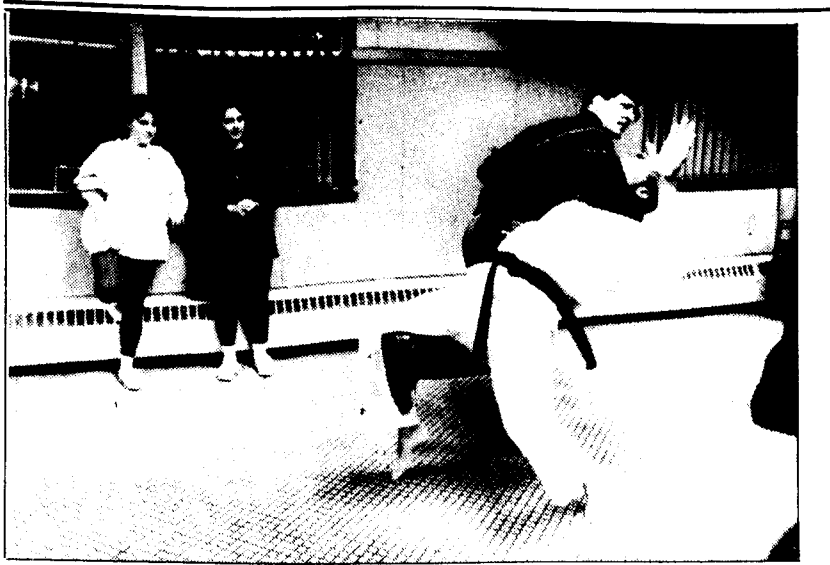


# An ounce of prevention: Some rape prevention tips



Students learn the best in physical self-defense at a demonstration held immediately following the report of two campus attacks.

Photo by Michael Starkey

Ricardo Duarte  
Capital Times Reporter

Thousands of people - male and female alike - suffer from some form of sexual assault on campuses across the country each year. Rape is by far the most violent of these acts.

The psychological effects from rape are devastating not only to the victim, but to family and friends as well. To prevent this heinous crime from happening to you, here are several safety tips:

- \*Walk in a group and use the buddy system. Don't forget to use the newly available campus escort service.
- \*Walk in a well-lit area, especially at nighttime. Avoid dark alleys, side roads, etc. and move quickly to your destination.
- \*Carry a device that will draw others attention to you. Whistles, key-chain flares or beepers are all easy to carry in your purse or pocket.

\*Take self defense classes. They can provide you with some basic skills to elude your attacker and get help.

\*Carry an attack prevention weapon such as a pocket or key chain size canister of poisonous spray. It's important to remember, however, if you do decide to carry a defense weapon, it could possibly be used against you.

"When facing an attacker a person has to decide whether or not they are going to fight back," said Pam Brandon of the Rape Crisis Center in Harrisburg. "In many cases it comes down to a split-second decision and using your best judgment."

It doesn't matter if you know the attacker or not, the severity of the crime doesn't change.

Date rape is also serious a problem on campuses. Here are some tips for preventing a situation from getting out of hand:

\*Make it clear before you get into a sexual situation what your limits are.

\*Avoid secluded places and any suggestions to get away from whatever function you're at. Suggest meeting in public places where help will be nearby if you need it.

\*Beware of alcohol and other drugs. It's harder for you to control the situation if you're under the influence of these substances. Be aware of how much your date drinks, too.

\*Have your own transportation, go out with a group, or double-date. Don't rely on your date's transportation.

"Whether it be rape by a stranger or somebody we know, we should take proactive steps to stop it as we would any other crime," said Marylou Martz, registered nurse at the health center.

## Don't prop the doors

E. Mikael Hein  
Capital Times Columnist

I used to complain constantly about having to walk around to the front door to the dorms. After all, the side door is right by the parking lot.

I remember kicking, banging and screaming when the door was locked, and I remember propping it open almost every day. Now, however, I am singing a different tune.

