

**Courtship violence: A study of the
reasons for continuing the relationship**

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(ABSTRACT)

This paper presents a survey of 422 college students at Virginia Polytechnic & State University on courtship violence. Those who experienced courtship violence were not different from those who had not experienced courtship violence in a list of background and experiential variables. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents were found to have experienced some form of abuse in their dating relationships in the past year. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents claimed they had experienced both abuse and violence in their dating relationships in the past year, and 1.7% of the respondents experienced the most extreme form of violence.

Thirty-two percent of those who had experienced courtship violence would seek outside help when experiencing violence in their dating relationships. These individuals were those who got used to bringing somebody in to help settle conflicts, who felt humiliated after the violence, and who took no immediate action to reconcile after violence.

Among those who did experience some form of courtship violence, 76.8% planned to continue the relationship. If courtship violence occurred in private and remained unnoticed to those individuals who love their partners more, who invest a lot in the relationships, who have higher commitment, who have more conflicts in their relationships, and who take initiative to reconcile the relationships after the violent episodes, the individual involved would be more likely to continue the relationship, despite the presence of violence.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 1

Review of Literature 5

 Theory 5

 The Research Literature 9

 Hypotheses 17

Methodology 19

Results 24

 Summary of Results 53

Discussion and Conclusion 55

 Discussion 55

 Summary and Conclusion 65

References 69

Questionnaire 73

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Comparison of Sample and Population	25
Table 2.	General Characteristics of Respondents' Dating Relationship	26
Table 3.	General Information on Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence	28
Table 4.	General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Sought Outside Interventions	32
Table 5.	General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in Violent Dating Relationships	36
Table 6.	General Characteristics of Male Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in Violent Dating Relationships	41
Table 7.	General Characteristics of Female Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in A Violent Dating Relationships	44
Table 8.	General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in Violent Dating Relationship by	48
Table 9.	Homogeneity of Sample	61

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Courtship violence, an apparently new form of hidden interpersonal violence, has recently received increased attention beginning with the publication of Makepeace's groundbreaking research in 1981.] More recently, a number of investigations on courtship violence have been published in various journals and received the attention of researchers in family studies, sociology, psychology, education, counseling, and other related fields. These studies : (1) Describe the phenomenon of courtship violence (Cate, Henton, Koval, Christopher, & Lloyd, 1982; Henton, Cate, Koval, Lloyd, & Christopher, 1983; Laner & Thompson, 1982; Makepeace, 1983, 1986; O'Keefe, Brockopp, & Chew, 1986); (2) Estimate the prevalence of courtship violence (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Koval & Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983; Sigelman, Berry, & Wiles, 1984); (3) Identify variables relating and contributing to courtship violence (Bernard, Bernard, & Bernard, 1985; Billingham, 1987; Billingham & Sack, 1987; Deal & Wampler, 1986; Makepeace, 1983, 1986; Sigelman et al., 1984); and (4) Establish a profile of those involved in violent dating relationships (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Makepeace, 1987; Plass & Gessner, 1983; Sigelman et al.,

1984). The results of these studies are sometimes diverse and contradictory due to definitional, conceptual, and methodological problems. It would seem that more research in this area is needed to supplement and clarify previous work.

Although a number of researchers have reported that a significant number of individuals who have experienced courtship violence do not terminate the relationships after the violent episode (Brodbelt, 1983; Cate et al., 1982; Makepeace, 1981; Matthew, 1984; O'Keefe et al., 1986), no reviewed study deals directly with the question: Why do individuals who experience courtship violence continue the violent dating relationships? A few studies (Billingham, 1987; Bilingham & Sack, 1987; Koval & Lloyd, 1986) examine characteristics of violent dating relationships. However, none of these studies examine the relationship of the variables contributing to the continuation of the dating relationship. A number of researchers have investigated reasons abused women stay in battering marital relationships (Gelles, 1976; Pagelow, 1981; Strube & Barbour, 1983; Truninger, 1971; Walker, 1984). However, those reasons may not be applicable in explaining why individuals who experience courtship violence stay in the relationships.

Several research studies (Cate et al., 1982; Henton et al., 1983; Koval & Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983; Laner &

Thompson, 1982; O'Keefe et al., 1986; Sigelman et al., 1984) attempt to explain courtship violence by applying various theories to their existing data. Few investigations have been designed to empirically test any theory purported to explain courtship violence. No reviewed research was designed to empirically test Exchange/Social Control Theory as a theoretical framework for explaining why individuals continue in violent dating relationships.

The main purpose of this study was to empirically test Exchange/ Social Control Theory as a theoretical framework for explaining why individuals remain in violent dating relationships. This study was also aimed at estimating the prevalence of courtship violence among college students and establishing a profile of those who were involved in courtship violence.

Thompson (1986) indicated that there is definition confusion in the research studies of courtship violence. Since there is no standard definition of courtship violence, it is important to make clear how these two words will be used in this study. Courtship is defined as "any social interaction related to the dating and/or mate selection process. It includes first dates, casual dating, group dating, going steady, and being engaged to marry" (Thompson, 1986, p.165). Gelles and Straus (Gelles, 1980; Gelles & Cornell, 1985; Straus, 1979; Straus & Gelles, 1979; Straus &

Gelles, 1986) discussed the conceptual confusion of abuse and violence in research studies. They believe it is essential to clarify the definitions of these two terms and also other related concepts. The following definitions were adopted from Lane & Gwartney-Gibbs (1985). Conflict refers to a disagreement in which a respondent did one or a combination of the following: discussed the issue heatedly, got information to back up his/her side, brought in or tried to bring in someone to help settle things, sulked or refused to talk about it, swore at the other one, or stomped away in anger. Abuse refers to a deliberate act by one partner to hurt the other through words or symbolic actions. Violence refers to one partner attempting to hurt or maim the other through physical force. Assault refers to the most extreme violent acts, such as threatening with a knife or gun, actually using a knife or gun, or beating another person.

CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Theory

Courtship violence theory is relatively less well developed than relationship violence theory in general. Several research studies have attempted to use various theories to explain existing data, but only one of these studies proposed the use of a specific theory to explain courtship violence. The theories that had been used included: subculture of violence (Sigelman et al., 1984); social learning theory (Sigelman et al., 1984); cycle of violence (O'Keefe et al., 1986); conflict theory (Laner & Thompson, 1982); and social exchange theory (Cate et al., 1982; Henton et al., 1983; Koval & Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983). Only Laner & Thompson (1982) proposed the use of conflict theory together with social exchange theory to explain courtship violence.

Gelles and Straus (1979) have attempted to develop an integrated theory to explain marital violence. Gelles and Cornell (1985) tried to develop a "middle range" Exchange/Social Control Theory. They believed this theory had the potential not only of explaining marital violence,

but also of acting as a framework that can integrate the key elements of the previous diverse theories. Although Gelles and Cornell originally proposed this theory in relation to explaining marital violence, it would seem to this author that this theory can also be applied to courtship violence since the two phenomena appear to share many characteristics in common. Laner and Thompson (1982) had discussed the similarities between courting couples and married couples. They listed the following characteristics as common to both : (1) greater time at risk; (2) greater presumed range of activities and interests; (3) greater intensity of involvement; (4) an implied right to influence one another; (5) sex differences that potentates conflicts; (6) roles and responsibilities based on sex rather than on interests and competencies; (7) greater privacy seeking (associated with low social control); (8) exclusivity of organization; (9) involvement of personal, social, and perhaps material commitment; (10) stress resulting from developmental changes; and (11) extensive knowledge of one another's social biographies.

Gelles and Cornell (1985) utilized traditional exchange theory as the framework but allowed the integration of other theories since they realized that there were some missing elements in exchange theory that can only be found in other theories such as symbolic interaction, social learning, and

cultural theories. Exchange theory is 1 of the 3 theories that had been identified by Holman and Burr (1980) as major schools of thought that are employed extensively in family studies. Holman and Burr (1980) indicate that exchange theory is most useful in explaining precarious human relationships. Basically, exchange theory assumes that human interaction is guided by pursuing rewards and avoiding costs and punishment. An individual who is given rewards is obliged to fulfill an obligation and his/her partner must furnish benefits to him/her. The reciprocity of rewards determines the continuation of interaction (Blau, 1964). In applying these assumptions to marital violence, Gelles makes the primary assumption that men abuse women because the costs of being violent do not outweigh the rewards (Gelles & Cornell, 1985).

Based on the proposition that human interaction follows the pursuit of rewards and avoidance of punishment and costs, Gelles and Cornell (1985) adopt social control theory as part of the theoretical framework, since social control is a means of raising the costs and lowering the rewards of violent behavior. Social control theory assumes that either in nature or society, there is a necessity for control. Nature provides mechanistic/genetic controls among lower creatures whereas human society requires mental and interpersonal effort to maintain order. Humans are born without definite

genetic patterns which provide for an orderly life. Therefore society can only be maintained by the constant surveillance of a system of social control (Landis, 1977).

Building on the above assumptions of exchange and social control theory, Gelles has developed the following propositions (Gelles & Cornell, 1985, p.121) :

1. Family members are more likely to use violence in the home when they expect the costs of being violent to be less than the rewards.
2. The absence of effective social controls (e.g., police intervention) over family relations decreases the costs of one family member being violent toward another.
3. Certain social and family structures reduce social control in family relations and, therefore, reduce the costs and increase the rewards of being violent.

The specific relevancy of these propositions to courtship violence is developed in the hypothesis section.

