

RAPE

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understand that rape can take forms other than vaginal intercourse.

"Rape is rape is rape," she said. "Most people when they think of rape, it's very narrow-minded."

Two days after the attack she called police, but she said they wouldn't file a report because the assault was in her apartment and there was nothing to prove the sex wasn't consensual.

Now, four years later, she said, her goal is to heal herself and get rid of the guilt and the rage.

This kind of anger and pain, statistics show, is something Mary is not alone in having to deal with.

In 1990, there were 1,330 reported rapes in Oregon — a number experts say is extremely low, because most women do not report the crime.

SASS statements say less than 10 percent of rape victims report it to the police. Using this figure, the number of rapes in Oregon in 1990 would total more than 13,000.

Moreover, out of the few rapes that do get reported, even fewer cases conclude with the alleged attacker being convicted.

Out of the 1,330 reported rapes in Oregon in 1990, 454 arrests were made and a lesser, unknown number were convicted.

Both Mary and Sara are among the majority of women who did not see their attackers punished for their crimes although they knew their assailants.

Sara, 28, who was raped by her newlywed husband a couple of years ago, said she did not try to prosecute because she wasn't sure if what happened to her was an actual rape.

She woke up one morning, she said, and her husband wouldn't let her out of bed.

"It was like he wanted sex and I didn't and he wouldn't let me up," she said. "It wasn't like making love. It wasn't mutual and it wasn't caring."

Afterward she said she was scared and shaken, and she confronted him, but he denied raping her.

"I told him, 'this is rape.' He kept saying, how could I say something like that," Sara said. "It ran right through our marriage. Everything that I said happened, he said it didn't."

"Throughout our marriage all of my thoughts, feelings and perceptions were being denied."

"We fought some about whether or not it really happened," she said. "I didn't trust myself at all at this point. I shut down what I thought and felt and closed down and just felt miserable."

They didn't ever talk about the incident during the next two years they remained married, she said, partly because she suppressed her feelings about the incident and essentially blocked it out of her mind.

"It was like that time didn't happen."

"This all went under, totally under," Sara said. "After that my unease in life and just existing went up and up. I stuffed the thoughts, I stuffed the feelings."

"I was scared at home, and home was supposed to be safe," she said.

At one point, because of her anxiety, she called a rape crisis line to talk to someone about her fear even though she couldn't identify its source.

"I've always stood up to things that were bigger, but this was a generalized fear," she said. "It didn't have a face."

She divorced her husband because of his mental abuse, such as telling her he didn't love her and that she was ugly.

It was after the separation, as she was reading in the library, that she realized where the fear was coming from.

"There was a line and it defined rape, and I just started crying and crying and crying."

Sara is now getting professional help to allow her to cope with the fear and the pain that the rape caused.

Sara lives alone in her apartment with two big dogs for protection. But she is constantly fearful, she said. For example, she is afraid to leave the windows open at night and is angry that she should have to change her life style for fear of what may happen to her.

While she does date men, she said she is now "real clear where the lines are."

SENATE

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IFC appointment as a challenge in light of recent complaints directed at the committee.

Dockstader told the senate she was concerned about IFC problems she had heard about, which have been exacerbated by budget cuts due to Measure 5.

Dockstader also said that while she is willing to cut budgets "as a matter of necessity," she also wants to see some uniformity in the committee's decision making.

Another ASUO Executive staff change revealed at Tuesday's senate meeting was the resignation of ASUO Programs Coordinator Therese DuBravac. Warren said she and Bills will absorb DuBravac's responsibilities for the remainder of the year.

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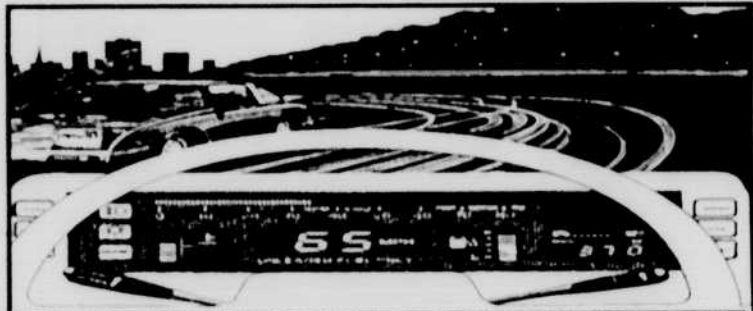
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