



THE TORONTO STAR

Milder with lots of sun. High 4C

Monday, March 11, 1996

Metro Edition

Slain woman suffered a lifetime of abuse

By JANE ARMSTRONG
STAFF REPORTER

When they were young, their dad used to snatch the Phillips kids out of school, sometimes out of their home, drive them around, then abandon them on unknown streets.

Lawrence, Arlene and Diane would have to walk for hours to find their way home.

That journey ended for one of them Friday, when Arlene —

who grew up to become Arlene May, a 39-year-old mother of five — was shot to death by her ex-boyfriend, Randy Iles, after enduring months of threats and abuse. Iles then shot himself.

Her brother Lawrence, now 40, followed in the footsteps of

his father and is today serving a jail sentence for spousal abuse. Lawrence was profiled in The Star's series on domestic assault, which began Saturday.

And Diane is picking up the pieces of her own broken relationship in Toronto.

In their childhood, they'd watch their dad regularly beat their mom. She eventually fled and later remarried.

Then a few years later, their dad took off as well. The children were taken in by their grandparents, who raised them.

But the damage inflicted on the Phillips youngsters took its toll. With sickening predictability, Lawrence and Arlene fell into the same cycles of violence that dominated their parents' lives.

Arlene was a victim, but Lawrence beat and harassed first his wife, and later his girlfriend, Shelley.

In an interview last January at

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Victim 'knew he was closing in,' A6

StarPhone callers voice outrage, A6

Abusers taught to manage anger, A11

HITTING HOME: SPOUSAL ABUSE



ALANIS MORISSETTE

Rocker wins Juno duel of the divas

By PETER HOWELL
POP CRITIC

HAMILTON — Alanis Morissette's gain was Shanla Twain's pain at the 25th Annual Juno Awards last night.

Rocker Morissette triumphed over country star Twain in the Juno trophy count, with wins and losses that mirrored their contest at the Feb. 28 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Morissette won five of her six nominated categories, including album of the year and best rock album for *Jagged Little Pill*.

Twain, from Timmins, won one of seven nominations — for country female vocalist. She was also named entertainer of the year.

Morissette, from Ottawa, also beat back challenges from two other women in this duel of the divas: Inuit singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark, who won none of her five nominations; and Quebec pop singer Céline Dion, who cashed in just one of her four nominations, for best-selling francophone album, *D'eux*.

Cape Breton fiddle punk Ashley MacIsaac was the most successful male artist, winning Junos for best new solo artist and best roots and traditional album, solo, for *Hi, How Are You Today?*

Morissette last won a Juno in 1992, her first, when she was named most promising female vocalist for her previous incarnation as a dance-pop singer.

Twain was a surprise no-show last night. A statement issued from her press office a half hour before the show start said she had a viral infection.

Full coverage, B1

Martin's fancy footwork



RICK MADONIK FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Finance Minister Paul Martin dances with Solange Denis yesterday before discussing pensions at an Ottawa seniors' home. Denis, 78, is best-known for confronting then-PM Brian Mulroney over cuts to seniors' benefits. Story, A9

Up Front

Faith and fear ride No. 18 bus as Jerusalem soldiers on

By MARTIN REGG COHN
MIDDLE EAST BUREAU

JERUSALEM — Ilanit Miazov was sure her Jewish God would protect her from an Islamic fundamentalist suicide bomber yesterday, but she was still taking no chances.

Recalling the deadly bombing two weeks ago near the Central Station — and down the street again last Sunday — Miazov opted to push her baby stroller an extra block before boarding the No. 18 bus that takes her home.

"I'm afraid for the baby," she said simply. Miazov was like many commuters fighting against their fears yesterday — some turning to God for protection, others running for cover.

Braced for the beginning of the Israeli work week yesterday — Israelis generally take Friday and Saturday off — many were expecting a repeat of the deadly suicide bombings of the No. 18 bus on the previous two Sundays.

The No. 18 is one of Jerusalem's best-known bus routes. Most Sunday mornings, soldiers on their way back to base after weekend leaves in the mainly Jewish western half of the city fill the buses to capacity. That was likely why Hamas spoke of "military" targets on the buses.

For Miazov, the trip tested her faith in the massive security dragnet that deployed more than 1,000 police and soldiers across Jerusalem — and in the power of God.