The exchange/social control theory, besides having the virtue of allowing integration of other theories, also has the strength of direct implications for the prevention and treatment of courtship violence, since increasing social control means raising of costs and lowering of rewards which in the end may prevent violence. Furthermore, exchange/social control theory can provide a suitable perspective to explain and answer a variety of questions uncovered in recent empirical research, such as why individuals remain in violent dating relationships, what are

the factors related to their decisions to seek outside intervention, and the issue of reciprocity.

The Research Literature

Makepeace's study in 1981 was the first empirical attempt to explore and document the prevalence of courtship violence. Makepeace reported that approximately 1 out of 5 college students had directly experienced some forms of violence in their dating relationships (Makepeace, 1981). After this "major hidden social problem" had been uncovered, a number of researchers tried to take up the mission of further exploration. Estimates of the prevalence of courtship violence vary from 12% (Henton et al., 1983) to 65% (Laner & Thompson, 1982). Since no national random sample has been used in any of these research studies, any attempt to generalize these estimates to the nationwide college population should proceed with caution.

Most research studies reported that milder forms of physical aggression, such as slapping, pushing or shoving, are more often experienced by individuals in violent dating relationship and only a small percentage of individuals had actually used more violent form of aggression (Bogal-Allbritten & Allbritten, 1985; Brodbelt, 1983; Cate et al., 1982; Henton et al., 1983; Makepeace, 1981, 1983,

1986, 1987; Matthew, 1984; O'Keefe et al., 1986; Sigelman et al., 1984). Reciprocity is another characteristic of violent dating relationships often reported in earlier research studies (Cate et al., 1982; Deal and Wampler, 1986; Henton et al., 1983; O'Keefe et al., 1986). Unlike previous research on relationship violence which showed that men are more likely to be the abuser and women the victim, a number of researchers reported that most of the respondents in their studies claimed that they were both victims and abusers (Bernard & Bernard, 1983; Billingham & Sack, 1986; Deal & Wampler, 1986; Henton et al., 1983; Koval & Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983; O'Keefe et al., 1986; & Sigelman et al., 1984). However, there is a lack of data on who actually initiates the violence and who responds in defense. Hence mutual engagement in violence does not necessarily imply that women are as likely as men to use violence as a means of conflict resolution.

Several research studies (Cate et al., 1982; Henton et al., 1983; Laner, 1983; Laner & Thompson, 1982) showed that casual dating relationships are less vulnerable to violence. As individuals became more committed to their relationships, they were more at risk of experiencing violence. Two studies also demonstrated that cohabiting couples were more likely to engage in all forms of violence (Lane & Gwartney-Gibbs, 1985; Yllo & Straus, 1981). Nevertheless, Billingham pointed

out that "when violence is found in more committed relationships, it may be present because the relationship has accepted violence as a legitimate conflict tactic from the earliest levels of emotional commitment" (1987, p.288). Concerning relationship qualities, most research studies discovered that despite violence in the dating relationship, a substantial proportion of individuals remained in the abusive relationship (Bogal-Allbritten & Allbritten, 1983; Brodbelt, 1983; Cate et al., 1982; Henton et al., 1983; Makepeace, 1981; Matthew, 1984; O'Keefe et al., 1986; Sigelman et al., 1984).

In attempting to predict courtship violence, researchers have identified several variables, however, there is no consistent research evidence to support the predictive ability of many of these variables. Generally speaking, most research studies support the hypothesis that one is more likely to experience courtship violence when one has experienced violence in his/her family of origin (Bernard & Bernard, 1983; Laner & Thompson, 1982; O'Keefe et al., 1986). Also, individuals who have experienced previous courtship violence are also more likely to experience further violence in dating relationships (Deal & Wampler, 1986). Gwartney-Gibbs, Stockard & Bohmer (1987) even claimed that previous experience in courtship violence has a stronger

influence than experience in family of origin in determining whether an individual will engage in violence.

Previous research studies on marital violence had associated the role of abuser with men who possessed a traditional perception on sex-roles, and victims as women who were also traditional in sex-role perceptions (Martin, 1976; Walker, 1979). Nevertheless, research studies in courtship violence showed certain conflicting results. Bernard & Bernard (1983) reported that traditional sex-role perception is not related to experience of violence as abuser (male) and abused (female), and Makepeace (1987) reported that individuals with equalitarian values are more prone to violence. Bernard et al. (1985) also reported that women with non-traditional sex-role perceptions are more likely to become victims of courtship violence. Lane & Gwartney-Gibb (1985) and Makepeace (1987) found that very low income and very high income groups experienced more violence than the middle income group. However, other researchers had found that family income was not a significant predictor (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Laner & Thompson, 1982; Matthew, 1984; O'Keefe et al., 1986). Academic performance, religious involvement, background (urban or rural), and race are also variables that have been identified but without consensus.

Makepeace (1987) established a social profile of college students who were prone to courtship violence both as victims

and as abusers. He reported that college students with the following characteristics were more likely to experience violence: late high school; non-church identification; under stress; socially isolated; with disrupted homes; distantly or harshly parented; from an urban background; having equalitarian dating values; from very high or very low income groups; started dating early; and had school, employment, or alcohol problems. More studies would appear to be needed in order to re-examine the relationships of these variables.

Conceptually, Thompson (1986) proposed that courtship violence should be viewed as a multi-faceted phenomenon which included cultural, social, and personal dimensions. He criticized that some professionals have the tendency of viewing it from only one of these perspectives and he also emphasized that this can be extremely problematic because these perspectives are certainly not mutually exclusive and viewing from one to the exclusion of others may mislead professionals in handling courtship violence situations inappropriately. Legal recourse may be overlooked by helping individuals to focus primarily on psychological well-being. Methodologically, although most of the studies used the Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 1979) as the instrument to measure courtship violence, some researchers also used their own scales for measurement. Additionally, no national random samples has been used. Because of these problems, comparison

of research and clarification of contradictory results appears difficult. Nevertheless, more research effort to further explore the variables identified by previous research appears necessary to provide knowledge about the phenomenon and to clarify the diverse and contradictory results.

Studies in marital violence have provided some reasons abused women continue to stay in their relationships (Gelles, 1976; Kalmuss & Straus, 1982; Pagelow, 1981; Truninger, 1971; Walker, 1984). Many of these research studies identified the presence of children and economic dependence as important variables affecting women's decisions to leave the abusive relationship. These reasons are not applicable to courtship violence since there are no children and it seems unlikely that economic problems would prohibit or hinder an individual from leaving the abusive relationship. Furthermore, because courtship violence is mostly reciprocal, it is not only the women who make the decision to terminate the relationship. Men involved in a violent dating relationship can also make a decision to either continue or terminate the relationship. Thus research in this area seems to be essential and promising.

To date, no particular research directly investigated why individuals continue violent dating relationships. Several studies (Billingham, 1987; Billingham & Sack, 1987; Koval & Lloyd, 1986) examined the characteristics of violent

dating relationships, but none of these studies examined the relationship of the variables contributing to the continuation of dating relationship. Billingham (1987) and Billingham & Sack (1987) have investigated the relationship between commitment and courtship violence. Billingham (1987) concluded that violence may be a way of testing the relative safety of a relationship before movement to greater emotional commitment is risked. Billingham & Sack (1987) reported that once there was emotional commitment, individuals began a period of idolization and distortion.

Koval & Lloyd (1986) reported that those individuals who were still involved in a violent relationships: (1) loved their partners more; (2) experienced more conflict in their relationships; (3) had higher investment in their relationships; (4) felt more commitment to their relationships; (5) sensed more concrete investments in their relationships; and (6) used more indirect power strategies. Besides commitment and love, Cate et al. (1982) & Henton et al. (1983) mentioned that lack of alternatives may be another reason that individuals choose to stay in the violent dating relationships. Although not mentioned directly, some researchers (Henton et al., 1983; Laner, 1983; Makepeace, 1981) have suggested that privacy and lack of social control are also factors that may be related to continued involvement in violent relationships. Henton et al. (1983) mentioned

that individuals were more likely to report any violence to friends and family members but very few would report it to teachers. Makepeace (1981) stated that only 5.1% of individuals who experienced courtship violence would notify police or legal authorities. Most of the cases of courtship violence remained undiscovered partly because they were unreported and partly because courtship violence usually happened in private places such as home, dormitory, or apartment when nobody else was present (Laner, 1983; Makepeace, 1981). It seems that if the violent episode occurs in private setting and remains unnoticed by effective social control agents (e.g., police), to individuals who loved their partners, invested a lot in the relationships, and were committed in the relationships, the violence was most likely to continue. However studies are needed to verify this train of thought in order to add further knowledge in this area.

Recently, a research study (Schladale, 1987) on adolescent dating violence was done using freshmen from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The purpose of the study was to explore the differences in self-esteem, mastery, use of coping strategies, and choice of negotiation styles between those who did not experience courtship violence and those that did and maintained the violent dating relationships. The results estimated that 34%

of the participants in that study experienced violence in a serious dating relationship. Fifty-one percent of those who experienced courtship violence claimed that the relationships improved and 51% indicated no change.

Hypotheses

General Hypotheses

Based on the propositions of Gelles' exchange/social control theory (Gelles & Cornell, 1985) the general hypotheses of this research study are:

1. Dating couples are more likely to use violence in private settings when they expect the costs of being violent to be less than the rewards.
2. The absence of effective social controls (e.g., police intervention) over dating relationships decreases the costs of individuals being violent toward each other.
3. Certain social structures reduce social control in dating relationships and, therefore, reduce the costs and increase the rewards of being violent.

