

RAPE: A crime without a cure?

Is rape a crime with no cure?

Unfortunately, this seems to be the case. The number of reported cases has soared in recent years, but the records of arrest and prosecution have not kept pace. It's the exception and not the rule when a rapist is tried and convicted in the courts.

Figures provided by the State College Police Department indicate that the number of reported rapes has already surpassed the 1976 figures. The numbers reflect the reality that Happy Valley is not

everything it's cracked up to be.

There have been many potential solutions kicked around recently. Plans have been tried but most of them failed. The Association for Women Students tried in vain to organize "people pools" to escort women to their destinations around campus. Other campus organizations have tried to rally support to provide other types of escort services to stop the alarming number of rapes.

None of these programs has been successful and there is a reason for that: people don't



really know there is a problem.

A natural reaction on the part of many victims is to remain silent. The disclosure of the assault could bring them embarrassment, shame or feelings of guilt. But they must let other women know there is a problem, or must live with the fact that the assailant is still at large.

Public awareness is the most effective tool against future assaults. Women should report to the nearest medical facility for treatment, and report the incident, along with a description of the

assailant, to the police. The police, in turn, should immediately release times, places, and circumstances of any reported attacks for the awareness of all citizens.

Increased lighting may help, but that may only push the crime into dark places. You can't light up the whole town. Escort services could work, but the record has shown that they haven't been well used.

Women should pay attention to police reports and take them seriously. Ask any rape victim if she still feels "it can't happen to me."

Collegian Forum: RAPE

Avoid dark areas, don't walk alone at night, or...

By DARLENE A. MAY
Crime Prevention Specialist
State College Bureau of Police

In 1975, there were five reported rapes in State College.

To date in 1977, there have been seven. The key word in dealing with the ongoing problem of rape and assault is prevention. Men and women walking our streets, hitchhiking, or driving an automobile are possible moving targets for rape and assault. The following tips if practiced could help you avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Don't walk the streets at night alone. If you must, don't daydream. Be alert, walk quickly and try to look confident. If possible, plan your route avoiding alleys, parks, vacant lots, and dark parking areas. Walk near the curb and use the safest, best-lighted routes. If you see someone following you or see a man or group of men approaching you or loitering, cross the street. Don't walk on fearfully. If the man or men follow you, go to the nearest lighted house as if it was your destination. This action alone may convince the actors to keep walking, and if not, ask the residents to call a cab or friend to pick you up. It is a common myth that most rapists are impulsive and motivated by uncontrollable desires.

Most rapists have a plan — you should have a plan. Hitchhiking — DON'T, it's like playing "rape roulette." You have no way of knowing if the

motorist picking you up has the same intentions you have in mind. Despite all warnings, men and women will still hitchhike. The following information is to help them screen their rides and reduce the chance of rape or assault now that they have placed themselves in a high-risk situation.

Don't hitchhike alone. Never accept a ride with more than one man in the vehicle. Don't climb into a van, you don't know who might be in the back. Check the front and back seats of the vehicle for beer and liquor bottles. The driver might be intoxicated. Check the driver over too, make sure that he is all zipped up. Ask the driver his destination before you tell him yours. Keep your hand on the door handle in the event of any wrong turns or unscheduled stops. This will enable you to jump out quickly if you so desire. Keep your window cracked open, if you want to scream your chances of being heard are greater.

As a final note, motorists can perform a good public service by jotting down the license number and a description of the vehicle when they spot one stopping to pick up a hitchhiker. In the event that something does develop from what you have observed, you have information that is very valuable to law enforcement officials.

Certain precautions should be taken when operating a vehicle. First of all, make sure it is in good operating condition and you have enough gas to get you to your destination. A common occurrence that could turn into a disaster for you is a flat tire. Learn how to fix one. If your vehicle

should break down, get out of it only to lift the hood and tie a handkerchief or cloth on the aerial. Lock your doors and roll up your windows.

If someone should stop, roll your window down just a crack and ask them to call for help. If you are driving late at night, don't take the scenic route or a short-cut that takes you off the main highway. Stay on the main roads as much as possible, you'll have lots of company and light. When parking your vehicle try to do so as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lighted area. Don't forget to lock your car.

When returning, have your car key ready so you won't have to fumble for it. Make it a habit to check the back seat of your car. Someone could be hiding in there. Once in your car, lock all the doors and roll the windows up.

Another question many women ask about rape is what should they do if they cannot avoid it? First of all, in the actual rape encounter you might be fearful, ashamed and confused. It might be helpful to remember that these feelings are normal. Tell yourself that you will see your attacker again — in court, and this might help you to remain calm and it gives you something to do. During the assault memorize your attacker's height, build, age, hair style and color, eyes, nose, mouth, and scars if any.

After the assault you still may have to cope with strong negative feelings. You might feel distrust and anger towards everyone; feelings of guilt, helplessness, worthlessness are also

common reactions. It might cross your mind that the last thing you want to do right now is report it to the police.

