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Panel: Student victims don't know help is there

□ Sexual assault survivors usually unaware of the services the University provides

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

The message from University administrators working to decrease sexual assault and harassment on campus is that the support services are there, but too few students know about them.

"My worst fear is that there are people out there alone who feel like it's their fault," said Dean of Students Jane DeGidio, one member of a panel addressing rape and harassment issues Wednesday afternoon.

The panel was part of the ASUO symposium on safety issues, and was organized by members of the Creating a Rape-Free Environment class as a group project.

DeGidio said she once dealt with a University student who had been raped and eventually kicked out of school because the trauma of her experience prevented her from keeping up with her classes.

If the student had come to DeGidio earlier, her professors could have been informed that she had undergone a traumatic experience, and steps could have been taken to make sure her academic probation did not turn into academic disqualification.

But unaware of her options, the student only told about the rape to one friend, who was apparently equally uninformed of the options for survivors of sexual assault or harassment.

DeGidio said this troubles her because as dean of students, she monitors how students are succeeding in school.

"One of the things that gets in the way of success is sexual harassment," DeGidio said.

Victims of sexual harassment can be equally uninformed, said Lorraine Davis, vice provost for academic personnel and

'My worst fear is that there are people out there alone who feel like it's their fault.'

— Jane DeGidio,
dean of students

staff.

When a student is sexually harassed by a professor, the student often feels that if a complaint is filed, grades and academic progress will suffer, Davis said.

However, a 120-day deadline for filing a harassment complaint allows a student to wait until they are no longer in the alleged harasser's class.

Another option students may be unaware of is that in extreme cases where the student feels immediate action is warranted, Davis can take steps to remove a student from the harasser's class and ensure that the student's academic progress will not be adversely affected.

Davis, a member of the Affirmative Action Administrative Council, said many faculty and staff on campus are trained to provide information to victims of sexual harassment. Those names are published on yellow posters that appear around campus.

Education and empowerment are the key issues in dealing with rape and harassment, the panelists said.

DeGidio said in the end, education will be more effective than adding more rules to the Student Conduct Code because to truly prevent these crimes, the rape culture must be changed.

Erin Collier, volunteer coordinator for Sexual Assault Support Services, said when realizing that 80 percent of rape victims know their attackers, it becomes clear that education is important.

Both SASS and the dean of students office strive to empower the rape survivor by informing her of her options and allowing her to choose how she wants to proceed, the panelists said.

Fire one



Photo by Sean Poston

Lambda Chi Alpha members launch water balloons at the Phi Gamma Delta house from their rooftop, hoping to draw a counterattack beneath Wednesday's sunny skies. Temperatures should reach 65-70 degrees today but will dip down to the low 60s on Friday.

Student's plays 'a little bit odd, off-center'

□ Pocket Playhouse helps aspiring playwrights get their ideas on stage

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

When University student Russell Dyball first read a description of Fox television network's new show *Herman's Head*, he was a little surprised.

The story line sounded suspiciously like a play he had written only a few months before.

Like the sitcom, Dyball's *Flying Dutchman* included personifications of the main character's personality traits. Both shows also cast three men and one woman as the personality traits.

The main difference between the two shows was that *Dutchman* took place on a ladder instead of in a TV studio.



Photo by Michael Shindler

(From left) Karin Clarke, Russell Dyball, Adrienne Peden, Greg Jones, Jon Egging and Matthew Pidgeon in Russell Dyball's play *The Red Herring O' Happiness*.

"I was hoping that we would be able to put our show on before they got the television show on the air so we wouldn't be accused of copying their idea," Dyball said.

Flying Dutchman is just one of three plays that Dyball has written and had performed at the University.

Inspired by such comedy shows as *Saturday Night Live*

and *SCTV*, Dyball said he has been writing plays since he was a freshman in high school.

He described his works as "a little bit odd, a little bit off-center."

"They're not as much funny as they are kind of absurd," he said.

A revival of one of his plays, *The Red Herring O' Happiness*, opens March 5 at 5 p.m. It will run for two days with free admission at the University Pocket Playhouse, on the first floor of Villard Hall. The 50-minute play was first performed at the University two years ago.

Dyball, who also directs and performs in *Red Herring*, describes the show as a "science fiction fantasy/B movie about the second coming of Christ."

In the play, two travelers set out to find Jesus Christ after the apocalypse described in the

Rights to be speech topic

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

A national human rights activist is sounding an alarm bell about the effect of psychiatry on students, including complaints of human rights violations from University students.

In a speech, titled "Mind Control and the University," David Oaks, coordinator of the Clearinghouse on Human Rights & Psychiatry, warns that emotional, mental, political and spiritual repression are common in modern psychiatry.

"Students in emotional distress can end up drugged, locked up, tied down, and

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