

OPINIONS

'Take Back the Night'

by Paul Lorio
Collegian Staff

They don't know her but what the fuck
They've got nothing else they can do
And they've no reason but still they come
And I would have a hard time facing you
This crime the shame of what a man can do!!
(Toad the Wet Sprocket)

Everybody has an opinion of what the worst thing that somebody can do to another human being is. Some think it's physical assault while others think that murder is the most vile of sins.

For me, rape is far more evil. At least if someone is dead, the pain stops. The victims of rape have to live with that pain their entire lives.

I've been on this campus for almost an entire semester now. I have gotten to know many people since I've been here.

I was surprised to find that of all the female students I know, at least EIGHT of my friends have been raped either here on campus or during their lifetime.

Now I know that we all heard the statistics on rape, but this was the first time I have ever

been able to put faces to the names. I would never reveal the names of the victims because it is their business but I feel if I did nothing, I would be no better than the rapists.

Many famous people have been raped. The musical artist Tori Amos was raped a few years back and it was her song "Me and a Gun" that made me realize just how appalling rape could be for the victim. The song is about what went on in her mind during a rape. The following paragraph are lyrics from her song.

"It was me and a gun and a man on my back and I sang 'holy holy' as he buttoned down his pants. Yes I wore a slinky red thing, does that mean I should spread for you, your friends, your father, Mr. Ed."

After the song was done live at a concert, the entire crowd was speechless. Tori said that it took her five years after the rape to even cope with it. Many women able to cope with the rape and feel it's their fault.

The rest of this column is dedicated to any woman who has ever been raped and didn't know where to go. The information in this column is from the pamphlets that the Health and Wellness Center gives out. For more information, please visit

the Center which is located in the Carriage House or call the Crisis Hotline at 870-7087.

Rape is any sexual contact to which one party does not consent. It is also defined as a brutal act of hostility directed primarily at women with the purpose to terrify and humiliate the victim. Most rapes are not for sexual gratification but rather



a feeling of power.

Rape is a form of sexual harassment. Some other forms of sexual harassment include: pressure for sexual activity, repeatedly asking for a date after a person has expressed disinterest, and unwelcome patting, hugging, or touching of a person's body, hair or

clothing.

What to do if you are raped is a question that pops up many times. If you are raped please do the following:

Get to a safe place as soon as you can.

Try to preserve all physical evidence. Do not bathe, use the toilet or change clothing.

Contact the Health and Wellness Center and Police and Safety. Get medical attention as soon as possible.

The reason for the medical attention is because of the advent of sexually transmitted diseases. The attacker could be carrying gonorrhea, syphilis, or even be HIV positive. By receiving medical attention, you could be saving yourself a major problem in the long run.

Finally, contact a close friend who can be with you until you feel safe again. Rape is also a very emotional crime and if you are a victim, you will have feelings of helplessness and of being violated.

On a college campus most rapes that occur are of the "date rape" type. These are committed by people the victims know.

To protect yourself from this type of rape, here are some tips:

Get to know the person before you go out alone with them. Let someone know where you

are, and when you will be back.

Be assertive with your date. If you mean NO, say NO!! Passivity may be interpreted as permission. Sex by force is rape. Set limits and communicate them clearly and firmly. Don't give in to pressure.

This final note is just something that I've noticed. Out of the eight people I know who were raped, not one of them reported their rape.

By not reporting the rape, the attackers are getting away with it!!! The only way to stop it is to make the attackers pay for it. By getting off, they will only do this to someone else until they do get caught.

Women, make these pay. Report your crime to the police. TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One little girl is beaten till she faints

Told that this is love
Told that she would have to take it

One little girl is just a bit confused

She thought that she was human to o

Take Back The Night
(Toad the Wet Sprocket)

A failure to communicate

by Dave Barry
Syndicated Columnist

Now that my son has turned 13, I'm thinking about writing a self-help book for parents of teenagers. It would be a sensitive, insightful book that would explain the complex, emotionally charged relationship between the parent and the adolescent child. The title would be: "I'm a Jerk; You're a Jerk."

