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Reducing trauma for victims, families objective of Lincoln Incest Coalition

By Leslie Kendrick

Help for incest victims through better treatment, public and professional education, and a more systematic way of dealing with incest in the community are the goals of the Lincoln Incest Coalition, coalition member Mary Owen said Wednesday at the YMCA.

The coalition formed last fall as a follow-up to a two-week training session in San Jose, Calif., for representatives of Lincoln and Lancaster County agencies and the County Attorney's office. The workshop was paid for by a federal grant given to the Child Protective Services, a city/county agency, for incest education.

The federal grant included a stipulation that the community should continue efforts toward better handling of incest cases, Owen said. The coalition is made up of professionals and volunteer lay people interested in the treatment and prevention of incest.

Linda Steinman of the Lincoln Police Department said the police and community agencies encourage reporting incest and want to reduce the trauma for victims and families. Steinman said one way trauma can be reduced is to have victims interviewed simultaneously by the police and CPS so they don't have to repeat the story to people from different agencies.

In addition, Steinman said, procedures for dealing with victims, families and offenders should be standardized so families know what to expect when incest is reported.

American Heart Association

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

Last year 71 incest cases were reported to either the Lincoln Police Department of CPS, a 30 percent increase in reported incest since 1980, Judy Wong of the Family Service Association said. The increase could mean that more incest occurred, or simply that more people reported it, she said.

Owen said most incest reports come from families with lower socio-economic backgrounds. This is probably because lower-class families are more likely to have contacted and used local agencies previously, she said. Studies have shown, however, that cases of incest occur in every socio-economic class, she said.

Lincoln incest cases are handled in no typical way, Owen said, because the judicial system and CPS are not consistent. Usually, she said, the police and CPS investigate the case and then refer family members to various agencies for treatment.

The case also is referred to the County Attorney's office for prosecution, Owen said. The juvenile court then determines custody of the incest victim.

Victims often receive treatment through peer support groups, Owen said. Victims can talk about feelings of guilt and anger without feeling responsible for their families' feelings, she said.

In addition, there also are support groups for mothers of incest victims and for the offenders, Owen said.

The coalition hopes to educate professionals and community members about incest. Denise Daub with family services said educating professionals is important so an incest case isn't dismissed as simply a child's fantasy or labeled as the child's problem.

It also is important to educate children about incest, Owen said. In most cases people are teenagers before they realize incest is a problem.

A children's drama designed to explain sexual assault recently was presented in the public elementary school. The play explains what is appropriate touching and what is not, and what to do about inappropriate touching, Owen said. The coalition hopes to have a regular form of incest education in the public schools, she said.

1982 CHICANO AWARENESS DAYS

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

CHICANO RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

An informal discussion with Chicano researchers at UNL. The colloquium will be held in the Nebraska Union. Free & open to the public.



FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1982

CHICANO LAW SYMPOSIUM
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
UNL Nebraska Union - Free

MOVIE: "ZOOT SUIT"
7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
UNL Nebraska Union
Admission: \$1.50 students / I.D.
\$2.00 non-students

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1982

3RD ANNUAL FUN RUN
10:00 a.m.

Co-sponsored by MASA and UPC-CC, the 3rd Annual Fun Run will be held at Pioneers Park in Lincoln.

Free & open to the public.

DANCE
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Little Bo's Center
27th & Cornhusker Highway

Music: Cervantes Y Sus Cabellros

Admission: \$1.50 / person
\$2.00 / couple

SPONSORED BY: Mexican American Student Assoc.,
Chicano Graduate Assoc., and UPC

UPC

Special week focuses on alcohol awareness

By Joi Patterson

The Student Y will sponsor its second Alcohol Awareness Week, April 4 through 9, said Carole Gourlay, executive director of the Student YWCA.

Gourlay said this year's week will be somewhat different than last year's, which was funded by a grant from the University Program Council. This year the week will be funded by a donation from the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Gourlay said.

"The purpose of the week is to make people on campus aware of the extent to which alcohol can become a real problem," Gourlay said.

The first year the week "fit into a lot of things that were happening on campus," she said. Campus drinking-related problems were occurring and nobody was doing anything about them, so the Student Y tried to approach the problem, she said.

"Some of us thought for years and years there was a climate for too much use of alcohol and we wanted to show that there were alternatives to drinking as a way of life," Gourlay said.

Events for the week include a seminar about "Women and Alcohol" at 12:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union 117 April 6. At 1:30 p.m. on that date will be a seminar called "Experiences With Alcohol." The Women's Resource Center will have a forum called "Alcoholism is a Woman's Issue" April 8 at 7 p.m. in the union.

To begin the week, April 4, a spring fashion show for an alcoholism rehabilitation agency will be in the Nebraska Union Ballroom at 1:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.

According to Beth Tooley, benefit co-chairperson of the week, 20 students from 10 sororities will model spring and summer fashions.

Ticket money will be given to St. Monica's Home, a non-profit social service agency that provides help for women who need rehabilitation from alcohol and related emotional and social problems.

Sue Stoeber, St. Monica's public relations coordinator, said the home was chosen to be the beneficiary because it is not a wealthy institution, yet no woman is denied services because of an inability to pay, and each is charged according to a sliding fee scale.

Stoeber said St. Monica's also was chosen because it provides a "home atmosphere" similar to the family environment in the Greek houses.

A third reason that St. Monica's was chosen is that some houses view the project as "women helping women," Stoeber said.

Additionally, alcoholism affects the college student just as it affects non-college women, Stoeber said, so the project can be viewed as one of helping peers. In 1981, 48 percent of the women helped at St. Monica's were high school and college age, 18 to 25 years old.

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