

Educating Public About Rape Is Workshop Purpose

Toledo United Against Rape, a newly organized group of representatives of civic groups and interested individuals, will sponsor a workshop April 20 designed to inform and educate the public about the crime of rape, its legal definition, and the resulting effects of rape on the victim and the person alleged to have committed the crime.

Among the speakers during the morning program will be

Margaret Moore Post, newspaper writer from Indianapolis who is the founder of the Indianapolis Anti-Crime Crusade, formerly known as Women United Against Rape. In the 12 years since the organization was formed, its accomplishments have been described as among the most successful in the country, according to Susan DelVecchio, courts component leader at the Criminal Justice Training and

Education Center, who is the coordinator of the local workshop.

The workshop, which will be held at 9 a. m. in the University of Toledo law school, will begin with a series of talks from members of the Toledo criminal justice system. Following a luncheon, participants may attend small group discussion sessions.

Toledo United Against Rape

was organized about three months ago. Mrs. DelVecchio said the group eventually "hopes to complement the work of a local rape crisis center, which is still in its organizational stages." Among the groups represented in Toledo United Against Rape are the Toledo chapter of the American Red Cross, Guadalupe Center, Toledo-Lucas County League of Women Voters, Women's International

League for Peace and Freedom, Episcopal Church Women, Junior League of Toledo, Inc., Women's Equity Action League, and the Toledo chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Registration information for the workshop is available from Mrs. DelVecchio at the Criminal Justice Training and Education Center, 316 North Michigan St., Toledo 43624

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Free Sessions Set At TU To Discuss Effects Of Rape

Informing and educating community residents about rape and its effects on both the victim and the alleged offender is a major goal of a newly organized group called Toledo United Against Rape.

Its first attempt to take its case to the community will be an education session and workshop Saturday at the University of Toledo Law Center. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until approximately 3 p.m.

According to Susan DeVecchio, coordinator of the workshop, the sessions are free and open to men and women.

The morning session will include discussions by Capt. Kenneth Rebensal, Toledo crime prevention bureau; Harry Friberg, Lucas County prosecutor; Alice Robie Resnick, assistant county prosecutor, and Dan McCullough, an attorney.

Guest speaker will be Margaret Moore Post, who has developed and coordinated the Indianapolis Anti-Crime Crusade.

Afternoon sessions will include workshops on the rape victim, police procedure, the role of the prosecutor, the role of the defense attorney, and the convicted rapist. The workshop also will explore the individual's role in determining acceptable methods of solving the rape problem.

Numerous community groups have been involved in the organization of Toledo United Against Rape. Among them are the American Red Cross, Guadalupe Center, League of Women Voters, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Junior League of Toledo, Episcopal Church Women, Women's Equity Action League, and National Organization for Women.

Citizens Discuss Prevention, Treatment Of Rape

By MELDA LYNN
Blade Staff Writer

The subject was rape Saturday as a coalition of citizens gathered for a workshop in the University of Toledo college of law building to hear what can be done about the crime, what is done when it occurs, and to discuss how a citizens' group can become involved in cutting the number of such crimes committed in Toledo.

Called Toledo United Against Rape (TUAR), the workshop was cosponsored by TUAR and the Criminal Justice Training and Educational Center.

June Rose Galvin, moderator for the morning session, explained the purpose of calling citizens together to discuss the crime of rape, which, she said, has increased by 11 per cent this year over last.

Speakers included Capt. Kenneth Rebensal, head of the crime prevention bureau of the Toledo Police Division; Alice Robie Resnick, assistant county prosecuting attorney; Dan McCullough attorney; Harry Friberg, Lucas County prosecutor, and Margaret

Moore Post, coordinator of the Indianapolis Anti-Crime Crusade.

Captain Rebensal began his talk by asking the audience of about 50 women and 10 men how many had seen a recent television movie about rape. Most had; he then said it was a distortion of what the role of the police department is in handling a rape case.

"It caused myths which are responsible for many women not reporting rapes," he said, and detailed the necessary steps victims should take in reporting such a crime, how their welfare and emotions will be protected, and why it is necessary for them to ask certain questions and preserve certain evidence.

Mrs. Resnick explained the role of the prosecuting attorney after the police department has evidence enough to bring an alleged rapist to court.

She explained the new criminal justice code which now lists crimes as first, second, third, or fourth-degree felonies. Rape along with murder is a first-degree offense, but

she explained that many times it is necessary to allow a plea of a lesser degree, in order to get a conviction and sentence.

Mrs. Post told of the effective ways Indianapolis citizens have worked to solve many problems which arise in the city. "We have an organization of 50,000 citizens involved in many projects. Before we worked on rape, we worked on getting dropouts back into school and helping them become responsible citizens."

She noted that the organization doesn't have any budget or source of income, but that business and industry volunteers do such things as pub-

lish a booklet the members wrote to help prevent rape and one for teen-agers who hitch hike, baby-sit, or are in vulnerable positions, so they can be alert to safety precautions.

