

Rape victims get moral, legal help

By KEITH NEAKRANS
Of the Emerald

Rape Crisis Network Opens

Those who believe Eugene to be a cozy crime-free community might be disturbed to find that 51 rapes were reported in the city last year.

That statistic may not be shocking enough until one considers the number of rapes that go unreported. "It has been estimated that 75 to 90 percent of all rapes go unreported," says Carla Kriiskila, a staff member for the newly formed Rape Crisis Network (RCN).

The RCN, which began operation last week, is a group of "advocates" or counselors for rape victims. They lend moral support to victims during the initial crisis of rape.

Later, they lend advice on legal, psychological and medical problems that arise from rape, as well as supprting the victim in court if a legal process is in order.

The crisis of rape is something often not given enough recognition, Kriiskila says. "When the women first come to us they are usually just holding on. We try to lend the warm human support that one needs to get through such an experience," she says, adding that advocates sometimes stay up all night with victims until they



Drawing by Jim Payne

"regain their composure."

The RCN has six staff members and 15 volunteer workers from the community. The staff members have five years of rape crisis counseling between them as a background for their work. So far, the RCN has already been contacted by six victims. "So far half the women who have contacted us have felt that they need this extended help and they seem to

be doing quite well," says Kriiskila.

Kriiskila feels the support given by the RCN in the courtroom is invaluable in helping the victim face her attacker. "The courtroom experience is just about as harrowing as the actual rape, according to many rape victims," she notes.

Helping the victim in this man-

ner has contributed to getting rape cases into the courthouse. "In cities with organizations like ours, the rate of prosecutions and convictions has increased," declares Kriiskila.

She notes that the CRN has some unique features.

Unlike similar organizations, RCN volunteers get together every few weeks to counsel each

other. Kriiskila feels "It's really easy to get burned out when you get involved in a heavy personal trauma like rape. Having the advocates work their feelings out among themselves helps them from taking their feelings out on the rape victims."

Another feature of the RCN is the job of the two men who are on the staff. They work with men who have been sexually assaulted by other males. They also work with the male relatives of the rape victims.

"Men often aren't sure of how to treat the victim after the rape," Kriiskila says. "If another man tells them that it's all right to be gentle, they are more likely to react that way," observes Kriiskila.

The RCN also has the goal of eventually being able to work with the rapists themselves. "Helping the victims is only half the task," Kriiskila says. "If we can help the rapist overcome his problems we won't have the victims to worry about," she says.

The RCN works in conjunction with the Rape Interagency team. The interagency team, which isn't a counseling organization, consists of Julie Rodenhouse of the Eugene police department and Sharon McGlinchey, a Lane County deputy sheriff. Volunteers interested in working with the RCN can call 485-6700, which is also the rape crisis line. The mailing address is P.O. Box 5152, Eugene 97405.

Lake trip offered women

The LORE program of the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department is offering an overnight trip to Odell Lake for women age 17 and older Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and relaxing in the lodge. The fee is \$7. Transportation and lodging are provided.

Register now at the Parks office, City Hall II, 858 Pearl St. For more information call 687-5307.

Israeli films to be shown in February

The Jewish Student Union will present five Israeli movies this month as part of its first annual Israeli Film Festival. All films will be shown in 177 Lawrence for \$1 unless otherwise listed.

Monday, "Three Days and a Child," 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. For his acting in this love story Oded Kotler won first prize in the Cannes Film Festival for his portrayal of Eli, a student in Jerusalem.

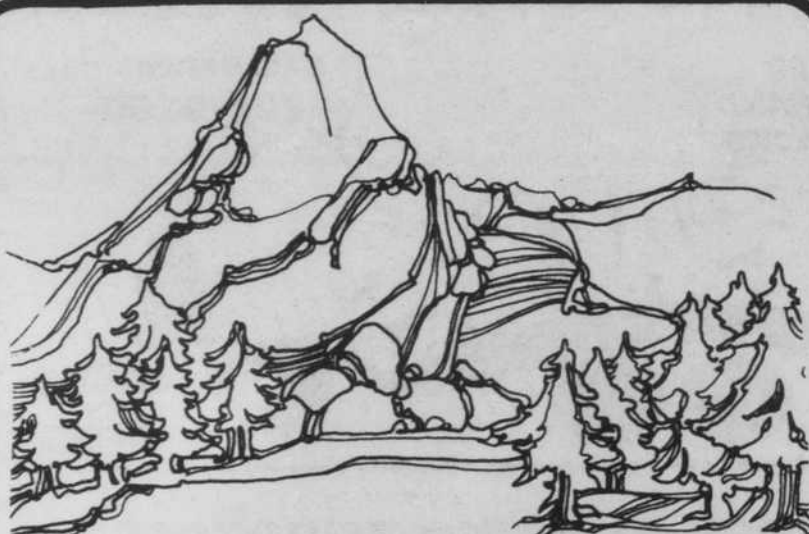
Monday, Feb. 13 — "The Big Dig," 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. An escapee from a local insane asylum "borrows" a digging compressor and begins drilling in the middle of Tel Aviv's main square in this satire of bureaucracy.

Monday, Feb. 20 — "Siegle," 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. This drama shows the slow and painful readjustment of Israeli war-widows.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — Double Feature — "Stan Gets in Israel: A Musical Odyssey," 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. and "I Was Born in Jerusalem," 8:30 p.m. Both films will be shown in 150 Geology for \$1.

"Stan Getz" is a musical documentary of the jazz saxophonist with other local musicians.

The second film depicts the history, personalities and contemporary lifestyles of Jerusalem.



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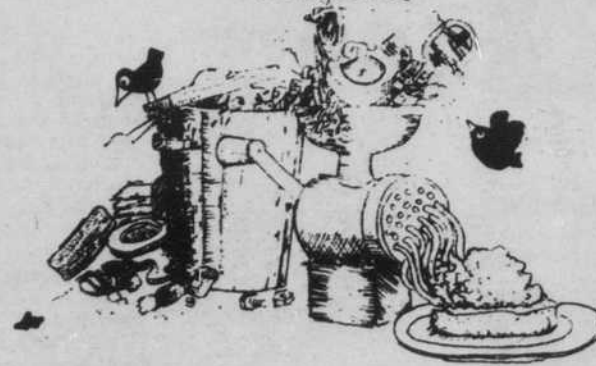
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