"I'm afraid — I'm always watching who comes



MARTIN REGG COHN / TORONTO STAR

THE BOMBING RUN: Teacher Sigalit Pirosch, 26, "can't run away" from Jerusalem bus route Hamas targets.

on the bus," she said as she hovered protectively over the carriage where her 6-month-old son, Inon Elia, slept peacefully.

Miazov's fears were stoked by a threat of renewed attacks announced over the weekend by the Izzedine Al Qassam brigades — the so-called military wing of the extremist Islamic opposition movement Hamas. In faxes sent to Western news agencies, the terrorist group promised to continue blowing up Israelis.

"I think there will be more bombs — they said so themselves," the 25-year-old mother mused

Please see Courage, A10

Report questions benefits of tax cut

Lower rates may not create jobs, MPP panel told

By WILLIAM WALKER
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

Premier Mike Harris' proposed tax cut likely won't help create jobs and government spending cuts might actually hurt the fragile economy, a new report says.

The report, written by the Legislature's Tory-dominated finance committee after weeks of public hearings, also showed that friends of the Conservative government in big business want it to take a careful look at the promised tax cut.

During last summer's election campaign, Harris called for spending cuts in order to balance the provincial books in five years. He also promised a 30 per cent reduction in the provincial personal income tax rate over three years in order to stimulate the province's slumping economy.

But the 45-page report written by the committee — comprised of eight Tory MPPs, two Liberals and two NDP — questions the wisdom of a tax cut. A copy was obtained by The Star.

"The expert witnesses, as well as witnesses from business, disagreed as to how stimulative an income tax cut would be," it states.

"No witness who addressed the issue had particularly high expectations that the province's economy would be generating a large number of jobs in 1996 or 1997."

The report notes that several expert witnesses "are concerned that any stimulative effect of an income-tax cut will be offset, or even outweighed, by the negative effects of expenditure cuts."

"If the over-all effect is negative, the government may see the same kind of revenue losses, through unemployment and lower consumption, it was seeing earlier in this decade and ultimately, a deterioration in the deficit situation," the report states.

The committee's findings will be presented to Finance Minister Ernie Eves and the Legislature after it resumes sitting March 18. Eves is to introduce the Progressive Conservative government's first provincial budget during the first week of May.

The finance committee report

Please see Lower, back page

Strike talks begin, no quick end seen

By DANIEL GIRARD
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU

Negotiations are under way to end Ontario's first civil service strike but neither side is predicting a quick resolution.

"It could be a long night. It could be a long week," Management Board Chairman Dave Johnson told reporters at Queen's Park last night.

"We need to relax and let the mediator do his job."

Mediator John Mather yesterday met separately with negotiators for the provincial government and the striking 67,000-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union in a bid to end the walkout, now in its 15th day.

"I'm feeling optimistic. I think we can make a deal," John O'Brien, chairperson of the union bargaining team, said before meeting with the mediator.

Paul Gardner, director of labor-management services at the ministry of labor, said: "We're just in preliminary discussions."

Gardner refused to say if the two sides had altered their bar-

gaining positions since negotiations broke off Feb. 22.

The main issues are job security, pensions and severance related to the government's plan to eliminate between 13,000 and 27,000 civil service jobs in the next two years.

Neither side yesterday gave any sign of letting up.

Johnson said the government will push ahead with today's application to the Ontario Labor Relations Board to have provincial meat inspectors declared an essential service.

The two sides have fought before the labor board and courts over jails, snowplows and meat inspectors.

Meanwhile, the Ontario Federation of Labor has vowed members of other unions will bolster OPSEU picket lines beginning today in a bid to prevent striking workers from returning to their jobs.

Having received their last pre-strike paycheque last week, speculation is growing that an increasing number of strikers may cross picket lines today.

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Star readers stunned by the amount of violence

Stories are scary, tough to read, say StarPhone callers

BY DESMOND BILL STAFF REPORTER

It has been a long time — if ever — since readers have been so stirred up as they were by The Star's eight-month project examining domestic violence and society's failure to stop it. "My god, I can't believe these articles," one woman said, expressing the outrage voiced by many of the 600 people who called StarPhone over the weekend after the series began Saturday.

"I felt sick when I read the pieces," another woman said. "I never realized so much of this stuff was going on, I never thought it was this bad."

