

Like Debbie, many women who seek help do return to the abusive situation. A recent study by social researcher Jean Giles-Sims indicated that 58 percent of the women in her sample who had sought refuge at a shelter had returned to the man within six months of leaving him.

Also, among women who left and did not return, 44 percent reported at least one violent incident with the man within the following six months.

"Twenty percent of the people who come to the shelter each month go back," Turner said. "Lots of women need to leave repeatedly before they recognize that the man isn't going to change. We try not to judge and support the woman in any decision (she makes). So we feel good when a woman later returns to the shelter. It means that the seeds we've planted have come to fruition."

However, more women still need to be reached, Turner said.

"In a given year, it's estimated that 16,000 women locally experience some form of abuse," she said. "We sheltered 253 women and 325 children in 1986. So that means there's a large population still out there. They can't come in or choose not to. One way we are trying to reach more people is through community support groups."

Womenspace also handles thousands of calls and provides information and referral services, she said.

Other people also may make it difficult for a woman to leave or not offer much support if she does, Turner said.

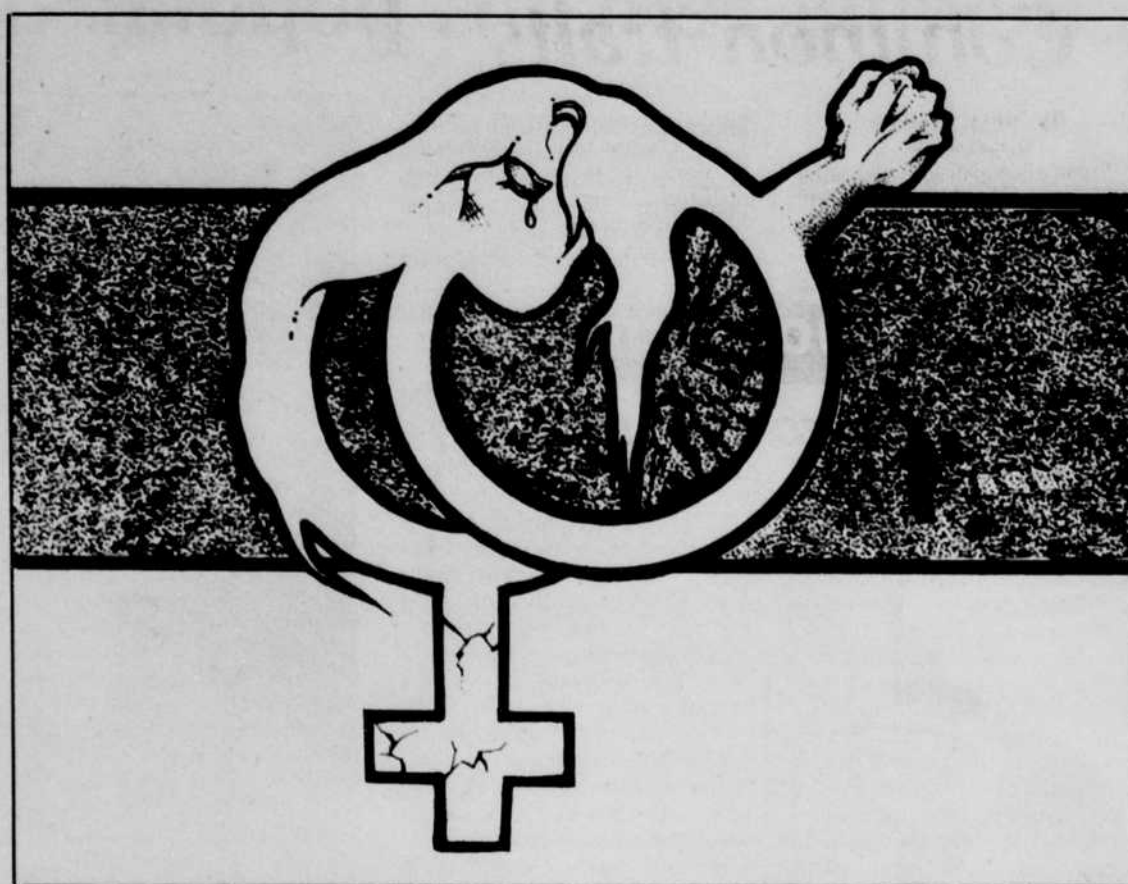
"Neighbors, friends and family members often don't see that there's a problem," she said. "There's not much support for women who leave their partners. As women, we are socialized to feel we are responsible for the success of a relationship. So when one fails, we see it as our fault. Other people may also believe that."

