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Exhibit targets domestic violence

MANDI LINSTROM
Associate Editor

As 18 silhouettes stood in the Community Center's Fireside Lounge representing women who have been killed in acts of domestic violence in 1993-94 last week, a panel gathered on Thursday to give a voice to the women and countless others who have been silenced through abuse.

Domestic violence, which can be classified as physical, verbal, emotional, and economical abuse, rape and assault, and damage to property, is the leading cause of injury to women in this country. In Clackamas county alone, 76% of the victims of domestic violence are female, and the highest percentage of victims fall between 31-35 years of age. It is also estimated that somewhere between 20% and 52% of college age dating couples have experienced physical abuse.

Because of the rising trend in domestic violence, two students of Criminal Justice instructor Ida Flippo decided to bring this issue to Clackamas. Students Julie Smith and Jared Turpin were in charge of bringing the exhibit to CCC and designing the handouts that were offered. In a book of comments and reactions to the exhibit, the effect that the display had on its viewers was evident.

"I used to stereotype domestic violence," wrote an anonymous participant. "Now I know better."

"...about one in every five people has a background in abuse, and it happens in all races, minorities or not."

Greg Poff
Gresham Police Officer

Under the direction of Ida Flippo, a panel of four specialized speakers gathered in CC127 in the Community Center to bring honor to the women who have been murdered through violence. Louise Bauscard, coordinator of volunteer services in Washington Co. community services, Kristin Zachai, outreach and development coordinator for Clackamas' women's shelter, Tiel Whitney and Greg Poff, both officers in the domestic violence unit of the Gresham Police Department, made up the team of professionals who had four basic issues to highlight in the discussion.

"Today we hope to honor the women who have been killed, raise awareness (about domestic violence), be an outlet for advocacy, and see how the legislature is handling domestic violence," said Flippo.

The panel was able to cover the four corners of domestic violence impressively, providing an astonishing amount of information and statistics as well.

"Somewhere between 16% and 20% of any population has been involved in domestic violence," Poff stated. "That translates to about one in every five people has a background in abuse, and it happens in all races, minorities or not."

Bauscard pointed out the effects of domestic violence on a local level. "Clackamas county has had



Clackamas student Tommy Downs reflects on the Silent Witness exhibit. He was amazed by the amount of violence that women have suffered.

an increase in the reports of domestic violence," she said. "The question I want to address is: is it because it is a growing issue or because we have become more aware of the problem and are reporting it more frequently?"

The panel was effective in bringing home the effects of domestic violence, making it clear that it is indeed an epidemic of major proportions. They also pointed out that as a result of the increase of domestic violence, there is not always adequate protection provided.

"There are only 121 beds in the Tri-country area, and nine out ten women are turned away when they call shelters because there is not enough room," said Zachai.

"It's our responsibility to protect women when they leave (their partners)," she continued. "As a society, we need to realize that and create a stronger system."

The legislation currently in effect to combat the problem of domestic violence is cutting-edge in Oregon. It is one of two states where children can now be included in the charges of felony against the abuser. However, Poff reported that there is a very small amount of money allocated for domestic violence programs in Oregon.

"Domestic violence is a problem that the police cannot solve alone—the police, victim advocates, family, friends, and the public need to approach domestic violence through

their own facets and try to provide services for the victims together," Poff said. "It is a community effort."

Part of that community effort was made in the decision to raise awareness at Clackamas. In realizing that domestic violence does not consist of only victims and survivors, but sisters, mothers, friends, family and us, a step has been taken in the right direction in addressing the question of abuse.

"I finally realized the force of it (domestic violence) after I saw something one day," said Whitney. "It was a sign that said, 'The question isn't: Why doesn't she leave? The question is: Why doesn't he stop?'"

Inevitably, that is a question that still needs to be answered.

Labyrinth explores spirituality within ourselves



Jane Rickenbaugh, Peggy Fridel-Yee, and Carol Wolff perform the closing dance ceremony of the Labyrinth.

JEREMY STALLWOOD
Editor

"It was the most spiritually personal experience I've had in my entire life," said student Toby Eaton after walking the Labyrinth which was laid out in the Gregory Forum last Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13-14.

The 30-foot diameter, hand-painted canvas took up a large portion of the floor. A gigantic mural of spectacular stained glass window designs was projected against a screen at the south end of the Labyrinth.

A Labyrinth "is an ancient walking meditation pathway found in many faith traditions and forms around the world," according to Jan Jonsson, Labyrinth coordinator. "The Labyrinth circles to the

center without tricks or dead ends, allowing the mind to slow and quiet. The winding path becomes a mirror for the twists, turns and passages in our lives; taking us to the center for contemplation, prayer and meditation."

There was a definite spiritual aura emitting from the room, according to students and staff present. The rewarding peace that overcame most who acted out the spiritual walk was interpreted in different ways. Some cried; others were silent in what they had self-discovered. It was a powerful event.

At 2:20 p.m. on Thursday, Community Theater Chair Jane Rickenbaugh, Community Theater Dept. Secretary Alice Nelson, English Instructor Jan Anderson, as well as Peggy Friedl-Yee and Carol Wolff, conducted a dance for an

open audience upon the Labyrinth.

According to Rickenbaugh, the dance had to be practiced many different ways in order to get the timing just right.

The dance started out with the five dancers beginning the walk from different points on the Labyrinth, in the center, and at its beginning. In the center, long into the dance, three of the women passed about three candles in elegant, hypnotic arcs, representing the passing of knowledge people perform with each other in everyday life.

Bill Briare, religion instructor, took his comparative religion class to the event, wanting his students to experience the Labyrinth and teach them where it comes from. This particular Labyrinth design originates at Chartres Cathedral, France, at around 1220 A.D.