

OPINIONS

From the Editor's Desk:

There are different ways to perceive most situations, but something that cannot be tolerated is when people cannot see rape for what it is--a crime with jail as the only solution.

Some people see date rape as a less serious crime than a rape by a stranger. If a spouse, friend or formal sexual partner commits a rape, the common belief is that this act is a one-time thing and the perpetrator is not really a rapist.

Our society has to get beyond this mentality and treat these rapists like the criminals they are.

Friendship and familiarity is no excuse for rape--if anything this makes it even more appalling. The fact that certain individuals can claim to be friends and still inflict the incredible pain and mental anguish that accompanies rape, should count against them and not in their favor.

Sometimes our society gets fooled by perception, and we lose sight of reality. We make judgments based on a person's looks and cannot see the criminal act.

It is time to start looking out for the victims and no longer let rapists off because they look like "the boy next door", or assume it was just a mistake made under the influence of alcohol.

Rape is never a mistake. It is a deliberate and violent act, done to injure another. Rape has no logic and no one can identify rapists by the way they look.

We have to let victims know that if they testify against rapists, we will stand behind them by fitting the penalty to the crime.

There are not different degrees of rape, so we cannot send out mixed messages by giving different sentences. Date rapists cannot be treated with more lenience, and should share the same cell and sentence with other convicted rapists.

If we start doing this, maybe rapists will learn when a woman says "no" she means *no*, unless she says differently. No exceptions!

The Capital Times Staff would like to thank the workers who moved our office to room W-341. We appreciate the speed with which it was done and care taken to inconvenience us as little as possible.

Sincerely,

John J. Garvey, Editor in Chief.

