

Women's center sponsors weekly meetings

By Michelle Brence
Of the Emerald

A small room on the third floor of the EMU offers guidance and support to women. The Women's Referral and Resource Center, directed by Leah Juniper, Laura Romano and Chris Gonzalez, is "a place for women to get together and talk. The University doesn't provide that — it's very male oriented," says Romano.

"We're trying to break down as many barriers as possible between women, because we need to unite if we want to find our strength," adds Gonzalez.

The center sponsors a women's support group, which will meet at the office every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The first meeting last week was met with no public response. Romano, Gonzalez, and practicum student Joanne Hurt, who were all present for the meeting, attributed the lack of participation to people not knowing the center's location.

Approximately 60 percent of



Laura Romano

the women who take advantage of the center are University students, while the remaining 40 percent are from the Eugene community, Romano and Gonzalez say. They agree that up to 15 women drop by and between 10 and 15 women call in to the

center each day.

"Most of what we do get are calls for counseling and legal aid," Romano says.

A film festival, a symposium and a series of speakers and workshops are all on the center's agenda for the 1984-85 academic year. One of the center's major efforts this year however, will be making the campus a safer place through the Campus Rape Project, Romano says.

Through this project the center will attempt to have night classes relocated to more visible areas, and have them offered as an alternative scheduling to the same classes offered during the day. The center also plans to organize an escort service operated by women.

"It seems somewhat contradictory, calling strange men to come and protect you from other strange men," Romano says.

The directors of the center have arranged to meet with University Pres. Paul Olum in

the near future, to determine what the University's liability is in rape cases that occur on campus.

Brown-bag lunches are held for women who want to visit in the Women's Referral and Resource Center every Monday,

Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the center at 686-3327. The center is located at Room 336, EMU, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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usually very frightened because they've either been witnesses to violent behavior or victims of abuse themselves, says Oldham. "We're higher than the national average in child abuse," she adds.

College students find

themselves victims of battering too, says Oldham. She estimates 10 percent of the women who come to the shelter are students.

"In addition, a University study done a couple of years ago showed dating violence to be pretty darned high," Oldham

Since the first American women's shelter opened in 1976, the homes have become an alternative for many women who want to make a choice between escaping or remaining in an abusive home.

says. "And many more will become victims later in life. Most victims are between the ages of 18 and 39 with an average age of 29, and many have children, says Oldham.

Barbara, the once battered University student, finally left her abusive mate. "But not until I heard a lot of promises about how he'd change, how he'd see a counselor. It would be alright for a while, but then it would get worse than before," says Barbara.

Oldham says this is typical of abusers. "They say they're in therapy, they've stopped drinking, they realize they can't continue the same way. But after she comes back, the therapy is dropped, or the drinking begins again."

Crisis volunteers suggest there are some characteristics that may warn a woman of a potential abuser. These traits include: a habit of making fun of other people, being traditional and authoritarian, being emotionally dependent, an inability to delay gratification, insatiable ego needs, and low self-esteem.

In the meantime, Womenspace needs help, says Oldham. "Volunteers are needed to help with children, answer phones, work as advocates, and help with housekeeping," she adds. Interested persons should contact Womenspace at 485-6513.

"Our main concern is to let people know we're here and we can help" says Cochran.

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**As long as they can make
her fall in love.**



DIANE KEATON

**THE
LITTLE
DRUMMER
GIRL**

**FREE
SCREENING**

DATE: October 16

TIME: 8:00 PM

LOCATION:

**Valley River Twin Cinema
1077 Valley River Drive
Eugene**

Sponsored by: EMU Cultural Forum, Univ. of Oregon

A GEORGE ROY HILL FILM

DIANE KEATON

in JOHN LE CARRÉ'S

"THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL"

YORGO VOYAGIS KLAUS KINSKI

Music by DAVE GRUSIN

Executive Producer PATRICK KELLEY

Screenplay by LORING MANDEL

Based on the novel by JOHN LE CARRÉ

Produced by ROBERT L. CRAWFORD

Directed by GEORGE ROY HILL

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