

# Affection is not always an invitation

by Jennifer Flanagan

Reading the letter from Tom Strunk that appeared in *The Collegian* two weeks ago and hearing the responses to that letter illustrated to me how very misinformed many people on this campus are regarding the issue of rape.

I talked to quite a few of my male friends on campus who didn't see the harm in the letter. They told me I was missing the point. I can appreciate his point that rape "is a human problem." But I can't appreciate Tom's other messages.

The fact that so many other students express the same inaccurate beliefs frightens me. The victimization of women will not cease until people stop perpetuating the myths surrounding the crime of rape. Danette Parrett, in her response to Tom's letter, was right on target. Unfortunately, people like Danette seem to be in the minority on this campus.

Rape education is sorely needed on college campuses around the nation and I commend the administration on the decision to show films concerning date rape.

I'm truly sorry if a man feels patronized by the statement "when a woman says no, she means no." But when these same men claim

they don't know what attempted rape is, it's hard not to think that perhaps they've missed the point. I don't think a legal definition of attempted rape is necessary. Try this approach instead: next time you're with a woman and you think she wants to have sex, ask her.

And if she says no, she means no.

I'd like to give some statistics on campus rape that might astound even Tom Strunk. All statistics are from the September/October 1990 issue of *Ms.* magazine. The surveys were taken from a sampling of college students around the country.

Fifty-one percent of the college men asked said they would rape a woman if they were certain they could get away with it. Fifteen percent of college men admitted they already had committed rape or attempted rape. Twenty-five percent of college women said they have experienced rape or attempted rape. Of these, eighty-four percent said they knew their assailants.

Are you astounded? I am. Every time I hear those figures, I am appalled. And people wonder why date rape films say things like "when a woman says no, she means no."

In his letter, Tom

expressed one of the most widely held myths concerning rape, which is, and I quote, "a woman should be educated on ways to protect herself from rape. For instance, this one unfortunate girl in the movie was raped after letting the rapist kiss and touch her."

Since when is that an invitation to rape? If a man is congenial toward a friend and that friend robs him, was the man asking to be robbed because he was nice to the guy? Of course not. So why

to say she was asking for it.

Listening to certain students on this campus, you'd think showing that movie was a violation of their rights and an aggressive attack on their maleness. It wasn't - not even close.

I find it quite humorous that such an approach - showing a film on campus rape - is considered to be 'leftist.' Do you want to hear about an outspoken attack on males?

In September of last year, at Brown University, female students wrote the names of men to avoid, men who raped and assaulted, on restroom walls. They held massive demonstrations; they made posters featuring inappropriate or offensive responses made by administration to survivors of sexual assault.

At Duke University last March, women tagged men they found walking alone at night with bright orange stickers that read "gotcha," and then gave them information packets about rape and sexual assault.

And even those are not 'leftist' tactics. Showing a movie is simply a humble beginning to a desperately needed consciousness raising program on campus rape. I think the administration should also hand out a

pamphlet to all incoming freshmen and transfer students which contains Penn State's sexual assault policy and a clear procedure for filing formal complaints. I personally have been approached by four women on campus who have been sexually assaulted by fellow students and who had no idea what to do.

I think there should be a mandatory disciplinary board appearance for all alleged perpetrators and the victims should be guaranteed anonymity outside the hearings. No one but the woman herself has the right to decide whether her courage in prosecuting her assailant should be public or private.

In this country alone, a rape is committed every six minutes. At that rate, one woman in four will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. With those kind of odds, I have no objection whatsoever to any method of rape education.

My sympathies to you, Tom, and to any other man who felt as if their pride had been hurt. Better your pride than my body.

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## Jennifer Flanagan

can't a woman show affection toward a romantic interest without being raped?

It doesn't matter how flirtatious a woman is, it doesn't matter how tight her clothes are, it doesn't matter how drunk she is; I don't care if a woman is naked and passed out on the floor, that is no excuse to violate her body. I agree that women need to be aware and need to protect themselves from harmful situations. But if a woman does end up in a dangerous situation, that doesn't give a man the right

translate into Russian.

If they ever develop an economy, the Russians will begin owning cars. And when that happens, they will learn to jump stop signs, cut each other off, tailgate, creep-block intersections, swing left before turning right, and all the other things that raise the blood pressure of their fellow man.

So they will need words for that, too. The most popular can not be printed here. Or even used with dashes. It refers to part of one's backside.

But high on the motorists' list of informal greetings is "----head." (If used with dashes, I believe that is permitted in a newspaper, so long as you remember to put the dashes in the right place.)

A woman who teaches a preschool class, made up of children who are driven to school by their mothers, says that even the least verbal of the tots knows "----head" after only three or four trips to school. And those whose mothers often drive in heavy traffic have usually picked up several words I cannot use with dashes.

And speaking of mothers, that is a wonderful, ancient word that has taken on a wide range of modern meanings and uses. In its most elaborate variation, it is

disgusting and those who use it should have their tongues torn out. But now otherwise decent people are heard to say: "I cannot figure out the instruction manual for this mother," or "I must have hit that mother 250 yards."

But I do not think we should try to teach the Russians that until they have mastered the proper use of "----head."

You may have noticed that I have not used any terms for female persons. That is because I can't think of any that are acceptable. There was a time when one might call a female person "doll," "sweetie," "babe," "cutie," "honey," "gal," "darlin'," or one of my all time favorites, "sweetpatootie."

But if you use any of these words now, the female person will become furious. And if you react to her anger by saying: "Hey, li'l gal, did anyone ever tell you that you're beautiful when you're mad?" as John Wayne said in about 25 movies, you could be dragged before the National Board of Insensitivity Inquiry and ruined forever.

Or even worse, she will call you a "----head."

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# Nicknames can be a bit tricky, Comrade

by Mike Royko

With all their other problems, now Soviets do not know what to call each other.

They have referred to each other as "comrade" since the 1917 Revolution. Comrade had a friendly, common ring to it, even when Comrade Stalin was having millions of his fellow comrades killed or executed.

But now that they have dumped communism, comrade is out. The problem is that after all those years, habits are hard to break and they don't have new words to replace the old.

Obviously, they could use Mr., Mrs., Miss or Ms., but that is so formal. They would become like the English and have to take laxatives. And in the free, open society they hope to build, there should be variety and informality.

And that is where we could help. There isn't another country in the world where people have as many terms for each other.

Just off the top of my head, I can think of a couple of dozen ways I've been addressed at different phases of my life, and in varying social circumstances.

Take "bub" or "buddy."

There's the traditional, "Hey, buddy, can you spare a fella' a few coins?"



Mike Royko

was one of the biggest thieves in City Hall and should be in jail." So it is worth the effort to remember names.

I gather from recent movies in which young people shoot each other like grouse, "bro" or "blood" or "homeboy" are popular in some circles. But I'm not sure how well they would