

Child abuse on the rise

Number of local sexual abuse cases increases

By GENE GRAY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Last year, 14 cases of sexual abuse against children were reported in Centre County, the highest number in the last four years, speakers at a child sex abuse seminar said.

Judge Charles C. Brown of the Centre County Court of Common Pleas attributed the rising number of cases to an increase in the reporting of sex abuse incidents despite the many obstacles that keep such cases hidden.

Youth Services agency and other related agencies, Krole said.

"Our primary goal is to educate them on how to report abuse," she said.

Although the number of reported cases for 1980 is high, most cases are still unreported, Brown said.

"We have had successes, but I think that they are very limited," he said. "Very few sex abuse cases get to court."

Brown said some cases that do get to court are often "horror stories."

"It takes a great deal of sophistication,

"The procedure is the same in every case. There are those who say that it's unfair, unrealistic, unjust to deal with (sexually abused) children who can't talk about it to their parents and friends. How are they ever going to talk to a judge?"

—Charles C. Brown,
judge, Centre County Court of Common Pleas

Terry Watson, Centre County Director of Children and Youth Services, compiled the report on child sex abuse crimes and said that the sexual abuse of children is becoming more common.

"It's certainly becoming more and more prevalent. In 1977, there were five kids (reported to have been abused) and five kids are too many," he said at last week's seminar. "One kid is too many."

The number of reported child sex abuse incidents from 1977-81 are: 1977 — five cases; 1978 — two; 1979 — six; 1980 — 14; and, so far in 1981 — eight cases.

The seminar was organized to help a variety of people in service fields detect and report incidents of child sex abuse, said Joyce Krole, a caseworker for Centre County's Mental Health and Retardation Unit.

A group of about 90 people including teachers, school nurses and guidance counselors from local schools, and police and probation officers, attended the seminar sponsored by the Centre County

morally and philosophically, to deal with it," he said.

Whether a child is sexually abused, can be determined at the social agency or district magistrate level, he said.

"Sometimes the cases are kept secret, hidden because they're shameful," he said. "Some are stopped before they're started. Perhaps, the family will decide the case themselves."

Brown said the difficulty in getting people to report sexual abuse crimes lies in the very sensitive, personal nature of the crime.

"The procedure is the same in every case," he said. "There are those who say that it's unfair, unrealistic, unjust to deal with children who can't talk about it to their parents and friends. How are they ever going to talk to a judge?"

Teachers, social workers, police and others must become more sensitive to the problem, he said.

"Agencies and courts must throw away the idea that nothing can be done,"



Kristin Dubbel (13th-nutrition) and Don Main (graduate-math), along with the other members of the Interlandia Dancers, help set the mood at the Slavic folk festival.

Slavic festival displays culture

By BRIAN E. BOWERS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Brightly colored traditional Slavic dresses swirled as dancers moved to the beat of polka music. Eastern European pastries were served amid an array of Slavic arts and crafts.

The Third Annual Penn State Slavic Folk Festival, held Friday and Saturday at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center in the Walnut Building, gave students and local community members a chance to become better acquainted with the arts and customs of the Slavic peoples.

The festival featured folk art of the major Slavic groups, films, live entertainment and an ethnic snack bar.

"We have had a very positive response from the local Slavs," said Lorraine T. Kapitaniak, festival coordinator. "People come up with tears in their eyes having seen their culture shown in its proper perspective."

"We do not think the Slavs get enough credit for their contributions, the folk songs, dances and arts," she said. Sigmund S. Birkenmayer, professor of Slavic languages, said, "At the festival, we are trying to make people of Slavic descent proud of their heritage."

The Slavic people inhabit eastern European countries: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Although most Slavic countries are Communist, they are a very religious ethnic group.

Films describing the contributions of Slavic people here and abroad were shown. Films about the Slavic countries and historical landmarks were also shown.

Dance groups, musicians and singers provided live entertainment. The entertainment included The Tom Duda Orchestra of DuBois, Pa., with Johnny Y and the Polka Kids and the Interlandia Folk Dance Club.

