

Crisis center counsels rape victims

Workshop will train volunteers

By Jody Kay Manley
Reporter

A training workshop will be held from Oct. 6 through Oct. 9 for people interested in becoming volunteers at the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center.

The center provides counseling to rape survivors as well as community services. Services include a 24-hour phone service, survivor group leadership, an escort service and a speaker's bureau.

The center has 40 volunteers, five of whom are Texas A&M students, former volunteer Nancy Burnett said.

Anyone interested in becoming a counselor must go through the training sessions and an interview.

The sessions will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Interested people should call 776-7273 for the workshop location.

On the first day of the training workshop, Bob Wiatt, board president and director of security and traffic at A&M, will present a profile of a rapist and policies of law enforcement agencies. On the second day, the state Department of Human Services will go over policies and procedures on child sexual abuse

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— Volunteer Nancy Burnett

cases and a tour of an emergency room is scheduled.

Rape prevention and awareness and the legal aspects dealing with sexual assault will be covered on the third day, while the fourth and final day will deal with the counseling aspects.

The crisis center also works with the Department of Human Services to provide extra training for those counselors working with child survivors.

Burnett said the use of the term "survivor" is a positive term and is supposed to imply that the victim is going to survive the trauma.

A survivor group leader conducts the survivor meetings and keeps the conversation flowing, she said. An escort usually meets the survivor at an emergency room or a police station.

"We discourage a survivor from going back home if that is the place

of the incident," Burnett said. "It is easier to face the situation after a rest."

Burnett said the counselors encourage the survivors to report the crime to the police to try and stop the rapist. If a survivor does not want to file a report herself but wants it reported, a "Jane Doe" statement can be filed. A Jane Doe statement is a full report with all the details except the survivor's identity.

"Fear and shame make a woman keep it a secret," Burnett said. "Some women don't want to go through the trauma, and some don't want anyone to know."

Burnett said she became interested in becoming a counselor as a form of community outreach.

"I think people get involved as counselors because of a human desire to help people and as an outrage against rape," she said.

Burnett added that some of the

counselors are rape survivors.

"I think rape survivors become counselors out of empathy for other survivors, and it is therapeutic for the counselor when helping others," Burnett said.

Volunteer coordinator Juli Smith said the counselors are supposed to be advocates of the rape survivors.

The center receives 10 to 14 calls on new rape cases per month, but there were only 54 cases of rape reported last year in the Bryan-College Station area.

The center also receives calls from rapists and male victims. Burnett said most of the male victims are victims of homosexual assaults. She also said there are more cases of child sexual abuse being reported.

"Child sexual abuse is ancient, something that has been covered up and denied for years," she said.

Burnett said she believes date rape cases now are being more seriously recognized as well. She said the center is trying to make women understand that when a woman says "no" and the male still presses, he has become an aggressor.

The Brazos County Rape Crisis Center is independent and not affiliated with centers in other cities.

A&M hosts water conference

Texas water supply threatened, state stresses conservation

By Scott Redepennig
Reporter

Because increases in demand threaten to put a strain on Texas' limited water supply, the state has changed its outlook and is placing major emphasis on water conservation programs. H. W. Hoffman, head of the municipal and commercial conservation unit of the Texas Water Development Board, said Thursday in Rudder Theater.

Addressing about 80 representatives of city governments, utility companies and engineering corps from around the state, Hoffman painted a new picture for future water programs in Texas municipalities. Contrary to past years when funding came more easily to cities, he said, now certain requirements will have to be met for cities to receive state funding for water programs.

These requirements are a result of the passage of House Bill 2 last November, which reorganized the Texas Department of Water Resources into the Texas Water Commission and the Texas Water Development Board, Hoffman said. The TWDB, now the financial and planning tool for state water-fund appropriations, has set up two stipulations for municipalities to get funding. First, each municipality must develop a long-term conservation program to encourage citizens to save water without being forced by law. Second, each must develop a drought contingency program with

'People need to learn to conserve water'

By Paula Janda
Reporter

Agora Corporation president Gary O. Robinette said Thursday that people have developed bad habits when it comes to the use of water and people need to learn to conserve.

