

Crisis Center has advice for troubled

By Diana Elliott
Of the Emerald

Some call simply to ask when the EMU is open, while others, desperate and suicidal, are looking for a ray of hope. Whatever the situation, counselors at the Crisis Center are there to help whoever calls.

The Crisis Center is not a walk-in counseling service. There are no couches and no waiting rooms — only telephones.

"We offer immediate phone-

counseling to students, faculty and the community," says Susan Snyder, the Crisis Center's new director. "Occasionally, we do make emergency house calls, but basically we're here to refer callers to the proper agency," Snyder says.

Every day from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., several counselors are sitting by the phones ready to answer questions, to offer advice and to direct callers to agencies that can help them with their problems. Although

it may appear to be nothing more than Dear Abby by phone, Snyder says the Crisis Center is much more sophisticated than that.

"All of our counselors are extensively trained," Snyder says. "And although it isn't a requirement, most are psychology majors who have an interest in this kind of work."

Crisis Intervention, a class offered through the University every fall and spring term, is a prerequisite for all counselors. In addition, counselors attend meetings twice a month to learn from each other about ways to solve problems, Snyder says.

"Those who use the Crisis Center usually feel comfortable because our counselors are well-trained, and they (the callers) know they are talking to fellow students," Snyder says.

Although she has no way of knowing for sure, Snyder believes that most of the callers are University students.

"I think we get mostly students calling, because they're the ones who know about us," she says.

This explains why returning students are more likely to call the center than freshmen, she says.

"A lot of new students don't know about us, but I hope that's changing," Snyder says. "We've made an effort to inform students about our service. We're flooding the campus with

cards with the telephone number on them, and we're placing fliers in all the dorm mailboxes."

Snyder says the biggest problem is not informing students about the center, but getting them to use it.

"Older students call more because they're more aware and not as worried about getting counseling," Snyder says. "We want students to understand that they don't have to be freaking out to call. Even if a student just feels down, that's reason enough to give us a call."

While most callers are from the campus, Snyder believes the Eugene community has been relying more heavily on the service in recent years.

"The way the economy has been these last few years, some of the (community) crisis agencies have gone under, which means more people turn to us," she explains.

The Crisis Center, which started in 1969, has seen its share of growth during the past 15 years, Snyder says. "It started out as one person running it out of a hole-in-the-wall apartment, and it has been getting better every year."

Snyder hopes that the center will continue to improve under her leadership.

"I don't plan on making any major changes because it's really well-established now," she



Susan Snyder

says. "But I do want to increase the training of the counselors by involving the students in more workshops."

One workshop that all her counselors are sure to attend is "Self Health '85," which Snyder will be giving in February. The one-day conference will focus on topics ranging from intimacy to improving study skills.


"This is the second year for the conference, which is open to everyone," Snyder says.

The Crisis Center receives funding from both the University Health Center and the ASUO. The center's phone number is 686-4488.

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Friends Continued from Page 1

For Fortier's brother, Gregory, "He was a mentor. He was like an older brother, even though we were twins."

Gregory Fortier said his brother showed him how not to



Jim Fortier

procrastinate but to initiate and carry out tasks. "He was a tackler and a problem-solver. He was a go-getter," Gregory said.

"Jim really appreciated nature, and he loved Oregon. The biggest thing that Jim believed in was the love of the outdoors, and it was really important to preserve nature," said Don Denman, another student and former roommate of Fortier's.

Denman said he remembers Fortier as "always outgoing, always aggressive."

That zeal of Fortier's took him to Jackson Hole, in the pickup truck he got for graduation, to find a summer job and home.

His plan was to work, so he could take some time off to ski and travel before returning to graduate school in geological engineering, Jones said.

"He's just that type that didn't worry about it. He just got the job when he got there," Gregory Fortier said.

And although he never left Wyoming to carry out his plan,

"he probably lived a fuller life in 24 years than a lot of people do in their whole life," Jones said.

A procession of cars will leave from outside Old Taylor's Tavern for Spencer's Butte at 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information about the memorial service, contact Jones or Denman at 485-6175.

Picture had wrong name

A photograph on Page 8 of Monday's Oregon Daily Emerald incorrectly identified Ibrahim Wabah as Gerry Kamp.

Kamp, a SEARCH class instructor, was quoted in that issue's story about a SEARCH class entitled "Literature of the Vietnam War." Wabah, who was pictured, is a YMCA Big Brother at the University and will appear in a later issue of the newspaper.

The Emerald apologizes for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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