

# opinion/editorial

## Rape is violently degrading and demands prosecution

Rape is a violent and degrading act and can leave victims feeling ashamed, violated and afraid.

The most effective ways to stop rape must include understanding what conditions are conducive to rapes, learning what precautions should be taken, how to handle an attacker and prosecution of rapists.

It can be a disgusting experience to personally learn how defense attorneys may work in a rape trial. They can publicly degrade the victim by asking such questions as "did you enjoy it?" "were you wearing intisive clothing" or "do you always walk on unlit streets?"

Victims should be emotionally

prepared for such questions if they have the courage to press charges.

The Lincoln police have become more sensitive in their questioning practices of victims and the judicial system should learn such tact.

Successful prosecution is the most effective way to rid the streets of rapists so they can receive professional help.

In certain situations, men who experience rape may undergo the same emotions a raped woman does. In prisons, men who are raped usually feel ashamed and don't report the incident until they have talked it over with a friend.

Most prison rape prosecutions in Lancaster County are unsuccessful.

Corroboration is required for successful prosecution. Corroboration means that physical evidence such as the presence of semen, or physical marks are obtained.

Inmates are afraid of the stigma attached to being raped by another man. The rape can make them question their masculinity.

It is the general feeling of deputy Lancaster county attorney Stephen Youngblut and Director of Correctional Services Joseph Vitek that rape does not satisfy primarily sexual urges, rather it is a violent degrading act.

Rape is not an act to satisfy a sexual drive. It is a crime and the rapists should not under any circum-

stance be let free nor should the judicial system make a trial a degrading experience for the victim.

Events such as Rape Awareness Week can teach women how to avoid possible rapes and prepare themselves for what they would do if attacked.

Women also can learn how to protect themselves by contacting such agencies as the Lincoln Rape Crisis Center.

Women who have been raped need to decide if they want to rid themselves and society of the rapists badly enough to go to court.

Or possibly face the rapist again.



## letters

Kate Gaul's columns continue to feature angry polemics based on simplistic assumptions in the face of complex social issues. In her discussion of rape in the Oct. 6 *Daily Nebraskan* she picks up the thesis that rape is a tool which men (as a group) use to oppress women (as a group) as the basis for her article.

This thesis has been widely rejected by both male and female scholars, yet Gaul asserts its truth without comment, as though it were an established fact. There are indeed too many rapes, but the vast majority of males, even in this country, find rape to be as deplorable an act as do females.

Gaul should examine her own attitude if she indeed finds herself "suspicious of half the human population." A statement like that is parallel to saying that all members of a certain race are suspect because some individuals among it commit a murder. Further, the fact that "nearly every victim is female, nearly every criminal is male" does not point to con-

spiracy. Rather than conspiracy, it simply points to the fact that a) sex most frequently involves persons opposite in sex type, and b) that it is far easier physically for a man to rape a woman than vice versa. This means, practically, that a male with mental problems might be found expressing them in rape, whereas the problems in a woman would have to be reflected in some other way. (In using the term "mental problems" I do not mean to imply that the rapist should not be held criminally responsible for his act).

Gaul also asserts that rape has nothing to do with "sexual desire of the male." All of the evidence is not in on this aspect of the issue. An editorial in the *Omaha World Herald* which appeared the same day as Gaul's column, reported on research presented at the recent meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Toronto. One paper found that pornography did in fact increase male aggression toward females, and second, found that it even increased aggression of females

toward females. More research is needed, but if a connection is found between sexual arousal and rape, then the arguments that things such as women's dress have nothing to do with rape will have to be re-evaluated. To say that women who are raped are often dressed modestly proves nothing; the source of the arousal and the target of the aggression may not be the same, as in the case of the above mentioned research. Certainly rape is an act of violence, but a peculiar sort of violence; violence involving a sexual act. To ignore the sexual component in assessing the causes of rape seems to involve an absurd assumption.

If the results of this research receive confirmation in the future, society will have to take a hard look at how openly it will allow sex to be portrayed and practiced. Perhaps there is a connection between the increasing openness about sex in recent years and the continuing increase in rape. Even allowing for increased reporting of the crime, the sexual openness has

certainly not resulted in decrease sex crimes.

