



Kim Jolls, manager of American Kempo Karate Academy in Weymouth, shows Esten student Alaysia Starely how to raise her hands in protest and draw attention from others in public, were she to be confronted by a potential predator.

Security Measures

Program teaches Esten students how to protect themselves



Esten School 1st grader Drew Berquist tells Scott Weron, an instructor at the American Kempo Karate Academy, to get away as he confronts him during an instructional program at the school last Thursday. The goal of the program was to teach the students how to defend themselves from potential child predators, and in this scene, not to go with someone who's posing as a messenger from the child's family.



Seated in the front row during last week's program at Esten are, from left, 1st graders Nichole Blonde, Michael Berio-Holmes, Israel Portela, and Christopher Armstrong. The children are watching a video presentation on child predator profiles. The short film was presented by the American Kempo Karate Academy, which has studios in Weymouth, Hanson, Hanover and Rockland.



Mark DiNino, at center, a Rockland resident, speaks to Esten school 1st and 2nd graders last Thursday about how to avoid and/or identify a potential child predator.

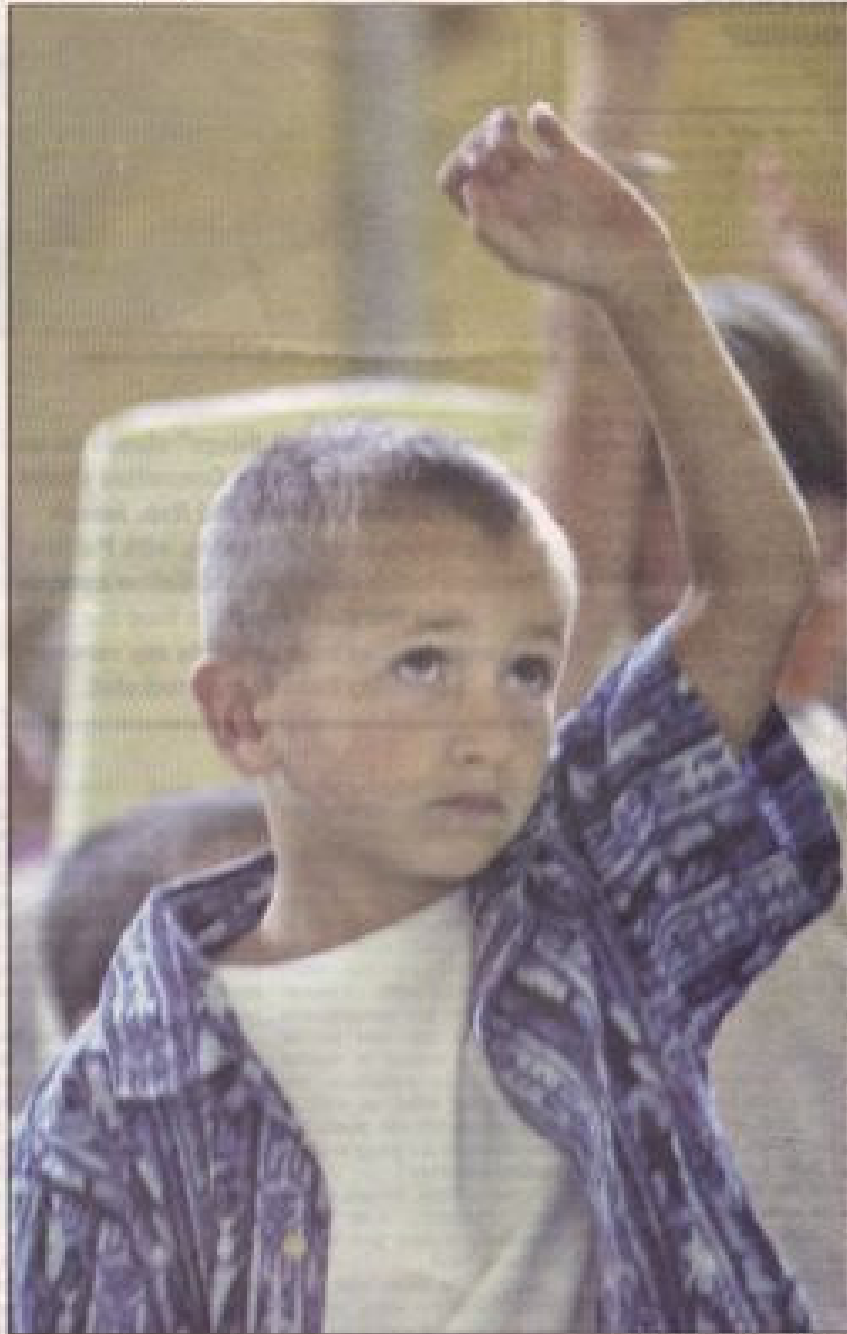
A ROCKLAND RUNDOWN



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Dylan McCue, a 1st grader at the Esten Elementary School, races away from a potential 'predator' during a special defense program taught at the school last Thursday and Friday. See more photos of the event, page 6.

RAISING (HIS) AWARENESS



LEFT PHOTO/CHRIS BERWATER

Michael Norris of the Eden Elementary School in Rockland raises his hand during a program at his school last Thursday, to demonstrate what to do if he were to be confronted by a stranger while alone. In the program, which was held on both Thursday and Friday, Sept. 13-14, Rockland resident Mark DeNino, the founder of American Karate Academy, spoke to the students about how to avoid and/or identify a potential child predator.