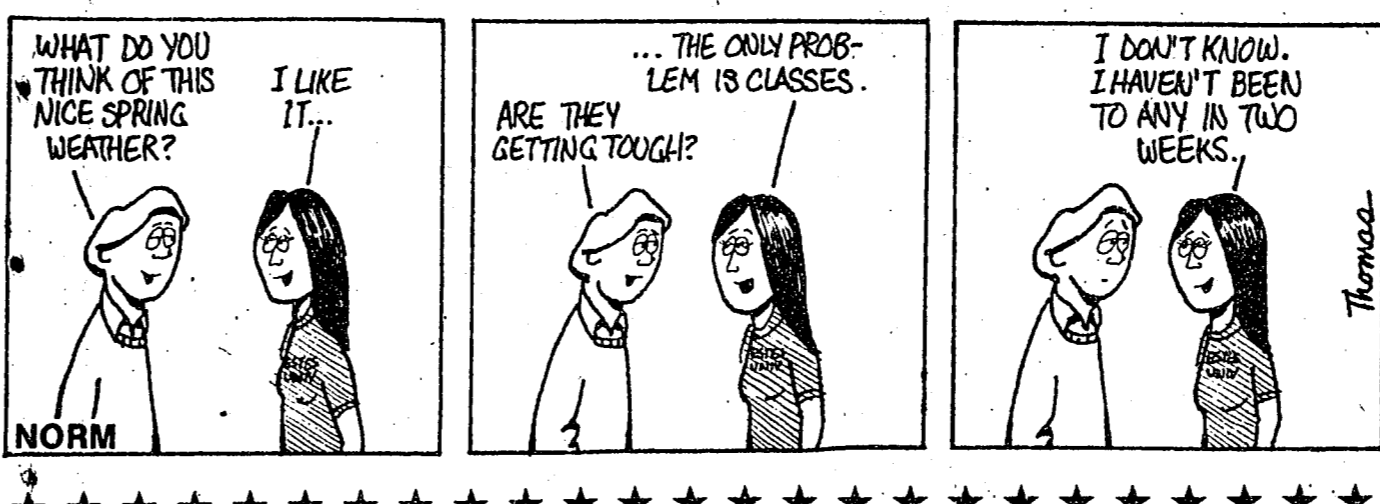
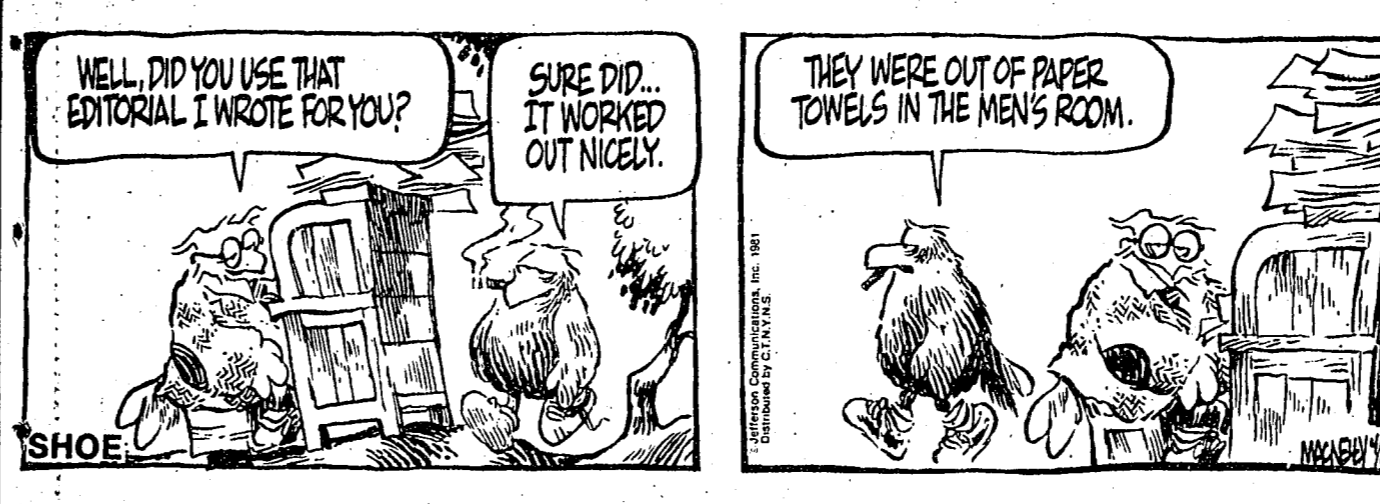
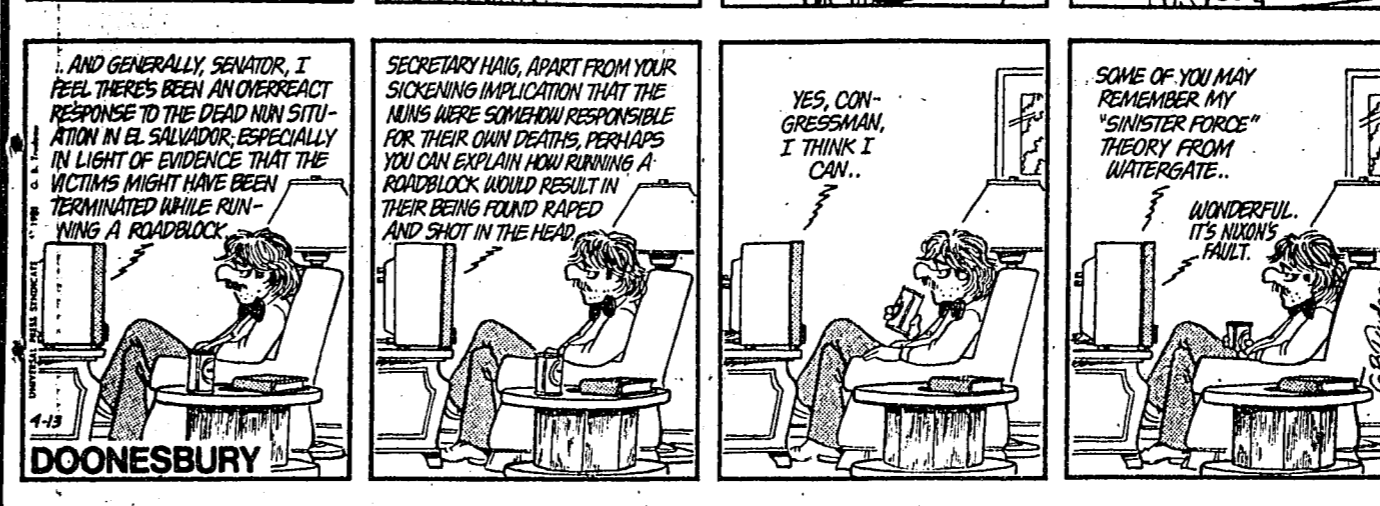
Those who came were invited to dance to the music and compete in some contests.

