

Yes, you do need to think about rape

By MARGARET MILLER

If they can face squarely one of the most unpleasant subjects you could name, women in Observerland have an opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge.

It's being offered in a Schoolcraft-College community services course titled Protection Against Rape, and the knowledgeable instructor will be a retired Detroit policewoman.

She is Mrs. Dorothy Gay, who retired last January after more than 25 years on the Detroit force. She and her husband, Alva, a Wayne State University faculty member, now make their home in Northville.

"Rape is something women who live in the suburbs don't like to think about," Mrs. Gay said. "But statistics show that rape in Michigan has increased by 70 per cent in the last five years."

"And there's still the probability that three to 10 times as many rapes are committed as are reported."

That, she added, is because women do not understand their rights when they have been victimized by a rapist, as well as the shame that keeps them from going to the police.



MRS. DOROTHY GAY, retired Detroit policewoman, will teach a course on protection against rape, scheduled by the Schoolcraft College community services program. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

"What I want to do is have the class discuss the possibility of rape so that its members can prepare their thoughts and feelings a bit. Unless you think about what might happen and what action could be taken, you cannot be prepared."

Mrs. Gay said the three-week course, to be offered Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 21, will not lay much stress on physical self-defense.

"I do want to stress an awareness of various facets of the matter and the legal rights of rape victims. As a retired police officer, I definitely think all rapes should be reported, and I'll try to explain why."

She said she also would recommend the use of the voice, the fingernails, the knee and anything to be found in a purse like a pen or key as defense against attack.

"But I firmly believe that unless a woman has taken specific training, any other weapon can be dangerous,"

she added. "It can be taken away and used against her."

Mrs. Gay said she thinks today's environment is a main reason for the increase in rape.

"There is so much sex and violence in movies, television, reading, current songs," she said. "It encourages any deviations that might be there."

Before retiring, Dorothy Gay ran into the residence problem that has made headlines in recent weeks.

She said she and her husband purchased their Northville property during the period when it seemed that police officers were going to be permitted to live in suburban homes.

"Then we came home from a vacation and found that the ruling had gone in favor of the city of Detroit," she said.

"So, since I was planning to retire soon, we went ahead with the house and my husband moved in, in February, 1972. I lived with my mother in Detroit and came out weekends."

"I was an inspector by that time and felt it important for me to live by the ruling -- I had no quarrel with it. But it was hard to convince people I was living in Detroit."

Women interested in registering for her course may call the Schoolcraft registration office.

observing life Suburban Women plan art auction

The Western Suburban Junior Women's Club will hold an art auction and exhibit Sunday, Feb. 10 in the Rosedale Gardens Civic Assn. clubhouse, at 9611 Hubbard Rd., Livonia. The champagne preview is set to start at 7 p.m. and the bidding at 8 p.m.

Donations of \$1 will be asked at the door, and all proceeds from sales are earmarked for Interlochen scholarships.

The works offered for sale are from a private collection of original oils, graphics, etchings and watercolors. The collection carries some of the works of Hibel, Mercier, Rockwell, Dali, Newman, and Lionel Barrymore.

The show will be coordinated by Fred Grossman of Gallery Art Center in Berkeley.

On Monday, Feb. 11, the club will meet at 8 p.m. in the Sword of the Spirit Lutheran Church, 34563 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. The Spirit Lutheran Church, 34563 Seven Mile Rd., Livonia.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Cheryl Termaat, a member of the club, whose topic will be "How Well Do You Know Greenfield Village?" She will tell what Greenfield Village has to offer besides an afternoon of sightseeing and museum touring.

Mrs. Termaat is a guide at the village, and has a movie to accompany her talk.

Women, interested in attending the meeting, or becoming a member of the group, may contact Mrs. Richard Kirchhoff, 1517 Lexington St., Plymouth.

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Lodge to meet

The next regular meeting of Polonaise Lodge 3160 will be Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. in Warren Valley Country Club, 26116 W. Warren, Dearborn Hts.

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