

## Sexual assault

continued from page 1

and tries to work with them to help them overcome their trauma.

As a community educator, Fiskio not only meets female survivors but males as well.

It may seem difficult to imagine men as sexual victims, but 10 percent of the victims of reported sexual crimes in the United States are men, according to FBI statistics. Fiskio indicated that Eugene's statistics mirror this trend, saying that about 10 percent of SASS's clients in the Eugene-Springfield area are men.

SASS provides advocacy for survivors who want to go to hospitals, make police reports or prosecute their assaults in court, Fiskio said. Of the 3,439 client contacts made by SASS, 316 of them were male, according to the SASS annual report for the 1998-99 academic year.

"Most of the men I talked to were sexually abused as children," Fiskio said. She added that the same is true with fe-

male survivors.

"It makes me really sad," she said. "Sometimes it makes me very angry."

Fiskio said that she also meets adult survivors, but she feels it's hard for them to talk about their experiences.

Jan Power, a spokeswoman for the Eugene Police Department, said that two rape cases with men as victims have been reported in the last three years. However, she said that reported cases are very rare because many sex crimes remain unreported. Another factor in the low number of male-rape cases is that male-targeted sexual crimes are not categorized as "sexual offenses," Power said. Instead, those cases are considered assault cases.

Thirty cases of male sexual crimes were reported last year, according to police officials. These include 17 sexual abuse cases, six cases of public indecencies, three cases of sodomy, one rape case and three other violations. This year, 13 cases have already been reported. These include six sexual abuses, five public indecencies, one unwanted sex penetration and one

sodomy charge.

Joan Saylor, the administrative lieutenant of the University's Office of Public Safety, said that she remembers one case of male rape on campus in the last three years.

"Sexual assault is one of the most unreported crimes," Saylor said, adding that she agrees with FBI statistics that indicate 10 percent of rape survivors are men.

"More cases are out there that haven't been reported," Saylor said.

According to SASS, the majority of male survivors are assaulted by individuals of the same sex, and in most cases, the sexual orientation of both offender and survivor is heterosexual.

Fiskio said that in reported cases, 90 percent of the sexual offenders against men are men, and 92 percent of male offenders are heterosexuals.

While resources for male victims of sexual assault are limited, Fiskio believes this could be changed.

"We're here to support and educate both men and women," she said. "We can reform the system to provide better for everyone."

## Law school

continued from page 1

rector of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment based in San Francisco.

Cole focuses his work in helping low-income communities address environmental issues throughout the country. Currently on sabbatical from the center, he is teaching environmental law at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

Third-year law students voted on Cole as this year's commencement speaker.

In his speech, Cole challenged the graduating students to live a career where they're "not afraid to fail." "You're not afraid to change your mind in which you serve your community and have a balanced life. Dream of justice and go out and make it happen," he said.

Also in attendance was U.S. District Judge Helen J. Frye, who

was awarded the 2000 Meritorious Service Award. Frye, a 1966 graduate of the School of Law and native of Klamath Falls, was nominated for the position of U.S. District Judge in November 1979 by President Jimmy Carter.

For the presiding faculty, the spring commencement brought mixed emotions.

"The students have been here for three years and they've worked really hard, and we've gotten to know so many of them, so it's a time when we're excited for them because they get to go out and practice what we've tried to impart to them," Richard Ludwick, assistant dean for student affairs, said. "It's also a sad time for many people too because it's saying goodbye to friends."

For many graduates, the employment search has already begun. Merv Loya, School of Law Career Services director, reported that close to half of the class has already received job offers. He noted that if last year's graduating class is any indication, more than 90 percent should become

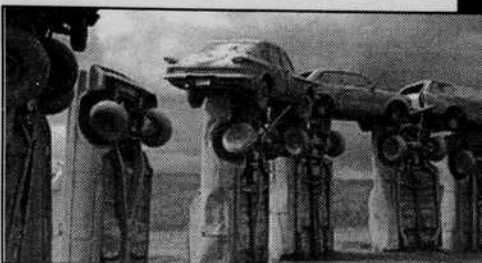
employed within nine months after graduation.

For the students, the time spent at the University taught them the value of dedication.

"You learn the ability to sit down and concentrate and focus and work hard. In law school, you are just centrally focused on your studies," said graduate and Wayne Morse Scholarship recipient Gabrielle Valdez. "It's really independent work."

In addition to graduating from the law school, Valdez also completed her master's degree in business last March through a program between the law school and the Lundquist College of Business. After graduation, she will head to Los Angeles to focus her energy on sports marketing by working at the Staples Center, a sports arena. She said her work through the law school has taught her the importance of hard work in all her endeavors.

"It has really disciplined me in everything that I do," said Valdez.



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