The underlying philosophy of this book would be that, contrary to what you hear from the "experts," it's a bad idea for parents and teenagers to attempt to communicate with each other, because there's always the risk that one of you will actually find out what the other one is thinking.

For example, my son thinks it's a fine idea to stay up until 3 a.m. on school nights reading what are called "suspense novels," defined as "novels wherein the most positive thing that can happen to a character is that the Evil Ones will kill him BEFORE they eat his brain." My son sees NO connection between the fact that he stays up reading these books and the fact that he doesn't feel like going to school the next day.

"Rob," I tell him, as he is eating his breakfast in extreme slow motion with his eyes completely closed, so that he

sometimes accidentally puts food into his ear, "I want you to go to sleep earlier."

"DAD," he says, using the tone of voice you might use when attempting to explain an abstract intellectual concept to an oyster, "you DON'T UNDERSTAND. I am NOT tired. I am SPLOOSH (sound of my son passing out face-down in his Cracklin' Oat Bran)."

Of course, psychologists would tell us that falling asleep in cereal is normal for young teenagers, who need to become independent of their parents and make their own life decisions, which is fine except that if my son made his own life decisions, his ideal daily schedule would be:

Midnight to 3 a.m. -- read suspense novels.

3 a.m. to 3 p.m. -- sleep.

3:15 p.m. -- order hearty breakfast from Domino's Pizza and put on loud, hideous music recorded live in hell.

4 p.m. to midnight -- blow stuff up.

Unfortunately this schedule would leave little room for, say, school, so we have to supply parental guidance ("If you don't open this door RIGHT NOW I will BREAK IT DOWN and CHARGE IT TO YOUR ALLOWANCE"), the result being that our relationship with our son currently involves a

certain amount of conflict, in the same sense that the Pacific Ocean involves a certain amount of water.

At least he doesn't wear giant pants. I keep seeing young teenage males wearing ENORMOUS pants; pants that two or three teenagers could occupy simultaneously and still have room in there for a picnic basket; pants that a clown would



refuse to wear on the grounds that they were too undignified. The young men wear these pants' really low, so that the waist is about knee level and the pants butt drags on the ground. You could not be an effective criminal wearing pants like these, because you'd be unable to flee on foot with any velocity.

POLICE OFFICER: We

tracked the alleged perpetrator from the crime scene by following the trail of his dragging pants' butt.

PROSECUTOR: And what was he doing when you caught up with him?

POLICE OFFICER: He was hobbling in a suspicious manner.

What I want to know is, how do young people buy these pants? Do they try them on to make sure they DON'T fit? Do they take along a 570-pound friend, or a mature polar bear, and buy pants that fit HIM?

I asked my son about these pants, and he told me that mainly "bassers" wear them. "Bassers" are people who like a lot of bass in their music. They drive around in cars with four-trillion-watt sound systems playing recordings of what sound like above-ground nuclear tests, but with less of an emphasis on melody.

My son also told me that there are also people called "posers" who DRESS like "bassers," but are in fact, secretly, "preppies." He said that some "posers" also pose as "headbangers," who are people who like heavy-metal music, which is performed by skinny men with huge hair who stomp around the stage, striking their instruments and shrieking angrily, apparently because somebody has stolen all their

shirts. "Like," my son said, contemptuously, "some posers will act like they like Metallica, but they don't know ANYTHING about Metallica."

If you can imagine. I realize I've mainly been giving my side of the parent-teenager relationship, and I promise to give my son's side, if he ever comes out of his room. Remember how the news media made a big deal about it when those people came out after spending two years inside Biosphere 2? Well, two years is NOTHING. Veteran parents assure me that teenagers routinely spend that long in the BATHROOM. In fact, veteran parents assure me that I haven't seen ANYTHING yet.

"Wait till he gets his driver's license," they say. "That's when Fred and I turned to heroin."

Yes, the next few years are going to be exciting and challenging. But I'm sure that, with love and trust and understanding, my family will get through them OK. At least I will, because I plan to be inside Biosphere 3.

Dave Barry writes for *The Miami Herald*. His column appears every week in *The Behrend College Collegian*.