"I was shaken," a man said. One caller said the series, which continues through this week, is "a wake-up call" to judges and crown attorneys who deal with wife-battering cases.

'I never realized so much of this stuff was going on'

This man, like the great majority of callers, was highly critical of crown attorneys who refuse to prosecute cases when the woman refuses to testify against the man.

Several scoffed at Paul Culver, Metro's chief prosecutor, who defended that policy and said he was surprised by the number of domestic assaults uncovered by The Star investigation.

"The crown doesn't drop murder charges because the victim isn't around to testify," one person pointed out.

"Since when did crown attorneys stop prosecuting cases because the victim is scared?" a man wanted to know.

Another said even if a woman recants her accusations, the crown could pursue the case using 911 recordings, photos, medical evidence and police testimony.

There was a small number of callers who regarded the articles as, in the words of one man, "another lopsided attack on men."

"These articles were written by three women, bashing men," another said. "They're only telling one side of the story."

A woman from London, Ont., said she was upset by the coverage because it seems to assume the only spousal violence is wife battering.

"Women batter too," she said. "I know because my brother happened to marry a woman who battered him."

Many who called StarPhone were angry at the leniency of judges when they sentence men convicted of attacking a spouse.

One caller described provincial court judges as the most dangerous men in Canada. "Worse than the guy that beats you is the one who thinks it is okay for him to do it," she said.

"If men attacked a stranger they'd end up in jail but they can beat up their wives and nothing happens to them."

Another said: "I hope the crowns and judges who handle

these cases will read this series and make sure they come up with more effective prosecutions and more appropriate sentences."

But one caller said he didn't expect the justice system would change.

This man, who asked that his name not be used, said his father had shot his mother in the shoulder in 1971 while they lived in a small Ontario town.

"She had been through the courts with him but she always dropped the charges," he said.

"My father never served a day in jail because the judge said he'd been punished enough by the time he spent in hospital after he shot himself."

This man said that after reading the articles in The Star, "I can see nothing has changed. And I don't think it ever will change."

The details of the cases outlined by The Star obviously struck home to readers, who called the stories "horrific ... gripping ... awful ... scary ... tough to read."

Many callers were women who said they had been battered wives or people who said they'd had grown up in homes where their mothers were abused.

One woman, who was crying as she recorded her message on StarPhone, said the articles "brought it all back" to her and added: "You never get over seeing your father beat up your mother."

A woman called Sharon said she stayed with an abusive man for 13 months "thinking that I could help him if I only tried harder. He threatened me with death but I never reported him because I knew the system couldn't do anything. I just left."

"My mother was assaulted by my father for 40 years and she covered up for him," a woman said.

"I was assaulted for two years before I got out. I'm ashamed to leave my name and isn't that a sad situation. It's because of the stigma attached to victims."

Several women, including some who had been abused, said that while they were sympathetic to battered women, the women had to realize they have some responsibility for their situation.

'Women need to take responsibility for their own lives'

"If a woman finds herself in these (abusive) situations it is up to her to get out as fast as possible," one said. "Women need to take responsibility for their own lives."

The great majority of callers congratulated The Star on the series.

"It's the best thing The Star has ever done," one reader said.

The Star's investigation was based on all the cases of domestic assault that turned up in the Metro Toronto system over the Canada Day week last year.

A few people — all women — also said women were often to blame when a man struck them.

"Some women annoy their men so much that they are driven to beat them," an elderly woman caller said.

Another added: "A lot of women are nags, it's no wonder their husbands get fed up with them and lash out."



PAUL MCCUSKER FOR THE TORONTO STAR

ON TRIAL: Lawrence Phillips, sketched in a Toronto courtroom, was accused of several attacks on girlfriend Shelley that bore an eerie resemblance to abuse he witnessed between his parents as a child. His sister Arlene May was apparently killed by her ex-boyfriend in Craighleith on Friday.

Slain woman feared 'he was closing in'

BY DALE ANNE FREED AND HENRY STANCU STAFF REPORTERS

A 39-year-old mother of five shot by her former boyfriend made out a new will just a week before he killed her and then shot himself, friends say.

Arlene May knew she would die at the hands of Randy Iles, especially after he called her and left messages like "We'll be together soon on a honeymoon in heaven," said Eleanor Collins, a friend who treated May like her own daughter.

