

Laws, awareness counter rape stigma



Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

Around 500 B.C. a man raped a woman to force her to become his spouse.

Later, a man who raped a woman had to pay her father or husband for the offense, indicating that women were treated as property.

Today, laws make sexual assault a criminal offence—evidence that some progress has been made in 2,000 years.

But there is still room for improvement, and the Lane Interagency Rape Team is trying to bring about those improvements.

According to Marcia Morgan, public education-relations officer for the rape team, public attitudes about rape have to change before it can be combated effectively.

Morgan spoke at a seminar sponsored by the LCC Men's Awareness Center Tuesday.

Morgan said that social stigmas and myths must be dispelled to assure a better understanding of the problem. She said many people believe the myths that a woman can prevent a rape if she wants to and

that all women have a desire to be raped.

The belief that rapists are strangers who rape for sexual gratification, that only certain types of women get raped and that rape is a women's problem are contrary to statistical evidence but still accepted by many people, according to Morgan.

"Every rapist and victim is different," she said, adding that Lane County in 1974 had 92 reported sex offenses and of those, 68 were in Eugene. "It is estimated that one in five rapes are reported," said Morgan.

Victims ranged in age from 4 to 82 years. "About 50 per cent of the attackers are identified," said Morgan. "And hopefully, with increased reporting, we might be able to increase the identifications." While the prosecution rate is low, "It's really changing, getting a lot higher," according to Morgan.

She suggested airhorns, mace, tear gas, spray perfumes, physical self-defense tactics and "talking your way out" as effective preventative measures. "I don't advocate guns or knives," she added.

The LCC Men's Awareness group will meet Jan. 27 in Room 109 of the Health building at LCC to further discuss rape.

Immediate assault report 'wisest'

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

When a woman is sexually assaulted on campus what is her best course of action? Campus Security insists the wisest procedure is to notify the security office immediately.

As soon as a complaint is turned in, an officer is dispatched to interview the victim. The victim is asked for a description of the assailant and the officer determines the location and the nature of the crime. Officer J.T. Parr, one of five uniformed Eugene Police Department officers attached to Campus Security, says that after receiving a report an officer can usually respond in one to five minutes.

Often the police are hampered in their search for a sexual assault suspect because, according to Parr, "People see things happening and it doesn't dawn on them that a crime has occurred. In the meantime the clock keeps running and the person we're looking for is just that much farther ahead."

Parr attributes the Security Department's success in taking a suspect into custody a week ago to prompt action and to good descriptions on the part of the woman who made the complaint. The man arrested on campus was charged with two counts of sexual

abuse, a Class C felony carrying a maximum five year prison term upon conviction.

Campus security doesn't keep an exact tally of sex crimes reported at the University. A large pin map in the back of the security office shows the location of only three cases—one at Villard Hall, another at Hamilton Dorm Complex and a third at 13th and Kincaid streets. A sex crime includes indecent exposure, peeping toms, sexual abuse, rape and attempted rape.

Detective Cater of Campus Security estimates, "conservatively we receive five to ten calls of this type a month. I would venture to add the biggest percentage of these crimes go unreported. We've had some reported since this guy was arrested last week."

Surprisingly, campus police report they have had only one legitimate call for help from five emergency phones installed at strategic spots around campus. The emergency buttons on the phones are pressed several times a week as pranks. The phone at the corner of 13th and University sends in a phony distress signal more often than any of the others.

In real emergency situations, students should use a distress phone or dial Campus Security at 686-3333.

IRS reopens Nixon tax probe; may charge him with civil fraud

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service has reopened its investigation of former Pres. Richard Nixon's tax returns to determine if he should be prosecuted for civil tax fraud, it was reported late Tuesday.

An IRS spokesman declined comment on the reports.

The *Washington Post* said the IRS now believes it can show Nixon had prior knowledge that the deed he used to claim a tax deduction was illegally backdated when he donated his personal papers to the government.

The new audit of Nixon's returns would include the years in which he claimed a \$450,000 deduction for his vice-presidential papers, said both the *Post* and the *New York Times*.

The *Post* said that if fraud is proven against Nixon, he would have to pay a 1969 tax deficiency of \$148,081, along with a 50 per cent penalty of \$74,040.

During the final year of his presidency, Nixon promised to pay the \$148,081, but the *Post* said sources indicated he has not done so. He could not be forced to pay

the deficiency because the three-year statute of limitations had expired. However, no statute of limitations applies in case of fraud, making the entire debt payable.

In 1974, Nixon paid \$284,706 in penalties and deficiencies for illegal deductions on his 1970-72 returns.

Nixon received a presidential pardon in 1974, but the *Post* said it applies only to criminal offenses, and not to civil tax fraud.

The *Post* said the IRS's belief that it has a case against Nixon is based on testimony under oath not available when the IRS concluded in March, 1974, that there was not sufficient evidence to charge Nixon.



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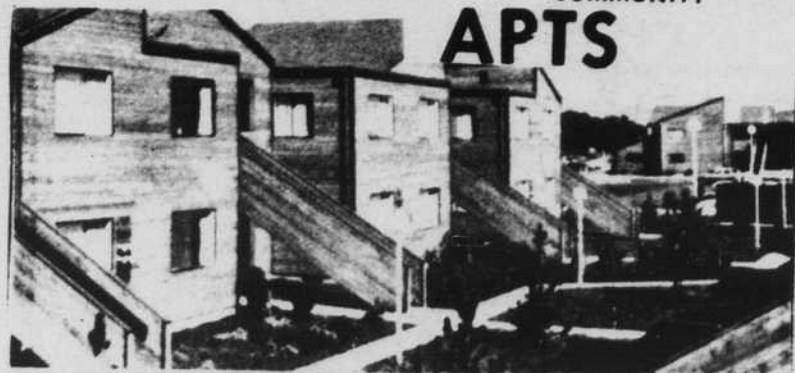
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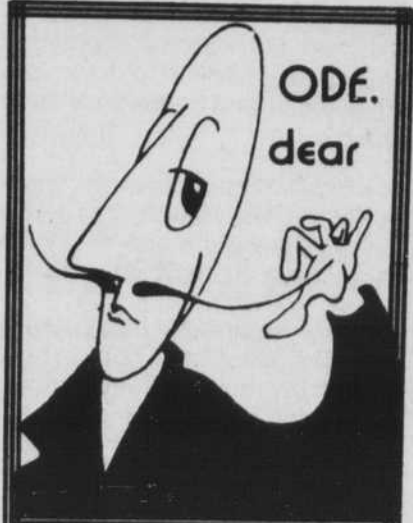


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