**I remember kicking, banging and screaming when the door was locked, and I remember propping it open almost every day. Now, however, I am singing a different tune.**

Just under two months ago, there was a rape on campus. And just almost a month ago, there was an assault practically right outside my dorm window. Suddenly safety became an issue to the women and men of this campus.

While for the most part I have encountered men who are genuinely sympathetic to the fear felt by the women on campus, I also have heard a few that are not. Every day somebody still props open the door at the end of the hall and leaves. And almost every day I hear one

guy say to another, "gee, I guess you should walk me to my car so I don't get 'accosted.'"

It is to these clueless guys that I am aiming at. Does it not matter to you that the women on the second floor of Church Hall live in fear of a crime committed by a sick man? Do you not realize that by refusing to keep the doors locked, and ridiculing the attacks, you are degrading women and placing their well being in jeopardy? Seeing as how the crime committed was by a

man, don't you think it would be to your advantage to do your part so that women are not afraid of you?

Rape is a crime that affects everyone. It harms women and robs them of their dignity, and it makes men look bad; especially when they refuse to take action to help the victim. While men may not live in fear of being raped, although it does happen guys, I think it would help the entire community if you would pay attention and show a little respect for other peoples' safety and well-being.

Stacey L. Rodin  
Capital Times Reporter

Students at Penn State Harrisburg received a lesson on crime prevention from Karen Edwards of Citizens Against Crime on Monday, November 1st at 8 pm in the Dining Commons.

In the United States a crime is committed every 2 seconds. In Pennsylvania a crime is committed every 76 seconds. Harrisburg has the most crime per capita in the state. With all this crime happening so close to home, students need to find out information to help them protect themselves. This is where Citizens Against Crime comes in.

Citizens Against Crime is a national safety organization which provides the public with essential tips on preventing acts of violence.

There are three things a criminal looks for in choosing a victim. The victim must be quick to get to, be an easy target, and must present a low-risk to the criminal.

Three in four people have a chance to become victims of a crime. According to Edwards, "time is of the essence" when dealing with attackers. Victims have between 4-6 seconds to take action against their assailant.

The program gave such information as the two most likely places for an attack to occur are the home and the car. Some tips on maintaining safety include keeping doors locked and looking both under and inside your car before getting in.

Citizens Against Crime serves over 15,000 people a year and has over 50 offices across the country. The organization provides free programs to clubs and other organizations. There is an office located in Harrisburg. Any questions can be answered by calling (717) 657-1225.

## Teaching safety



Students receive a lesson in crime prevention at a safety meeting held in the Dining Commons on November 1. A representative from Citizens Against Crime demonstrates the importance of keeping keys in one hand and mace in the other.

Photo by Michael Starkey

## Students giving police heat due to understaffing

Dawn Kopecki  
Capital Times Reporter

Understaffed since June, the University Police Services has been under fire from students in light of the two recent attacks on university women.

Students have criticized the department in several recent forums held to discuss campus safety and concerns stemming from the assaults. University police have been criticized as having inadequate coverage, slow response time and an incapable force stemming from a

lack of funding and small staffs.

"Why is Police Services so understaffed that they won't come to the scene of a crime?" asked Dianne Elliott, who lives in Meade Heights.

Elliott explained at an open forum that police refused to assist her in an accident last month. After the forum, Elliott received a message on her answering machine from an officer who apologized for not responding to her call, she said.

Students also criticized police services slow response time. It took University Police Services almost

20 minutes to respond to the Oct. 23 assault. But Lower Swatara Township police arrived at the scene in about three minutes.

"That's what scares me most; that the township cops showed up before the campus cops...I could be dead in 20 minutes," said Gretchen Sanchack, who placed the call.

According to Penn State's 1992-93 operating budget, PSH ranks ninth in money spent per student for security-about \$74 each.

Security funding includes extension services like student patrols and escort services. Exact figures for

police services weren't broken down.

Of Penn State's 22 satellite campuses, Capital campus has the largest student population with over 3,600 full- and part-time students.

