

Women's Symposium

'Women organizing' key to lowering rape incidence

By DAGMAR OBEREIGNER
Of the Emerald

A vital part of rape prevention is "women getting and having an attitude of power in their lives," said Carla Kiiskila, one of four women in a panel discussion Wednesday on "Current Approaches to Rape," a part of the Women's Symposium.

The panelists, each involved with helping victims, emphasized rape prevention, solidarity and support among women. They spoke of their interest in working together to get rid of the "sexist" attitudes that produce rape," Kiiskila said.

Marcia Morgan of the Lane County Interagency Rape Team,

said there were "93 rapes or attempted rapes in the Lane County area last year and the number has gone up 12 rapes a year over the last 3 years."

Morgan's group is an aid when the victim reports the crime to the police. It has been active 3 years, checking homes for lock security, interviewing victims and providing referrals, Morgan said.

Pattie Ladd of "Neighbors Against Rape" in Portland, said "40 percent of the time, women who resist rape with immediate negative response, get away," contrary to sensational stories.

She added that out of 322 rape victims in Multnomah County in 1975, only 7 percent were treated for injuries other than rape, and

none were murdered. On a nation-wide scale, less than one percent of rape victims are murdered.

Ladd said a Women's Night Watch, a flashlight march of about 300 women was held in Portland last September.

"Then in October rape statistics went way down," Ladd said. "The police couldn't explain it, but some of us felt we could."

This action and others, like the Neighbors Against Rape program's Whistle Alert System and street sheeting (posting descriptions of rapists in public places), shows the power of "women organizing and getting to know each other," Ladd said.

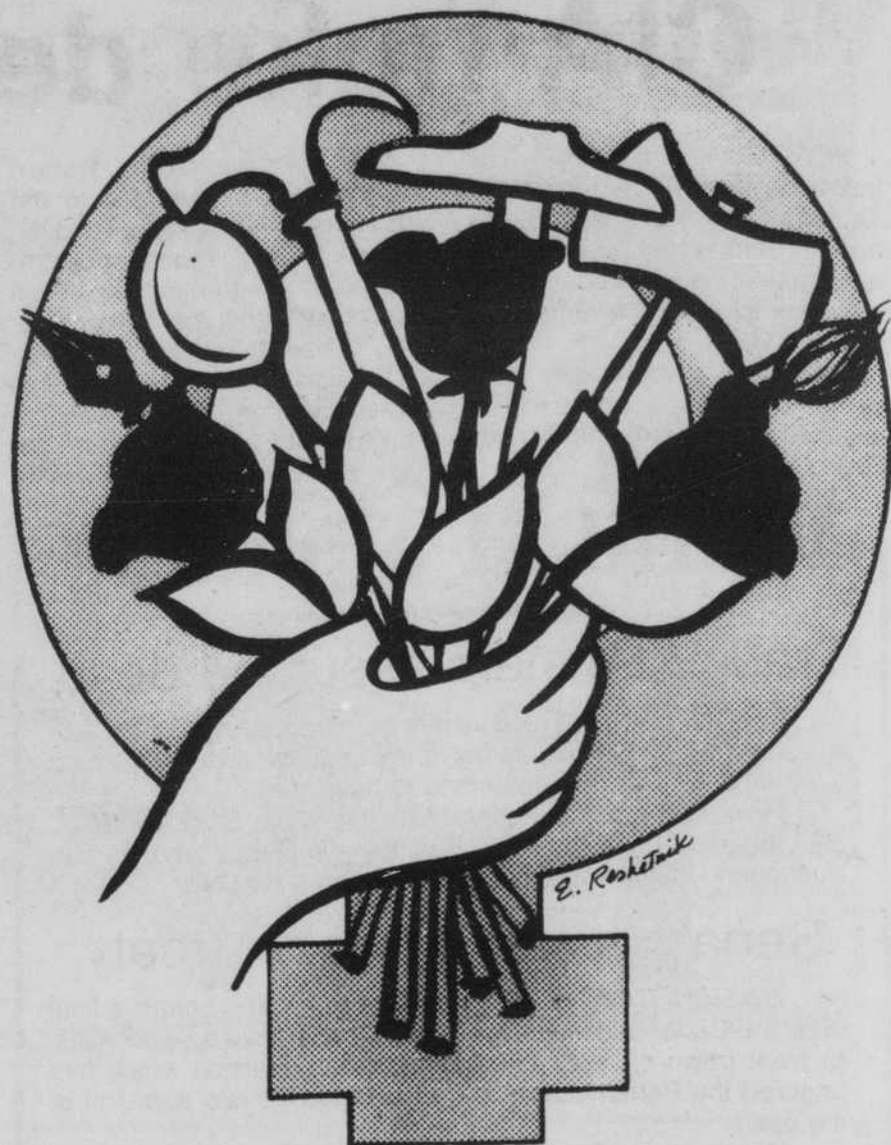
She added that "part of the reason men get away with it is the anonymity. Street sheeting reduces that anonymity."

