

Walk aims to curb assault

The Men's Center's Walk to Prevent Sexual Assault hopes to raise awareness among men about sexual assault

Allyson Goldstein
Freelance Reporter

By Wednesday afternoon, University students, faculty and staff will have walked more than 60 miles around campus in support of the University Men's Center's Walk to Prevent Sexual Assault.

The walk, which took place on Monday and Tuesday and continues today until 4 p.m., is part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Groups leave every half hour starting at 9 a.m. to complete the approximately mile and a half walk through the campus. The route makes a figure eight and takes participants from the EMU, around the residence halls, back up past Gerlinger, and finally back down 13th Avenue to end at the EMU.

Although this is the walkathon's first year, the Men's Center plans on making it an annual event, according to the center's Student Director George Hanawahine. He said

many groups, from fraternities to physical education classes, participated in the walk this year, and said he hopes that next year even more groups will get involved.

Hanawahine said the center's goal is to raise awareness among men about what they can do to help prevent the sexual assault of women.

"Sexual assault has traditionally been viewed as a women's issue, but it's important for people to know that it is an issue for everyone," he said. He added that the majority of men are not perpetrators of sexual assault, but they still need to get involved and show their support.

The Men's Center Leadership Team Supervisor Jon Davies also said men should take an active stance against sexual assault.

"Often times it's difficult for men to speak out against sexual assault, and the walk allows them to show their concern," he said.

Dave Lichtenstein, a GTF for a Prevention of Interpersonal Violence class and a member of the Men's Center leadership team, brought his students to participate in the walk Tuesday.

"People enjoyed having a chance

to be a part of something on campus in relation to this issue," he said. "It was a good way to put classroom learning in a practical context."

In addition to sponsoring the walk, the Men's Center provides educational programs on topics such as depression, relationships and overall health to promote awareness of the emotional, physical and social health of men to all students on campus, according to the center's mission statement.

For more information, or to join the walk, visit the Men's Center table outside the fishbowl at the EMU, or visit the Web site at www.uoregon.edu/~counsel/UOMC/UOMC.htm.

Apart from the walkathon, other events scheduled today for Sexual Assault Awareness Week include a talk by the Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team on healthy sexual communication, titled "Does Anybody Wanna Have Sex Tonight," taking place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room, along with a self-defense workshop for women in the EMU Walnut Room at the same time. Former NFL quarterback Don McPherson will also speak about men's roles in preventing violence against women in a speech titled "You Throw Like a Girl" at 6 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

On Thursday, survivors of sexual violence and supporters can design T-shirts that illustrate their feelings in the "The Clothesline Project T-shirt Generation Workshop" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. Students can also see the Clothesline Project of Lane County on display in the amphitheater from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The week ends with the annual Take Back the Night event, where people will march through the streets of Eugene to protest sexual violence. The march begins in the EMU Amphitheater at 6 p.m.

Allyson Goldstein is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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News brief

Students for Choice host guest speaker

University Students for Choice is hosting a guest speaker and filmmaker from Willamette University tonight at 7 p.m. at the Knight Library Media Center.

Rosemary Roberts will show her half-hour film "Paris to Portland: Conversations about Abortion, Contraception and Feminism in Two Cultures." The film will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Roberts spent five months studying in Paris, France, last spring, and her film includes interviews with women from there. She asked women about their thoughts on reproductive choice issues and conducted similar interviews with American women from Portland and Salem. The film was presented as Roberts' senior project at Willamette.

—Lindsay Sawvé

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