Specific hypotheses

1. It is hypothesized that there will be no difference between those who do experience courtship violence and those who do not with regard to the following variables: family income level; church affiliation and attendance; race; urban or rural background; parental marital status; parental disciplinary method; relationships with parents; academic

performance (QCA); previous courtship violence experience; childhood experience of family violence; and perception on sex-role.

2. It is hypothesized that there will be no difference between individuals who seek outside intervention and support and those that do not on the form of violence they experienced; the frequency and severity of violence they experienced; their immediate reaction to the violence; their feelings after the violence episode; and the extent in which the violence were known, when dating violence is experienced.
3. It is hypothesized that if the benefits of terminating the relationship exceed the costs, the individuals will stay in the relationship.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Almost all the research studies of courtship violence reviewed have used college students, the traditional subjects for social science research, as their subjects. It would seem reasonable to continue to use college students for research on courtship violence (Bernard et al., 1985). The present investigation used college students who were enrolled in the two sections of the Human Sexual Development class on the Virginia Tech campus as respondents. These two sections were chosen because it was speculated that the enrollment would closely approximate the class distribution of the whole student population. The total enrollment for this particular class for the quarter in which the data were collected was about 900.

Data were collected by means of a questionnaire distributed and collected during class time. Students were given verbal instructions to choose only one current dating partner and think about the experiences with this partner over the past year when they filled in the questionnaire. If they did not have a current dating partner, they were instructed to choose the most recent dating partner they had had during the past year. Students were informed that their

participation was voluntary and the information they provided would be strictly confidential. Since courtship violence is a sensitive topic, the questionnaire was designed to measure conflict tactics in dating relationships and respondents were requested to help in a research study concerning dating relationships in general rather than courtship violence specifically. Attendance at both sections combined totalled about 800 on the day when data were collected. About 150 students in each section chose not to participate in the project.

A total of 500 questionnaires were collected. Of these 500 questionnaires, 422 were completed and usable for data analysis. The main problem encountered in data collection was insufficient time, especially in the second section, since many students had to leave for other classes. Thus some students filled in the questionnaires without completing the demographic section and these questionnaires could not be used for data analysis.

The questionnaire consisted of five sections: (1) general information on dating relationships; (2) conflict tactics; (3) general perceptions of personal sex-roles; (4) information concerning family background; and (5) demographic information.

The Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 1979) was modified to measure courtship violence. It is one of the only

standardized measures of violence that has been widely used (Gelles, 1980). The Conflict Tactics Scale was first known as the Conflict Resolution Measures (Straus, 1974). Later, in 1979, it was modified into the currently used scale. It can be used either in a self-report questionnaire or as guideline for interview. The scale consists of three categories : reasoning, verbal aggression and violence. In the initial testing (1974), item analysis was used to determine internal consistency and adequate reliability has been established. The mean item-total correlations was 0.87 for the Husband-to-wife Violence Index and 0.88 for the Wife-to-husband Violence Index (Strau, 1979). Since then, the scale has been used in a variety of research conducted by Straus and his colleagues. One study was a national survey done in mid 1970s by Straus, Gelles & Steinmetz (1980). Factor analysis and reliability tests were conducted in the national survey to establish reliability and validity of the scale. The alpha coefficients reported by this national survey were 0.83 for the Husband-to-wife Violence Index, 0.82 for the Wife-to-husband Violence Index, and 0.88 for the Couple Violence Index (Straus et al., 1980). After Straus published the Conflict Tactics Scale in 1979, a number of studies using different kinds of samples such as adolescents, dating couples and abused wives have used the scale in collecting data (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Koval &

Lloyd, 1986; O'Keefe, et al., 1986; Straus, et al., 1980; Straus & Gelles, 1986). These studies appeared to have confirm the validity and reliability of the scale. The scale is said to have moderate to high reliability, ranging from 0.5 to 0.88 depending on what types of dyads the scale was administered to, and good concurrent and construct validity (Straus, 1979).

A short version (25 items) of the Spence-Helmreich (1973) Attitudes toward Women Scale (AWS) was used to measure respondents' perception on sex-role. This short version was reported to be highly correlated with the original 55 items full scale (Spence, Helmreich, & Stapp, 1973), and it had been proved to be highly reliable in comparison to other frequently used psychological tests (Yoder, Rice, Adams, Priest, & Prince II, 1982). The test-retest reliability coefficients reported by Yoder et al. were 0.743 for males and 0.797 for females. This scale had been used by Sigelman et al. (1984) for measuring individuals' perceptions on sex-role.

The seven-level scale of emotional commitment used by Billingham (1987) was adopted to measure emotional commitment. This scale was developed by Billingham and had been used in a few studies concerning courtship violence recently (e.g., Bilingham & Sack, 1987). However, no information on reliability and validity had been reported.

The item that measured the degree of happiness in the relationship in Spanier's Dyadic Adjustment Scale (1976) was used to measure satisfaction in relationships. Makepeace's Courtship Violence Scale (1981) was used as a guideline for constructing the questions on the motivation to initiate violence, and respondents' feelings and reactions after the violence experiences. This scale was developed by Makepeace in 1981 and has been used by other researchers to collect data in studies related to courtship violence (e.g., Matthew, 1984). However, to date no information on reliability and validity have been published.

In comparing the group that experienced courtship violence with those that did not, most of the data analysis was done by using Chi-square since most of the variables examined were either nominal or ordinal variables. For continuous variables, such as family income, QCA, and the scores of the Attitude Toward Women Scale, ANOVA was used to compare the two groups. In examining the differences between those who continued in the violent dating relationships and those who did not, Chi-square data analysis was used. The SPSSx computer program was used for data analyses.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

The sample consisted of 422 College students enrolled in the academic year 1987 - 1988 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the two sections of the Human Sexual Development class. General information about the whole Virginia Tech student population in the academic year 1987 - 1988 from the University computer system were used to examine the representativeness of the sample. The sample generally approximates the characteristics of the total student population with the exception that this sample had slightly more female respondents than male. The general characteristics of the sample and its comparison to the whole Virginia Tech population are presented in Table 1.

Table 2 presents the general characteristics of respondents' dating relationships. Eighty percent of the respondents were currently dating only one partner and approximately 60% of the respondents had been dating their partners for a period of less than a year. Almost half of the respondents saw their partners at least once every day. Four and a half percent of the respondents had serious arguments with their partners at least once a week, 14% of respondents had serious arguments with their partners at

Table 1. Comparison of Sample and Population

Characteristics	Sample	Population
	%	%
Sex:		
Male	46.2	58.7
Female	53.8	41.3
Race:		
White	92.2	86.3
Non-white	7.8	13.7
Academic Level:		
Freshman	7.1	24.2
Sophomore	32.0	24.2
Junior	25.6	25.7
Senior	35.3	25.7
College:		
Agriculture & Life Sciences	6.7	6.8
Architecture & Urban Studies	3.3	5.4
Arts & Sciences	37.5	34.7
Business	24.0	16.6
Education	2.4	4.2
Engineering	20.4	16.6
Human Resources	5.7	5.9

Table 2. General Characteristics of Respondents' Dating Relationship

Characteristics	n	%
No. of current dating partners		
none	43	10.00
one	337	80.00
more than one	42	10.00
Length of dating relationship		
less than 1 year	250	60.00
less than 2 years	90	21.00
more than 2 years	82	19.00
Meeting frequency		
at least once everyday	195	46.30
at least once every month	175	41.50
others	51	12.20
Frequency of serious disagreement		
never	41	9.60
at least once weekly	19	4.50
at least once monthly	59	14.10
occasionally	302	71.80
Commitment^a		
level 1	30	7.10
level 2	20	4.70
level 3	91	21.60
level 4	69	16.40
level 5	42	10.00
level 6	131	31.00
level 7	39	9.20

N = 422

^a level 1 = casual dating, level 7 = serious commitment

least once a month, and most of the respondents just had serious arguments with their partners once-in-awhile. For those who had serious arguments with [their partners once-in-awhile, their frequency of seeing their partners did not affect the frequency of serious argument. However for those who argued more, they tended to see their partners more frequently. Half of the respondents were seriously committed to their current dating partners and 38% reported that they were at least emotionally attached to their current dating partners.

Of the 422 respondents, 69.7% had had experienced some kind of violence in their dating relationships in the past year. The general information on respondents who experienced courtship violence were reported in Table 3. Of this 69.7%, 39% experienced some form of abuse (refers to a deliberate act by one partner to hurt the other through words or symbolic actions). Twenty-nine percent experienced both abuse and violence (refers to one partner attempting to hurt or maim the other through physical force). Only 1.7% had had experience with abuse, violence, and assault (refers to the most extreme violent acts) combined. The most frequently experienced form of abuse by both respondents and their partners was "said something to spite the other one" (60.8% for respondents and 59.5% for their partners), while the most frequently experienced form of violence experienced by both

Table 3. General Information on Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence

Characteristics	n	%
Form of violence experienced ^a		
no violence	128	30.3
abuse only	165	39.0
abuse & violence	122	29.0
abuse & violence & assault	7	1.7
Status ^a		
no violence	128	30.0
abuser	83	20.0
victim	46	11.0
abuser & victim combined	165	39.0
Places that violence occurred ^b		
private	261	88.8
public	33	11.2
Seeking outside intervention ^b		
yes	94	32.0
no	200	68.0
Continuation of relationship ^b		
yes	224	76.2
no	70	23.8

^a N = 422, including those with no violence

^b N = 294, only those who experienced violence

respondents and partners was "pushed, grabbed or shoved the other one" (17.3% for respondents and 18.5% for their partners). Eighty nine percent of these aggressive acts took place in private whereas only 11.3% were being performed in public.