Kiiskila is part of Eugene's Rape Crisis Network, which has been open since January. A 24-hour crisis line is staffed by volunteer women who give information and provide emotional support.

"We're very concerned about physical as well as mental being," she said. "Our first question is, 'Are you safe now? Are you hurt?'"

The hotline also gives information about police and legal procedures. In addition, the group is involved in "Men Against Rape" education.

The number of the Rape Crisis Network in Eugene is 485-6700.



Female panel sees all angles of ERA

By ANNA C. HOYT
Of the Emerald

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was the topic Thursday night as a panel discussion sponsored by I-Will (Informed Workers Investigating Liberty and Legislation) debated the pro and con views of the amendment.

The discussion covered areas such as economic aspects, family and home life, practical implications, and constitutional Amendments of ERA.

Supporters of the ERA explain that in the constitution it states "all men are created equal." Women were never incorporated into the statement.

"The only specific right women have is to vote" claimed ERA supporter, Lane County Circuit Court Judge, Helen Frye. She further added that according to the constitution "you can discriminate, but you have to be reasonable...we do not have a foundation underneath us, we are at the mercy of the political times, and economical times."

In opposition to the ERA, Doris Storms explained that the constitution was written for human beings. She suggested that we "attain equal rights by educating women on the rights they already have...I don't believe equal rights is the way."

Economically, ERA supporter Mable Armstrong described a situation where women are not given equal status as far as partnership in a business. She cited a case where a husband and wife jointly owned a business, the husband died, and the wife was left with a 100% inheritance tax,

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People for Southern African Freedom present:



Dr. Calistus Ndlovu

United Nations Representative
From The Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe

Speaking on:
ZIMBABWE:
The Struggle For Liberation
and Ian Smith's "Settlement"




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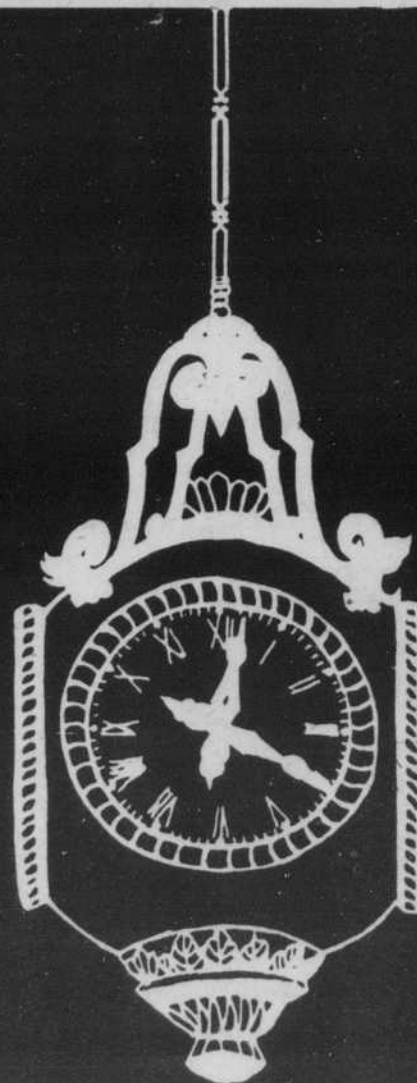
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