

March 7, 1984

# NEWS

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

CONTACT: Deborah Weeter  
Office: 214/688-3404  
Home: 214/243-5968

\*\*Child Abuse: A conference about caring.

DALLAS--Drop a pebble into a body of water and what happens? Even the smallest stone will cause a ripple effect, its circles become larger and larger until its repercussions touch every surrounding area. So it is with child abuse.

No one remains untouched by child abuse, neglect and pornography. It affects every one of us either directly or indirectly, and its consequences may be felt for generations. "It is a social problem that requires social solutions," says Dr. Bob Brown, volunteer coordinator for an upcoming program on child abuse, and clinical psychologist with the Department of Family Practice at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

The Child Abuse and Neglect Conference will be presented by the Texas Center for Media Awareness, a non-profit educational and research organization that supports efforts to address juvenile problems. The Texas Criminal Justice Department granted funds to the TCMA to hold four child abuse conferences. This one, the third in the series, will be in Lynch Auditorium at The University of Dallas in Irving March 15 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Speakers and their topics include:

Dr. Paul Prescott, director of the Child Abuse Clinic at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, who will speak on "The High Risk Family," outlining the warning signs and stress situations, such as divorce, that can lead to child abuse. He will attempt to erase some common misconceptions about typical child abusers and, in general, try to sensitize the public to recognize and become involved in child abuse problems.

Ted Boya, case manager at Spring Branch/Memorial Family Outreach Center in Houston, will talk about "Community Involvement," giving specific local resources available to families who need help or who suspect abuse in home or school settings.

Steve Chaney, assistant district attorney for Tarrant County, will discuss "Citizen Participation in Child Abuse Cases," explaining the legal chain of events that occur when a child abuse case is reported and investigated.

"Reducing Child Sexual Abuse Through the Home and School System," by Lou Ann King, community education specialist at the Rape Crisis Center, will help parents and teachers learn ways to detect sexual abuse and to minimize recurrences.

John Boyle, director, Pebble Project in Austin, will focus on "Coordinating Local Volunteer Efforts."

The value system will be addressed by Richard Land, D.Phil., vice president for Academic Affairs, Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, in "A Rising Tide of Family Violence: Symptoms or Cause?"

Following the programs, Rep. Doyle Willis will be honored by the citizens of Texas for his continual legislative efforts directed at providing for the well-being of children. He will be presented an award by Gib Lewis, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

The public, as well as professionals in the field, are encouraged to attend this program. Registration is \$5 payable at the door or in advance. Students will be admitted free. If you would like to pre-register, call Marsha Moore at The University of Dallas at 721-5027 or write to the Child Abuse/Neglect Conference, The Center for Media Awareness, 4901 Richmond Avenue, Suite 104, Houston, TX 77027.

##