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Wednesday, July 24, 1996
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

Sexual assault is crime of violence, says crisis service coordinator

Boy meets girl.
Boy takes girl to dinner.
Boy takes girl home.
Boy sexually assaults girl.

It's called date or acquaintance rape and it is the most common type of sexual assault, according to Nancy Shaffer, coordinator of sexual assault crisis services at the Danville YWCA.

Shaffer spoke to approximately eight people at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

While some women are attacked by strangers, "most victims know who their attackers are," Shaffer said, adding sexual assault is not about sex. "It is an act of violence, not an act of sex."

And while most victims are women, men and children are also sexually assaulted, she said.

To reduce the risk of being assaulted, Shaffer offered several suggestions.

First, she said, people must realize that they could become an assault victim. Second, people should be aware of their surroundings and consider how they would escape an assault. Finally, people should trust their instincts. "If you feel you're in danger, you probably are," Shaffer said.

Many of Shaffer's suggestions have been issued at other Neighborhood Watch meetings: locking doors and windows, locking car doors, not letting strangers in and asking for identification from repairmen.

How to handle an attack is a personal decision. "The decision to fight back is yours and yours alone," Shaffer said. "Do what you have to to stay alive."

See ASSAULT on other side

Briefly

Local boy to go to state fair

Mark Powley, son of Dave and Barbara Powley of Hoopeston, will represent the Fountain Creek 4-H Producers Aug. 15 at the Illinois State Fair.

Powley's 4-H project, a rocket, took first place at the Iroquois County Fair and was selected for competition at the state event.

Russ Walder is the leader of the Fountain Creek 4-H Producers.

Man released from hospital

A Hoopeston man was released Tuesday from Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, following a sawing accident Monday.

Lenard Compton of Hoopeston was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, then transferred to Carle, after nearly severing a thumb

and index finger.

Compton underwent surgery Monday at Carle.

Tire recycling ends

Today is the last day to take used tires to Vermilion County Tire Recycling Days.

Tires should be taken to the Vermilion Service Company (FS) on Route 150 and Henning Road. Tires will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Only tractor, truck and car tires will be accepted.

'Seven Year Itch' performed

The Hoopeston Playcrafters will present "Seven Year Itch" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.

Refreshments will be available during the performances.

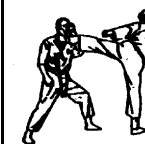
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Assault continued from other side

Some women have had success using means other than fighting. For example, screaming "fire" has worked. Some women have told attackers they have a venereal disease, while others have recited Bible passages.

Sometimes, talking to an attacker helps. "You can appeal to his ego, make him see you as a person and not an object," she said.

A new twist on acquaintance rape is the use of "roofies," a drug which is used in European countries for surgery patients.

An attacker will put the drug in a victim's drink. When the victim begins to feel the effects, the assaulter offers to take the victim home, but commits the assault instead.

Because of the nature of the drug, the victim has little or no memory of what has happened.

While no incidents using the drugs have been reported locally, Shaffer said her office has received reports from college campus areas where the pills are being used.

It is not only young women who are assaulted. Shaffer told a story of a 64-year-old woman who was walking home when she was stopped by a man in a car.

The man talked to her, mentioning the name of the woman's children, and asked if she wanted a ride home. "Needless to say, she did not get a ride home," Shaffer said.

Police News

Larry Farrell, co-owner of L&M Restaurant, 307 E. Main, reported Tuesday that someone broke into the restaurant and took \$100 and an undetermined amount of cigarettes.

Mark Tovey, 323 E. Maple, reported that while he was moving, someone took a 75,000 BTU Salamander heater from the garage at 609 W. Washington.

In a separate incident, Tovey was arrested at 1:24 p.m. Tuesday, charged with domestic battery on a complaint from Officer James Goodrum. He was

Those who are sexually assaulted should remember details about their attacker, including a physical description, voice pattern and any odors noticed on the attacker.

A woman who has been assaulted should notify the police, not destroy physical evidence by bathing or washing her clothes and get medical attention. "You may have survived the rape, but you may not survive diseases you might have gotten," Shaffer said.

Reporting the crime is very important, she said, admitting the legal aspects of sexual assault can be almost as traumatizing as the assault.

Crisis service advocates stay with women while they are questioned by police. Those questions, Shaffer said, are very personal.

Also, she said, it can take up to two years for a case to go to trial. "That's a long time for a victim, especially if it's a child," she said.

The YWCA's program offers assistance to those who are victims of sexual assault. Assistance includes help in dealing with police, doctors and the legal system, as well as support groups and individual counseling.

For more information on the program or to become a volunteer, call the sexual assault crisis service office at (217) 443-1337.

If you are the victim of sexual assault, call the program's hotline number, (217) 443-5566.

"It is an act of violence, not an act of sex."

**Nancy Shaffer, Coordinator
YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services**

In the Hospital

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
July 22, 1996**

Admitted: Wanda Storm, Hoopeston.

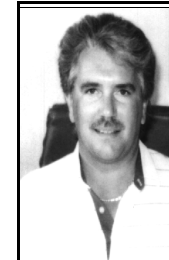
Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly cloudy today with a 60 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, continued chance of rain. Low in the mid 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 88, low near 67.

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