She said her group has encouraged employers to have

awareness-training sessions for their women employees and to provide parking lots with towers and other safety provisions.

The afternoon session included workshops, with each person choosing the one he or she wanted to attend.

CITIZEN ROLE IN PREVENTION STRESSED At Group's First Seminar On Rape

By JUDITH WAGNER
Times Staff Writer

More than 80 men and women participated in an all-day seminar and workshop on rape Saturday at the University of Toledo Law Center. Sponsored by Toledo United Against Rape, the event was the group's first effort to educate the community about rape and to mobilize citizens to find solutions.

In her opening remarks, June Rose Galvin, chairman of the workshop, emphasized a need for community involvement.

"Government programs for the control of crime are unlikely to succeed all alone," she said. "Informed private citizens playing a variety of roles can make a decisive difference in the prevention, detection, and prosecution of crime, the fair administration of justice, and the restoration of offenders to the community."

Male Domination

Mrs. Galvin, an attorney and member of City Council, said the criminal justice system long has been dominated by men and has suffered from the lack of female input, particularly regarding rape.

She also explained that rape has been redefined in the new Ohio criminal code to include sexual assaults by men upon other men, and by women upon men and other women. It is now legal for a person to surreptitiously or forcibly give any drug or intoxicant to reduce another person's resistance to having sexual relationship.

It is a myth that most rape charges are unfounded, Mrs. Galvin said, adding that the incidence of unfounded charges is a greater for rape than for most other crimes.

"Rape is the least reported major crime and the rate of increase is the highest of any violent crime," Mrs. Galvin said. Constitutional protections are afforded the criminal. The question for us is: Does the present system offer a reasonable incentive to a victim to prosecute a crime of rape? Does the victim of any other type of crime have the same inherent difficulties in exercising his right to prosecute?"

Speakers for the morning ses-

sion were Police Capt Kenneth Rebensal, Alice Robie Resnick, Dan McCullough, Harry Friberg, and Margaret Moore Post, coordinator of the Indianapolis Anti-Crime Crusade

TV Image Disputed

Describing police handling of rape cases, Captain Rebensal, head of the crime prevention bureau, said a recent television movie may have given the public an unfair picture of police treatment of rape victims.

Officers must investigate the case thoroughly and ask any questions which may help to apprehend the offender or prosecute the case.

However, all rape victims, "whether they be known prostitutes or young children," are treated with dignity and every effort is made to avoid undue embarrassment or inconvenience, he said.

Mrs. Resnick, county assistant prosecutor, told the gathering that victims should "cry out, struggle, or do anything to stop the rape" unless the attacker has a weapon. She also said it is important that the crime be reported immediately to aid in prosecution.

Many victims do not prosecute because they are afraid that details of their private lives will be exposed, she said. However, according to Mrs. Resnick, Ohio law prevents the discussion of the victim's previous sexual experiences during the trial.

"If a woman is known in her own community as being 'easy,' this may be brought out," she explained. "However, specific acts of unchastity may not be discussed."

In explaining a defense attorney's point of view, Dan McCullough said a lawyer's first obligation is to his client, even if that client stands accused of a vicious crime such as rape.

"As long as men in government are able to have counsel defend them against their white-collar crimes, so are accused rapists entitled to representation under the law," he added.

County prosecutor Harry Friberg attacked the wide authority of parole boards to release rapists and other offenders after they have served only small portions of their sentences.

"The sweeping powers of parole boards, in effect, wipe out the minimum and maximum sentences established by law and override the decision of the sentencing judge," the prosecutor said.

Mr. Friberg believes the public is "in violent disagreement with leniency" in sentencing and paroling offenders.

"We must rehabilitate the rehabilitatable and see that our penal institutions are decent places," he said. "However, I believe citizens have a right to be protected from convicted criminals."

Progress In Indianapolis

The final morning speaker, Mrs. Post, outlined the anti-rape program in Indianapolis. With more than 50,000 volunteers participating, tremendous gains have been made in the last year, she said, including:

- > The naming of two women as deputy prosecutors to handle rape cases
- > Improved hospital care for rape victims
- > Organization of seminars for women who work
- > Widespread distribution of information, and education programs in high schools
- > Increased security in mental hospitals to prevent escape of sex offenders
- > Efforts to prevent rape by making parking lots, apartments, and public buildings safer.

"Everyone wants to help — individuals, groups, businesses," Mrs. Post said, adding that the safety and well-being of the victim must be the priority.

The speakers took part in a series of workshops during the afternoon, along with Dr. Jack Walters, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Medical College of Ohio, Leonard Hofer, an administrator at Mercy Hospital, and representatives of the Toledo Rape Crisis Center.

Susan DelVecchio, coordinator of Toledo United Against Rape, said men and women interested in working with the group may reach her at the Criminal Justice Training and Education

Scene

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