Giles-Sims' book concurs and tells of one woman whose family doctor responded thus after he had patched her up:

"You took a vow when you got married to love and cherish for better or worse 'til death do you part. Now go home with him. You are never going to change him. This the way he shows his love."

Neighbors also may be insensitive or reluctant to intervene. Nancy Kilgore, who wrote a book about her ordeal, describes this experience vividly:

"I thought I would be safer outside in the neighborhood. When I stepped out of the screen door, I felt like I was the next person in line for a painful vaccination: My neighbors had gathered outside to watch the fight. I found that old feeling of humiliation had come back, but this time my private space was really being violated. I had cherished my privacy but now we were entertainment for the entire neighborhood. The neighborhood looked on and



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

did not intervene when I yelled out, 'Please help me!'"

In some cases, even calling the police may not help.

"When the cops drove into the yard, Bob went back and talked to them," Debbie said. "When he came back, he said, 'Oh, one of them was my friend.' Therefore, they did not

come up and ask me how I was. They did not ask me if I wanted any help. They just talked to Bob and left."

Clearly, physical abuse is a serious problem and one that society can no longer afford to ignore or discount. As Turner sums it up:

"Amnesty International recently compiled a list on torture and its signs. These symptoms such as sleep deprivation, emotional neglect and constant stress, also describe the experiences of abused women. Chronic physical abuse is a form of torture!"

Claymation to be topic of presentation

Claymation artist Joan Gratz will speak on Claymation techniques and present numerous works of Will Vinton Productions tonight in 180 PLC at 8. The event, sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum, is free.

Gratz, a University alumna, will lecture on the Claymation process, a copyrighted technique that uses clay figures that are molded from frame to frame. Unlike traditional stop motion animation techniques, which use articulated dolls, Claymation allows the animator to reshape the figures to create a greater range of expressive possibilities.

Will Vinton Productions, for whom Gratz works, has recently become one of the most visible animation companies. Based in Portland, the company began with the Oscar winning short "Closed Mondays," a humorous film where an inebriated transient stumbles into an art museum and watches the artworks take on a life of their own. Other short features followed, including the Oscar nominated films "Rip Van Winkle," "The Creation," and "The Great Cognito."

More recently, Will Vinton Productions created the special effects for Disney's "Return To Oz" and produced a full length feature film, "The Adventures Of Mark Twain."

The company's most visible works, however, number among ad campaigns running on television. Domino's Pizza, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Nike and California Raisins are a few of its clients.

Gratz herself is a key member of the studio's animation staff. The Oscar nominated "The Creation" was designed and animated by Gratz using a technique known as claypain-

ting, a method of fingerpainting with a specially formulated clay, which she also pioneered and developed. She was the principal set designer for "The Adventures of Mark Twain," animated the Nome King in the ledge sequence of "Return To Oz" and designed the sets and animated the pigs in John Fogerty's music video "Vanz Kant Danz."

Gratz earned an art degree from UCLA and bachelor of architecture from the University of Oregon before going on to the Vinton studios, where she has

since become a nine-year veteran.

Gratz will present an array of work from Will Vinton Productions followed by questions and answers from the audience. Films she will show include the Oscar winning "Closed Mondays," "Dinosaurs," Oscar nominated films "The Creation" and "The Great Cognito," John Fogerty's rock video "Vanz Kant Danz," commercials for California Raisins, Domino's Pizza, Twizzlers and The California Egg Board and the short feature "The Diary."

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