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'Crazy' men aren't always major rape perpetrators, panel agrees

By Amy Moss
Of the Emerald

It is not the "crazy" group of men who rape. Rather, the men who people of our culture consider normal — the men we are friends with, have gone out with or are married to — are most often the rapists; an official on rape said Tuesday night.

Helena See and Karen Kane, both of the Rape Crisis Network, spoke about defining acquaintance rape to a group of more than 50 people in the EMU Forum Room. Tuesday's event was the first in a scheduled three-day rape "awareness symposium."

Rape is at epidemic levels and is the only violent crime that is on the increase, See said. Approximately 50 to 60 percent of all rapes happen in the home, not in alleys or on bike path as popular belief dictates, and 10 percent occur on the job.

Seventy percent or more of those rapes occur between men and women who know each other, See said. See defined acquaintance rape as any sexual act that occurs without the woman's consent.

Men need to stop raping women, and one way is through educating themselves, See said.

Kane described our society as a "rape culture," one where attitudes about women makes them more available to be raped.

Men are taught that women are available for anyone, and women are taught that they need to act in a sexual manner to be appreciated, Kane said.

Men are socialized to be aggressive, dominant and tough, and women to be non-aggressive, submissive and weak. If we ask ourselves which side makes a better victim, the answer is obvious, Kane said.

She blames many of the prevalent attitudes in society on how men and women are portrayed in TV, pornography and popular music, and how those media perpetuate the sex roles that we are trained in to act out.

Kane quoted a line from a popular Rick Springfield song "Affair of the Heart," in which Springfield says, "I want to control you, I want to seize you, I want to rape you, I want to kill you." A Bruce Springsteen song, she said, illustrates an even more common attitude: "You say no; you say you don't like it, but I know you're a liar."

"This is the kind of music we all hear, hum along with and really learn a lot from very subtly," Kane said.

Men are taught that when women say "no," what they really mean is "yes."

"That is one of the thousand scenarios that leads up to date rape," Kane said.

Kane also spoke about marital or relationship rape. We live in a society where it is not illegal in

many states to rape your wife or girlfriend, she said. In 25 states, including Oregon, marital rape is considered illegal. But in 25 states a man can rape his wife if they are living together; rape is only considered a crime if they are not living together when it happens. In Alabama and Vermont, marital rape is never considered illegal, she said.

Kane defined marital rape the same as acquaintance rape. She said there are many reasons why women consent to both forms of rape. Among them is ignorance, the fact that women are socialized to think it is okay for men to do these things to them, that it is their duty as a woman to consent, she said.

Raymond Scully, Jack Straton and Ernie Randolf from Men Against Rape also spoke to the audience.

"Women have a fundamental right to terminate sex at any point of their choosing," Straton said. "Men must accept the responsibility of changing the attitudes that perpetuate rape," he added.

Straton believes that there are men who will not control themselves, but no men who cannot control themselves.

"The attitude that women owe men sex is false."

'Men are socialized to be aggressive, dominant and tough, and women to be non-aggressive, submissive and weak. If we ask ourselves which side makes a better victim, the answer is obvious.'

— Karen Kane

and the idea that rape is somehow natural is also false. I am a man, and I will not rape," Straton said.

The Men Against Rape members, of which there are 16, believe it is their job to educate men about the issue of rape. They think women can also educate men by telling their boyfriends or male family members how they feel about rape, and encourage men to talk about their feelings.

"Rape is a man's issue, and to understand more about rape we have to understand more about how we were socialized," Randolf said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to grow up and learn that (the misconceptions of society) are not the way things really are."

"We need to give men the opportunity to challenge the roles that they grew up with and present new ways for them to be masculine," he said.

Students now taking University to court over heating dispute

By Linda Hahn
Of the Emerald

Michelle Tomlinson and other similarly situated University Inn residents now are taking the University to court for failing to maintain adequate heat at the University Inn last term.

Apparently the defendants in the matter were unaware of a 30-day deadline to respond to the claim and thus waived their right to respond to it last Thursday, one month after the original letter dated Jan. 13, 1986 was sent.

The complaint filed against the complex is in the form of a tort claim, or a wrongdoing resulting in civil action. The plaintiffs, who other than Tomlinson remain unnamed as yet, charge that the temperature on their floor was uncomfortably low during fall term and that they should be reimbursed for part of their contracted rent.

Because a letter advising State Assistant Attorney General James Casby of the claim received no response, the students' attorney, Robert Ackerman, of Ackerman, DeWenter & Huntsberger, will file a class action suit on behalf of his clients within seven days.

"I'll be preparing the papers this week. We gave them their opportunity. We gave them 30 days to make an adjustment," Ackerman said. "Now we go to court."

Casby did not know much about the case because he had referred it to Peter Swan, University law professor and assistant to the president for legal affairs, he said. Swan said on Tuesday he knew very little about the case because he had given it to a research assistant. He expected more information by next week.

When informed of the students' plan to sue, Swan said he was not aware of the 30-day limit. He said he just received the papers on the case last week. His secretary had not yet opened a file on the case and his research assistant currently had the papers, Swan added.

"It seems like I had seen somewhere that they threatened a class action suit, but I didn't know about the 30-day limit," Swan said.

Swan also said that the students "leapfrogged University channels" by filing a tort claim. People who have a grievance can try to get relief informally, even with an attorney, he said. If they do not think they are going to get satisfaction, they then should try other options, he said.

Bill Kittredge, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, said the students tried unsuccessfully last term to get a response to the problem through other channels.

"They spent seven weeks going through University channels, which is mired in incompetence," Kittredge said. "They (University officials) acted very indifferently."

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Board to determine proposed research park site

By Paul Sturtz
Of the Emerald

Whether the Riverfront Research Park will end up located at the selected Willamette River site may now be determined by the Land Use Board of Appeals' interpretation of an 11-year-old ruling.

Al Urquhart, a University geography professor, challenged the City of Eugene Tuesday by arguing that the far-reaching Willamette Greenway legislation of 1975 nullifies any plans for such a park.

The city failed to prove that industrial development would enhance the natural, scenic and environmental quality of the Greenway as is specified

in the area's general plan before Land Use Board of Appeals referees in Salem, Urquhart said.

"Any ambiguity disappears when one reads the purposes of the Greenway statutes," he said. "The rules spell out quite precisely what can be allowed along the river."

After Dec. 6, 1975, the Greenway legislation does not permit intensified land use of areas within 150 feet of the river unless the lands considered are deemed not suitable for natural, scenic or recreational uses.

The city has targeted the Riverfront Research Park as critical in the diversification of the area's economy. The proposed site, north of the Southern

Pacific Railroad tracks, was selected because of its proximity to the University and the research activities already conducted on campus.

Tim Sercombe, a city attorney, defended the city's plans as being within the Greenway's guidelines and said the area was not considered a "needed open space or a significant resource area."

Urquhart charged the city did not sufficiently study the area or adequately note its quality before proceeding with plans to develop it industrially.

Plans for converting areas designated "open space" into ones for research park use did not take into account the concerns and needs of the community,

including its recreational uses, Urquhart said.

In addition, he said the plans are not consistent with the University's North Campus Plan, which designates the areas for open space and recreational uses.

In the city's written argument, Sercombe says that since the land is owned by the State Board of Higher Education, not the University, consistency with the University's North Campus Plan is not required.

The Land Use Board of Appeals will announce its formal decision March 17. If the board upholds Urquhart's appeal, the city's plans could be stalled indefinitely.