"She knew he was closing in," said Collins' son Michael, who was once in a common-law relationship with May's sister Diane.

Iles arrived at May's home in Craighleith, northwest of Collingwood, last Friday. He shot and killed her and then turned the gun on himself.

Just last Wednesday, the Collinses said, police tried to talk May into going to a halfway house because they couldn't protect her at home.

"They spent about 45 minutes trying to convince her," Eleanor Collins recalled, adding: "But she didn't want to disturb her kids' schooling. She just loved her children."

Three of May's children — Kelly, a 15-year-old A-plus student, James, 12, and Amber, 4 — lived with her in a split-level home on Timmons Rd. in Craighleith; her eldest, Pauline, 20, lives in Collingwood; and another son, Adam, 10, lives with his father Danny May in Metro.

In her will, May made sure her youngest child would be looked after by Pauline, Collins said.

IN JEOPARDY

"She knew she was in jeopardy," she added.

Breaking into tears, she recalled May's anguished plea: "How come I end up with (a man) who wants to pound on me, abuse me, when I all want is to be loved?"

Described as "a control freak" with a history of weapons offences, Iles was arrested in 1986 after he pointed a gun at the woman he was then living with, Michael Collins said.

But despite Iles' history of violence, "I didn't think he'd have the guts to do it," Eleanor Collins said, referring to Friday's



RANDY ILES: Shot former girlfriend Friday and turned gun on himself.

MURDER-SUICIDE

May was "a good mother," Collins said. "She didn't deserve this."

She added, "Why wasn't he in jail for breaking the peace bond?"

She was referring to a \$2,000 bond posted when Iles was bailed out of jail in November on charges of assaulting May and ordered not to go near her.

A further bond of \$200 was posted after another assault last month.

"How could they keep letting him out?" she asked.

TWO SIDES

Brian Renkin, Iles' lawyer, said he didn't think there was any reason to worry when he urged a judge to release his client.

"I did not think he was a threat — based on his record and based on what I knew about the facts," Renkin said, adding: "There are two sides to every story."

Iles' family said he had been abused by May in the stormy relationship that forced him to the breaking point.

"If he had a peace bond on him, why was she allowed to continually harass him?" his mother, Barbara Calvin, 56, said last night.

The family said Iles lost his job at a Collingwood furniture store because May was constantly phoning his boss, claiming abuse.

And Collingwood police were

becoming frustrated with the sheer number of May's phone calls, they said.

"He was a good father and he treated us all well," said Iles' daughter Lindsay, 16, one of his five children.

Family members said Iles and his wife Debbie had moved to Oshawa the week before to start afresh.

His brother Marc, 31, said May had once gone to Iles' house and attacked his wife but, when police came, it was Randy Iles who was arrested.

"Arlene just broke him down. I've seen him with bruises down his arm when she had taken a two-by-four to him," his brother Marc said.

"He said, 'Marc, I don't want to go to jail any more.'"

May, who came from a dysfunctional family and was abandoned as a child by her mother, never used violence on her own children, Eleanor Collins said.

But there was one member of May's family who was not so successful, she noted, turning the pages of The Sunday Star to the Context section and its special investigation on spousal abuse.

She pointed to a photograph of Lawrence Phillips, May's brother, a sometime actor now serving a six-month jail term — for domestic abuse.

With files from Jane Armstrong

Intruder imprisons young mom for 5 hours

BY FRANK CALLEJA STAFF REPORTER

A 24-year-old faces five charges after a man forced his way into a North York woman's apartment and bound, gagged and threatened to electrocute her.

The man being held in custody was out on bail and prohibited by court order from having any contact with the woman and her 4-month-old child, according to police investigators.

When the 22-year-old woman answered a knock at her door in the Victoria Park Ave.-York Mills Rd. area, a man forced his way inside, police said.

He bound the victim's hands with electrical cord, placed tape on her mouth and threatened to harm her.

Police said the woman was held in the apartment for nearly five hours before she managed to escape and notify police.

Metro police Detective Glenn McLeod said a man was arrested a short time later by emergency task force officers.

He said there were no weapons involved and the woman and child were not injured.

Officers said they also seized 2.92 grams of cocaine.

Courtney Livingstone Peters, 24, of Graydon Court, Mississauga, has been charged with forcible confinement, threatening bodily harm, being unlawfully in a dwelling, failure to comply with recognizance and possession of cocaine.