Robinette, appearing at the 21st Water for Texas Conference, said the nation is experiencing a water crisis, and as times change in Texas people need to be trained to conserve water.

The public is being approached in several different ways.

Communities are using video or slide shows, literature and award programs to present ideas

and encourage conservation, he said.

"In the Dallas area the utility companies sent out information about conservation," Robinette said.

"This company and others like it are trying to explain the need for better management, not really conservation," he said.

People need to alter their habits and take shorter showers, Robinette said. And such little things as not watering lawns at peak times can be very helpful, he said.

"We can design water-efficient landscape," Robinette said. "We need to grow plants that don't need much water."

Using wind control also can

work in water management, he said.

If wind is screened out, water can be kept from drying up, he said.

"The public awareness programs seem to be helping, but several people are greatly affected by it," Robinette said.

"The landscape industry is about the first to suffer," he said. "If nothing is being planted, that means their sales will go down."

The people that appreciate nature and landscape also will suffer, he said.

"We shouldn't over- or underestimate the feeling people have for plants and the environment," Robinette said.

mandatory restrictions on water use in the event of a water crisis.

TWDB has drawn up a set of guidelines for cities to follow in developing these programs but, Hoffman said, they are not steadfast rules. He said the board would like each city to consider all the guidelines but ultimately it must build a program to fit its individual needs. However, he said, all municipalities must have a means for implementation and enforcement of the two programs already in place before receiving funds.

Although it may seem that the state is coming down hard on cities by requiring full-blown water conservation programs, Hoffman assured his audience that TWDB is there to help and is willing to work with any municipality to draw up a workable program.

He explained that limited supply was not the only reason conservation is needed — money also plays a major role. Texas already spends over a billion dollars a year keeping up existing programs, he said. If Texas

learns to conserve more water it will delay the need for new, costly projects, he said.

Thomas M. Dunning, chairman of TWDB, who introduced Hoffman, said the state doesn't have the capacity to meet future water demands.

"Texas uses 12 percent of water in the United States," he said. "Water is this state's most important resource. Conservation of water is the most critical part. I think, we can play in the future of Texas."

Suspect in ax murders called unpredictable

LANCASTER (AP) — David Marston Long, the prime suspect in a triple ax murder was a wanderer with a drug problem that made his actions unpredictable and sometimes dangerous, his friends said.

A former co-worker on one of many jobs Long held across the state said the 33-year-old drifter had a dangerous drug habit.

"He had a habit of doing speed," said E.T. "Skip" Barmore, who installed cable with Long in Bay City for a cable television company.

When he wasn't on that stuff he was OK," Barmore said. "But when he was on that stuff he was a terror. No

matter what you did, it wasn't right." Women recall other things about the 6-foot, 180-pound man.

"I remember his ice-blue eyes," said one woman who worked at the same cable television company as Long in Wichita Falls.

Barmore said, "If you ever saw Dave, you'd remember him. It was the way he carried himself."

But Long, accused in a murder warrant of hacking three women to death with a hatchet and steak knife, is still on the loose.

The victims, Donna Sue Jester, 37, her 64-year-old cousin, Dalpha Lorene Jester, who was blind and

bedridden, and a 20-year-old housemate, Laura Lee Owen, were discovered Monday.

Long was arrested in Buffalo Sunday less than 24 hours after the murders were believed committed, but the bodies weren't found until Monday. Buffalo police stopped Long for alleged DWI when they reported finding him driving the wrong way on Interstate 45.

The car Long was driving was the station wagon stolen from the murder scene but was not reported stolen yet.

Guards at the Leon County jail where Long was held, said he

bragged about killing someone that night and at one time he told a jailer he needed to see a police officer because he had killed three women.

The jailer said he called and woke the sheriff but the sheriff told him to forget it and go home.

Lancaster Police Chief John Whitehead said inmates noticed blood on Long's boots. Whitehead was upset with the way the matter was handled, especially since the DWI was Long's second DWI arrest, which would make it a felony.

Long pleaded guilty to DWI but was released without paying the \$589 fine.

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