

Safety

Self-defence course being offered

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Women looking to equip themselves to fend off domestic assaults are being offered a free course in self defence, safety, and awareness.

The free program is to be run as a community service at the Claremont Legion Hall the first and last Wednesday nights of

every month beginning May 25.

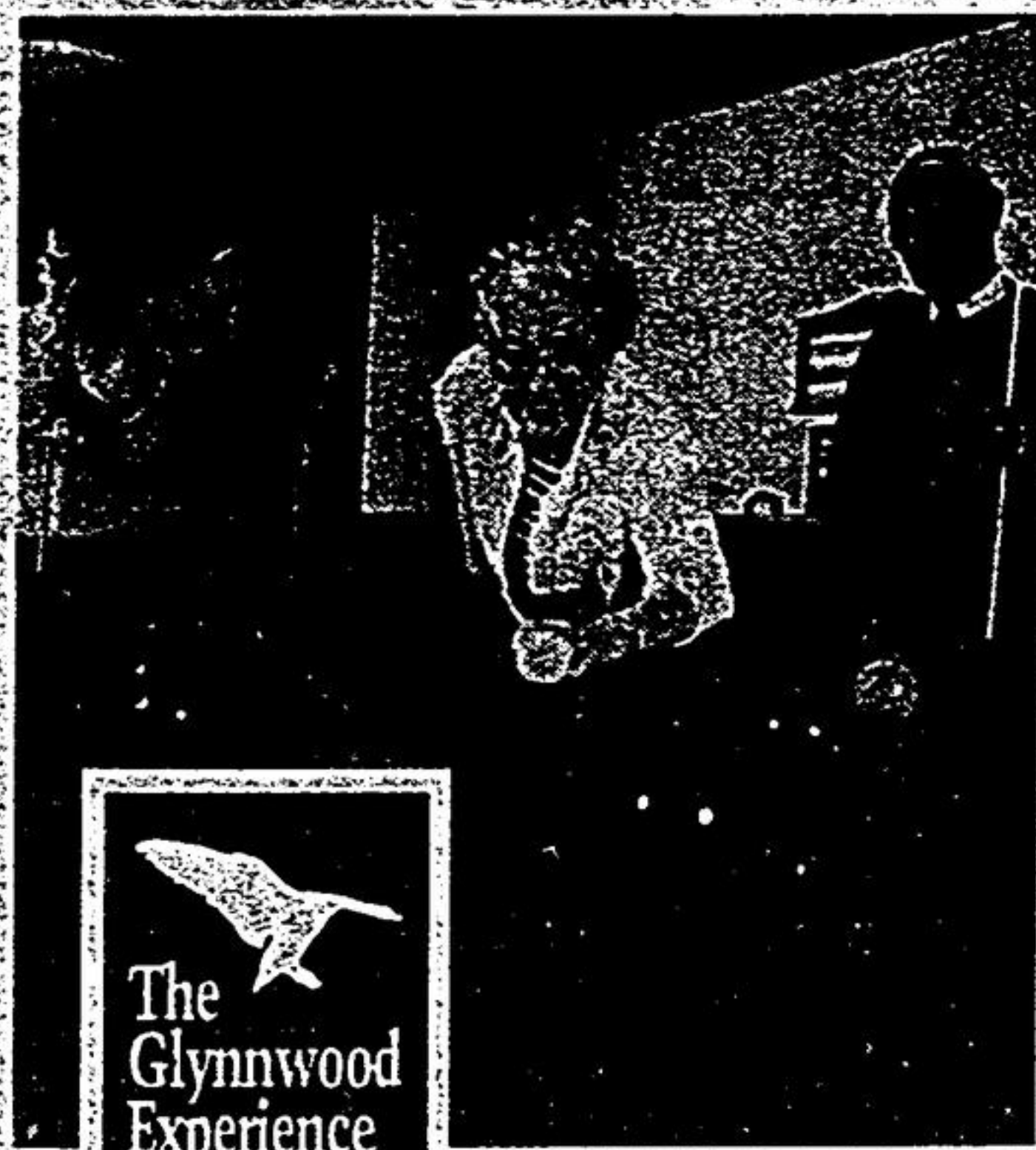
The course is the brainchild of Stouffville area resident Mike Donoghue, who, along with his fiance, operates the Resource Group, a company which provides defence training for employees of security firms and private industry.

Donoghue, a 12-year military veteran who also assists at the youth centre at the Claremont

Legion, said he decided to offer the course because local victims of domestic violence are currently on their own in terms of how to respond to assault.

"We've had a lot of people approach us about the idea," said Donoghue. "There's nothing for females and children in this area." He cited the rising rates of domestic violence against women and children as the reason why potential victims should be prepared to defend themselves. "More than 600 women have been killed in domestic disputes in Ontario since 1975. Forty-four per cent of the homicides occurred in families with a history of wife and child abuse, and 16 per cent of these happened after the parties had separated."

Donoghue said the aim of the course is to teach defence, while lecturing on awareness and personal safety. All women and children over the age of 12 are welcome. Contact Donoghue at 642-0978.



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