

Rape victims suffer twice—feminist

By Alice Hrnicek

Next to homicide, rape is the crime feared most by the public, Margaret Heller, a psychologist at a New York rape crisis center told an audience in the Nebraska Union yesterday. She added that the greatest fear of the victims during rape is that they will be killed.

Heller addressed more than 200 students and faculty about understanding the rape experience, realizing why society has rape, and deciding what can be done to stop it.

The Women's Resource Center sponsored the speech. Heller will speak again Friday at 3 p.m. in the Union Ballroom.

A rape victim undergoes brutality twice, Heller said. First, the rapist terrifies and leaves a permanent scar. "The second intruder is us," she added. "We are a society that pretends to want to protect her (the victim) but further humiliates and offends her after the rape."

After-the-rape victimizers include the family, who is ashamed of the woman, and insensitive people, who say she should have enjoyed the experience, she said.

Fastest growing crime

Even more guilty of this "second rape" is the legal system, she noted. The attitude of judges and jurors who refuse to sentence or convict a rapist adds to the problem. So do defense lawyers who view rape victims condescendingly and consider them promiscuous, she said.

Rape is the fastest growing crime in America, but it has the lowest arrest rate, she said. Last year, more than 70,000 women reported rapes and an estimated 350,000 rapes actually occurred, Heller said.

Heller asked the people questions about how they would feel about themselves, strangers, lovers if they were raped.

Rape in marriage

In most states, rape within marriages is condoned, she said. The law sees rape of the wife as part of the husband's

ownership rights. "Some states have a spousal exclusion clause which makes the husband immune from rape." Although Nebraska has no such clause, Heller noted that the fact has never been tested.

The traditional purpose of marriage has been to ensure the "father right" so that men would be sure of who their sons were in order to pass on inheritance claims, she said. In ancient Hebrew culture, when a married woman was raped, both the victim and the rapist were put to death, she said.

"In all societies, the rape of a virgin has always been more significant," Heller said.

Rape is encouraged as a rite of passage to manhood in our society, Heller pointed out. "We don't always call it rape. We glorify men having sex with a lot of women. The reaction of a woman is rarely a concern."

Rape convictions

Heller added that rape is used as a patriarchal tool to keep women in their sex role.

"A prostitute will never get a conviction when she is raped," she said. "The ethic is that it was appropriate for them to be punished this way."

"The only kind of rape that is insured of a conviction is a black man raping a white woman," she said. "This is because of the white man's attitude to their property."

To deal with the problem, Heller believes that sexism must be eliminated. She contends that this is a long-term project.

Included in the process is an act of separating sex and violence, of eliminating pornography. Help must also be provided to the victim, such as the Lincoln Rape Crisis Center, she said.

More importantly, massive education is needed on ways to prevent and deal with rape, she explained.

"I have difficulty with the preventative effort because it assumes that the crime is blamed on the victim," she said. "We must deal with an ignorance by the community on how to handle rape."



Photo by Mary Anne Golon

Margaret Heller

Summer sessions sign-up continues

Early registration for this year's summer sessions continue until March 28.

A special Saturday registration will be held March 24 from 8 to 11:30 a.m., according to Al Seagren, director of summer sessions.

He said students may early register through April 13 for the first summer session and June 8 for the second session. But, "for class priority, students should early register between March 12 and March 24," Seagren said.

Registration for summer sessions is free for all but new students. Tuition is \$22.50 per credit hour and fees are \$5.75 or \$9.76 depending on how many hours are carried.

short stuff

Phi Upsilon Omicron will meet tonight at 1 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

NU-Meds will meet at 7 p.m. in the union. Room number will be posted. Dr. Robert Osborn will be the featured speaker.

The UNL Cycle Road Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the union. Room number

will be posted.

Orchisis, the UNL Modern Dance workshop, will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at Mabel Lee Hall 304.

The Women's Resource Center and Talks & Topics Committee are sponsoring a lecture by Margaret Heller at 3 p.m. Friday in the East Campus Union. Room number will be posted.

calendar

7 a.m.—Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, Room 337.

8:30 a.m.—Student Affairs Staff, Room 243.

9 a.m.-4 p.m.—Nebraska Symposium on Motivation, Ballroom.

12:30 p.m.—School of Journalism Luncheon, Room 242.

12:30 p.m.—Campus Crusade for Christ, Room 122.

1:30 p.m.—Student Life Judicial Review, Room 216.

2 p.m.—UPC-City Showcase, South Crib.

4 p.m.—I.F.C.-Panhellenic Presidents, Room 202A.

4 p.m.—NUPIRG, Room 122.

4:30 p.m.—Nebraska Human Resources Foundation—L.D.P., Room 216.

6 p.m.—CAP Organizational Workshop, Room 243.

6 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Harvest Room C.

6 p.m.—Multi-Cultural Affairs Tutoring, North Conference Room.

7 p.m.—Phi Upsilon Omicron, Room 225.

7 p.m.—MASA, Room 203.

7 p.m.—Graduate Student Association, Harvest Room A.

7 p.m.—Beta Alpha Psi, Room 241.

7 p.m.—Christian Science Counselor, Room 225G.

7 p.m.—N.U. Meds, Room 232.

7 p.m.—Alpha Tau Omega Bible Study Group, Room 343.

7 p.m.—Abel-Sandoz Rehearsal, Centennial Room.

7:30 p.m.—Women's Resource Center—Gay Crisis Line, Room 202A.

7:30 p.m.—Cycle Road Club, Auditorium.

7:30 p.m.—Students Concerned with International Affairs, South Conference Room.

7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors, Room 225B-C.

7:30 p.m.—A.U.P., Room 337.

8 p.m.—Residence Hall Association, Pewter Room.

9 p.m.—SOAR, North Conference Room.

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