

No one deserves to be abused

I never thought it could happen to me until I found myself dodging hits and crying myself to sleep because I wasn't good enough to be his girlfriend.

Channel 12 had a Special Report uncovering abuse in dating and was noting that every year more and more women are trapped in abusive relationships and lately more and more teenagers are coming face to face with these harsh realities. It wasn't until I began watching that special that I remembered what I was trying to forget.

On this particular report the girl they interviewed just happened to be my former roommate. She is now 21, but when she was my roommate she was just turning 18. The guy she had living with her at this apartment was heavy into drugs and kept leading her back in. I remember one night they got into a rather physical fight. I don't remember who started throwing the first punches, but I remember her hitting him with a lamp and busting it. I remember her mouth all bloodied and her running out of the apartment. I made him leave and the cops were called. What's ironic is the guy who was her boyfriend was the brother of one of my former boyfriends.

I was a naïve girl in high school, a freshman. I believed it when he said he loved me. I believed it when he said he was sorry. It wasn't until I was at his house one day that I knew I deserved to be treated better than

this. I was babysitting his little brother when all of the sudden he demanded to hold him. He seemed rather distraught, perhaps on drugs, so I said no. He left the room and came back with a metal pipe. I looked behind me that was the last thing I remembered before I woke up with a huge headache. I left and unfor-

know I deserved better and I'm glad to hear my former roommate learned the same. It's not something people can make you learn. You have to want to get out of that relationship and want something better. Granted I did find myself in a couple other relationships similar to this one. I was head bunted and had a TV thrown at me. Also on numerous occasions I experienced degradation and mental abuse. I was never good enough and I know now that was a lie; it was he who was not good enough for me. To this day I had told only one or two people. Maybe by people hearing my story they can break the cycle and get away.

Needless to say I am now weary upon entering a relationship. So, I say a message to females and myself; we deserve love with a soft touch not an angry hand. That also goes to guys who get beat up by women, it does happen, we have to believe we deserve better and want better for ourselves before the cycle of hurt and pain will be broken.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, don't keep it to yourself. You don't deserve it. Tell a family member, a friend, or a counselor.

**Say It Loud
&
Proud!**



Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

tunately told no one. I believed I had deserved it.

Later that week I was walking through town with my older brother, my now x-boyfriend came behind me and yanked my head back by my hair. My brother is built like a football player and let's just say one hit dropped that guy. He got up and waved a policeman over who happened to be driving by. He said he wanted to press charges on my brother for hitting him. Well, needless to say my brother explained why he hit the guy and the policeman said if he'd done that to his sister he'd get the same thing.

I'm happy to say I didn't see that guy after that except in passing. It saddens me to say that same guy, with a friend, later raped my best friend. I've grown up since then and learned that women need to be loved and not the sick twisted kind this guy tried to show me. I

If you or someone you know needs help contact the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

TERROR TRACKING

WASHINGTON-Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge issued a new warning for Americans to be on a heightened alert against terrorism.

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany-Future talks of Afghanistan's final stretch Tuesday after the northern alliance gave in to strong United States pressure and finally presented candidates for posts in an interim administration.

MONTREAL-The United States and Canadian officials have agreed to tighten border security, including the deployment of 600 United States National Guard troops to border crossings and the sharing of computerized fingerprints.

SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN-Australian combat troops have joined the United States' Marines who seized a remote air base last week, while Marine reconnaissance units aggressively patrolled the surrounding desert.

KABUL, Afghanistan-Taliban fighters and members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida militia were putting up fierce resistance against opposition Afghan forces outside

Kandahar on Tuesday as the United States continued its bombing campaign.

JALALABAD, Afghanistan-Workers readied the airfield for United States' planes within 72 hours.

RAMALLAH, West Bank-Stepping up reprisals for suicide bombings by Palestinian militants, Israel unleashed air strikes Tuesday with three missiles hitting near Yasser Arafat's office as the Palestinian leader worked inside. Palestinian said no one had been injured.

JERUSALEM: town of Jenin-Early Tuesday, Israeli troops tore up the landing strip of Gaza International Airport. The airport had been a vital link between the Palestinians and the rest of the world since it was opened in 1998. It was closed to regular traffic for most of the past 14 months.

WASHINGTON-Serious negotiations are expected to begin on an economic stimulus bill now that Republicans and Democrats have settled a feud over procedure that had delayed the talks for a week.

News Flash:
United States on heightened alert against terrorism.

Information compiled from KATU sources as well as The Oregonian.

Letters to the Editor

'I want to define dignity for myself'

Letter to The Print:

This letter is in response to the opinion piece, "Assisted suicide not dignified." I would ask: What makes anyone think that dying "naturally" is more dignified? The media and the isolation and technology of nursing homes and hospitals have sanitized our concept of dying to the point that few have faced the true realities of death.

I write from personal experience. When my husband, Richard Andrews, former college board member and English instructor and a UCC Pastor, was dying at home of cancer in 1992, I found little that one could call dignified. Nightmarish would be the better term.

His last weeks were filled with indignities and heartbreaking pain. The decision we had made not to have pain-prolonging, intrusive medical intervention those last days had wrenching consequences. He became unable to control his bodily functions and had to

be diapered. The effects of the disease caused an odor that could not be completely eradicated despite our best care. As his system broke down, the build-up of toxins in the body caused hallucinations and nightmares, and this man of courage was filled with anxiety and fear. Drugs left him confused and incoherent. He struggled to breathe. He became unable to eat and drink, and faced hunger and thirst along with pain. He tore at his clothes, a common aspect of dying, and we eventually abandoned them...except for his diaper. His lapse into a coma was a blessing, but even then he was wracked by a pain that drugs could not touch. I communicated with hospice and the hospital, but drugs sufficient to truly ease the pain would have killed him...and that, of course, was illegal for all of us. My temptation in the light of his suffering was almost unbearable. The sound of his moaning filled our home and will haunt me forever. I literally prayed for him to die, for his escape from

suffering. And he did, "naturally"...but not with any dignity that I could discern.

This story is not unique. It is also the story of my mother, who had died of cancer 18 months before. It is a story that is still replicated regularly. It is true that not everyone experiences this kind of death, and for that I am grateful. But, I find it unacceptable that earlier, when my well-loved dog developed cancer, we were able to kindly end his pain, but subsequently we did not have a choice for a beloved husband. The law gave greater compassion to my pet than to my spouse!

I hope that as a state we never again restrict another's right to choose how to die. If that choice is not right for you, then don't choose it, but don't take another's right to do so. I want to define dignity for myself. Thank you.

*Cyndi Andrews
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Potter article lacked research

Letter to the Editor:

Flipping through the Nov. 28 issue, I started reading the "What do you think?" column titled "Harry Potter: fantasy versus reality" written by Liesl Muggli. While I agree with the opinion stated in the column, it is the lack of research done on the subject. Now, I would only describe myself as a casual Harry Potter fan (I read the first two books and saw the movie), but poor research is poor research. Muggli states: "Harry Potter and Sorcerer's Stone" has been renamed as "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." A little research would have shown that "Philosopher's Stone" was the original title when the book came out in England and Europe. Even the European version of the movie has no reference to the "Sorcerer's Stone." I'm not here standing up for the rights of Harry Potterites or anything. I'm just looking for good research.

Sincerely,
Matt Roberts

Join us Winter Term and read your peers opinions and how you can respond. See you in 2002.



E-mail us at cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us or drop by B-104 with your writing on a disk and between 300 to 500 words.