

October 3, 1991

35 Legislative Council Bill #17

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
STUDENT UNION

Sponsored by:	Vice President Pro-Tempore	Samantha Levine
	Representative-at-Large	Missy LeClaire
	Representative-at-Large	Kristi Mileski
	Representative-at-Large	Joe Russo
Authored by:	Safety Coordinator	Tamra Silverman

A BILL

---

BILL HISTORY

Every 15 seconds a woman is battered in the United States of America. One out of every three women in college will be sexually assaulted and one in four woman will be raped in their lifetime. The statistics prove that women are prone to verbal, physical and sexual assaults throughout the course of their lives.

PURPOSE & GOAL - As the number of sexual assaults continue to rise on this campus, the need for preventative measures comes more into demand. In the past, the Boulder Campus has served as a role model in initiating crime prevention programs. Women are increasingly realizing that they need to take responsibility for their own security. Self defense training is an important element of personal safety. Most importantly, personal safety instruction is preparation to minimize the possibility of assault. Learning personal safety is primarily the process of learning how to minimize the chance of becoming a victim.

A course for women on self-defense would teach that fighting is one option if attacked. When a person chooses to fight it should be because this is the only option left that provides safety (Mary Tesoro, Editor of Model Mugging Self Defense and Empowerment News). Having the skills to recognize signs of deception and impending violence is critical to assault prevention. "The ability to assess the emotional state of a potential assailant and to quickly and accurately gauge the danger of a situation from moment to moment, can save one's life", (Dr. Robert Bishop, Program Director for the National's foremost bodyguarding school, Executive Security International LTD.)

What makes this course different from any other courses taught on self defense? It is designed for women and teaches that strength for women is 80% in their hips and thighs whereas for men it is in their upper body. This class would teach a woman that she often has the option to de-escalate a violent situation and get her self out of the predicament and not use fighting as an option.

This course will be patterned after the Model Mugging course which is a highly specialized self defense course that teaches participants to successfully knock out an assailant of any size.

**35 Legislative Council Bill #17 - page 2**

Hundreds of Model Mugging graduates have reported that they got out of a potential mugging by talking to the assailant without having to resort to violence. Of 50 women who reported that they were physically attacked, 48 reported knockouts, disablement or deterrents. The other two choose not to fight because of multiple assailants or weapons involved. But even these women had the choice of fighting or not. This choice--to fight or not--is the main emphasis of the course.

Studies conducted by Dr. Paul Hart of the University of Illinois Medical Center and Dr. Jennie McIntyre of the Bureau of Social Science Research Inc., Washington, "proved that if a woman stands up for herself she has a better chance of successfully avoiding sexual assault. The studies showed that women who used an array of physical and psychological resistance such as screaming, hitting, biting, kicking and attempting to flee were more successful in avoiding rape" (Chicago Tribune, November 30, 1980).

It is vital for the campus to continue to address the issue of violence against women. A class such as this should be an integral part of a woman's education. In trying to establish such a course at CU, we are asking that this referenda question be put on the fall ballot to gauge the students' support. With this support from the students, we will be able to proceed in getting this course offered at CU. In the time that it has taken you to read this bill, eight to ten women have been abused, and it is more than likely that a woman has been raped. It is time for CU to take active measures to address this issue and give women the tools they need to protect themselves.

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill shall place a referendum question for a Self-Defense Course on the Fall 1991 Election Ballot.

---

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union, **THAT:**

**Section 1:**       The UCSU Legislative Council shall place a referendum question on the Fall 1991 Election Ballots.

**Section 2:**       The question to be placed on the ballot shall read as follows:

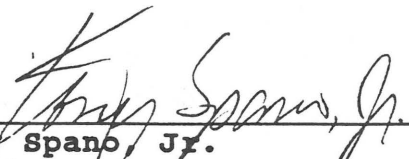
"Do you support the addition of a non-credit self-defense course that will be designed for women?"

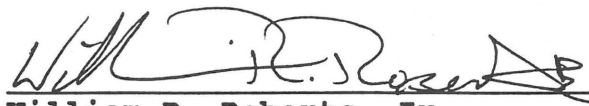
**Section 3:**       This bill takes effect upon passage.

---

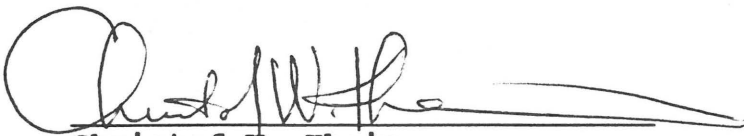
10/3/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 1st Reading - 10-2-2

10/10/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 2nd Reading - Acclamation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Spano, Jr.  
President Pro Tempore  
UCSU Legislative Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. Roberts, Jr.  
UCSU Executive

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Malinda M. Matney  
UCSU Executive

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christof W. Kheim  
UCSU Executive