Teacher unions vote to join CLC

BY BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH STAFF REPORTER

Two large teachers' unions have voted to join the Canadian Labor Congress as the fight over government cuts to education heats up.

Both the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, representing 34,000 teachers, and the 50,000-member Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation agreed over the weekend to join the congress.

The congress represents more than 2.2 million unionized workers nationwide.

"It's never been more important because the risks have never been greater," said Marilies Rettig, head of the Catholic teachers' association.

"There's never been a government that's moved ahead with such a debilitating agenda at such a rate," she said yesterday.

Both unions held their general meetings in Toronto on the weekend and education cuts was a big issue.

For the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the decision to join the congress cements a working relationship that has existed for several years, association president Earl Manners said.

Marrow clinic swamped by donors

BY NICOLAAS VAN RIJN STAFF REPORTER

Everybody wants to be Deirdre's hero.

And more than 2,500 people turned out at a Milton clinic yesterday hoping that someone would turn out to be the right bone marrow match to restore the frail 5-year-old back to good health.

"Everyone was just blown away by the turn-out," Deirdre's father Clem Scholtz said after the clinic.

"We hope for numbers, because that's where the answer eventually lies, but no one — not even the people running the clinic — expected this kind of result."

Deirdre, who has aplastic anemia, will die without a bone marrow transplant. At risk from infections, the little girl can go home on weekends from the Hospital for Sick Children, but must be kept in strict isolation.

That's led her to ask her dad and mother, Liz, "Mommy, daddy, don't you love me any more?" because they can no longer hug her, kiss her, hold her.

"We're all hoping so much for an answer," Scholtz said.

He said after he and his wife came home from the clinic, their son Adam, 6, asked "Did you find any good blood for Deirdre?"

Blood was taken from 2,003 of those who turned out yesterday, Scholtz said; those turned away left their names and will be processed later.

Snowmobiler believed drowned in Muskoka

BARRIE (Special) — Police divers were to resume their search today for a Toronto man believed drowned when his snowmobile went through the ice on Lake Muskoka.

An Ontario Provincial Police dive team recovered the unidentified man's snow machine yesterday.

Constable John Eden of the OPP in Bala said the man and a friend on another snowmobile were travelling on the ice Saturday and became separated. Police followed snowmobile tracks to an open stretch of water.

Eden said police are withholding the man's name pending notification of relatives.

"It is an area of the lake that has had ice for snowmobiling," Eden said, adding that divers were to search the lake this morning.

Abuse of mom marked son, daughter

(Continued from A1)

the Toronto (Don) Jail, just days after he was sentenced to jail for six months for criminal harassment, he grew tearful when he recalled his unhappy childhood.

Many of the crimes he accused his father of committing bore an eerie similarity to the crimes he would stand accused of committing on Shelley.

His dad pushed his mom down the stairs, he said. He chased her about the apartment and forced her to walk home after ordering her out of the car.

Like father, like son. When he grew up, Phillips threw Shelley down the stairs and chased her about the apart-

ment.

Once, just hours after she was released from hospital, he made her walk home from a restaurant. The painful journey took two hours.

Family friends said yesterday that the father is now dead.

Like many people accused of violence against women, Phillips showed little interest in getting treatment or trying to understand the inherited patterns of abuse.

"I don't believe in violence," he said. "My problem is addiction."

He blamed Shelley for his fate, saying he attacked her but only out of self-defence.

Phillips admitted he hurt his first wife, but said he later

sought treatment and was cured. "I learned that I hate (violence) and I'm against it."

But his father's abuse had left a jarring imprint on the young Lawrence Phillips that would follow him into adulthood.

When recounting a violent confrontation between his parents, Phillips' face grew contorted with pain. Tears welled up in his eyes.

"He was chasing her (his mom) from room to room. And I'm running around saying, 'Please stop.'"

Phillips attended Ryerson Polytechnic University and later worked as an actor. He guest-starred on the CBC television show *Lonesome Dove* and in a rock video.

He always played the bad guy. But recently his career was spiralling downward. In January, he was accused of robbing four banks.

During his violent relationship with Shelley, Phillips frequently brought up his unhappy childhood. It was often an excuse for his mercurial behavior. That and his growing drug problem soon became the main topics of conversation.

