

Seminars deal with rape

AMARILLO — As a former eighth-grade school teacher, airline ticket salesman, drug counselor and father of seven children, Diane Bosch says she has always been the people business. Now, five years into her latest career, Bosch has earned international recognition as a policeman.

The International Association of Women Police named Bosch the 1982 Officer of the Year after reviewing more than 200 applications from the United States, Canada, Britain and other countries.

She was chosen for her special talent as a communicator and for her expertise on the subject of rape.

Starting in October 1980, Bosch was still working the streets, patrolwoman Bosch began a series of rape seminars in spare time.

In the past two years, more

than 8,600 women from the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma and New Mexico have learned at the seminars how to prevent rape or deal with the trauma if rape occurs.

Despite her responsibilities at home, officer Bosch wants to take her program on the road. She says myths about rape still prevail.

"We can't promise women they will never be raped," she says. "We're just showing them how to survive. Just more self confidence can prevent you from becoming a victim."

"What you don't know about rape can hurt you," Bosch said. "The deadliest myth is that rape is a sexually motivated act. It is not. Another deadly myth is that women are asking for it."

"We've seen 2-year-olds and 97-year-olds raped. What did they do to ask for it?"

Bosch says rape is an aggressive and hostile act toward women caused by the attacker's

need to dominate and control.

She says women should be aware of three different kinds of rapists — the angry, the sadistic and the more common power seeker.

"The power rapist is usually armed," Bosch said. "He doesn't use his weapon except for intimidation. His rapes are normally always planned. He wants to gain and maintain complete control. If the woman gains control, he will use more power and he may kill her."

Bosch says the angry rapist dislikes women, does not use a weapon or plan his attacks.

"He wants to show you how no-good you are," she says. "He will slap and choke and sometimes sodomize his victim."

Although self-defense is part of Bosch's seminar, she says fighting back is not always appropriate.

She says there are no rules for behavior and she can only pass along what has worked in the

past.

"Your best weapon is your brain," she says. "You can't leave defense to your dog or a gun. You have to be able to overcome the fear and let your brain kick in and start working."

Besides giving practical tips on rape prevention, including home security, her seminars are designed to help families of rape victims.

"A rape is something a woman carries forever," Bosch says. "It has broken up marriages because the husband didn't understand. Men need to attend if their wives or daughters have been raped."

Amarillo crime statistics indicate the program is helping. Rapes reported during the first six months of 1982 were down 29 percent.

In addition, Bosch said, "When we do these seminars the burglary rate goes down because we stress so much prevention."

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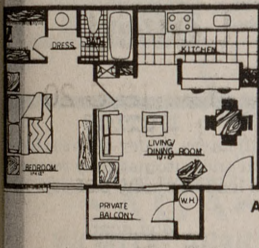
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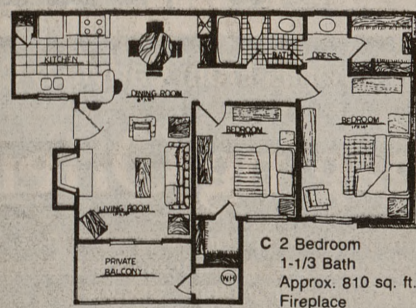
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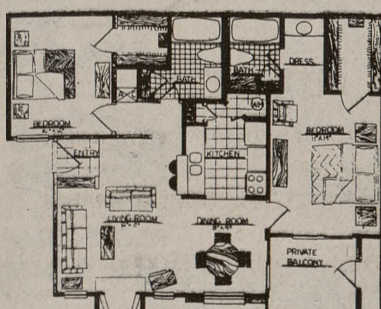
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