Campuses with comparative populations spent considerably more money on security - Erie spends about \$110. Berks, with less than half PSH's population, spends \$96 per student; and Beaver, with less than 1,000 students, spends \$150 per student on security - the most in the Penn State system.

"As a department head, you're

always saying you need more money," said Sandra Jackson, manager of business services which police services falls under.

But money isn't the police services main problem, Jackson said. The university is still looking for replacements for two officers who resigned in May.

Police Chief Charles Aleksey recently offered a full-time position to one applicant. The candidate must first pass a series of tests before the university makes a final offer. If the applicant meets university requirements, Aleksey

said he anticipates making the offer within the month.

The second position is still vacant and doesn't have any qualified candidates, said Dorothy Guy, director of human resources.

The positions were posted about six months ago. The lengthy selection process is common in academia, Guy said, adding that hiring an officer is a lengthy process. A search committee was formed in the summer to review applications. Then candidates were interviewed before an offer could be made.

## Sexual assaults increasing on campuses

Dawn Kopecki  
Capital Times Reporter

If the perpetrator of either recent assault against two university women is a Penn State student, he could face expulsion, said Dr. Donald T. Suit, director of judicial affairs at University Park.

In fact, any person found guilty of any kind of sexual assault would at least face an immediate suspension from the university, whether they committed the act on- or off-campus.

"I wouldn't feel particularly comfortable having a student that was a rapist on-campus, just because it happened off-campus," Suit said.

Although the act may not directly affect a student or happen on-campus, crimes like rape, murder, armed robbery and drug sales as well as others could "significantly effect" the student community, Suit said. The university would then levy sanctions against that student, although the crime happened off-campus.

"If the person may be a danger to our community, then we would take action," said Donald Holtzman, PSH's director of student and judicial affairs.

Differing from the state's judicial

system, Penn State's conduct code only needs "clear and convincing evidence" to take punitive action against a student, not evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt."

With PSH's smaller and older student population, the discipline board hears less than a dozen cases a year, Holtzman said.

**Any kind of sexual assault usually means a dismissal.**  
Donald T. Suit, Director of Judicial Affairs, U. Park

Far more common at University Park, sexual assault or rape hasn't been brought before the PSH judicial affairs board in the past five years, Holtzman said, adding that he's only been with PSH for the past five years. He couldn't say whether the board dealt with those issues before then.

But rape and sexual assault are becoming increasing problems on all college campuses, Suit said.

PSH's first reported rape came last April after the Harrisburg Community Hospital reported that a university woman was raped.

The acquaintance rape, in Meade Heights, wasn't reported to students or

faculty.

The victim decided not to press charges, said Robert Surridge, asst. provost for community outreach. And the incident wasn't brought before the judicial affairs board, he added.

Neither the victim nor the alleged rapist attend classes at PSH now, Surridge said.

Rape is an extremely under-reported crime, Suit said. National statistics say that only one out of ten cases ever get reported. And out of those ten, only one will press charges.

Only four cases were heard before a judicial affairs board at University Park last year.

"But at the same time, I've received calls from women who didn't want to press charges," he added.

In both recent attacks on PSH students, the perpetrator would be tried for physical and sexual abuse and sexual assault. Although the university distinguishes between varying degrees of sexual assault, it doesn't have a charge of rape.

"It would mean suspension or expulsion if the person is found guilty. Any kind of sexual assault usually means a dismissal," Suit said.

The first attack, Sept. 20, occurred in broad daylight in the parking lot across from Police Services - between Olmsted and Capital Union buildings. The woman was blindfolded, dragged between two cars and raped by an unidentified man.

The perpetrator of the second attack, Oct. 23, grabbed the victim from behind, clasped his hand over her mouth and warned her not to scream. She kicked the unidentified man and fled to safety.

Police think the two incidents were performed by different men but are not ruling out the possibility of the two being related, said Charles Aleksey, university police chief.

If found guilty, both perpetrators would face the same punishments on campus, Suit said.

"I think there would be enough circumstantial evidence to charge the perpetrator of the second assault with the same sanction" as the alleged rapist, Suit said.

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