Twenty percent of the respondents claimed themselves to be the one who usually initiated the aggressive acts. The most frequent reasons were "to get something they wanted" (25%), followed by "because of uncontrollable anger" (24.7%), and "in retaliation" (20.2%). Eleven percent claimed their partners to be the one who usually initiated violence, the most cited reasons for their partners' aggressive behavior were to "get something they wanted" (28.4%), followed by "in retaliation" (17.5%), and "because of uncontrollable anger" (17.1%). Thirty-nine percent claimed that they and their partners equally initiated the aggressive acts most of the time. They initiated aggressive acts because they wanted to retaliate or they wanted to get something they wanted. Their partners initiated aggressive acts because they either wanted to get something they wanted or in retaliation. Both sexes had a tendency of claiming themselves as both abusers and victims. Females less likely than males would claim themselves to be victims only but more likely will claim themselves as abusers ($x^2 = 8.10$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$).

The hypothesis of no difference between those who do experience courtship violence and those who do not was examined with regard to the following variables: family income level; parental disciplinary methods; relationships with parents; academic performance (QCA); previous courtship violence experience; childhood experience of family violence; and perception on sex-role. Chi-square or ANOVA data analysis was used to compare the group of respondents who had experienced some form of courtship violence with those who did not. None of the above variables was statistically significantly related to experience with courtship violence.

Those who did experienced courtship violence differed from those who did not in the frequency of serious disagreement with their partners ($\chi^2 = 27.99$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). When further analyses were done by breaking down the group who did experienced courtship violence into abuser, victim, and both (abuser and victim) and breaking it down by sexes, it was found that for males, if they had had previous courtship violence experience and were currently engaging in some form of aggressive behaviors in the dating relationships, were more likely to be abusers ($\chi^2 = 5.62$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.05$).

Of those who experienced some form of violence in their dating relationships, only 32% said they would seek outside intervention. Most of them asked help from friends followed

by parents. Only a small percentage of respondents would ask help from counselors (2.7%) and teachers (1.4%), and no respondents ever asked for help from the police. For those who never sought outside interventions, they did not do so because they thought it was unnecessary since it was personal business and it was "no big deal" (60.5%).

The second hypothesis assumed that there would be no differences between those who asked for outside intervention and those who did not. Chi-square data analysis was used to compare these two groups in the following aspects : (1) the form of violence they experienced; (2) the frequency and severity of the violence they experienced; (3) their immediate reactions to the violence; (4) their feelings; and (4) the extent in which the violence were known. The results are presented in in Table 4. First, respondents who more often brought in or tried to bring in someone to help settle things in times of serious disagreements, or their partners sometimes did, were those who more likely would seek outside intervention. Second, if best friends, mothers, or at least some third parties knew about the aggressive behaviors, respondents were more likely to seek outside intervention. On the other hand, if nobody knew about the violence, respondents were unlikely to seek outside intervention. Third, if respondents always got drunk after the violent episodes, they were more likely to ask for help. Fourth, the

Table 4. General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Sought Outside Interventions

Characteristics	Seeking help		x ²
	Yes	No	
Seeking outside help during conflicts			
never	46	162	30.77
sometimes	41	34	
always	6	4	
Partner seek outside help			
never	52	162	22.11
sometimes	38	32	
always	4	6	
Partner discussed the issue heatedly			
never	14	17	8.28
sometimes	63	117	
always	17	66	
Got drunk after violence			
never	38	117	9.69
sometimes	42	57	
always	9	13	
Did not see each other for a while			
never	31	94	6.89
sometimes	48	71	
always	11	19	
Feel humiliated			
never	26	91	9.51
sometimes	54	80	
always	7	17	
Best friends know about violence			
yes	81	130	8.99
no	11	53	

Note: All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

Table 4 (continued)

Characteristics	Seeking help		x ²
	Yes	No	
Mother knows about violence			
yes	31	37	8.58
no	43	128	
Nobody knows			
yes	5	34	6.62
no	34	150	

Note: All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

more often respondents felt humiliated after the incidents, the more likely that they would seek outside interventions. Fifth, if respondents often stopped seeing each other after the incidents, they more likely would seek help. Finally, if respondents' partners did not have or seldom had heated discussions with them in times of serious disagreements, they were more likely to go and ask for help when they experienced violence in their relationship.

Among those who did experience some form of courtship violence, 76.8% planned to continue the relationship despite the presence of violence. Among those who planned to continue, 33.8% expected the relationships could last through marriage and 16% expected the relationships to last for a few years. The major reasons cited by respondents for continuation of relationship were love and by the feeling that they enjoyed dating their partners.

The third hypothesis stated that if the benefits of terminating the relationship exceed the costs, the individuals would stay in the relationship. It was speculated that the benefits of terminating the violent relationship would be the absence of violence and the physical and emotional consequences that follow, and the costs of terminating the relationship were measured by satisfaction of the relationship, emotional commitment, and investment in the relationship. Chi-square analysis was used

to compare those who planned to continue the relationship with those who did not on satisfaction, commitment, investment, form of violence experienced, severity and frequency of violence experienced, feelings and immediate reactions to the violence, and the extent in which the violence was known. Results are presented in Table 5. In general, if the violent episodes happened in private settings and were unnoticed by a third party, individuals more likely would continue the relationships. Further, for those respondents who had more frequent serious disagreements, who dated their partners for a longer period of time, who were more committed in and felt happy about the relationships were those who were more likely to continue in the relationship. Besides, those respondents who took the initiative to apologize and to make up with partners were also those who more likely would continue the relationship. To the contrary, those who did not see their partners for a while after the violent episodes were those who were not likely continue the relationship. Finally, the kinds of aggressive behaviors that their partners engaged in also carried significance in respondents' decision-making processes. The results seem to suggest that whether or not an individual plans to terminate a violent dating relationship is determined pretty much by :

- (1) whether the violent episodes occurred in private and went unnoticed or not;
- (2) his/her investment in the relationship;

Table 5. General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in Violent Dating Relationships

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
No. of partners			
one	202	34	6.72 ^a
more than one	18	10	
Frequency of disagreement			
at least once weekly	26	23	19.65
at least once monthly	57	9	
occasionally	141	36	
Length of relationship			
> 1 year	104	52	19.43
> 2 years	60	10	
< 2 years	60	6	
Commitment ^b			
level 1	11	3	81.85
level 2	4	9	
level 3	22	34	
level 4	41	10	
level 5	27	3	
level 6	91	8	
level 7	28	1	
Happy			
very unhappy	14	24	97.11
happy	10	23	
very happy	200	21	
Discussed issue heatedly			
never	13	12	9.44
sometimes	133	34	
always	78	22	
Partner discussed issue heatedly			
never	18	13	7.05
sometimes	143	36	
always	63	19	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^a Yates corrected

^b level 1 = casual dating, level 7 = serious commitment

Table 5 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Partner got information to back himself/herself up			
never	15	15	13.36
sometimes	133	34	
always	76	19	
Partner sulked or refused to talk			
never	47	11	17.22
sometimes	137	28	
always	39	28	
Partner swore at him/her			
never	99	28	8.65
sometimes	107	26	
always	18	14	
Insulted by partner			
never	85	16	10.72
sometimes	123	39	
always	16	13	
Partner threatened to throw something			
never	191	47	11.06
sometimes	28	12	
always	5	7	
Partner threatened to hit			
never	191	46	16.33
sometimes	31	15	
always	2	6	
Partner did something to spite			
never	89	16	13.54
sometimes	120	39	
always	12	12	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

Table 5 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		χ^2
	Yes	No	
Partner threw things at him/her			
never	201	53	19.45
sometimes	22	7	
always	1	7	
Partner pushed, grabbed or shoved			
never	171	44	7.03
sometimes	49	19	
always	4	5	
Partner twisted his/her arms			
never	215	57	14.61
sometimes	9	9	
always	0	2	
Cried			
never	71	29	6.87
sometimes	102	26	
always	43	5	
Apologized to partner			
never	7	10	29.44
sometimes	55	29	
always	155	23	
Made-up with partner			
never	5	6	28.20
sometimes	27	23	
always	188	35	
Did not see each other for a while			
never	109	15	16.18
sometimes	85	34	
always	17	12	

Note : All χ^2 values were significant at $p < 0.05$

Table 5 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Threaten to terminate the relationship			
never	135	27	7.69
sometimes	67	24	
always	14	9	
Best friends know			
yes	150	60	8.86 ^a
no	58	6	
Mother knows			
yes	43	25	8.94 ^a
no	140	30	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^a Yates corrected

(3) how he/she feel about the relationship; (4) what kinds of violence he/she is experiencing; and (5) how he/she reacts to the violence.