Nevertheless, we cannot fault Gaul for wanting to keep the problem of rape in the public eye. It is indeed serious, and she is right in stating that laws and procedures have too long been weighted in the rapists' favor. But it is not in the service of society to oversimplify; to blow the serious crimes of individual men and the problems of our legal system into a conspiracy conceived and executed by the entire male sex throughout history; nor is it wise to fail to examine all available evidence before making decisions about causes and solutions.

Terry Christlieb  
Graduate, Pre Med.

## It's a natural gas

Who can we believe? See Northern natural gas ad from the current *TV Guide*.

Professor Boohar has a right to his opinion, but I wonder about his credibility. So many experts have cried wolf so long. I wonder what they really want us to do. Many people are saving fuel—even riding the bus to school and work.

Boohar has a "reputation" for expressing gloom and doom in other areas, I believe.

Wasn't he the gent who told students and others that we were running out of food all over the world? He predicted a famine, which would turn all the Third World countries against the U.S. And I think he also warned that these underprivileged people would soon produce atomic weapons, and use them on us.

He also preached population control (while producing four or five Boohar youngsters).

Why not ask a qualified spokesman from the energy business (maybe the president of Northern Natural Gas) to comment on our petroleum reserves—and other sources of energy available to use after 1985.

John R. Ritzman

## We will win

Sadat's flag and Begin's Israeli flag are interchangeable, and the only legitimate flag of the area is the flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization or the flag of U.A.R.—which Sadat has betrayed! Nasser was the greatest leader of the Arabs.

When these Israeli or Korean or Carter CIA insects torture and murder someone, their works are published, and like Steve Biko, they become symbols to their people and famous in the history of human struggle for liberty. We will win! Venceremos! In Latin America, down with Somoza and Batista—down with the fascists and capitalists and CIA! Kick the pigs out of the Sandanista's Worker's Republic of Nicaragua!

Max Dalrymple



## Mountain magic needed to fix lovers' fights

I saw a story the other day about a Congressman stalking out of the White House after the president refused to call a "Camp David summit conference" on unemployment.

The article quoted Carter as saying such a conference would not be "appropriate." So I called a friend of mine who works at the White House to find out more.

### arthur hoppe

"Why wouldn't it be appropriate, Jody?" I asked my friend, who wishes to remain anonymous. "Camp David is a swell place to solve problems. I know Mrs. Begin is a little sore that Menachem didn't learn to swim while he was there, but otherwise everything worked out great."

#### Camp crowded

"That's the problem," said Jody. "Now everybody wants to go to Camp David to solve their problems. We couldn't get unemployment in until 1981. But Jimmy figured now he's got that problem licked. 'What's he going to do?'"

"He's going to franchise a chain of Camp Davids on mountaintops across the country."

"And they'll deal with domestic problems?" I asked.

"Jimmy figures we can save half a million marriages in the first year alone," agreed Jody.

The way it works, he explained, is that when you and your spouse have a spat, simply call up your nearest Camp David and make a reservation for the first available 13-day "U-Fite-We-Fix" session.

#### Hugs and kisses

On your arrival at camp, your counselor will greet each of you with a warm hug and a big smile and will assign you to your separate quarters.

You may then sign up for the usual camp activities such as archery lessons, instructions in how to make authentic Navaho beaver tail key rings, and the ever-popular course in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation with members of the opposite sex.

With luck, you won't see your spouse until the final day when your counselor brings you goether for the closing ceremonies. At that time, everyone grins and applauds and embraces each other and you

sign an agreement promising never to fight with your spouse again and you live happily ever...

"Wait a minute, Jody," I said. "How do the counselor get the fighting couple to sign the agreement?"

#### Slow death

"I guess I forgot to mention that for eight hours a day you're locked in a bare room with a tape loop of Jimmy's collected speeches."

"No offense, Jody," I said, "but all that's going to do is bore them to death."

"If it worked with Begin and Sadat," said Jody with dignity. "it should work with life long enemies. In fact, we tried it on one couple who had been fighting for years over whether it was important to close the closet door in the bedroom before going to sleep."

"And they agreed on the door?"

"No, but they agreed on limited sovereignty for the Palestinian people."

"Well, I hope you work the bugs out of it, Jody."

"We'd better. Peace in the Middle East is one thing, but domestic problems are bigger than all of us."

(Copyright, 1978, Chronicle Publishing Co.)