Try to overcome these feelings and report the assault to the police immediately. You might feel dirty and want to bathe, another common reaction. Don't. Unfortunately, you are walking evidence and you have to come as you are.

Perhaps many women are fearful of what happens after they report it, so a few words on that. After being raped a woman might not feel like walking to the police station or maybe has no transportation. So, our bureau dispatches a police officer to her location.

Immediately after a rape the victim might not want to be interviewed at the police station but would rather be in her own home. This presents no problem for us and if it makes you feel more comfortable, all the better. If the victim wants the assault investigated it is important for her to have a medical examination immediately and the next step would be to transport her to the hospital. After the examination we like to have a police officer assist the victim in making a composite drawing of her attacker as they have proven to be a very valuable tool.

Most women are surprised that they can make a composite that closely resembles her attacker. If the victim feels she cannot talk to a male officer, a female officer will be provided; in our bureau we have four, two of which are trained in composite drawing.

If the victim feels she needs a friend or wants a volunteer from the Rape Crisis Center with her during the investigation, this is also encouraged. Two important things to remember are that you are not alone and that the greatest disservice you can do to other women is to not take any step toward the arrest of your attacker. Nobody can force you to file charges but at least give all possible information to police so the rapist can eventually be caught.

Rape is one of the most commonly committed violent crimes and the least often reported. Embarrassment, degrading treatment from police and doctors, a courtroom re-enactment of the ordeal and the threat of a defense lawyer's inquiries into her previous promiscuity are reasons women have given to explain their silence. Hopefully, this is part of the past because serious efforts have been made to deal with these problems.

Most police and medical agencies have or are in the process of establishing procedures for the handling of rape victims and training programs for their personnel. House Bill 580 has also changed the courtroom scene for the rape victim. It has given rape victims the same rights as the victim of any other crime, and is certainly the result of the active campaign against rape which has been taking place nationwide.

Your best weapons against rape are AWARENESS, PRECAUTION and INVOLVEMENT.

...you may become a rape victim IT'S NOT SAFE FOR WOMEN TO WALK THE STREETS AT NIGHT...

By JOHN RIDEOUT
Community Relations Officer
University Police Services

"I felt no pain, but I felt filthy. I stripped down and I stood in the shower as hot and strong as it would run; I soaked and rinsed and soaked and rinsed and when I could not stand up anymore, I sat down in the tub and cried. It wasn't the sex that was so bad; the worst part was the split second when I knew I had no control over my destiny. There he was, the lowest form of human being. He treated me as though I was totally worthless. That's what made me feel so dirty. I realized how vulnerable I was."

—A rape victim
There is nothing sexual about rape. It is a violent act, but rather than a gun or a knife, the major weapon is the penis. Studies indicate rapists use more than necessary force to subdue victims and reach their goals. Sex is the method used to humiliate victims in the process.

Rapists have many times attacked

college coeds, who happen to be the ideal victims. The coed is depicted as being careless and embracing the attitude that "it won't happen to me." Other groups highly sought after by rapists are the waitress and the nurse, both keep irregular hours.

There has been a general increase in the number of reported rapes and attempted rapes on the Pennsylvania State University campus. In 1973 there was only one incident of rape reported. In 1974 there were three incidents of rape reported on campus.

In 1975, a total of six rapes or attempted rapes were reported.

State College borough, during this same time period, experienced six, seven and six rapes respectively. By the number of reported rapes and attempts there is no way of knowing what the actual number is that occur.

Authorities are of the opinion that for every rape that is reported, three go

unreported. Rape and attempted rape on the Penn State campus has been few in number. Because of this there is little predictive statistical value.

The incidents have occurred in the morning as well as the evening, in places such as academic buildings, women's rest rooms, parking lots and open areas. Furthermore, there is no significant data regarding time of day, week, location or time of year. The statistics have been too few to be of predictive value.

However, over the years, rapists have established a pattern that indicates Friday and Saturday as the most frequent days for the offense to occur, with the most likely hours being from 8 p.m. until midnight. Most rapes occur during July and August, while the least occur in December and January, supporting Thernic's law of delinquency which states that there will be more crime during the hot months.

Rape occurs all over the globe, in-

volves all races, ages, and people from all backgrounds. There is no immunity.

Victims suffering the traumatic experience of rape rarely report the incident. Fear, guilt, shame and desire to protect oneself or loved ones from exposure to an insensitive society contribute to the many reasons many rapes go unreported.

Unfortunately, rapists are many times repeaters, and a woman not reporting the incident increases the probability that another woman will be victimized. A change in society's attitude toward rape is occurring and the gap between the myths and the facts surrounding the crime need to be eliminated.

If you are raped, please report it. This department attempts to promote an atmosphere in which rape may be controlled, victims properly treated and the offender effectively processed.

With your help and assistance, there can be no incidents to reduce to statistics.



PHIL COOPER

Letters to the Editor

Rape prevention

Recently there has been a strong student concern focused on assaults and rapes in and about the University. In response to this matter, the University and some concerned students are giving more attention to insuring the safety of students.

The Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS) has formed a security committee to review and make recommendations concerning the problem of assaults and rapes at Penn State. To create student participation in resolving the current problem, ARHS is sponsoring a poster contest on the theme, "Don't let it happen to you."

Hopefully, many of you have seen our advertisement in this paper and are taking the time and effort needed to make this contest a success. The winning poster will be displayed throughout the college community.

Another aspect of rape prevention we are concerned with is the lighting on campus. For the past few years this has been a major concern of those who frequent the campus at night. Unfortunately, the energy crisis has made it necessary for the University to review its energy consumption.

Accordingly, many lights were "green-stickered" or shut off to save energy. In order to see these lights turned back on where they are needed, ARHS, in conjunction with the Undergraduate Student Government, is currently reviewing the lighting of the entire campus. However, let it be emphasized that this is neither a quick nor easy task. Suggestions of problem areas would be appreciated. (Submit these suggestions to either the ARHS office or to the USG office in care of Ascher Levy.)

There have been many requests to once again coordinate an escort service on campus. ARHS is working with the Student Assistance Center and other student organizations and hopes to have the escort service in operation in the near future.

Anyone interested in working with the security committee is encouraged to contact the ARHS office to receive information. Christopher C. Carey
chairman, ARHS security committee

group "Glass Harp," Phil played to packed houses throughout the country. "Glass Harp" was a huge financial success and Phil received numerous accolades for his impeccable musicianship. Dubbed "the world's greatest guitarist" by the late Jimi Hendrix, Phil attained the pinnacle of success.

However, he chose to forego fame and fortune and cast his lot with the Lord. Funny thing — not many wanted to hear him play anymore. Where once there were thousands, now only mere handfuls would show for his concerts. His hymns just didn't possess the pizzazz of such inculcating lyrics as "That's the way I like it" or "I'm your boogie man."

And even though he has continued to grow and improve as a musician, people still stay away for fear of a little religion. Yet they flock like geese to see the Pages, Framptons and Rundgrens (et al) who can but dream of attaining the adept prowess of Phil Keaggy's virtuosity.

Obviously something is amiss: either our education is sadly lacking or the Madison Avenue Boys are controlling our consciousness to the point of denuding us of our objectivity. So do yourself a favor and treat yourself to some of the best guitar riffs this side of Duane Allman. You'll be more than just pleasantly surprised.

P. K. Little
graduate-biology

Crosby

I was disappointed to find that The Daily Collegian carried only one small article on the back page about the passing of a world famous entertainer, Bing Crosby.

In this day and age when headlines scream of terrorism, corruption and graft, could not equal time have been given to a man who was loved by millions the world over? Bing Crosby and his family exemplified the American family unit, unlike many entertainers who today marry four or five times and still find no real happiness. His slow, easy-going air, his orange juice commercials, and, of course, his immortal "White Christmas" were a part of most of us, young or old. Yes, he will be missed when, this year at Christmas, his warm, friendly, familiar glow that endeared him to millions does not appear on our living room TV screen.

Lorin S. Weigard, II
4th-liberal arts

Non-sectarian

This letter concerns the upcoming Phil Keaggy concert on Sunday, Oct. 23. Please tell the critic you are sending that Phil Keaggy is a Christian. And as a Christian, he will sing about Christ, the Bible, and his personal Christian life. Phil Keaggy may even read the Bible on certain occasions. So please ask the critic to critique the music and not the man's beliefs.

Don Esherick
11th-biology

Male reaction

In response to "Praise that we ladies can surely do without" (Oct. 17):

I just wanted to give a male's reaction to Ms. Rozen's suggestions. The next time I see a girl with a face that looks like the gates of Hades, staggering down the street, picking her nose, and hurling bags of garbage, I'll probably be slightly turned off and won't even give her a complimentary glance. I will admit, however, that it would "make for a good story at the next party during the obligatory discussion of urban survival techniques."

Is it any wonder that "everything is getting smaller these days?"

Robin Thomas
grad-ecology

Anonymity

What can American society use to motivate people, now that "the chance to become somebody" is virtually extinct?

Robert Boyer
United Ministry at Penn State
Eisenhower Chapel

Sources bared

Responding to the request by Scott Martin and C.J. Muskas for my sources in my Heinz column: The Young and Guzzetta

payoffs and subsequent legionaire disease cover-up are revealed in a story by the Associated Press, May 4, 1977, which appeared in The Daily Collegian, May 5, 1977, page 4.

The \$6,000 Gulf Oil illegal contribution is an established campaign finance fact; you can find it in October and November 1976 issues of Time Magazine, The New York Times, plus the wire services.

Other sources for my article include various 1976-77 issues of the Congressional Record, and the Pittsburgh Press congressional vote synopsis of August 7, 1977, page E-Z.

As for why Sen. Heinz is not behind bars, perhaps it's because too many people are willing to challenge established fact rather than Heinz.

Mark Harmon
Collegian Columnist

the Collegian

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Still the one

Oct. 23 at 8 p.m., Phil Keaggy will be appearing at University Auditorium. As lead guitarist for the now defunct