved in, remain in, and are overcome by abusive relationships. A phenomenon known as the Stockholm Syndrome, which is normally related to victims in hostage situations, has been linked to the circumstances faced by abused women. Women who are victims of Family Violence are like "hostages. They must ESCAPE!"

A series of studies presented in August 1991 at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association suggest that 28 percent of dating relationships contain some kind of physical, emotional or sexual abuse against women. These

young women are our children and our future mothers! What are we doing wrong. How are we failing them. Why are we not teaching our daughters to be equal partners in a relationship and to walk away from relationships that hurt them. Why are we continuing to raise our daughters to be compliant pleasers. Society must change, or this violence will continue.

No, I am not a feminist! I'm not a women's libber. I don't hate

men! In fact, men make up the majority of my dearest friends! And, I'm not even a writer. I'm an intelligent woman who has a lot of experience in living. I want to stop violence in our community! I'm willing to read, research, listen and share my experiences with others. I may not be perfect and you may not always agree with my views, but HEY! at least I'm doing something. What are you doing for our community.

Car dealer helps

December 16, 1991  
GEORGETOWN, Ontario - With just days to go until Christmas, requests from needy people for food and toys have never been greater, but donations are still drastically low. TOYOTA car dealers throughout the Georgetown area are making an urgent plea to the community to help the SALVATION ARMY in their efforts to brighten Christmas for less fortunate individuals and families. People are being asked to bring in at least one item-an unwrapped toy and/or gift of nonperishable food to their neighbourhood TOYOTA car dealership.

Says Major Hugh Tilley, Public Relations Director for the SALVATION ARMY, "With the increased need this year, we are hard pressed to answer all the needs. Toys are given to be in short supply and, at this moment, we have less than half of what we'll need."

For the second year, the TORONTO HAMILTON

TOYOTA DEALERS' ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION (in a combined effort with 30 dealers in the Toronto/Hamilton area) are sponsoring the "1991 TOYOTA CHRISTMAS CARE DRIVE". The drive, which started December 1st and runs through to December 24th, is an effort to help collect and deliver to the SALVATION ARMY, desperately needed food and toys for needy families this holiday season.

According to Paul Pearson, President of the TORONTO HAMILTON TOYOTA DEALERS' ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION, "Right now, we have a special need for toys and games for older children, ages 10 to 14."

GEORGETOWN TOYOTA LTD., located at 343 Guelph Street, is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone who drops in to make a donation will receive a free Christmas candy cane.

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
I was a very good girl and I'll leave you some hot chocolate and crackers for you. I'll leave some carrots for your reindeer. I would like a paint set, a Barbie magazine, a magic nursery baby and a new blanket for my bed.  
Love Jessica, 7

Dear Santa,  
I have been good today. Some days this year I was bad, but I'll try harder.  
I would like a toy truck, a chair for my doll house, some books, a couch for my doll house, Mr. Potato Head, a light for my doll house, some Barbie clothes, some small glasses for my doll house, puzzles, a table for my doll house, and a baby sister or brother.

I am going to leave you a chocolate and a beer. Remember? Like last year.  
I love you Santa.

Hugs and kisses,  
Erin, 3½

\*as dictated to Mommy

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Claus, (and the elves too!)

How are you all? I hope that Santa does not have a cold, and if so, here's some good advice. Eat lots of chicken soup and bundle up tight! Anyway, if it's not too much trouble, here is what I would like for Christmas. 1. Something to do with a unicorn for Anne Marie (my best friend!!!) 2. Baby Glow-in-the-dark Dommino raley or a new Magic Nursery Baby. (whichever comes in handy!) Please!!! (for me) 3. Please. (if necessary!!!) take away one of my presents and give them to a poor child, somewhere in this world!

But if you're wondering about the drawing, I traced it myself.  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Pal,  
Jena!  
Grade 4,  
Age 9 and quite tall!

Dear Santa:

My name is Heather and I am 5 years old. I started Kindergarten this year. I have been pretty good this year and was hoping that you would bring me the following gifts for Christmas: Barbie House, Puppy, Bathtime Barbie, Clothes.

I have a baby sister named Devon and she would like a stuffed bow-wow for Christmas. She has just learned to say bow-wow. I love her very much.

I love you too and my mom says we can leave you some cookies and milk and a carrot for your reindeers.

Love Heather,

Dear Santa,

I was a good boy, and I'll be very good before Christmas. I would like a tow truck, a big Christmas tree, a Mickey Mouse book and a baseball.

Love Zachary, 4



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Send your Letter to Santa to the Herald. We will draw a winner December 22, for a \$50.00 Gift Certificate from Canadian Tire Georgetown.

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Children's Wear  
70 Main St. S. DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN 873-2452

GLENLER Drug Mart  
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