



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Rape: it could happen at any time at any place, but walking home alone at night is inviting a disaster that could easily be avoided.

Awareness of self, others dissuades potential rapists

By Kate Gaul

A man approaches the lone brunette seated at the bar. Disco music and strobe lights jell the scene into an eerie artificiality. But the atmosphere is like most popular bars.

"Hey baby, what's happenin'?", he asks, sliding onto the stool next to her. She giggles and smiles politely, even though she secretly wishes he'd bug off. He makes her nervous, although she doesn't know why.

Sound familiar?

According to Gina Washburn of the Lincoln Rape Crisis Center, that is a situation which could lead to rape.

"Don't be friendly or polite once suspicions are aroused. Friendliness may confirm his suspicion that you are capable of being victimized," she said.

Washburn said "awareness" of oneself, one's surrounding and of others, can prepare women for a rape situation and possibly prevent one.

Being aware does not mean a woman must drastically alter her lifestyle or mode of dressing.

"If you're wearing provocative clothing, your expressions (firm, aggressive "no") will let him know your intentions," Washburn said.

Mental preparation

Washburn and Officer Joy Wemmer of the Lincoln Police Department both said

that a woman should imagine what she would do if she were raped.

This mental preparation should not be "paranoid but constructive," Washburn said.

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Renovations in the union finished soon

The Harvest Room entry renovation and the addition of a cigarette machine and bill changer to the north end of the Nebraska Union are the remodeling changes in the union this summer, according to Frank Kuhn, assistant director and operations manager of the union.

The Harvest Room entry renovation, which was scheduled to be completed earlier this week, was made to draw more traffic to the dining room, Kuhn said. As it was designed before many people were not aware that a dining room was in that area of the Union, he said.

The entry has been redesigned with orange, green and gold awnings over new glass entry and exit doors. The carpeted area in front of the doors has been replaced with brick colored tile.

The addition of a cigarette machine and bill changer near the north desk should help ease crowding and waiting time at the desk, he added.

A delicatessen will be added to the former Harvest Room coatroom in October, according to Bob Richeson, Nebraska Union food service manager.

The delicatessen was scheduled to be completed this summer but there has been a delay in getting materials, Kuhn said.

The delicatessen will sell cold cuts for sandwiches and bulk items for take home use, Richeson said. Hot entrees will be added later.

Richeson said the deli will be open at night for the convenience of students who cannot get items from the other dining areas of the Union.

Construction cost of the Harvest Room entry was \$15,000, Kuhn said. Both the Harvest Room entry and the delicatessen were approved by the Nebraska Union Board last year.