Two of his most vivid childhood memories were of abandonment and abduction, he told her. In fact, a 1994 movie he starred in was called *Abducted 2*. In it, he played a crazed mountain man who abducted three female hikers.

HITTING HOME: SPOUSAL ABUSE

Managing Anger...

The men in these counselling sessions range in age from their 20s to 60s, and their ethnic origins and occupations could not be more diverse. But they have one thing in common: they've been ordered to stop solving problems with their fists.

BY RITA DALY, CAROLINE MALLAN AND JANE ARMSTRONG STAFF REPORTERS



TWELVE-WEEK ANGER MANAGEMENT COURSE RUN BY COUNSELLOR DAN BAJOREK HAS A YEAR'S WAITING LIST.

KEN FAUGHT / TORONTO STAR

The butcher is the first to speak at "check-in." That's leader Dan Bajorek's term for the first contact these 19 convicted spouse abusers have with one another at weekly anger management classes.

"I'm really stressed at work right now," the butcher explains, barely glancing up from under his baseball cap. "I was supposed to get some benefits and a raise and it hasn't happened."

"How are you handling that stress?" asks Bajorek, a longtime worker in the counselling field, his manner friendly and matter-of-fact.

"It's hard not to take it home," the butcher replies. "I'm not ready for the kids right away. So I'm going out after work for an hour or so, shooting some pool. It just calms me down and then I go home."

He goes on to say that his wife has been very supportive and understanding.

"She tells me just to quit," he says. "I can get work anywhere. After all, people need to eat."

His words spark a chuckle that runs around the hot, stuffy room.

Tonight, a bitter cold Tuesday in February, is the sixth time these men have sat in this circle. The chairs touch one another and personal space is at a premium.

They're here because a judge found them guilty of beating their wives or girlfriends and ordered them to sit and listen, to learn and, above all, to stop solving their problems with their fists.

They range in age from early 20s to early 60s, and their ethnic origins and occupations could not be more diverse.

Despite their differences, they're starting to become more comfortable, although some still sit in stony silence, staring at their feet. But as the first hour drags into the second, most are drawn into the dialogue.

The men in this 12-week program have never spoken about hitting their wives or girlfriends to anyone. It is here, inside the Rexdale Community Centre and in other centres around Metro, that they get their chance.

If given a choice, these men would all opt for individual counselling. But it's here, in group session, that the secrets of their abuse are pushed into the open, says Bajorek.

The Star's study of 133 cases of domestic violence showed that 43 per cent of men found guilty were handed a probation condition ordering them either to take anger management or giving their probation officers the option to order them into the program.

Katie Almond, a Metro probation officer, says that at any given time there are an average of 5,000 men in Metro who are on probation for domestic assault.

But there are only 120 spots a year in the court-ordered anger program.

Both Bajorek and Almond say a lot of probation officers won't send abusers to the sessions because they question its effectiveness or they believe the wait is just too long to make the program worthwhile.

But Almond is unwavering in her support for the work of Bajorek and David Abel, who runs a voluntary anger management program.

"They're our heroes in the field because there's so few people who are doing that kind of work," she says.

Not everyone agrees on the effectiveness of the program. Barbara Pressman, a Kitchener therapist who has developed programs for abusers, criticizes anger management as being "too simplistic."

"It gives them some tools, but it doesn't give them a lot of insight into the power dynamics and discrimination against women," says Pressman.

There's no denying the system's main handicap: the interminable waiting list.

For the men who assaulted their spouses during the first week of July, 1995, most will be on the waiting list until next September, more than a year after the punches were thrown.

In most cases, these men are living with their victims while awaiting classes.

Men ordered into anger management are allowed to miss two sessions before being reported to their probation officer and subsequently charged with failing to comply with their probation conditions.

Almond believes that men who fail to comply with their conditions expose a serious flaw in the justice system.

She says it is routine for men who don't show up for their anger sessions to be charged. But then a judge will give them an absolute discharge when the case gets to court.

Or a crown attorney will withdraw the charges as part of a plea bargain.

Bajorek says some probation officers feel the legal system doesn't back them up, so they don't even bother laying the charges.

"A guy's lawyer can tell the court that he had to work that day and he wasn't about to lose his job over the session, and he gets acquitted," says Bajorek.

Although there are other community-based programs offered by various groups, including a Portuguese group, Bajorek and Abel of the Family Services Association are the meat and potatoes in this type of work.

