

Night Moves

WOULD-BE ATTACKERS and abusers beware! Students across the country are doing a little march, making a little noise and taking back the night.

CRIME

Take Back the Night is a fitting description for the event, which aims to raise awareness about increasing incidents of violence against women. The U.S. Department of Justice reports that more than 1,400 women die and another 170,000 are hospitalized as a result of violent crime.

Each year, thousands of activists sound whistles, ring bells and shout slogans as a show of support for victims. The event sends a clear message: "Women won't be held captive by fear."

According to the National Organization for Women, Take Back the Night marches

have been held in the spring in more than 300 universities and communities every year since it started in the '70s.

Rebecca Peatow, a senior at the U. of Oregon, has helped organize events at her school for two years.

"It's really empowering, especially since you're marching with a large group of women. It's fun to participate and see people getting involved."

A sister movement to Take Back the Night, the Clothesline Project, provides a strong visual reminder of violence in the same vein as the AIDS quilt. The traveling project, started in 1990, allows victims of violent crimes to decorate T-shirts with messages and drawings of courage, anger and loss. They are color-coded to match the crime committed; for example, orange symbolizes rape. The shirts, which numbered nearly 40,000 last year, are strung up for display on campuses and then exhibited in Washington, D.C.

"It was a good visual way to express what happened to me and to let others know that it can happen to anyone," says Rhonda Anderson, a sophomore at the U. of Idaho who made a shirt for last year's clothesline. "It helped to release some of the emotions that I had inside."

Lauren Onkeles, a senior at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison, says the project brings crimes to a human level. "Art therapy seems to work a lot better than talk therapy. It brings out things that wouldn't normally come out."

As support increases for both events, Take Back the Night and the Clothesline Project continue to air society's dirty laundry and hang violence against women out to dry.

By Christopher Clancy, U. of Idaho/ Photo by Lisa Barroso, Virginia Tech



Fight for the night.



Bootleg Connection

WHEN U2 DECided to catch up with technology by going more electronic on their new album, *Pop*, technology caught up with the Irish rockers — and the band discovered that it moves in mysterious ways.

TECH

Months before the scheduled release of *Pop*, clips from two unfinished tracks off the record found their way onto a Hungarian fan's home page. U2's label, Island Records UK, tried to stop the spread of the stolen tracks. But within days, the clips were exchanged by thousands of U2 fans across the globe, and "Discotheque" and "Wake Up Dead Man" were on the streets.

Although the illegal copying of music has long been a problem for record companies, the availability of free, CD-quality music duplicated illegally on the Internet is a totally new can of cyber-worms.

"[The Internet] gave me a sneak preview of my favorite band's new work," says Michael McAllister, a U. of Arizona freshman who listened to U2 on the Web. "Since the [song] snippets were only 30 seconds in length, it

served as a great advertising tool for the company."

McAllister isn't the only one who previewed music on the Internet before shelling out the cash for an album. "I try to get my hands on at least one sample of the group before I buy an album," says Kevin Shade, a freshman at Indiana U.

"CDs are too expensive these days to justify buying before trying."

Slow transmission speeds are

the only thing hindering free trade of illegally copied CDs across the Internet. With the current hardware, it can take over an hour to download an entire song in CD-quality stereo.

"Even [the fastest] modems don't have as good quality as my good old CD player," says Billy Jacobs, a junior at the State U. of New York, Buffalo.

But the ability to download entire music collections in the time it takes to play one song — without the artists or labels seeing a penny — is just a matter of time. Recordable CDs are now available, and drastic improvements are being made in modem speed and digital storage technology.

And the record industry is nervous.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) uses its pirating division to hunt down illegal music on the Internet and in stores.

"We have a staff of full-time investigators — people who do nothing but search the Net for illegal material," says Frank Creighton, RIAA's vice president and associate director of anti-piracy.

But the RIAA will never get all the pirates to walk the plank, Jacobs says. "It's virtually impossible to stop the spread of copied music. If people don't want to spend money on an album, they can find others who have it and copy it."

By Brian A. Gnat, U. of Michigan/Illustration by Mikey Giba, Northern Illinois U.