

Domestic and sexual violence to be focus of national awareness week

By Sarah Kitchen

Of the Emerald

Films, a rally and "violence-free zones" will characterize local events observing National Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

The ASUO Women's Task Force, Rape Crisis Network and Womenspace are co-sponsoring events for the week, which will start Tuesday.

Two films, "Family Affair" and "No Longer Alone," will be shown from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday in EMU Room 101. On Wednesday a rally will be held in front of the Federal Building, 211 E. Seventh Ave., at 5:15 p.m., and on Thursday, "Rethinking Rape" and "Victim Nobody Believes" will be shown from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room.

"It is really important for people to be aware of sexual and domestic violence and that it affects people of all ages, from babies to senior citizens," said Shannon Meehan, Women's Task Force coordinator. "It happens to men and women," she added.

Meehan said she hopes the activities on campus will increase people's awareness and knowledge of the subject. She said she also hopes victims of domestic or sexual violence will be encouraged to face what has happened to them.

"It is important for a victim to deal with what has happened in the past, especially because not dealing with it can cause trauma and can change a person's personal traits," Meehan said.

Lien Shutt, Rape Crisis Network outreach coordinator, said she hopes that during the week people will do something to educate themselves about domestic and sexual violence, either by reading a book on the subject or by going to one of the films. Many of the local bookstores, including the University Bookstore, will have displays on the subject, Shutt said.

Areas around campus that are identified by purple ribbons will be violence-free zones, Meehan said. The block around Rape Crisis Network, 358 W. 10th Ave., also will be a violence-free zone.

"Hopefully the people who are in the zones, and the people who see them will make a commitment to do something to prevent, and to stop, sexual and domestic violence," Shutt said.

Activities fair designed to get students involved

The Student Activities Resource Office will present the 1986 Student Activities Faire Tuesday to acquaint students with student organizations on campus.

The fair, which will be held in the newly remodeled EMU Ballroom, will present more than 50 student organizations in an attempt to familiarize students with various campus activities and ways to get involved with them, said Christine Wilson, who works at SARO.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for a student to find, in a localized situation, the kind of organization to which they would like to belong," Wilson said.

The fair will run from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and may include music, food and live entertainment, Wilson said.

Some of the organizations planning to attend the faire include the Jewish Student Union, Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, the Student Senate, Campus Crusade for Christ, the New Student Center Host Program, the Survival Center, the Black Student Union and the ASUO, Wilson said.



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