

Child abuse cases going unreported?

Teachers are required by law in Michigan to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

That same requirement applies to school administrators, licensed child care givers, and professionals in the fields of medicine, law and social work.

That reminder was given this past week by E.J. McClendon of Plymouth, a professor of health education at the University of Michigan.

McClendon said recent incidents in the metropolitan Detroit area suggest to him that professionals need to be reminded that failure to report suspected child abuse cases can result in a civil liability if the child were to be killed or injured.

"Many teachers are unaware of this responsibility. Or they have been told by their principal, 'see me first. Don't take matters into your own hands.' School administrators are sometimes unduly cautious about upsetting parents and risking the loss of votes in the next millage election.

"This is ridiculous, of course. Our first concern must be for the child. A teacher need have no fear of reprisal," added McClendon. "The law protects any individual who makes a report which later turns out to be invalid."

HOW WIDESPREAD is the problem?

Researchers estimate that some 70,000 children each year are physical-

Peace Corps, VISTA seek OU talent

Former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers will meet Nov. 25 with Oakland University students at career advising and placement conferences.

OU seniors are asked to bring completed applications to the interviews.

The two federal agencies are recruiting hard in Michigan because the 14 percent unemployment rate and the desire of many to "get away from it all."

"Peace Corps volunteers serve two years in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific," the office statement said.

"Volunteers are not expected to spend their own money while serving overseas. They receive a generous living allowance, paid travel and training and complete health care. Upon completion of service, each volunteer receives \$125 for each month served (approximately \$3,000)."

Most Peace Corps volunteers have college degrees, and many have practical experience in such fields as farming, the skilled trades and business.

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) serve for a year in poor rural and urban communities.



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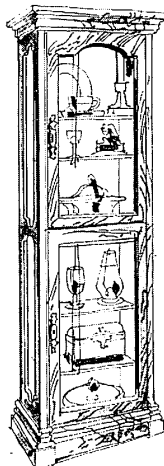
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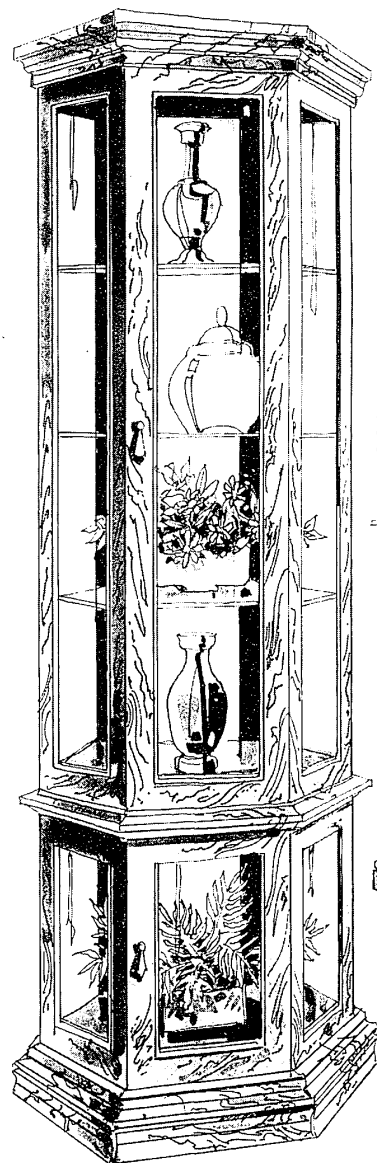
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