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## Oil

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build directly through local communities can easily explode, Brisbane said. Often, when they do, hundreds of people are killed in the resulting fires, she said.

Carwill James, who heads the Oil Campaign at the San Francisco Bay-area based group Project Underground, spoke about the influence of oil companies on public policy within the United States and abroad.

James said companies such as Chevron and Shell have a lot of power in deciding public policy because of the contributions they make to several influential right-wing political organizations. This affects their treatment of the local people in places such as the oil-rich Niger Delta area of Nigeria.

"Chevron is benefiting from government policies in

this country reinforcing what it is doing in the Niger Delta region," James said.

As part of his presentation to the small crowd gathered in Columbia 150, he also showed several slides to demonstrate the effects oil companies are having in Africa.

James said several pictures were of villages in Africa after they had been destroyed in order to build new oil refineries.

When the local people organize to resist, said James, the oil companies provide speedboats and helicopters for the government to bring soldiers in to stop any opposition by force.

Randy Newnham, coordinator for the University Survival Center, which sponsored the event, said the speeches brought up many important points.

"I thought the presentation was marvelous," Newnham said.

## Assaults

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The first reported incident happened Feb. 14, when a woman was attacked by a man wearing a mask at the corner of East 15th Avenue and University Street. Alejandre said the woman reportedly tripped after the attacker jumped out of some bushes, but she was able to escape.

Other attacks include a March 16 assault on a woman walking along the Gerlinger fire lane, which passes by the Pioneer Cemetery, and a Feb. 28 assault on a woman walking north of the foot bridge in Alton Baker Park, near Autzen Stadium.

Alejandre said attackers have not only been grabbing their victims, but also making sexual comments and alluding to the danger of being alone.

"During the March 16 incident, the attacker actually spoke to the woman, saying, 'Don't you know you shouldn't be walking alone?'" Alejandre said.

Hicks said DPS has been hanging bright yellow posters alerting students to the attacks since March 7 in an attempt to educate students on how to avoid an attack.

"We want information about the attacks to be out in the campus com-

munity so we can reduce the likelihood of further incidences," Hicks said.

Posters have been hung in the EMU, the residence halls, sororities and fraternities, the University Health Center and other locations. They include precautions people can take to avoid an attack, such as walking with someone else or in a group, walking in well-lit places and calling for help if they feel threatened.

"Anyone can call [DPS] for a walking escort if they feel uncomfortable," Hicks said. "Even if it's after midnight, we'll send someone to walk with you from the library to the residence halls or anywhere else on campus."

Other services intended to keep students safe include the emergency phones and Saferide, which provides rides to women who are left to walk home alone, Hicks said.

Cindy Smith, an adult nurse practitioner for the University Health Center, said if attacked, a student has a lot of options.

"Both the Sacred Heart Medical Center and McKenzie-Willamette Hospital emergency rooms have forensic nurses that can do any kind of testing necessary and can help with the legal issues of an attack,"

### Self-Defense Tips

If attacked:

- Always make as big a scene as possible. Make sure to scream, yell and attract a lot of attention to the situation.
- Always try and keep something with you that can be used as a weapon if needed. Keys can be as effective as pepper spray or mace.
- Always attempt to strike sensitive areas such as the eyes, ears and groin area when fighting back.

Source: Gary Martin, Martial Arts expert at Martial Arts America in Eugene

Smith said. "The University Health Center can also do any kind of testing for pregnancy and STDs, and the Office of Student Life can provide counseling and legal advice."

Hicks said surviving an attack is the most important thing to think about.

"It's important for someone to rely on their own wits and fight back if they can," Hicks said. "If someone says, 'I have a gun,' it may be best to cooperate. The main thing is to survive the attack."

DPS will continue to work with EPD to find those who are attacking women on the University campus.

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