

# Mental traumas haunt victims

**Kelly Laughlin**  
The Print  
Second in a series

Rarely are the victims of rape and rape attempts in the Clackamas County area subject to severe physical abuse. "Most of the trauma they suffer is psychological," said Roi Hokinson, director of the Clackamas County Victims Services Unit, (VSU). In the three-year history of the VSU, no more than two victims suffered broken bones, falls or injuries that required extensive medical attention. The majority of rape victims enter the hospital with cuts and bruises that mend in a matter of weeks.

According to Hokinson, medical facilities like Willamette Falls Hospital, Dwyer Hospital, Meridian Hospital, and Sunside Kaiser account for nearly 100 percent of the county's needs in treatment of rape and rape attempt victims. "While wounds heal in a matter of weeks, the mental

trauma attached to a rape can last months. "At times the victim may never overcome the effects of the crime," she said. Hokinson stated that three facilities are available for referral either before or after medical attention has taken place: The Mental Health County Complex, Marylhurst Campus Counseling Services and the Community Action Crisis Line open between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m.

At the hospital, the rape victim advocate is nearby. Immediately, a rapport must take place between victim and counselor. "You have to let the victim know you can be trusted, and be a source of information and comfort," she said.

As a result of the assault, many times the victim doesn't know what has happened, can't comprehend it, and doesn't know what will happen in the future. "The victim has simply lost control. During the attempt the victim was out of control of her

life, the ability to cope and control afterward are zero," she said. It is then that the advocate must assess the victim's mental state, and try to stabilize her. "The victim may be dealing with humiliation; afraid to talk about it, feel physically degraded, and have basic fears of death, and the loss of friends and family members," Hokinson said.

Individuals differ in attitude and background. The rape victim is no exception. One is the hysterical victim, who many of us are familiar with in her portrayal by the media. "This is the stereotyped victim: screaming, fighting, and carrying on," she said. Of the last 37 incidents, not one could be classified in this category, according to Hokinson. "The only real reason we retain this classification is to break the myth that everyone links between hysterics and rape. Sure, there may be a brief period of time when the victim is excited and presents hysterical behavior, but the fact is that the body will not permit hysterics

for any length of time. The mental strain of the act is so tremendous, that the body would not be able to take it," she said.

The controlled victim accounts for 35 percent of the rapes in this area. They are described as the least expected victim because they handle the crime in a business-like manner.

the inability to accurately verbalize. The family's role in the healing process of the victim is tremendous, according to Hokinson. Hokinson found it more difficult three years ago to get family support than it is today. Only occasionally does the family need counseling, she said.

**'While wounds heal in a matter of weeks, the mental trauma attached to a rape can last months.'**

ner. They are "very calm, cool, and seemingly under control. Many times the dispatch who receives the report can't believe it's real," Hokinson stated. "But the controlled victim is suppressing all the anxiety and fear she really possesses. In time, the affects of the incident will take palce, and that hard veneer will crack," she said.

The angry victim, which includes 38 percent of all reported rape crimes, is the easiest to treat, said Hokinson. "Anger is a healthy reaction, that you can translate from 'I'd like to kill him,' to, 'I'll never let that happen to me again.' Anger can be channeled from a negative to a positive reaction. Usually the angry victim of an assault has been attacked in an area that she had control of, be it her home or office. Not only has she lost control of her personal space, but her place of ownership or residence," she said.

"If the family comes into the hospital while the victim is being treated, I first assure them that the victim is not physically injured, and right now, she needs lots of love and support from them," Hokinson said.

The family, who Hokinson describes as "significant others" can take on three types of behavior, as a result of the crime. The majority are angry at the assailant, which is a reaction that can be channeled, while many others feel self-guilt.

"This reaction usually is the 'what ifs' condition. Things like, 'If I hadn't lent her the keys to the car, or 'I should have gone with her to the store,'" Hokinson said.

One-third of the parents place blame on the victim. "These are the ones that usually need counseling. They either think she promoted it, set herself up, or even asked for it," she said.

The myths attached to rape, however, are breaking up, according to Hokinson. "I remember 10 years ago when nobody even mentioned the word rape and 50 years ago, the crime, under any circumstances, was the victim's fault; that included even wife battering, and incest," she said.

The door is finally starting to open up concerning rape. Awareness is the key to adequate prevention and treatment of rape as a social reality in Clackamas County.

# Wood fuel may offer clue to solving energy puzzle

**James Rhoades**  
The Print

The only thing I can't understand is why we're so slow," said College chemistry instructor Loren Studer in reference to the "gasohol" bill currently being debated by the legislature in Salem.

Gasohol is a mixture of at least 10 percent alcohol and common unleaded gasoline.

"If put into effect, it might reduce the number of barrels of oil used daily in Oregon by four million," said Studer.

It has already started in the Midwest. In Iowa they use more gasohol than unleaded gasoline. Now Oregon wants to get into it, and we have an abundant supply of forest waste that can be used to create the methanol alcohol."

Gasohol has other advantages besides saving money, Studer said. "The alcohol has the same heat of reaction as gasoline. The alcohol when burned is pollutant free," Studer said. "I'm not sure, but the alcohol in gas it may have anti-knock properties."

According to Janet Gillaspie, aide to Representative Nancy Fadeley of Lane County, the mixture does have anti-knock properties. "This is because the knocking is caused by the lack of octane in the gasoline. Gasohol will raise the octane level, since methanol has a higher octane level than gasoline," Gillaspie said.

Rep. Fadeley actually introduced six gasohol bills to the legislature.

"The major focus of the entire program is to use the waste we have in Oregon for motor fuel. As long as the gas shortage lasts, Oregon can produce

its own gas," Gillaspie said. "The alcohol can be more than a 10 percent mixture and can be used with any gas," she said.



Photo by Doug Fick



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