Other than the factors mentioned above, the data of this study showed that males and females took different aspects of their violent relationships into consideration when deciding on continuation of the relationships. The results are presented in Table 6 and 7. For both sexes, if their partners always sulked or refused to talk to them after disagreements, threatened to hit them, or threw something at them, they more likely would discontinue the relationships. For males, if both they and their partners discussed the issue heatedly in times of serious disagreement, they were more likely to continue the relationships. Secondly, if their partners always got information to back themselves up when they had conflicts, they also more likely would continue the relationships. However, if partners always swore at them, and threatened to throw things at them, they were less likely to continue the relationships. Thirdly, if they always did something to spite their partners, they were more likely to discontinue the relationships. Finally, if the violence episodes always had no effect on them, they were more likely to discontinue the relationships. It seems that for males, if their partners reacted rationally when there were conflicts between them, they were more likely to

Table 6. General Characteristics of Male Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in Violent Dating Relationships

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Frequency of disagreement			
at least once weekly	13	13	13.65
at least once monthly	31	4	
occasionally	61	15	
Length of relationship			
< 1 year	50	25	10.15
< 2 years	25	5	
> 2 years	30	2	
Commitment ^a			
level 1	7	2	39.56
level 2	1	5	
level 3	10	14	
level 4	22	5	
level 5	11	3	
level 6	40	3	
level 7	14	0	
Happy			
very unhappy	8	8	26.09
happy	3	8	
very happy	94	16	
Discussed issue heatedly			
never	6	7	8.03
sometimes	64	14	
always	35	11	
Partner discussed issue heatedly			
never	9	9	9.69
sometimes	64	12	
always	32	11	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^a level 1 = casual dating, level 7 = serious commitment

Table 6 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		χ^2
	Yes	No	
Partner got information to back himself/herself up			
never	8	10	12.05
sometimes	60	10	
always	37	9	
Partner sulked or refused to talk			
never	16	8	9.40
sometimes	65	10	
always	24	14	
Partner swore at him/her			
never	50	15	14.02
sometimes	49	8	
always	6	9	
Did something to spite the other			
never	40	10	6.52 ^b
sometimes	60	16	
always	5	6	
Partner threatened to throw something			
never	86	21	7.98
sometimes	16	4	
always	3	5	
Partner threatened to hit			
never	87	21	7.50
sometimes	16	6	
always	2	4	

Note : All χ^2 values were significant at $p < 0.05$

^b No overall significance

Table 6 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Partner threw things at him/her			
never	94	24	9.70
sometimes	10	3	
always	1	4	
Apologized to partner			
never	3	7	23.57
sometimes	20	13	
always	76	10	
Made-up with partner			
never	3	5	20.02
sometimes	9	10	
always	90	16	
Did not see each other for a while			
never	46	6	14.91
sometimes	44	14	
always	5	8	
Best friends know			
yes	67	28	4.09 ^c
no	33	4	
No effect on me			
never	47	8	8.06 ^b
sometimes	43	11	
always	13	10	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^b No overall significance

^c Yates corrected

Table 7. General Characteristics of Female Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued in A Violent Dating Relationships

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
No. of partners			
one	109	16	8.86
more than one	8	7	
Frequency of disagreement			
at least once weekly	13	10	6.50
at least once monthly	26	5	
occasionally	80	21	
Length of relationship			
< 1 year	54	27	9.73
< 2 years	35	5	
> 2 years	30	4	
Commitment ^a			
level 1	4	1	45.87
level 2	3	4	
level 3	12	20	
level 4	19	5	
level 5	16	0	
level 6	51	5	
level 7	14	1	
Happy			
very unhappy	6	16	76.99
happy	7	15	
very happy	106	5	
Partner sulked or refused to talk			
never	31	3	14.83
sometimes	72	18	
always	15	14	
Insulted by partner			
never	46	8	6.00
sometimes	62	20	
always	11	8	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^a level = casual dating, level 7 = serious commitment

Table 7 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Partner threatened to hit			
never	104	25	10.42
sometimes	15	9	
always	0	2	
Partner did something to spite			
never	46	7	8.06
sometimes	65	22	
always	6	6	
Partner threw things at him/her			
never	107	29	10.22
sometimes	12	4	
always	0	3	
Partner pushed, grabbed or shoved			
never	91	22	7.61
sometimes	27	11	
always	1	3	
Partner twisted his/her arms			
never	113	28	11.04
sometimes	6	7	
always	0	1	
Cried			
never	20	12	7.58
sometimes	58	15	
always	39	5	
Got drunk			
never	80	15	7.51 ^b
sometimes	30	13	
always	4	4	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^b No overall significance

Table 7 (continued)

Characteristics	Continuation		x ²
	Yes	No	
Apologized to partner			
never	4	3	7.84
sometimes	35	16	
always	79	13	
Made-up with partner			
never	2	1	9.71
sometimes	18	13	
always	98	19	
Did not see each other for a while			
never	63	9	7.97
sometimes	41	20	
always	12	4	
Best friends know			
yes	83	32	3.95 ^c
no	25	2	
Mothers Knows			
yes	25	15	6.13 ^c
no	70	13	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05
^c Yates corrected

continue the relationships, despite the presence of the violence.

For females, if they had more than one dating partner, they were more likely to discontinue the violent relationships. Secondly, if their partners always insulted them, did something to spite them, pushed, grabbed, or shoved them, and twisted their arms, they were more likely to discontinue the relationships. Thirdly, if they cried more and seldom got drunk after the violent episodes, they were more likely to continue the relationships. Finally, if their mother knew about the violence, they more would discontinue the relationships. It seems for females, whether they had alternatives and how their partners treated them might affect their decisions on whether they would continue the relationships.

Other than the general factors mentioned above, whether an individual is the abuser, the victim, or both the abuser and victim also affects his/her decision on continuation of the violent relationship. This was examined by breaking down the analyses of continuation of violent relationships into different status groups : abusers, victims, and abusers and victims combined. The results can be found in Table 8. For victims, if partners always sulked or refused to talk to them after serious disagreements, they were less likely to continue the relationships ($x^2 = 10.81$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$),

Table 8. General Characteristics of Respondents Who Experienced Courtship Violence and Who Continued the Violent Relationships By Status

Characteristics	Both			Abuser			Victim		
	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²
Frequency of disagreement									
once weekly				6	5	9.95	3	9	9.53
once monthly				13	1		13	3	
occasionally				52	6		12	6	
Length of relationship									
> 1 year	56	30	14.42						
> 2 years	36	6							
< 2 years	33	2							
Commitment ^a									
level 1 & 2	10	7	13.83	4	2	11.39	1	3	9.24
level 3, 4, & 5	54	25		24	9		12	13	
level 6 & 7	61	6		43	1		15	2	
Happy									
very unhappy	12	11	48.53	0	6	45.92	2	7	15.80
happy	4	14		4	3		2	6	
very happy	109	13		67	3		24	5	

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^a level 1 = casual dating, level 7 = serious commitment

Table 8 (continued)

Characteristics	Both			Abuser			Victim			
	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²	
Discussed issue heatedly										
never	7	7	6.13							
sometimes	78	20								
always	40	11								
Got information to back himself/herself up										
never							2	6	7.00	
sometimes							11	8		
always							15	4		
Partner discussed issue heatedly										
never	10	9	9.21							
sometimes	78	24								
always	37	5								
Partner sulked or refused to talk										
never				17	1	8.74	6	1	10.81	
sometimes				44	5			18		7
always				10	6			3		10
Did something to spite partner										
never	42	10	6.74							
sometimes	77	21								
always	5	6								

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

Table 8 (continued)

Characteristics	Both			Abuser			Victim		
	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²
Partner did something to spite									
never	46	7	6.74						
sometimes	73	26							
always	4	4							
Partner threw things at him/her									
never				66	9	6.64			
sometimes				5	1				
always				0	1				
Partner twisted his/her arms									
never							27	12	7.76
sometimes							1	4	
always							0	2	
Got drunk									
never				42	3	12.79			
sometimes				22	4				
always				3	4				
Apologize to him/her									
never	5	4	20.24	1	2	7.34			
sometimes	28	19			22		4		
always	88	10			3		4		
Made-up with him/her									
never	4	3	14.73	0	1	7.41			
sometimes	19	15			5		2		
always	98	17			66		9		

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

Table 8 (continued)

Characteristics	Both			Abuser			Victim		
	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²	yes	no	x ²
Did not see him/her for a while									
never				39	2	6.97			
sometimes				27	7				
always				3	2				
Threatened to terminate the relationship									
never				41	2	6.84			
sometimes				23	8				
always				5	1				
Best friends knew									
yes	83	33	5.65 ^b						
no	35	3							

Note : All x² values were significant at p < 0.05

^b Yates corrected

and if partners always twisted their arms, they also less likely would continue the relationships ($\chi^2 = 7.76$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). Besides, if they always got information to back themselves up in times of conflicts, they less likely would continue the relationships ($\chi^2 = 7.00$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). For abusers, if their partners always sulked or refused to talk with them after serious arguments ($\chi^2 = 8.74$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$) and always threw something at them ($\chi^2 = 6.64$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$), they more likely would discontinue the relationships. Besides, if they sometimes, but not always threatened to terminate the relationships, they would be less likely to continue in the relationships ($\chi^2 = 6.84$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, if they got drunk after the violent episodes, they were less likely to continue the relationships ($\chi^2 = 12.79$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). For those who were both abusers and victims, if both they ($\chi^2 = 6.13$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$) and their partners ($\chi^2 = 9.21$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$) would discuss the issue heatedly when they had serious disagreements, they would be more likely to continue the relationships. Also, if both they and their partners would do something to spite the other one, they decreased the likelihood of continuing the relationships ($\chi^2 = 6.74$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$ and $\chi^2 = 6.73$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$). Additionally, if their best friends knew about the violence, they were more

likely to discontinue the relationships ($\chi^2 = 5.65$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.05$).

Summary of Results

The sample in this study approximates the general characteristics of the whole student population at the institution studied. Most of the respondents dated only one partner currently and were serious in their dating relationships. They saw their partners often but were not always engaged in serious arguments with their partners.

Those who experienced courtship violence were not different from those who did not experienced courtship violence in a list of background and experiential variables in the present study. However males with previous courtship violence experience were found more likely to be abusers in the current violent dating relationships.

About 39% respondents were found to have had experienced some form of abuse in their relationships in the past year and 29% of the respondents claimed they had experienced both abuse and violence in their dating relationships in the past year. The percentage of those respondents who experienced the most extreme form of violence was small (1.7%). Reciprocity was found to be a characteristic of respondents'

violent dating relationships with female as likely as male to initiate violence as a form of conflict resolution.

