

Hotline calls rise in last three months

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

The number of persons who call the local Rape Crisis Network jumps about 35 percent between August and October, says Director Gail Wieman, who also is the crisis program manager.

Callers usually are anonymous, so Wieman doesn't know how much of the increase is due to students returning to the University. She says, however, that "students are high risk" potential victims and that most victims are between ages 14 and 24.

"My concern is that students don't know that it's not safe," says Wieman, explaining that University students often are too trusting of fellow students whom they have just met.

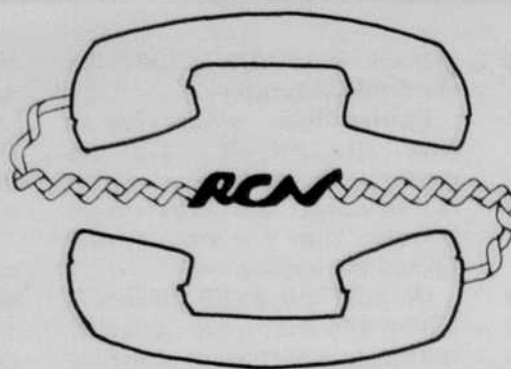
The popular belief that rapists are suspicious-looking strangers hiding in alleys is a myth, she says.

"In about 60 percent of all cases, the rapist is known to the victim."

Another myth is that rapes are sexual crimes. On the contrary, Wieman says most rapes are violent crimes.

This summer, there were several cases of non-students loitering around the University and grabbing or making other improper advances toward students, Wieman says.

"Universities tend to attract people that are just hanging around," she says.



Graphic courtesy of the Rape Crisis Network

The program isn't just for women.

"We've had a couple men who were raped and a couple that were victims of attempted assault. They are put in touch with our male volunteers," she says.

Although men usually are unwilling to admit they were victims of such incidents, the number who report such crimes is growing and will continue as males become less inhibited, Wieman says.

The network, offering 24 hour service by phone, currently is staffed by Wieman, Margo Belden, the community education coordinator, and about 35 volunteers.

Although the network lost six staff members through CETA cuts, Wieman explains that the network obtained new funding from the county, state mental

health division, ASUO, and Eugene and Springfield cities' budgets. United Way funding is expected soon.

ASUO funding, allocated by the IFC, is \$1,200 for telephone and answering service costs.

"We'll probably be cut some, but funding will be more stable," says Wieman of the switch from federal to local funding. "The fact we have this local money means we have local support."

The network's two major programs are assisting victims and "training people who have already gone through basic crisis training to give talks."

Wieman says the first program sometimes involves meeting the recent victim in person, going with the victim to a hospital, and giving the victim objective information about the pros and cons of reporting the incident and taking other actions.

The network also is a resource for discussing other matters such as assaults, incest, strangers following a person and obscene phone calls.

The second program consists of trained volunteers giving talks and workshops to classes, clubs, and other organizations about rape and related subjects, Wieman says.

The network did a six-part series on sexual assault on campus last year, but although it was open to the public, students comprised half the attendance.

All students who are victims of any assault or attempted assault or who want more information about a related problem may call 485-6700.

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President vows veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Reagan said Thursday he is ready to use his veto power, if necessary, to hold down federal spending.

"We will not be swayed" in pursuing further spending cuts, he declared.

At a televised news conference on the day unprecedented budget cuts were taking effect, Reagan said, "I will sign no legislation that would 'bust the budget' and violate our commitment to hold down federal spending."

But he refused to speculate on what appropriation bill or bills he might reject. None of them are near final passage yet.

"I would have to see a bill, what finally lands on my desk, before I talk about vetoing it," he said.

Despite the new cuts he has recommended, benefits would be maintained for those who really need them, Reagan said.

"What we've called the safety net is still in place," he said.

Speaking on the first day of the 1982 fiscal year, the president said it would take time for his economic policies to take effect.

"We will not be swayed from our plan by every changing current, every changing trend or every short-term fluctuation," he said.

In issuing his veto threat, he sidestepped a question ask what he will do if Congress passes a defense budget that's lower than he wants.

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