In fact, if a man does not speak English, he cannot enrol in the court-ordered program because there is no interpreter service available.

Abel's program is six months long and caters mainly to men who voluntarily admit they have a problem. He also gets men facing charges of spousal assault, who are showing up on the advice of their lawyers with the hope of extracting a lighter sentence at their trial.

These men rarely complete the program, he says. "We want the judge to look at the crime, not the fact that he went to a few anger management sessions," says Abel, adding that if he knows in advance the men are facing charges, he won't accept them.

Back inside Bajorek's group session, a talkative, animated man in a black T-shirt "checks in" with bad news about his pending divorce that awaited him after a business trip.

"Well, I got back home to more papers from the lawyer," he says. "I still haven't seen my kid in over a year. I didn't see him for his birthday, I didn't see him over Christmas."

"It's tough; you don't want to stop being a parent."

The others grumble in understanding. Many are facing separation or divorce proceedings and custody issues abound.

An older man, who speaks with a heavy Russian accent, poses a general question to the group.

"What is equality now? Do we have equality?"

A man in his early 20s, with a large build and a big grin, steps in with an answer to help a visibly annoyed Bajorek.

"It's like this," he explains to the older man. "If the police come in and you're bigger than she is, they're gonna say to themselves: 'Who's most likely to be the aggressor here?' And it's gonna be the guy almost every time."

As the conversation continues, more and more men pipe up with something to add. Some are just wise-cracking, others are saying what they think Bajorek and co-leader Wilfredo Fuentes want to hear. Others seem genuine.

But from Bajorek's point of view every small step is meaningful.

"I think we know that we're making an improvement, but we're not transforming them," he says, adding that there has never been a formal study of whether or not the men who take the nine-year-old program are less likely to reoffend.

"Four or five out of 20 walk out with nothing. The others at least shake your hand and say, 'Thanks, I got something out of it.'"

Bajorek puts a positive spin on just about anything these men say, without letting them put any of the blame on to their victims.

"Remember what this is all about, why we're here," he says. "You can't change her, you can't change the courts — this is about you, it's what you can do to make your situation okay."

One man tells how he had used some of what he'd learned in last week's class to defuse a potentially violent situation.

"We started arguing and I was getting mad so I told her I'm going out for a smoke, I'll only be 10 minutes and then we'll talk about this. I went outside, it was freezing cold out there too, and I came back and everything was okay."

Bajorek says he would like his program to be longer and supports a sliding scale payment, making the men contribute.

Anger management is funded through the Ontario Women's Directorate and costs roughly \$1,000 for each man.

Abel says success is difficult to measure, some men have further to go than others, while some already know when they start the class that they have committed a grave mistake.

"Look at where they started and where they finished," he says. "Not just where they finished."

'Four or five out of 20 walk out with nothing. The others at least say, 'Thanks, I got something out of it.'

COUNSELLOR DAN BAJOREK

Anger management

The following statement has to be signed by each man who enters the mandatory anger management program as part of a judge's order:

I understand that being a member of this group means beginning to:

1. Accept responsibility for my abusive and controlling behaviors.
2. Explore why I have been abusive and controlling towards my partner.
3. Explore how I can learn non-abusive and non-controlling ways of behaving with my partner and others in my life.
4. Develop supports, learn self-care and heal the damage I have caused.

Group discussion is an important part of making changes and I understand that I am expected to participate. I therefore agree to:

5. Discuss in the group, abusive or controlling incidents which occur.
6. Assist and encourage other members with constructive responses as they work to make changes.

Last Saturday: Seven days: The face of domestic violence
 Sunday: The accused: Crime and punishment
 Today: Anger management: Does it work?
 Tomorrow: Different cultures, different attitudes

ALMOST HALF OF THOSE CONVICTED OF ABUSING SPOUSES ARE ORDERED BY THE COURT TO ATTEND ANGER MANAGEMENT COURSES.

(m) Reside at or attend at and be amenable to the routine and discipline of the program or institution to which he is assigned.

(n) To attend for treatment/assessment as may be required, upon such schedule as may be arranged by the Probation Officer or designate.

(o) Participate in, and be amenable to the conditions of, the Anger Control Program under the supervision of the Probation Officer or designate.

(p) Provide... of his/her... \$500... \$500...

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