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Program offers support to rape victims

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Sheerbourne, a Malucan Cockatoo, perches on the shoulder of his owner Sharlene. Only two years old but is expected to live from 60 to 80 years.

ckatoo attends classes

is two years old and doesn't
word of English -- or any other

not strange, really. Royce is a
cockatoo (Dignified Parrot).

usually don't talk until they're
years old," said Sharlene Sheer-
Royce's owner. "But we're going to
at Clackamas next term any-

Sheerbourne, a student in the Water
program at CCC, will be attending
Royce this term (or vice-versa).
fly very well," Sheerbourne

has lived with the Sheerbournes

half of his life; which is not really too far
gone, as cockatoos live from 60 to 80 years.

"At night we keep him caged," Sharlene
said. "We let him out in the morning. I have
the scars and scratches to prove it."

Nesting instincts die hard. Cockatoos have
an affinity for nooks, cracks and crannies.
More than that, a cockatoo (at least this
one) craves attention.

"He likes to crawl under our covers in
the morning. I keep getting woke up by a
claw on the shoulder," Sharlene said. "He
lets us know when he thinks it's time to be
scratched and petted."

A cockatoo is not so different from a
human.

Rape and sexual attacks are serious, vio-
lent and frightening crimes that often go
unreported because of the trauma, terror
and humiliation involved.

The Clackamas County Rape Victim Ad-
vocate Program offers support and infor-
mation to assist victims, their families and
their friends in coping with this crime.

Rape Victim Advocates (RVA's) have
been trained in hospital, police and court
procedures, as well as crisis intervention.
They are volunteers who donate their time
for a 24 hour day once or twice a month to
help victims through a trying experience.

Advocates are assigned to rape victims as
soon as the crime is reported to the police.
Her first contact will be at the hospital
during a medical examination and the RVA
can stay with the victim during the exami-
nation and any police interview.

After this initial contact, the RVA will
stay in touch with the victim and respond
to any questions, problems, or needs the
victim may have. The RVA is also available
to assist the family or friends of the victim
in their adjustment to her assault.

"A common feeling on the part of the
family and friends of the victim and the
general public is that she is somehow respon-
sible," said Roi Hokinson, director of the
RVA program, "that she perhaps provoked
the attack by improper behavior, or didn't
try to prevent the attack.

"Those who say there is no such thing
as rape or joke about it do not understand
that the threat of death is the rapist stock
in trade," she continued. "Rapists frighten
their victims and often have weapons to
accentuate their point.

"By the time the sexual attack takes
place, she often has been immobilized with
fear."

If there are legal proceedings, the RVA
continues her support by accompanying the
victim to any appearances which are neces-
sary. The trial can be an emotionally trying
experience and the RVA is needed as much
then as any time.

The RVA program provides another im-
portant service through an educational pro-
gram designed to open the subject of rape
to enlightened discussion and to help wo-
men avoid being rape victims.

"There should be no shame in being
raped," said Hokinson, "the shame would be
if the attacker were left free to rape again."

For further information on the program
please call Roi Hokinson, program director
at 655-8431 or 636-9257.

