

Center provides moral support for rape, spouse abuse victims

By Chris Allerheilgen
Staff Reporter

Every 18 seconds, a woman is assaulted somewhere in the United States. One in four women are assaulted by the time they are 18. The numbers of sexually assaulted increase to one in three women after age 18, Karen Harker said, a client advocate/crisis counselor from the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

Men are not excluded from these statistics. One in seven men are assaulted by the age of 18; one in five after they are 18, Harker said.

The Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center was established to identify the needs and to give rape and spouse abuse victims a place to turn to, Harker said.

First established in October 1974 as the Lincoln Coalition Against Rape, the rape crisis center grew into an established center. In 1978, the problem of spouse abuse was added to the center's cause, thus creating the Rape/Spouse Abuse Center. The program is listed under Family Services.

Harker said there are four main aspects to the Rape/Spouse Abuse Center: counseling, advocacy, volunteers and community education.

The center offers many different counseling methods. There are groups for those who may have been involved with domestic violence, incest, or sexual assault. Individual counseling also is available.

The center offers counseling to others as well, Harker said. Partners, family members and friends also can seek counseling.

The center has a 24-hour Crisis Line for those in need of help dealing with a rape, sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

The center works with the victim by listing all the options available to him or her. Staff

members at the center explain what will happen with each process in order to prepare the victim, Harker said.

"Each person needs to determine for themselves what needs to be done. (We're) giving the victim back the power of themselves," she said.

What we want to emphasize the most is that no victim is to blame - and there is no typical victim.'

—Harker

The center provides advocacy for victims. A volunteer or staff member may accompany them to the hospital for the rape examination and offer help when the victim is working with the police, county attorney and court appearances, Harker said.

An important part of the Rape/Spouse Abuse Center is volunteers, Harker said.

"They're always needed," she said.

The volunteers must go through 30 hours of training. Volunteers work with the crisis line, counseling and community education. Volunteers also can work with clerical duties and public speaking.

Some of the volunteers are themselves survivors of sexual assault and/or domestic violence, Harker said.

Community education is another aspect of the Rape/Spouse Abuse Center.

The center works to educate the public on problems and myths of sexual assault and spouse abuse. Harker said

spokesmen from the center have given talks at schools, community functions, hospitals, fraternities, sororities, dorms, and classes.

"We'll talk to anyone who requests us to speak," she said.

Tackling the myths about sexual assault and domestic violence is one of the biggest challenges to be faced, Harker said.

Untruths such as "he asked for it," "she really wanted it" or "she should have never been in that situation in the first place" are very damaging to the victim, Harker said. Often the victim blames him/herself for what has happened.

"What we want to emphasize the most is that no victim is to blame — and there is no typical victim," Harker said.

The victims often have been taught that certain actions associated with sexual violence are normal, she said.

"Victims have been socially told that they've done the wrong thing."

Another big problem people have about sexual assault and domestic violence is the attitude, "it'll never happen to me," Harker said.

Yet the statistics show that sexual assault and domestic violence do exist and are rising, she said.

In 1987, the center received approximately 800 contacts, Harker said, but between January and August 1988, there have been approximately 900 contacts.

National statistics are generally accurate for Lincoln, Harker said. Between June 1986 and July 1987 there were 1,159 reports of domestic violence to the Lincoln Police Department. However, one in ten women don't report instances of domestic violence, Harker said.

All of the services of the center are confidential and free, Harker said.

106 cases diagnosed

Chlamydia: most common sexual disease on campus

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vagina for six hours after the last intercourse. The diaphragm also requires medical supervision to have it properly fitted.

- The contraceptive sponge is much like the diaphragm, but is disposable and has a spermicide in it. This is an over-the-counter product and does not require medical supervision.

- Contraceptive films, jellies, suppositories and foam are all forms of spermicides. These products are inserted into the vagina by the woman prior to intercourse in order to kill sperm and preventing contraception. None of these items require medical supervision and are bought over-the-counter.

Birth control pills are the most effective form of contraception excluding voluntary sterilization. Spermicides work best when used with a condom.

- Currently the cervical cap is being tested for possible future use. The cervical cap is a small rubber cap that is placed over the cervix by a medical professional and can be left in place. The is a one-way door that allows menses to flow out, but prevents sperm from entering the uterus.

- Condoms are now being marketed to the public because of AIDS and sexually transmitted disease awareness. Some condom companies are marketing to women. Oehm said the breakdown of people who purchase condoms is 60 percent men and 40 percent women.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, Medical Director at the University Health Center, said that the most common sexually transmitted disease on campus is chlamydia. Fleischli said that this year there have been 106 cases at the health center.

