

Lincoln rapes up; victims urged to report attacks

By Sandy Mohr

Walking home at 10 p.m. you notice a car is following you slowly. Suddenly the male driver stops and turns off the head lights. Turning the next corner, you see him waiting for you.

This true story of Ms. Gina Washburn, chairman of the Lincoln Coalition Against Rape, did not result in rape. The man she encountered grabbed her breast and ran.

Under a new law, such an incident can be reported as a sexual assault. The statute which went into effect in August, terms rape and other sexual offenses as sexual assaults.

For a sexual assault conviction, evidence of a struggle is no longer needed, according to the new law. In addition, the victim's past sexual experiences have to be determined relevant by the judge before they can be brought up in court.

Men, too

The law also says a man may report sexual assault against him

Although the number of rapes around campus has decreased since last year, the number throughout Lincoln has risen, according to Lt. Jerry Smith of the Lincoln Police Dept.

Of the 33 rapes reported in Lincoln this year, 51.5 per cent have been cleared, said Linda Steinman, a policewoman who counsels rape victims.

One rape has been reported to Campus Police this year, Lt. Robert Edmunds of Campus Police said. That rape, at the

northeast corner of Andrews Hall still is under investigation, he said. All rapes occurring on campus are investigated by Campus Police.

A rape victim should call police immediately after the incident, Steinman said. Either she or one of the other four women on 24-hour rape call detail will take her to the hospital or meet her there, she said.

Women investigate

Since August 1974, rape cases have been investigated by policewomen, rather than policemen.

The policewoman goes with the victim into the hospital examining room.

If the victim does not know the assailant, police will construct a picture of his face with an "identikit," which contains shapes of faces and facial features.

Steinman said she thinks women are showing more confidence in reporting rapes. Confidence and sensitivity are also important in preventing a rape, she said.

"Have your mind together" when the man approaches, Steinman recommended.

Washburn, who helped organize the Lincoln Coalition Against Rape in October 1974, said to use verbal and physical assertiveness when dealing with a potential rapist.

"Immediately say 'no', and he may move on to somebody easier to subdue," she said.

Lecture

Washburn, a senior in European history,

gives four or five lectures a month on rape to students and community organizations.

"Walk briskly, look around, carry a whistle and don't wear clothing that would restrict running" when walking late at night, she said.

She also suggested that all women take a self-defense course.

Washburn is one of about 25 volunteer operators who answer calls for the 24-hour Rape Line. The Rape Line number is

477-5171, which also is the Personal Crisis Line.

The line receives about three calls a week, according to Kathy Smith, an operator. Most of those calls are for information, though, she said.

Operators for the line have 10 hours of training in phone counseling and information on hospital and police procedure and sexual assault laws, Smith said.

Free photo workshop set

Photographers will have the chance to attend the first UNL Leica College Seminar Dec. 3 and 4 in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

The free workshop is sponsored by the UNL School of Journalism and Max Miller Cameras.

William Pierce, a free-lance photographer whose credits include Boys' Life and Playboy magazines, will speak.

He now is under contract with Time magazine. Pierce has written and illustrated four chapters in the current Leica Manual.

Walter G. Heun also will speak. Heun has taught Leica photography and 35mm camera techniques at the Leitz plant in Wetzlar, Germany. He was honored with a photographic craftsman's degree by the Professional Photographer of America, Inc. in 1969 and received the 1970 Fellowship

Award presented by the National Press Photographers Association.

Pierce and Heun will discuss single lens reflex cameras, processing and enlarging. The schedule is:

Wednesday
 9:30-10:30 a.m.—Rangefinder and SLR Cameras—Heun.
 10:40-11:40 a.m.—Photographic esthetics of rangefinder and SLR—Pierce.
 1-2 p.m.—Lenses—Heun.
 2:10-3:10 p.m.—Tools in photojournalism—Pierce.
 3:40-4:40 p.m.—Black and white processing—Heun.
 4:50-5:50 p.m.—Available light, processing and enlarging 35 m.m. negatives—Pierce.

Thursday
 9:30-10:30 a.m.—Closeup photography and slide presentation—Heun.
 10:40-11:40 a.m.—"Where Do We Go From Here?"—Pierce.
 1 p.m.—question and answer period.

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