



January –
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New Mexico Victims' Rights Bulletin

CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE

The homicide rate of juveniles in the United States is substantially higher than that of any other developed country. "Family members, through beatings or suffocation, commit most homicides of young children [age 5 and younger]." This is according to an article written by *Justice For All*.

Middle childhood is a mixed pattern: maltreatment, firearms, sexual molestation and multiple-victim family homicides. Teenage victims are mostly male victims killed by male offenders using firearms. None of this is surprising when you consider how much violence is glorified in this country. We give toy guns to children who are barely able to walk so they can practice killing each other.

The number of films and television shows that teach the importance of nurturing relationships, community involvement and people helping others is rare. But turn on the television on any given night or go to the nearest movie show and you will see a host of bloody violent films. Children are exposed to more violence at an increasing alarming young age. Instead of inspiring children to aspire for wholesome values we tell them through ads, movie, and the media to aspire for possessions, positions, money, sex and drugs. Instead of teaching them how to deal with life's struggle we offer a magic pill for what ever ails them. We, as a nation, are responsible for having the highest rate of juvenile homicide rate than any other developed country.

NEW MEXICO VICTIMS' RIGHTS PROJECT

The Victims Rights Project is a joint effort of the DWI Resource Center and other victim organizations.

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The New Mexico Victims Rights' Bulletin is published every other month by the New Mexico Victims' Rights Project. The goal in distributing information, news and updated legislation is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. Questions regarding content can be directed to Linda Atkinson, Executive Director at (505) 292-2838. To learn more about victims' rights via the internet, visit us at www.nm-victimrights.org.

MURDER OR ACCIDENT?

Taos, NM — Murder or accident? That is the question Phil Sanchez wants a grand jury to decide. His sister Diana Sanchez was found dead in her home in May. There is a history of domestic violence between Diana and her husband Phillip Lujan and Mr. Sanchez believes that Phillip Lujan is responsible for his sister's death. The District Attorney's Office in chose not to file charges so Phil Sanchez submitted a petition signed by 351 registered voters to convene a grand jury to investigate his sister's death. A District Judge will ultimately decide whether to convene a grand jury.

Child Molester Uses Health Excuse To Get a Free Get Out of Jail Card

Albuquerque, NM — Nathaniel Archilla has been called a "classic pedophile." He was indicted on seven counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor.

He pled no contest to five counts. He was sentenced 8/23/02 to three years for each count for a total of 15 years but 10 years were suspended.

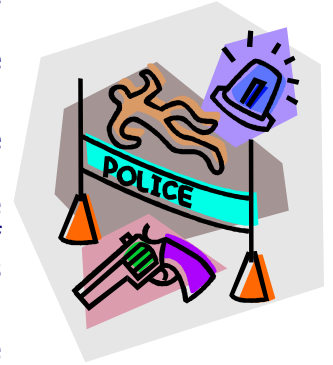
For a judge to give a sentence of only five years for child molestation is disgraceful. But the judge was not finished. This classic pedophile brought out his "health concern" card and he was free to go. His poor health did not prevent him from molesting innocent children and shame on the judge for allowing it to be used as a key to unlock his cell door.

"ABUSE TURNING DEADLY"

This is a headline that appeared in the paper January 27, 2003. The article discussed two recent deaths of women who were killed by their partner. The reporter interviewed the executive director for the Women's Community Association. The director believes that the violence against women has become more violent. She wants women to know that help is available and she wants them to have a plan when they are attacked. The article also states that a woman is more apt to be killed when she tries to leave.

There have been numerous studies and all sorts of explanations as to why men are violent and why women stay in violent relationships. The abuse has always been deadly. If it does not kill your body it certainly kills your spirit and deadens your soul. More importantly it kills the spirit of the innocent children who witnesses the violence. Lots of articles tell women what to do when they are in a physically violent relationship. What is seldom seen are articles telling women how to avoid abusive relationships.

There are always signs, red flags. Does he put you down or call you names? Is he controlling? Do not wait until the relationship turns physical to leave. Don't tolerate or make excuses for put-downs. We would see a dramatic decrease in domestic violence if women left the first time he called her a name or showed signs of a potentially abusive mate. The epidemic proportion of domestic violence is due in large part because of the message that we send to young girls about their place and purpose in the community and what we, as a community, tell them are the attributes that they should look for in a mate. What advice do we, as a society, give to young girls on what they should look for in a mate?



RAPE STATISTICS CAUSE FOR ALARM

Two recent articles examined the growing number of sexual assaults in the state. New Mexico is ranked the third-worst state in the country. There were 552 sexual assaults reported in 2002. The actual number of sexual assaults is probably higher because the experts believe that many are not reported.

Various members of government expressed their outrage and promised tougher laws and more money. I would like to know the reaction of rape victims who have gone through the court systems. Do they believe more money and tougher laws would reduce the numbers? I would like to know how the victims who had the courage to come forward and testify feel about the judicial systems.

Are the concerns expressed by the politicians consistent with how the attorneys and the judges treat victims? Does the manner in which the court system treat victims encourage them to come forward?

A sixteen-year-old girl is raped. The defense attorney decides that he wants to see her counseling records. The counseling agency refused and the judge imposed a fine of \$500 for each day they did not comply. This case actually took place in another state but New Mexico's rule of evidence is no kinder to victims than any other state. It sounds good to be outraged and talk about tougher laws but until the judicial systems itself learns to respect victims how can we expect the rapist to respect them?

Crime Victim Resources (Bernalillo County)

Albuquerque Police Department	242-2677
Bernalillo County Sheriff's Dept.	798-7000
NM State Police, Albuquerque area	841-9256
District Attorney's Office	841-7100
District Attorney's Victim Impact	841-7020
NM Crime Victims' Reparations	841-9432
MADD	255-2955
DWI Resource Center	881-1084
UNM Crisis Center	277-3013
Rape Crisis Center	266-7711
Hopeline national suicide hotline	(800) 247-1121
Child Protective Services	841-7800
Adult Protective Services	841-4500
Survivors of Homicide	232-4099
Women Community Association	247-4219

For resources in your community visit our website at
www.nm-victimrights.org