This study showed that individuals who got used to bringing somebody in to help settle conflicts, who felt humiliated after the violence, and who took no immediate action to reconcile after violence were those who more likely would seek outside intervention when they experienced violence, especially if the violence was being known by someone outside the dating relationships.

The present data were interpreted as indicating that if courtship violence occurred in private and remained unnoticed to those individuals who love their partners more, who invest a lot in the relationships, who have higher commitment, who have more conflicts in their relationships, and who take initiative to reconcile the relationships after the violent episodes, the individuals involved would be more likely to continue the relationships, despite the presence of violence. Additionally, for females, if they had more than one current dating partners, they were more likely to terminate the violent relationships. For males, whether they or their partners react rationally in times of conflicts also affected their decision-making processes.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Discussion

The total percentage (69.7%) of respondents who experienced some form of violence in their current relationships in this study is higher than those reported in previous research. For instance, Cate et al. (1982) reported 22.3%, Deal & Wampler (1986) reported 47%, Laner & Thompson (1982) reported 65%, Makepeace (1981) reported 21.2%, and Sigelman et al. (1984) reported 52%. This may be the result of including verbal and symbolic actions as a form of abuse in the scale to measure violence in the present study. Previous research showed that when verbal and symbolic actions were included, the overall percentages tended to be higher (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Laner, 1983; Laner & Thompson, 1982). This can be shown by breaking down the total percentage into abuse only, abuse and violence, and abuse and violence and assault altogether. These percentages are 39%, 29%, and 1.7% respectively. These percentages showed that most of the respondents who experienced some form of violence in their relationships were those who experienced only some kinds of abuse. The percentages of those who experienced

physical violence are quite close to the previous estimates in literature, for example, Cate et al. (1982) reported 22.3%, Henton et al. (1983) reported 12.1%, Koval & Lloyd (1986) reported 19.8%, and Matthew (1984) reported 22.8%. Also, it may be possible that when the respondents filled in the questionnaires, they did not know that the study was on courtship violence, and this lowered the social desirability effect. If they had known in advance that the study was on dating violence, they might have been less likely to report the presence of violence in their relationships in order to avoid labeling. However, since this sample only represents a population at a particular University, generalizations based on the results of this study to the larger national college population is inappropriate. Future studies with national college samples should be encouraged.

Similar to the results of previous research on courtship violence (Bernard & Bernard, 1983; Billingham & Sack, 1986; Deal & Wampler, 1986; Henton et al., 1983; Koval and Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983; O'Keefe et al., 1986; and, Sigelman et al., 1984), engagement in reciprocal violence in dating relationships was reported by the respondents in this study. Moreover, females were more likely than males to claim themselves as abusers and less likely as victims. This differed from some previous research on relationship violence which showed that men were more likely to be the abuser and

women the victim (e.g., Martin, 1976, and, Walker, 1979). Parke & Slaby (1983) suggested that females are as aggressive as males in certain conditions, such as those conditions that involve low surveillance by others, or that allow diffusion of responsibility for individual aggressive action. However, females experience more aggression control as a result of specific socialization experiences. This aggression control arises when females experience negative emotions, such as guilt and anxiety, over the expression of aggression. As a result of this aggression control, females appear less aggressive than males in many, but not all, circumstances. Since most aggressive acts between dating couple members happen in situations that involve low, or even no, surveillance by others, it is possible that females may be as aggressive as males.

It was surprising to this author that none of the predictive factors added any significant relationships related to experiencing courtship violence, since most of these variables were supported by previous research. Most surprising was that both previous experience of family violence and courtship violence had no relationship with individuals' engagement of violence in current dating relationships. These two variables had been identified by a number of research (Bernard & Bernard, 1983; Deal & Wampler, 1986; Laner & Thompson, 1982; O'Keefe et al., 1986) as

variables that can distinguish between those who did experience some kinds of courtship violence and those who did not. Gwartney-Gibbs et al. (1987) even claimed that previous experience in courtship violence has a stronger influence than experience of violence in the family of origin in determining whether an individual will engage in violence or not. However, this was not the case in the present study. The significant relationship between previous experience in courtship violence and male abusers may suggest that previous courtship violence experience could predict individuals' engagement in current dating relationships differently by gender and by status.

In Gilligan's study (1982) of sex differences in the distribution and substance of violent fantasies, she discovered that the difference between the way in which men and women tend to imagine relationships was related to the difference in imagery of violence of male and female. According to Gilligan, males projected more violence in intimate relationships than females, and males tended to view aggression as endemic in human relationships. This can help in the explaining why males who experienced courtship violence in previous dating relationships were more prone to be abusers in current dating relationships. This explanation needs more empirical support. It would seem that additional research efforts in this area are needed in the future.

Although previous research in courtship violence had indicated that individuals with equalitarian values were more prone to violence (e.g., Makepeace, 1987), this relationship is not shown in the present study probably primarily due to the fact that most respondents had equalitarian values. This homogeneity decreases the probability of getting statistical significance for this variable. It seems that in the future, more research effort is needed to provide more knowledge in this area.

Makepeace, in his 1987 study, identified a list of background and experiential variables that can distinguish those who do experience courtship violence and those who do not. Some of these variables, such as, family income level; church affiliation and attendance; race; urban or rural background; parental marital status; parental disciplinary method; relationships with parents; academic performance (QCA); previous courtship violence experience; and childhood experience of family violence, were chosen for further analysis in the present study. None of these variables showed any significance in the present study. For family income, the results of the present study are in apparent agreement with some previous research which shows there is no statistically significant and influence (Deal & Wampler, 1986; Laner & Thompson, 1982; Matthew, 1984; and O'Keefe et al., 1986). For race, parent marital status, growing up

situations, and closeness to mother, the present sample was too homogeneous in make up to offer enough variance for meaningful analysis (see table 9).

Makepeace (1987) found that religious involvement can distinguish between those who do experience violence and those that do not. His analysis was based only on Mormons and non-Mormons. However, in this present study, when all religious groups are compared, there is no significant relationship between religious involvement and courtship violence experience. It seems that since Makepeace's study in 1987 was the first research effort to set up social profiles or to describe the characteristics of those who experienced courtship violence, a lot of the variables were either first being identified or are not significant in other research. Thus more research effort in this area is needed to establish or substantiate a social profile for those who experienced violence. Besides, it seems important for future research efforts to try not only to distinguish between those who do experience and those who do not, but also try to distinguish between abusers, victims, and those who are both abusers and victims.

The present study shows that there are differences between those who seek outside intervention and support and those who do not when experiencing violence. There are differences in three aspects. First, if an individual and

Table 9. Homogeneity of Sample

Characteristics	%
Race :	
White	92.2
Non-white	7.8
Parents' Marital Status	
Married to each other	77.6
Not married to each other	22.4
Growing up situation	
With parents	74.4
Not with parents	25.6
Closeness to Mother	
Close	83.4
Not close	16.6
Closeness to Father	
Close	78.0
Not close	22.0

N = 422

his/her partner get used to bringing somebody in to help them settle conflicts, the individual is more likely to ask for help when he/she experiences violence in the relationship. Second, if the courtship violence is known by someone outside the dating relationships, the individual will more likely ask for help. Third, how an individual feels about the violence and how he/she reacts to it also affects whether he/she will ask for help. The above-reported findings may suggest that if the benefits of asking for help outweigh the costs, an individual will ask for help. An individual who gets used to bringing somebody in to help with his/her relationship problems may certainly know that there is no cost or at least the costs will be less than the benefits by doing so. If the violence in a relationship is known by someone outside the relationship, it is very likely that there will be outside pressure on the individual who is experiencing violence. Such outside pressures will increase the benefits of asking for help and will also simultaneously lower the costs. It is also very likely that how an individual feels and reacts after the occurrence of violence in the relationship may change the individual's perceptions of costs and benefits in asking help. However, the data of this study can be interpreted only to suggest the possibility of relationships between these factors. Additional research studies in this area are needed to further examine these relationships.

In general, the results on continuation of violent relationships from the present data agree with earlier research findings (Billingham, 1987; Billingham & Sack, 1987; Henton et al., 1983; Koval & Lloyd, 1986; Laner, 1983; Makepeace, 1981). The present study supports the idea proposed in previous research that when violent episodes occurred, in private settings and remained unnoticed, to those individuals who love their partner more, who invest a lot in the relationships, who have higher commitment but have more conflicts in their relationships, the individuals involved would be more likely to continue the relationships, despite the presence of violence. Other than these, the present study analyses suggest the possibility of a relationship between an individual's immediate reaction to the violence and the likelihood of continuing the relationship. This relationship has not been identified by any previous research in this area.

The data appear to show that individuals who took immediate actions to maintain the relationships after the violent episodes are also those who are more likely to continue the relationships. Perhaps those who take immediate actions to reconcile with partners are those who will more likely get positive reinforcement, such as, partners' willingness to reconcile, in return for their initiative. Their partners on the other hand may take the initiation

effort as a reward after the violent episode. As a result, the relationship may continue since the presence of this reciprocity of rewards determines the continuation of interaction (Blau, 1964). For an individual who loves his/her partner more, invests a lot in the relationship, and is highly committed in the relationship, the costs of terminating the relationship, especially the emotional ones, are high and it seems that these costs cannot be outweighed by the benefits, especially if there is the presence of reciprocity of rewards in the relationships. Therefore, it is very unlikely that the individual will be willing to terminate the violent relationship. This is especially true when examining the data according to the status of the individuals. The victims are the group of individuals who were less likely to receive rewards in the violent relationship, so this group is less likely to continue the relationships. For the abusers, they may have no benefit in terminating the relationships when they are actually getting rewards from being violent, so they are the group that most likely will continue the relationships. As for the group of individuals who are both abusers and victims, presence of reciprocity of rewards in the relationship becomes very important. If it exists, they will most likely continue the relationship, and if not, they are less likely to continue the relationships. Since this was only an exploratory effort

to find more information on the reasons why individuals stay in violent relationships, more research efforts are needed in the future to examine the interaction of these variables.

