

Take Back the Night has new route but same message

■ **MARCH:** The event will start with a rally, featuring guest speakers, music groups and live demonstrations

By **Angie Suchy**
Student Activities Editor

The march is on.

It's not a race, nor is it a fund raiser. Instead, it aims to draw attention to a growing problem — violence against women.

The annual Take Back the Night march, sponsored by the ASUO Women's Center and Sexual Assault Support Services, is happening tomorrow night. Also scheduled are a rally, speakers, music and a speak out.

Both SASS and the Women's Center have been planning and

campaigning vigorously to raise the money needed to put on the event, which had a turnout of about 400 people last year, said Women's Center events coordinator Jessica Frahs.

"We are aiming for even more people," Frahs said. "This is an important event for students and community members."

The event will begin with a sign-making activity on the EMU East Lawn from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Community and campus information tables will also be set up at this time. Starting at 8 p.m., there will be speakers and performances.

Scheduled speakers include student Mandi Hood, who will speak about the recent changes in the student conduct code pertain-

ing to sexual assault and rape; comparative literature graduate teaching fellow Elizabeth Claman, who will read poetry; a speaker from Victim Services, who will speak about rape; a speaker from Ability International; and University Law School alumnus Mustafa Kasubhai, who will speak about men's support of women's issues.

In addition, the rally will also feature a self-defense presentation from a local tae kwon do group and a performance by Soromundi, a women's choir.

After the rally, the march will follow a new route, beginning on East 13th Avenue and ending on 8th and Oak streets in front of the federal building.

As in past years, the event is

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Jessica Frahs
Women's Center events coordinator

open to everyone, Frahs said. Men are encouraged to march behind the participating women "so women can be on the forefront," she said.

The drumming group, Womyn at Play, will perform as the participants march toward 8th and Oak streets. Once the marchers have convened, there will be a speak out, an open forum for anyone

who wishes to speak about experiences relating to violence against women.

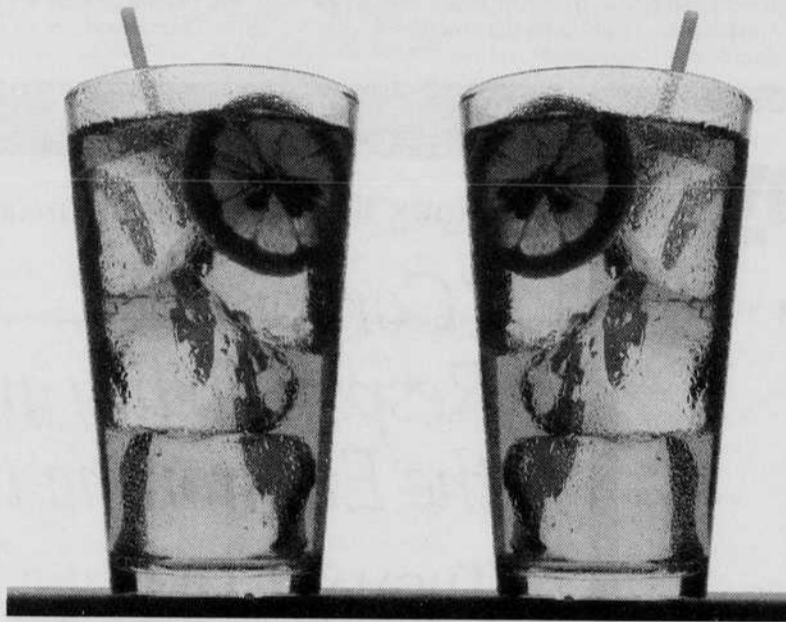
"I hope a lot of people come and show their support in speaking out against violence against women," Frahs said.

In conjunction with Take Back the Night, this week is also designated Creating a Rape-Free Environment Week.

On Friday there is a workshop for students who want to organize and "develop proactive solutions" to end violence against women.

The workshop will take place in Cedar rooms C and D from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Also, the Clothesline Project will be displayed in the EMU Lobby throughout the week.

One will quench your thirst.
The other could set you up for rape.
Which would you drink?



Rape is a sad reality. And it can happen to anyone. Even you.

When secretly slipped into a beverage, even a glass of iced tea, sedating substances can leave anyone vulnerable to sexual assault. You may not be able to see it, smell it, or taste it. And you don't have to be at a bar or club. It could happen in any social setting. The tragic fact is that the reasons for rape really have nothing to do with you. It happens only because there are people who wish to harm.

But there are some things that may help reduce your risk:

- Always keep your beverage in sight.
- At a bar or club, accept drinks only from the bartender or server.

- At social gatherings, don't accept open-container drinks from anyone.
- If you experience dizziness, extreme drowsiness, or other sudden and unexplained symptoms, call someone you trust. Go to a hospital emergency room immediately. Try to retain a sample of the beverage for testing.

If you think you've been sexually assaulted, call (800)656-HOPE for a rape crisis center near you, or call the police immediately. Don't be afraid to reach out for help. There are tests to help prove you've been drugged, and a federal law that can put the rapist in prison for 20 years.

So please, help reduce your risk...

Watch your drink!

THIS MESSAGE IS PROVIDED BY HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DC RAPE CRISIS CENTER.
Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force, UO Alcohol and Drug Prevention Team, and Office of the Dean of Student Life (346-3216)

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