Chlamydia is a virus that is sexu-

ally transmitted. The virus will scar the women's fallopian tubes and can eventually cause sterilization if not treated. Chlamydia can be treated simply with oral antibiotic.

The danger with chlamydia is that over 80 percent of the women who have chlamydia do not have symptoms.

Another common sexually transmitted disease is gonorrhea. This is a bacterial disease that is easily treated.

Venereal warts are cauliflower-like growths found in the genital area. These are sexually transmitted and must be treated by a medical professional. Contrary to popular belief, Compound W will not remove venereal warts.

Herpes Simplex II is an untreatable but controllable sexually transmitted disease. Herpes is caused by a virus and produces blisters much like cold sores. There are now prescription medicines for the control of herpes.

Pubic lice are also sexually transmitted. Often called "crabs," these parasites embed themselves in the pubic region causing itching and discomfort. These also must be treated by a medical professional.

Fleischli said that the most uncommon sexually transmitted disease that has been treated at the health center is syphilis. Syphilis is a viral sexually transmitted disease that can be treated if caught in the early stages.

The most publicized sexually transmitted disease is Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS can also be transferred by shared needles and blood transfusions. AIDS is a virus that attacks and destroys the body's immune system thus making the body vulnerable to disease and infection. There is not yet a cure for AIDS.

Fleischli said that the health center can test people for AIDS but could not disclose whether or not there has been a positive test or not.

Visit to adult theater exposes one to sexual environment

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

"As a consenting adult, I affirm my signature to this document to affirm that I am not offended by total sexual frankness as portrayed in film entertainment nor shall I be offended by any film sequence shown here at this theater."

— from ticket stub at a local adult theater

OK, OK. I'll admit, I have wondered, just once or twice, what's inside one. Just once or twice, riding my bike down O Street, I've tried to sneak a quick glance into a window or a swiftly-closing door.

Yeah, I want to know what goes on in an adult theater.

There is something about a place that flaunts its own forbidden state that makes me want to go in and check things out. It is almost like a

dare to the world: "Here we are, with every forbidden pleasure, every repressed thought, every cheap thrill and expensive fantasy, right before your eyes."

But the same flaunting keeps me away. It seems too easy, too cheap. When the mystery is taken away, it just isn't as meaningful. There is no "thrill of the chase" — one simply walks in and is bombarded with nearly every sexual fantasy imaginable.

Still, I just can not help but wonder what goes on in adult theaters and what kind of people visit them. Using a newspaper article as an excuse, I visited one of Lincoln's two adult theaters.

An employee at the theater said a wide variety of people come in. Businessmen in three-piece suits may be standing next to Harley riders in the lobby. Couples visit, but usually rent X-rated videotapes

to watch in their own homes, rather than viewing films in the theaters.

The lobby of each adult theater is filled with all manner of sexual material. The selection of X-rated videos is enormous. It would probably take a person a month of back-to-back viewing to watch all of the tapes.

'Yeah, I want to know what goes on in an adult theatre.'

Personally, I would rather read the titles of the tapes than actually view them. With titles like "Oral Majority #5," "Frat Brats" and "I Cream of Genie," one can have hours of amusement. If these don't

produce a chuckle or two, try "When a Stranger Comes," "Dynamic Vices," or "The Last Condom."

In addition to offering video tapes for rent, each theater also has an amazing variety of adult magazines. Of course, there are shelves full of such hard-to-find adult gems as "Blast Off" and "Jug Therapy." There were even a few magazines titles I did recognize.

I quickly got bored with the books and magazines and started looking at various marital enhancers and enticers. Condoms in every imaginable shape, color and texture were available. I can understand a little variety but have no idea why people would want little rubber tarantulas and monsters on the ends of their condoms.

Edible undergarments, body paints and "Body Cocktails" were available. If such delights are too

tame, there are other choices like a "Peter Gun" and "Sex-Rated Charades." And in a shelf all by themselves were several "John Holmes Super Sauna" pumps for enlarging one's organ.

I saw the film that was showing on a monitor in the lobby. The film showed . . . sex. Close-up shots, distant shots, bizarre camera angles, and all of it accompanied by grunts and groans in stereo. I think there were only three people involved, but I'm not sure because there weren't too many facial shots.

I left the theater, took a final glance around the lobby and headed out onto O Street, hoping no one recognized me as I left. All in all, it was not a bad experience. I don't plan to go back, but in case I change my mind, I'll plan on buying some popcorn and other refreshments in the lobby before watching the movie.