There is also one other interesting result worth mentioning regarding the gender differences in the decision to terminate a violent relationship. For males, other than the factors mentioned above, whether they and their partners react rationally in times of conflict also affects their likelihood of continuing the relationships. If both react rationally, the males are more likely to continue the relationships. For females, whether they have other dating partners and what kind of violent behaviors they receive from their partners may affect their decisions in addition to those that mentioned above. This may suggest that males may be more rational than females in making decisions to terminate violent relationships. However, this needs more support from additional studies before it can be seen as a valid conclusion.

Summary and Conclusion

The present study provides support for much existing information concerning the prevalence and description of courtship violence among college students, though a social profile of those who experienced violence cannot be derived

from it. Further, the results of this study uncovered information about how individuals perceive and react to violence in their dating relationships. This information is important since the information on individual perceptions of courtship violence provides implications for prevention and the information on individual reactions provides clues for understanding why individuals remain in violent relationships.

Previous research on courtship violence reported the presence of reciprocity in violent dating relationships (Cate et al., 1982; Deal and Wampler, 1986; Henton et al., 1983; Laner, 1983; O'Keefe et al., 1986). However most of them did not distinguish those who responded in defense from those who actually initiates the violence. Hence there is a possibility that the apparent reciprocity reported by previous research may be masked by the presence of self-defense aggressive acts. The present study distinguished those who act violently in self-defense from those who actually initiate violent behavior for some other reasons. The presence of reciprocity reported in this study strengthens the thought that women are as likely as men to use violence as a means of conflict resolution.

In this study, the percentage of those not seeking intervention, even from best friends, is moderately high. The main reason for not seeking outside intervention is "not

necessary" because it is personal business and it is "no big deal". This reflects that individuals regard what happened in their dating relationships as personal and private matters which require no outside intervention, even when violence occurred. Besides, individuals also seem to take violence as a "normal" element of their dating relationships rather than a problem that they need to face and settle with some outside help. If this is the case, professionals who try to work on prevention of courtship violence should pay more attention to individual perceptions on what is and is not appropriate to do in a dating relationship. The information in this area provided by this study is only exploratory and preliminary. More research examining the relationship between dating values and dating violence is needed in the future.

The general hypothesis based on the propositions of Gelles' exchange/social control theory were supported by the data. First, dating couples are more likely to use violence in private settings because they expect the costs of being violent to be less than the rewards. Second, the absence of effective social control, such as police intervention, over dating relationships decreases the costs of individuals being violent toward each other. Although some respondents in this study asked help from teachers and counselors, they represented only a small portion of those surveyed. Most of

them ask help from friends whom may not be as effective as formal interventions from professionals and police. Third, the kinds of social structure in college settings actually reduce social control in dating relationships and, therefore, reduce the costs and increase the rewards of being violent. In college, individuals usually will turn to friends and peers when they had personal problems and troubles since parents are too far away for most of them, and teachers, or professors may not be close enough for them to confide in. Most college students will only turn to professionals when all other means failed to settle their problems. Therefore, in this kind of setting, the costs of being violent reduce and the rewards increase.

The present study appears to indicate that Gelles' Exchange/Social Control Theory has potential in explaining why individuals stay in violent relationships. More research is needed to further empirically test this theory.

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APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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Family and Child Development Department

Blacksburg, VA 24061

DATING RELATIONSHIP SURVEY

Throughout this survey we would like you to think about experiences that you have had with your current dating partners over the past year. If you have had several dating partners during the past year, please choose the most current one. If you have more than one dating partner currently, choose the one which you date most often. If you are not dating anybody currently, choose the dating partner that you most recently had. If you are married, choose the latest dating partner prior to your marriage. Think about your experience with the chosen partner only as you proceed with the questionnaire.

Q-1 How many dating partners do you currently have ? _____

Q-2 How many months have you been dating the partner you will focus on for this questionnaire?
_____ MONTHS

Q-3 How often do you and your partner see each other? (Circle one number)

- 1 SEVERAL TIMES A DAY
- 2 EVERYDAY
- 3 SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK
- 4 ONCE A WEEK
- 5 SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH
- 6 DURING HOLIDAYS AND BREAKS
- 7 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-4 How committed do you feel you are to this partner? (Circle one number)

- 1 CASUAL DATING, LITTLE EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT
- 2 SOMEONE YOU HAVE DATED OFTEN, BUT TO WHOM YOU ARE NOT EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO
- 3 SOMEONE TO WHOM YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED, BUT YOU ARE NOT IN LOVE
- 4 SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU ARE IN LOVE
- 5 SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU ARE IN LOVE AND WOULD LIKE TO MARRY, BUT HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED MARRIAGE WITH HIM/HER
- 6 SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU ARE IN LOVE AND HAVE DISCUSSED MARRIAGE, BUT HAVE MADE NO PLANS
- 7 SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU ARE ENGAGED TO MARRY

VIRGINIA TECH

Q-5 How happy are you with this dating relationship? (Circle one number)

EXTREMELY UNHAPPY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 EXTREMELY HAPPY

Q-6 Do you plan to continue this dating relationship? (Circle one number)

← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← 1 YES
2 NO → → → → →

(If YES, answer Q-7a)

(If NO, answer Q-7b)

Q-7a Why do you plan to continue this relationship? (Can circle more than one number)

Q-7b Why you do not plan to continue this relationship? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 I MUST ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE TO DATE
- 2 IT IS HARD TO FIND ANOTHER DATE
- 3 I ENJOY DATING HIM/HER
- 4 I LOVE HIM/HER
- 5 OTHER (please specify) _____

- 1 I HAVE OTHER DATES
- 2 I DO NOT FEEL LIKE DATING HIM/HER AGAIN
- 3 I NO LONGER LOVE HIM/HER
- 4 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-8 How long do you expect this dating relationship to last? (Circle one number)

- 1 IT NO LONGER EXISTS
- 2 A FEW WEEKS
- 3 A FEW MONTHS
- 4 A YEAR
- 5 SEVERAL YEARS
- 6 THROUGH MARRIAGE
- 7 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-9 How often do you and your partner have serious disagreement(s)? (Circle one number)

- 1 EVERYDAY
- 2 SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK
- 3 ONCE A WEEK
- 4 SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH
- 5 ONCE A MONTH
- 6 ONCE A WHILE
- 7 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-10 What is (are) the most frequent cause(s) of serious disagreement(s) in this relationship? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 DATING SOMEBODY ELSE AT THE SAME TIME
- 2 ARGUMENTS OVER MONEY
- 3 STRUGGLING FOR POWER
- 4 DENIAL OF SEXUAL ADVANCES
- 5 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-11 How often do you and your partner do the following in times of serious disagreement(s)?
 (Circle one number for you and one for your partner in each column)

- 1 means NEVER
- 2 means SELDOM
- 3 means SOMETIMES
- 4 means OFTEN
- 5 means ALWAYS

	YOU					YOUR PARTNER				
Discussed the issue heatedly	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Got information to back up (your/his/her) side of things	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Brought in or tried to bring in someone to help settle things	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Sulked and/or refused to talk about it	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Swore at the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Stomped out of the room or house (or yard)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

Q-12 How often do you and your partner engage in the following forms of behavior in times of serious disagreement(s)? (Circle one number for you and one for your partner in each column)

- 1 means NEVER
- 2 means SELDOM
- 3 means SOMETIMES
- 4 means OFTEN
- 5 means ALWAYS

	YOU					YOUR PARTNER				
Insulted the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Said something to spite the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Threatened to throw something at the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Threatened to hit the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Did something to spite the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Threw or smashed or hit or kicked something	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Threw something at the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Pushed, grabbed, or shoved the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Slapped the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Pull the hair of the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Twist the arm of the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Kicked, bit, or hit with a fist	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Hit or tried to hit with something	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Beat up the other one	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Threatened with a knife or gun	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Used a knife or gun	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

If, and only if, you answer all "1" for both you and your partner, move to Q-21 at the bottom of Pg. 5 and continue. Otherwise, please complete Q-13 to Q-20.

Q-13 Who was usually the first person to actually initiate the behaviors described in Question 12? (Circle one number)

- 1 I WAS
- 2 MY PARTNER WAS
- 3 WE EQUALLY DID

If your answer to Q-13 is "1", answer Q-14a.
 If your answer to Q-13 is "2", answer Q-14b.
 If your answer to Q-13 is "3", answer both Q-14a and Q-14b.

