

Crisis center planned to aid rape victims

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

Rape. A woman cries out and no one listens. If she goes to court, she is the accused instead of the victim. And when it's over, she alone must deal with the injustice brought on not only her body, but her mind. The organizers of a planned Crisis Intervention Center for Rape and Sexual Abuse hope to change that. The center won't stop the crimes, but it will help victims cope with it. It also will attempt to force change in legislation regarding rape laws.

"WE'RE REALLY still in the initial

stages," said Donna Cunningham, chairman. "Right now we have six subcommittees investigating various areas such as counseling, funding, sexual abuse of boys and girls and so on."

A call line will provide victims an ear that will listen without accusing and without identification.

"We will also have volunteers that will give victims the emotional support they need. It doesn't matter when they were raped," said Ms. Cunningham. "We will take calls from individuals who may have been raped two or three months ago or from friends who know someone who has been raped."

"The one thing we want clear," she added, "is that under no circumstances will they have to talk to the police."

If the calling individuals need long term counseling, the center will arrange it. If they want to go to court, the center will help.

"WE WILL assist in all cases of sexual abuse or assault," Ms. Cunningham said. "Sexual abuse refers to anything that happens to a child under 16 years of age."

Dealing with the problems of sex crimes can't be isolated to the victims. They suffer the most, but cur-

rent laws neither help nor protect women and children.

"We want to effect change in legislation," Ms. Cunningham said. "One of the biggest areas of change is preventing the men's attorney from exposing the woman's background in court. But there's a whole lot of things we want amended, like making it easier for a woman to get a conviction."

Presently, no intervention center exists in Oakland County where, according to Ms. Cunningham, rapes and sexual abuses are increasing.

"We really aren't sure how much goes on," she said. "The only real fig-

ures we have are for Pontiac and only four to six complaints are reported each week. But they (the police) estimate that only one out of every 10 that occur is reported."

THE CENTER will actually be a coalition between a variety of agencies. Located at the Pontiac YWCA, it will involve St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac General Hospital, Pontiac Mental Health Clinic, Family and Children Services of Oakland County, the Juvenile Court division of Oakland County, the National Organization of Women, the Pontiac Police Department and the Oakland

County Commission on Economic Opportunity (OCCOE).

"It just so happened that the OCCOE and the YWCA were investigating the establishment of a center at the same time," said Ms. Cunningham. "So we just formed a coalition for Oakland County."

She is hopeful that community support will help get the center into working order. "We definitely want community help. If any individuals in any community are interested in helping form a center they are more than welcome," she said.

Interested individuals can call 334-0973.

Unusual jewelry became his forte

By MARY CONNELLY

Jerry Madison designs whimsical jewelry collections whose pieces wrap the wrists and throats of Elizabeth Taylor, Barbra Streisand and Sally Struthers.

The 31-year-old California designer injects a light-heartedness into his pieces of 18-carat gold, studded with diamonds.

"This isn't serious jewelry," he said after pointing out a gold bracelet beaming the word "bitch" in diamond letters. Elizabeth Taylor has the piece in her jewelry collection. Madison said in an interview at the Claire Pearene shop in Troy last week.

Many of Madison's designs rest on the visual impact of words. He uses the format of diamond words spelled out on gold to create bracelets which read "Finest," "Forever," "Favorite," "Best," and "Love."

Other pieces, in gold and enamel, gold and diamonds, or gold, exclaim "Fragile—Handle With Care," "Calm Down," "Magnificent," or "Fantastic."

MADISON'S JEWELRY is understated, relying on design to create opulence without overuse gems and heavy precious metals.

Scout execs at meeting

Barbara Burch of Birmingham, personnel services director of Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council, and Rhea Sorvari, field director, are attending a meeting of executive staff members of Region IV, Girl Scouts of the USA, in Chicago through Saturday.

Mrs. Burch of Birmingham has been personnel services director of Southern Oakland Council since 1971. Her primary responsibilities involve the recruitment and development of adult volunteers. She previously held the position of director of adult education.

Ms. Sorvari of Wixom, who has been employed since 1968 as a field director, works with administrative volunteers to facilitate scouting in the Royal Oak, Berkley and Huntington Woods areas.

His "Shooting Star" bracelet is designed with two wafer thin bands of gold bending around the wrist with the arc ended by a tiny diamond star.

The former Detroit (Mumford High School's class of 1960) is also a proponent of square jewelry design, employing the concept in bracelets and rings.

"I am so heavy into squares," he said. "I just think it has a fabulous look on the wrist."

Madison also likes to make high-priced jewelry pieces innovative and versatile. For example, a lapis and gold bracelet folds into a lapis ring banded in gold.

HE PUNS a bit, too, turning out a bracelet bearing a heart and a shoe sole. That's Madison's visual rendition of "Heart and Soul."

Madison describes his "ultimate customer" as "trendy."

"If Gucci is in, she's heavily bought into Gucci," he explained. "If Vuitton is in, she's given the Gucci to the maid."

Madison has cut into the Hollywood personality market since the start of his business in 1969.

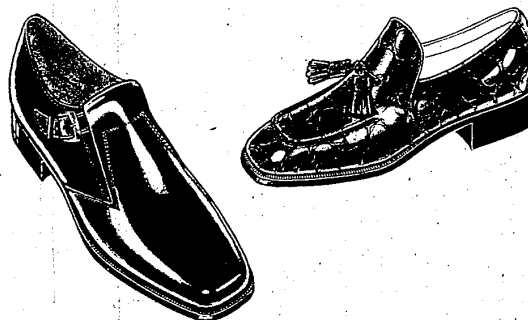
Previously a hair stylist on the West Coast, designing and selling jewelry was his sideline. But as more coiffe-customer, including the wives of Jack Lennon, Don Adams and Don Rickles, demanded the jewelry, Madison abandoned hair dressing.



Lapis ring converts to a bracelet



"Shooting Star" in gold and diamonds



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