A newspaper for the student body

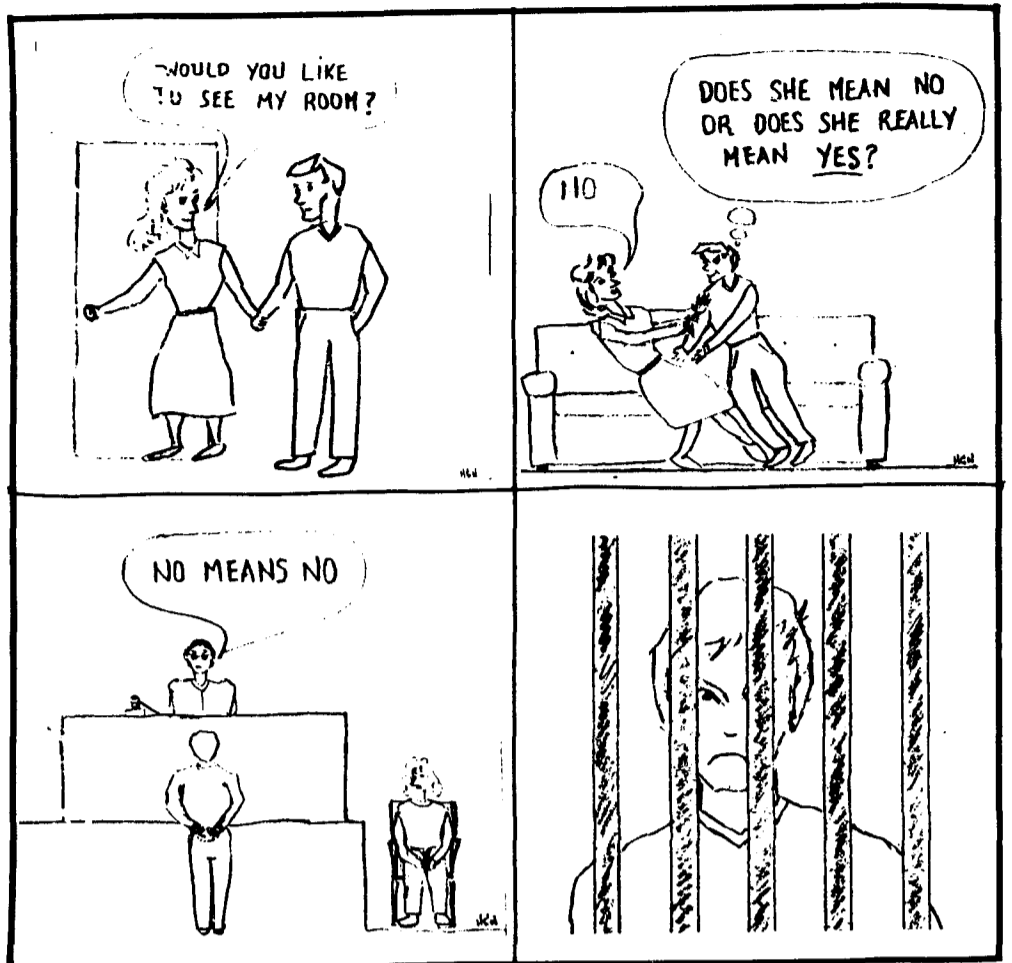
Capital Times

Editor in Chief...John J. Garvey
Sports Editor...Hank Rappold
Copy Editor...Victoria Cuscino
News Editor...Jon Fleck
Graphics Editor...Huan Nguyen
Business/Advertising Manager...Susan Hoover
Photography Editor...Richard Chiavetta
Adviser...Dr. Peter Parisi

Staff--Christopher Burns, Pat Clawges, Heather Ehman, The Gipper, Ted Lankay, Sharon Purcell, Mark Olnick, Mary Lee Schnable, Barb Soltis, Melissa Stuff, Barbara Sydell, Mark Tuttle,

The Capital Times is published by the students of Penn State Harrisburg. Concerns regarding the content of any issue should be directed to the editor in room W-337 of the Olmsted building or by calling 944-4970. Opinions expressed are those of the author and are not representative of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Capital Times welcomes signed letters from readers. Unsigned letters cannot be printed; however, a writer's name may be withheld upon request.

The Capital Times does not endorse its advertisers.



Letters to the Editor:

To Lisa and Friends

Dear Editor,

We just wanted Lisa and her friends to know how ridiculous their evaluation of males sounds.

Ladies, you've put a damper on our post Valentines Day celebration by admitting your bitter lack of confidence in our gender. You've obviously been a losing team in the chancey game of love and through the school of hard knocks. But to stereotype all males in this negative scenario is insulting, unrealistic, and worthy of a reprimand (and so close to Valentines Day nonetheless). We question your credibility. So be it. Some of the guys decided to get together our own realistic opinions on the matter.

Really--"Men want to take home a girl that Dad will flirt with." Are you serious? We certainly hope she doesn't flirt back.

C'mon--"Men are likely to dump their girlfriends on holidays." For financial reasons, yet? We don't expect to be lavished with expensive gifts around the holidays, so why do you? Are you materialistic or something? Even if we had to weasel our way out of a relationship, we certainly wouldn't use such a bogus, financial excuse. If you just want a respectable man that "makes you happy," why should the size of his wad matter?

And since we're on the subject of tangibles, we'd just like you to know how we feel concerning attractive women. Some men find attractiveness in women who carry themselves confidently, with good posture, and a smile. Are you ready for this? All men want isn't T and A. In fact, we favor the old "take me for who I am" personality. You see, attractiveness isn't a trait that withers with age. If you want to turn our heads and want to earn some respect, then say something witty or personable or intelligent. Smart women rouse our curiosity and actually stimulate a relationship. Not to mention her

intelligence, which may actually be our weakness. Do you see a bond? If you just want to turn our heads, then go ahead and flaunt the aesthetics. Be salacious. We'll guess the rest and probably form opinions that wouldn't do you justice. In other words, lay off the typical hokey crap about all guys

wanting a bleached blonde in a bikini. For God's sake, spare us.

We would also like to note that healthy relationships thrive on honesty, commitment, and particularly trust. But if we were to rank the three necessities according to the time they take to establish, the longest would be commitment, then trust, then honesty. If you're honest, then we trust you. But don't jeopardize this first important stage by being too unfair. Unfortunately, some people dwell religiously on the past and conjure images of their sweetheart preoccupied in foul play. Call it what you will, but the term victimized sticks to mind. If there's something you want to get out in the open, then air it. We can't stand for communication gaps and new tangents brought on through twisted, misinterpreted, pointless arguments. Show us some respect--we'll reciprocate; but remember some skeletons are better left in the closet. Anyway, we're tired of reruns, aren't you? Trust is earned and very difficult to establish. The majority of us have already lived through at least one serious relationship that crashed. We're a little more cautious the next time around.

Keep in mind that this is a capitalist country where there's tremendous variety--luckily for all of us. Stop the suffering. If you're continuously unsatisfied with your selection, quietly put it back and look for another.

We're not angry at you Lisa and Friends, just concerned that there are a couple of misinformed women out there believing you. Your opinion matters, but don't forget about us.

Lastly, you neglected to put your conclusion at the end of your special contribution. If you had, the