

# Workshop rips incest myths

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

Picture yourself as a child. Do you recall a special moment you spent with your parent of the opposite sex? Did it feel good to be getting individual attention?

Now imagine your parent smiling at you, slipping his or her hand under your clothes and touching you.

In what she called "a guided fantasy," Lisa Miller, of the Eugene Rape Crisis Network, opened the third of four discussions on "Rape! What You Don't Know Hurts. . ."

Sponsored by the Eugene Rape Crisis Network, the session focused on incest—its effects on children, how to recognize it, what to do about it and how to prevent it.

Miller, group leader of the network, focused her remarks on father/daughter incest. Incest is any situation "when the child is used for stimulation" and pointed out that sexual intercourse is not a necessary prerequisite, she said.

Miller refuted a list of incest-related myths suggested by the 15-member audience.

The list included beliefs that incest is rare, that it occurs only

in families of low income or poor education, that only parents who are perverted or who have poor sex lives would commit such an act and that children are seductive and "ask for it."

Seventy-five reported Lane County incest cases means incest is not "rare," Miller said. The actual number probably is even higher, because incest is "tremendously not reported, not known about," she said.

Many cases go unreported because the victims are threatened, trust their parents too much or are too young to express their problems, Miller said.

She also denounced the idea of the "seductive" child.

"I don't think it's possible for the child to be an equal partner and to desire sex for sex," Miller said. "She may want affection and goes along with the sex to get what she needs."

There are clues to recognizing incest, although "it's pretty hard to tell because the kid is probably not going to tell you," she said. For example, parents should be suspicious if their child firmly resists spending time with a certain family member.

Prevention is "the place to really make an effort," Miller said. Teaching children vocabulary—"even about the sexual parts of their body"—is important because it teaches them what is and isn't normal in

parent/child relationships.

The last session in the rape-prevention series, considering the topic of sexual harassment, will be held Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Gilbert 242.

## Harassment hearing set

A proposed University sexual harassment rule is the subject of a public hearing today requested by the ASUO.

Interested persons may present views or data concerning the rule either orally or in writing at the hearing, scheduled for 3 p.m. in EMU Room 101, says Muriel Jackson, the hearing officer and University assistant for administration.

The proposed rule states "sexual harassment of students, faculty or staff by other members of the University community is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated."

Sexual harassment is defined as "any sexual advance, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made a condition of employment or academic experience or when such conduct creates a hostile or offensive working or academic environment."

Copies of the proposed rule are available for review at several campus locations, including: the president's office, 110 Johnson Hall; the ASUO president's office, Suite 4, EMU; and the University library's catalog information service.

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