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# Perspectives

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## The night should have been taken back long ago

**D**id you see the rape facts on the front page of Tuesday's paper?

"One out of four college women will be sexually assaulted before graduation."

"Rape is one of the few offenses where the victim is nearly always blamed for it happening."

Did they shock you?

Perhaps. But many of us have heard them before. As jarring as these facts are, we often take the fact of rape for granted. It will always be a part of society, we think, so what can we do to change that?

The events in Sexual Assault Awareness this month include the showing of "Boys Don't Cry" on Thursday and the 22nd annual "Take Back the Night" on May 18. While these are obviously worthwhile activities, there is one question: After years of having these statistics in our face, of exposing the victims of sexual assault, of trying to take back the night,

why is rape still so prevalent in our society?

The answer isn't an easy one. For one thing, even critics are torn over whether rape is an issue of biology, power or sex. What can't be argued, however, is the sheer magnitude of cases. Sexual assault was the most rapidly growing violent crime in the United States in 1995, according to the American Medical Association. But if anti-rape messages have been out in society since the women's movement in the 1970s and have educated a full generation of men and women, then why haven't the number of rape cases subsided?

It seems awkwardly funny that the Worker Rights Consortium — that deals with the fate of people in other countries — attracts more passion on this campus than rape, which deals with the plight of women in our own country. It's not that the WRC issue isn't worthy, but why doesn't the continual degradation of women in our culture get as much or more attention?



It's almost as if people have heard the statistics so often that the campaign against sexual assault isn't new and powerful any more. But if commercial advertisers know how to concentrate our attention onto such trivial acts as buying this soda or that one, why couldn't a slick anti-rape campaign renew debate in one of our most significant social problems?

In a very basic way, the issue of rape needs a better public relations campaign. It needs some spark, some event, some rally that will refocus our nation and our campus's attention onto it. The events we currently support, such as "Take Back the Night,"

are clearly necessary and beneficial. However, we need something even bigger to get more people's attention.

Whether you approved, the shock value of Justice For All's Genocide Awareness Project got people talking passionately about abortion. The "I Agree with Ryan" campaign sparked debate on Christianity and religious identity. The WRC protests clearly grabbed and focused everyone's attention on sweatshop labor. Sexual assault prevention needs, requires and deserves the same attention.

One out of every four women on a college campus will be sexually assaulted. If that doesn't shock you, what will?

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

### Letters to the editor

#### Don't forget Symantec

This is in reference to Ben Romano's Article "E-mail Virus' global ruin delivers all but Love" (ODE, May 5). It had a side bar with some quick information on the viruses and included the closing statement "Where to get help if you have contracted the Love Bug: www.mcafee.com." I have to consider this irresponsible journalism on a couple of counts.

First off, this is plain favoritism. There are a number of virus software packages on the market, and the Emerald seems to be promoting one above the rest — but that belongs on the editorial page and not on the front

page.

Second, students can receive the Duck Web CD, which includes Norton AntiVirus as part of the University's site license. If they have Norton installed, then they just have to go to www.SARC.com to download the virus protection for the love bug that Symantec had posted within hours of the first incident of the virus. Going to Mcafee.com is only useful if you have their software program installed already. The article may lead students to think that the Norton Antivirus is useless for the Love Bug and that they need to go out and purchase Mcafee instead.

And thirdly, Symantec is a major local employer in Eugene and has contributed a lot to the University — surely the Emerald could include its

name among the options for those with a virus on their system.

**John McClure**  
visual design

#### Please forgive us

The University Day Committee would like to apologize for our advertisement that ran in the Emerald on May 9. We realize the advertisement was in poor taste, and we apologize for our unintentional insensitivity. We hope this incident will not deter any of you in supporting and volunteering at our 2000 University Day.

**Katy Ho**  
**Greg Danielson**  
University Day co-chairs

#### Bettman works for us all

I'd like to encourage people to vote for Bonny Bettman this week. I'm the

owner of a small business located in downtown Eugene, and I think she'll do a great job at helping the City Council find a way to bring life back to the core of our city. It's about time that we finally have a chance to vote for someone who includes all the citizens in her thoughts and ideas, rather than just doing the grunt work for the local rich and powerful.

How do I know she plans to work for all of us? The fact that she has already spent more than 10 years working on various city committees and commissions was my first clue. If you've ever spent time on one of these committees, you know it's not much fun. Bettman didn't spend those hours to make herself rich or because it was exciting. She did it to help out. She did it without expecting any

### THE WEEK IN THUMBS



#### To being out there

Cartoonist John Callahan entertained about 300 students and community members in the EMU Ballroom on Tuesday with his fresh brand of politically incorrect humor. A quadriplegic, Callahan was sponsored by the University's Disability Project Committee.

#### To bringing awareness

MAPP, the Multicultural AIDS/HIV Peer Program, brought a lively group of skits to the EMU Amphitheater May 7, which presented health information to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.



#### To a flaming disaster

A "controlled" brush fire set by the U.S. National Park Service in New Mexico on May 4 quickly spread into a wildfire that threatened the Los Alamos National Laboratory. A New Mexico senator is already investigating who authorized the blaze.

#### To letting people decide for you

According to The Oregonian, ballots for the state's primary elections reflect only an 18 percent voter turnout as of May 10. One county official called his district's lack of participation "dismal."