Q-14a Why did you initiate the behavior(s)? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 IN SELF-DEFENSE
- 2 TO GET SOMETHING I WANTED
- 3 BECAUSE OF UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER
- 4 IN RETALIATION
- 5 TO INTIMIDATE
- 6 TO HARM
- 7 OTHER (Please specify) _____

Q-14b Why did your partner initiate the behavior(s)? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 IN SELF-DEFENSE
- 2 GET SOMETHING HE/SHE WANTED
- 3 BECAUSE OF UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER
- 4 IN RETALIATION
- 5 TO INTIMIDATE
- 6 TO HARM
- 7 OTHER (please specify) _____

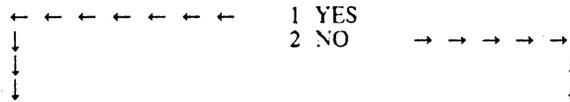
Q-15 Where did this (these) behavior(s) (from Question 12) usually take place? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 THE PLACE I LIVE
- 2 THE PLACE MY DATE LIVES
- 3 ON THE STREET
- 4 IN PUBLIC PLACES (E.G., RESTAURANT, GROCERY STORES, ETC.)
- 5 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-16 What did you do immediately after the behavior(s) described in Question 12 had occurred? (Circle one number in each item)

	NEVER				ALWAYS
Cried	1	2	3	4	5
Got drunk	1	2	3	4	5
Apologized to him/her	1	2	3	4	5
Made-up with him/her	1	2	3	4	5
Did not see him/her for a while	1	2	3	4	5
Threatened to terminate the relationship	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5

Q-17 Did you ever ask for other people's help when the behavior(s) described in Question 12 had occurred? (Circle one number)



(If YES, answer Q-20a)

Q-18a Whom do you ask help from?
(Can circle more than one number)

- 1 FRIENDS
 - 2 PARENTS
 - 3 TEACHERS
 - 4 POLICE
 - 5 COUNSELORS
 - 6 OTHER (please specify)
-

(If NO, answer Q-20b)

Q-18b Why do you not ask for help?
(Can circle more than one number)

- 1 NOT NECESSARY
 - 2 AFRAID TO ASK
 - 3 DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO ASK
 - 4 DO NOT KNOW WHOM TO ASK
 - 5 OTHER (please specify)
-

Q-19 Besides you and your partner, did anybody know that the behavior(s) described in Question 12 had occurred? (Circle the number)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|
| My best friend(s) know(s) | 1 YES | 2 NO |
| My mother knows | 1 YES | 2 NO |
| My father knows | 1 YES | 2 NO |
| Nobody knows | 1 YES | 2 NO |
| Other (please specify) _____ | 1 YES | 2 NO |

Q-20 In general, how do you feel after the behavior(s) described in Question 12 had occurred?
(Circle one number in each item)

	NEVER					ALWAYS
	1	2	3	4	5	
No effect on me	1	2	3	4	5	
Relieved	1	2	3	4	5	
Sad	1	2	3	4	5	
Humiliated	1	2	3	4	5	
Upset	1	2	3	4	5	
Outraged	1	2	3	4	5	
Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	

Q-21 Did you have the kind of experiences described in Question 12 in your previous dating relationships? (Circle one number)

- 1 YES
- 2 NO

Our next concern would be about how you perceive the roles of men and women in society since such perceptions may be related to our behavior in dating relationships.

Q-22 Please indicate whether you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree, or strongly disagree to the following statements. There are no right or wrong answers, only opinions. (Circle one number in each item)

- 1 means STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 means MILDLY AGREE
- 3 means MILDLY DISAGREE
- 4 means STRONGLY DISAGREE

- Swearing and obscenity are more repulsive in the speech of a woman than of a man 1 2 3 4
- Women should take increasingly responsibility for leadership in solving the intellectual and social problems of the day 1 2 3 4
- Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce 1 2 3 4
- Telling dirty jokes should be mostly a masculine prerogative 1 2 3 4
- Intoxication among women is worse than intoxication among men 1 2 3 4
- Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry 1 2 3 4
- It is insulting to women to have the "obey" clause remain in the marriage service 1 2 3 4
- There should be a strict merit system in job appointment and promotion without regard to sex 1 2 3 4
- A woman should be as free as a man to propose marriage 1 2 3 4
- Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers 1 2 3 4
- Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together 1 2 3 4
- Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men 1 2 3 4
- A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as as a man 1 2 3 4
- Sons in a family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters 1 2 3 4
- It is ridiculous for a woman to run a locomotive and for a man to darn socks 1 2 3 4
- In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of children 1 2 3 4
- Women should be encouraged not to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even their fiances 1 2 3 4

Question 22 continued

- 1 means STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 means MILDLY AGREE
- 3 means MILDLY DISAGREE
- 4 means STRONGLY DISAGREE

- The husband should not be favored by law over the wife in the disposal of family property or income 1 2 3 4
- Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending rather than with desires for professional and business careers 1 2 3 4
- The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of man 1 2 3 4
- Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of femininity which has been set up by men 1 2 3 4
- On the average, women should be regarded as less capable of contributing to economic production than are men 1 2 3 4
- There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted 1 2 3 4
- Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades 1 2 3 4
- The modern girl is entitled to the same freedom from regulation and control that is given to the modern boy 1 2 3 4

Another important part of understanding how people interact with each other and deal with conflicts in their dating relationships has to do with family background and socialization. So, next we would like to ask some questions about your family life.

Q-23 What is the marital status of your parents? (Circle one number)

- 1 MARRIED TO EACH OTHER
- 2 SEPARATED
- 3 DIVORCED
- 4 WIDOWED

(If your parents are separated, divorced, or widowed, answer both Q-24a and Q-24b)

Q-24a Is your father currently:
(Circle one number)

- 1 REMARRIED
 - 2 SINGLE
 - 3 WIDOWED
 - 4 DECEASED
 - 5 OTHER (please specify)
-

Q-24b Is your mother currently:
(Circle one number)

- 1 REMARRIED
 - 2 SINGLE
 - 3 WIDOWED
 - 4 DECEASED
 - 5 OTHER (please specify)
-

Q-25 What was your approximate family income in 1987? (Circle one number)

- 1 LESS THAN \$20,000/YEAR
- 2 \$21,000 - \$40,000/YEAR
- 3 \$41,000 - \$60,000/YEAR
- 4 \$61,000 - \$80,000/YEAR
- 5 \$81,000 - \$100,000/YEAR
- 6 OVER \$100,000/YEAR

Q-26 Whom did you grow up with most of the time in your childhood and adolescence? (Circle one number)

- 1 WITH MY PARENTS
- 2 WITH MY FATHER ONLY
- 3 WITH MY MOTHER ONLY
- 4 WITH RELATIVES
- 5 IN INSTITUTIONS OR FOSTER HOMES
- 6 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-27 How emotionally close do you feel you are to your father? (Circle one number)

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------|
| VERY
DISTANT | | | | | | | | VERY
CLOSE |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |

Q-28 How emotionally close do you feel you are to your mother? (Circle one number)

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------|
| VERY
DISTANT | | | | | | | | VERY
CLOSE |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |

Q-29 How do you feel about your father's disciplinary methods? (Circle one number)

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----------------|
| VERY
STRICT | | | | | | | | VERY
LENIENT |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |

Q-30 How do you feel about your mother's disciplinary methods? (Circle one number)

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----------------|
| VERY
STRICT | | | | | | | | VERY
LENIENT |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |

Q-31 Have you ever experienced any form of violence in the family you came from? (Circle one number)

- 1 YES
- 2 NO

If you answer YES, go to Q-32
If you answer NO, go to Q-33

Q-32 What kind(s) of experience have you had? (Can circle more than one number)

- 1 OBSERVED PARENTS ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE TOWARDS EACH OTHER
- 2 OBSERVED SIBLINGS ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE TOWARDS EACH OTHER
- 3 OBSERVED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE TOWARD EACH OTHER
- 4 BEEN A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE
- 5 I HAVE INFLICTED VIOLENCE ON ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER
- 6 OTHER (please specify) _____

Finally, we would like to ask some questions about yourself to help us interpret the results.

Q-33 What is your sex? (Circle one number)

- 1 MALE
- 2 FEMALE

Q-34 How old are you today?

_____ YEARS

Q-35 Which College are you enrolled in? (Circle one number)

- 1 AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
- 2 ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES
- 3 ARTS AND SCIENCES
- 4 BUSINESS
- 5 EDUCATION
- 6 ENGINEERING
- 7 HUMAN RESOURCES
- 8 VETERINARY MEDICINE

Q-36 Are you currently: (Circle one number)

- 1 SINGLE
- 2 ENGAGED
- 3 MARRIED
- 4 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-37 Are you presently a: (Circle one number)

- 1 FRESHMAN
- 2 SOPHOMORE
- 3 JUNIOR
- 4 SENIOR
- 5 GRADUATE STUDENT

Q-38 What is your race or ethnic group? (Circle one number)

- 1 WHITE
- 2 BLACK
- 3 ORIENTAL
- 4 OTHER (please specify) _____

Q-39 What is your religious preference? (Circle one number)

- 1 PROTESTANT (specify denomination) _____
- 2 JEWISH
- 3 CATHOLIC
- 4 OTHER (please specify) _____
- 5 NONE

Q-40 How often did you attend religious services during the past year? (Circle one number)

- 1 WEEKLY
- 2 BIWEEKLY
- 3 MONTHLY
- 4 OCCASIONALLY
- 5 ONLY ON SPECIAL DAYS, SUCH AS CHRISTMAS
- 6 NOT AT ALL

Q-41 Before coming to VA Tech, what kind of area did you come from? (Circle one number)

- 1 RURAL (POPULATION LESS THAN 2,500)
- 2 TOWN (POPULATION 2,500 TO 25,000)
- 3 TOWN (POPULATION 25,000 TO 100,000)
- 4 CITY (POPULATION MORE THAN 100,000)

Q-42 What is your cumulative grade point average as of last quarter? (Circle one number)

- 1 BELOW 2.0
- 2 2.01 - 2.59
- 3 2.60 - 3.00
- 4 3.01 - 3.59
- 5 3.60 - 4.00

Thank you for your cooperation

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