Arts and crafts from all major Slavic groups were displayed and demonstrated. There were wood carvings from Russia (mainly bears in a wide variety of styles and positions) and Poland.

Dolls in traditional dress matched the workers behind the stands. Metal and silverwork from several countries were also exhibited.

At one stand, Ukrainian Easter Eggs were made by Peggy Miskovsky.

Miskovsky said the eggs are given for good luck, fertility and as engagement presents. The eggs are colored using a wax resistance method; they are marked with wax, then dyed. She said an intricate egg could take up to five days to make.



Across

- Bouline
- Any
- Roundabout
- Matador's foe
- Stippling
- German river
- Track shape
- Flag
- "Billy Joe"
- Mortal
- Small measurement plan
- Head of state
- Shaper
- Secret law
- End for luncheon or kitchen
- Famed philosopher
- Grammatical case: Abbr.
- Upright calla
- Navy and jelly

Down

- Dance
- Hang in the air
- Specificity
- Arguments
- Stoicly aloof
- Walking — (related)
- Rooster
- On the
- Things to put together
- Beat around the bush?
- Idiot
- Man who had...
- School dance
- Hammill millau
- Revolts
- Highlands groups
- Blue pencil
- Speed
- Underworld river
- Soft drink
- Regretful
- Physician's concern
- Partridge perches, perhaps
- Cole's cry
- Louisiana "country"
- Like the other egg's grass
- "Me — or the Tiger?"
- Go to the next grade
- One Sir Walter
- Purloined
- Tea
- Bernrich
- Three ones
- Hawellian "Bowl"
- Drunkards
- Division word

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