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Professor's past marred by sexual abuse allegations

By Michael Rivers
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: Due to the sensitive nature of the following story, the names of the women involved have been changed, with exception of Yvonne Vowels, who agreed to go on record. The other women spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Former University Professor Stephen Reynolds, convicted last month on charges of raping and sexually abusing a five-year-old girl, allegedly has a long history of sexually harassing his female students.

At least six women, most of them former students of Reynolds, have confirmed that he harassed them to some degree, with one of the incidents dating back 14 years.

In 1972, Reynolds and Anne, a 26-year-old graduate student, were out having a couple beers when he began making advances toward her, she said. Because she was such an unliberated person, she said, it was difficult to say no, so she just went along with it.

Reynolds allegedly took Anne back to his office, where they had sexual intercourse, she said. Anne's friends considered the incident to be a rape, but she is hesitant to call it that.

"I didn't fight, I blame the alcohol," Anne said. "It was an ambiguous situation — I didn't say 'no' particularly strongly. I was just being a jerk and going along with things even though I didn't want to."

Anne said she could have

done something to change the situation, but she "just didn't."

"I liked him," she said. "I had a lot of respect for him."

The incident really didn't change her attitude toward Reynolds, Anne said, adding that she still drank beer with him afterward.

"I just didn't go back to his office with him," she said. "I didn't want that kind of relationship with him."

People really didn't think about sexual harassment back then, said Anne, who received her master's degree in 1973. But she still feels guilt over the incident, she said. If she had reported the incident, if Reynolds had been stopped earlier, she believes that "a lot of these other things might never have happened."

One of those "other things" is an alleged rape that took place in 1979. The incident involved Debbie, a Christian woman who said she had been celibate for six years. She had taken a class from Reynolds summer term and had gone out for tea with him several times to discuss things they were studying in the course, she said.

The night before fall term registration, she and Reynolds went out to a restaurant to discuss an independent studies course for the term, Debbie said. Because she felt uncomfortable around Reynolds and she wanted to relax, Debbie said she drank a couple glasses of wine.

The wine apparently interacted with some allergy medication Debbie was taking



Post-game blues

More than 28,500 football fans return from a sunny day at the Ducks game against Arizona State University. But the sunny weather was custom made for the ASU Sun Devils as they downed the Ducks 37-17.

Photo by Michael Wilhelm

at the time because she doesn't remember leaving the restaurant, she said. The next thing she does remember is waking up in Reynolds' bed in the middle of being raped, she said.

When asked why she didn't scream or resist when she realized what was happening, Debbie said she ended up responding because of the effects of the alcohol and because she thought it was an accident.

"I was naive, I didn't have

much experience," she said.

She also believed it was useless to resist because Reynolds was a big man, Debbie said, and she was only 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed only 120 pounds.

Reynolds allegedly was involved in another incident on June 29, 1980.

The woman who made the charges, Mary, was a University Bookstore employee at the time and was sunning at Washburn Park, located on the corner of

Agate Street and 21st Avenue. She fell asleep while reading and awoke when she felt someone's fingers probing up her shorts, she said. When she opened her eyes, the man panicked and ran off.

Several weeks later while working at the bookstore, Reynolds came up to Mary's register to cash a check. She immediately recognized him as the man in the park and, "with shaking hands," cashed the

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Eugene/Springfield crime rates decreasing

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

Incidents of violent crime like rape are down in the Eugene/Springfield area from past years, possibly because of a harsher public attitude toward crime, say officials of both cities.

But the releasing of convicted offenders to ease overcrowding in the Lane County Jail may come back to haunt people in the area and make crime rates soar in the future, said Byron Vanderpool, Springfield's crime analyst.

Vanderpool said rape is down about 68 percent from last year, and violent crimes as a group — homicide, rape and burglaries — show a 6.9 percent decrease.

Simple assaults, fraud, sex crimes and cases of driving under the influence of intoxicants also are down about 38 percent from last year, Vanderpool said.

For a city of 40,600, Springfield's crime rate would be considered high if it were not located next to a larger city, he said. "Considering that we're part of a large metropolitan area, that rate is very good."

Sandra Henry, supervisor of operations analysis for Eugene, said while homicides are up this year, cases of reported rape in Eugene decreased 33 percent between 1984 and 1985 from 57 to 38, and 17 rapes have been reported through August this year.

Both cities are seeing an increase in the number of aggravated assault cases, but Vanderpool said he thinks this may reflect an increase in the reporting of child abuse.

Although burglaries, aggravated assault and simple assault increased between 1984 and 1985 in Eugene, the number of these crimes reported through August seems to in-

'Considering that we're part of a large metropolitan area, that rate is very good.'

— Byron Vanderpool

dicating these figures will be lower by the end of 1986.

Compared to other cities of its size nationally, Vanderpool said Springfield appears to be on par with them.

According to a recent Justice Department survey, the number of crimes committed against individuals fell to its lowest level in 13 years this year.

About 35 million crimes occurred in 1985, according to the survey, down about 700,000 or 1.9 percent from 1984.

The rate of reporting crimes seems to have increased recently, especially on the West Coast, which Vanderpool called a sign

that "people haven't given up on us to help them."

But Vanderpool said many of the prisoners being released from the Lane County Jail may begin committing crimes again, causing crime rates to get out of control.

A federal court order was carried out in March, calling for the release of prisoners to bring the jail back to a lower occupancy level. As of Oct. 1, about 800 people had been released from the jail, said Larry Salmony, the county's coordinator of justice services.

Salmony said a "substantial number" of people released from the jail have already been

re-arrested on new charges. Many of these charges are minor ones, such as driving while suspended, shoplifting or theft, and people released tend to be re-arrested for the same offenses with which they were initially charged.

Vanderpool said police officers are trying to arrest the people responsible for the largest number of crimes, but with fewer police officers working because of budget cuts and more people on the streets, Vanderpool said he doesn't know how effective this method will be.

Two bond measures on the November ballot would authorize a tax-base increase to implement new corrections programs, such as a work camp for people charged with minor offenses and a new drug and alcohol treatment center.