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Finding an end to rape

That's the goal of the University's Unwanted Sexual Attention Task Force. What can realistically be done about ending the old nightmare?

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Associate Editor

A strange man follows a woman who is jogging alone and overtakes her as she enters a deserted trail.

Because she is wearing headphones, she doesn't notice him. Before she has a chance even to be startled, he grabs her, throws her into the back of a waiting van and assaults her physically and sexually.

Most people would classify the above crime as rape — a horrible act of violence against women. But what about the next scenario?

A college couple has been enjoying a romantic evening together. The man treated his girlfriend to an expensive dinner at a classy restaurant, and they went out to see the latest romantic movie. After the movie, they decide to return to the guy's apartment for drinks.

Once alone, the couple starts making out heavily and their clothes end up on the floor. When they are completely naked and appear ready to have sex, the girl stops and says she doesn't want to. The guy can't believe she's serious, so he ignores her protests and proceeds to have sex with her anyway. Is this rape?

Some people would say this situation was not rape. They might say the girl "asked for it" or "really wanted it."

But society is slowly realizing that rape occurs anytime a person is forced to have sex without her or his consent, whether the person is violated by a stranger or someone they know.

Statistics show that more than two-thirds of all rapes are committed by non-strangers and 84 percent of these rapes happen on dates. Concern for the safety of women students has prompted several students, administrators and others to form the University's Unwanted Sexual Attention Task Force.

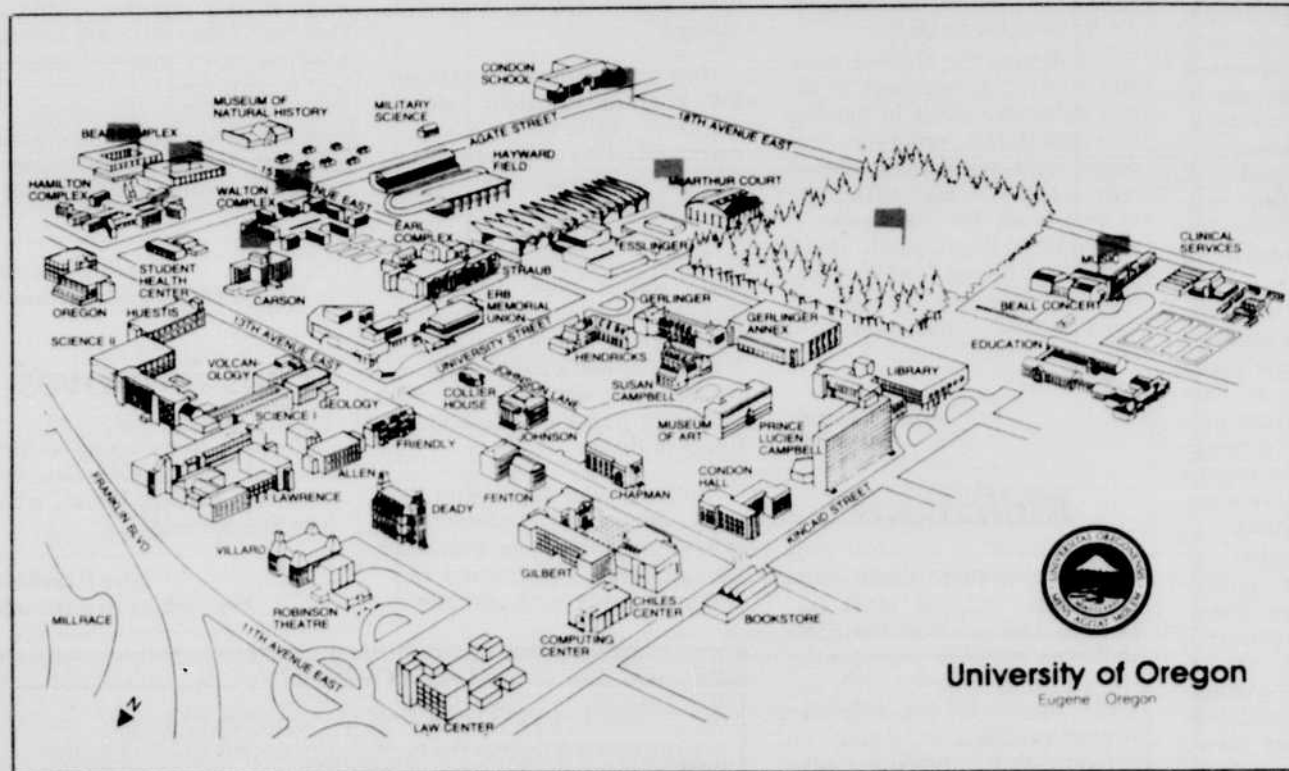
This coalition of 27 groups, which meets every week, was created last April to "address the problems of all kinds of harassment men or women receive on basis of their sex on this campus, including date rape and stranger rape," said task force leader Shirley Wilson, who is also the University's dean of students.

"We are a very broadly-based group with representatives from other groups as diverse as the ASUO, Campus Security, Housing, the Greek system, Womenspace and many others who are looking together at preventing any kind of unwanted sexual attention," Wilson said.

A Personal Interest

Ginny Erlich, a Greek system representative on the task group.

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Since November 1983, eight rapes or attempted rapes on campus have been reported to Campus Security. More have undoubtedly gone unreported.

Women rally, march to take back the night

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Chanting lyrics and carrying signs, more than a hundred men and women rallied in the EMU Courtyard, then marched to downtown Eugene Saturday night to show their anger toward rape.

The rally, called "Take Back the Night" and sponsored by the Women's Center, has been a tradition at the University since 1978. Rally organizers said its purpose was to make people aware that women aren't going to be victims any longer, and that together they can overcome the fear of walking alone at night.

Teresa Reeves, Women's Center Task Force coordinator, said it was important that the rally take place because rape and other violence against women is continually growing across the country and little is being done to stop it.

"In Ft. Lauderdale last week a jury acquitted a rapist because they thought (the plaintiff) was suggestively dressed," Reeves said.

"Everyone out here knows someone that has been attacked. We want to know that we can walk the streets free at night because we're in a group," Reeves

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