

## opinion/editorial

### Escort services gratifying response to rape fears

With rumors and reports of numerous sexual assaults occurring on or near campus in recent weeks, this university has become a place of fear for many women.

Although apparently the rumors have been unfounded or greatly exaggerated, the UNL and city police departments are urging women to take precautions and are offering to make presentations on how to prevent sexual assaults.

This is good. By learning about rape, its causes and how to prevent it, the fear of many women will be greatly alleviated.

The response of the police departments and that of the campus as a whole to the situation has been gratifying. Not only are the police working with various campus groups, but at least one fraternity and one residence hall complex have begun escort services for UNL women.

Women who would like escorts can call the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and request that someone from the house accompany them to their destinations.

Men of Harper Hall are escorting the women of Smith Hall and the Schramm men are serving as escorts

for the women who share the coed hall with them.

An off-campus group which can serve as a valuable resource for the entire campus is the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

The Center works closely with both the UNL and Lincoln police departments and like them, has rape prevention presentations available upon request. The office at the Family Services Association, 1133 H. St. is open to anyone interested in learning about sexual assault.

For the woman who has been sexually assaulted, the Center has a

24-hour phone line, 475-RAPE, and volunteer workers who will accompany the victim to the hospital if she desires that someone be with her. Short-term counseling is available and if necessary the woman will be referred to counselors for long-term assistance. All their work is strictly confidential.

Sexual assault is not a laughing matter. Any assistance which can be given to alleviate the fears of UNL women, to help prevent sexual assault and to help the victim after such an incident can only be beneficial to the campus.

### Title IX problem continues at UNL

The Title IX issue has been controversial since day one. And it is no hidden fact that UNL was not in compliance, at least athletically, when it became effective in 1975.

Title IX states that no person shall be discriminated against in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

shelley smith

In 1975, as a means to ensure compliance, which HEW required by June 1976, UNL Chancellor Roy Young formed a self-study committee.

The committee concluded in a report that in order for the university to become compliant the following would have to occur:

- adequate equipment and supplies will have to be made available to the women's teams.
- travel and per diem allowances for members of women's teams will have to be increased;
- opportunity for coaching must be improved in women's sports;
- the salaries paid to coaches of women's sports must be improved;
- improvement must be made in the quantity and quality of medical and training facilities made available to women athletes;
- some improvement needs to be made in the quantity and quality of women's facility support services;
- additional support staff will have to be made available to the Women's Athletic Director;
- more athletic grant-in-aid dollars will have to be made available to female athletes.

The report stated that the athletic department was currently working on a plan which would place UNL in compliance by July 21, 1978.

But, July 21, 1978 came and passed, and there still has been no word on the improvements UNL has made or if any have been made at all.

And, although HEW has not made any kind of declaratory decision concerning the rules of compliance, UNL still had not checked on its own progress and is only doing so now apparently because it is forced to.

The new self-study committee, appointed by UNL Chancellor Roy Young at the end of August, was, according to one committee member, appointed because of a rumor that HEW was planning to investigate the university.

Before, the member said, HEW was "big and far away," and no one ever thought they would check up on university compliance.

"The Chancellor gave us one month for our investigation but last month, by some fluke, HEW came and reviewed us on something else," the committee member said.

The committee is made up of eight university faculty members, two students and one Lincoln community member. Only one faculty member has anything to do with women's sports—Barb Hibner, assistant athletic director for women's athletics, and only one other member has anything to do with athletics at all—Don Bryant, sports information director.

The committee, last Sunday night, held their first open meeting with women athletes and dubbed it an "information gathering session."

Chancellor Young, when contacted, claimed HEW's lack of an official interpretation of Title IX as an excuse for no earlier compliance study.

However, although no interpretation was made, UNL still should have been making every effort to ensure compliance as required by law.



### Pregnant teens to get federal aid

WASHINGTON—Some federal money—though little more than loose change in the government's deep pocket—is finally going where it's needed: for the care of pregnant adolescents. Last week, HEW awarded \$740,000 to four comprehensive service centers for young women—some as young as 12 or 13—who are either pregnant or already mothers.

colman mccarthy

Although federal involvement in the problem of what is called "children having children" dates to the mid-60s, it was only last November that Congress created the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs within HEW. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the main sponsor of the legislation, did what he could to win adequate funding for OAPP. But instead of \$60 million that was requested, the actual sum expected to be appropriated this year is \$17 million.

Debates about money billow the sails of every piece of social legislation that moves through Congress. But with the budget people having had their iron say, a debate of philosophies now dominates the discussion of what the program should emphasize as it starts out.

Supporters of the contraception-abortion-sex education approach want to stress "primary prevention." They despair at the figures: one million teen-age pregnancies a year, 600,000 births, three in four babies born to black teenagers are illegitimate and one in five among white teenagers. This, it is said, is the result of "continued ignorance" about sex, reproduction, fertility control and parenthood. Primary prevention is seen as the most effective way of dealing with "the epidemic."

The other reproach involves comprehensive supportive service programs for the young women. These would increase the chances for the physical and emotional health

of the mother and baby, and for both to go on to lead useful and whole lives.

In following this debate for the past few years, as well as visiting the Johns Hopkins Center for School-Aged Mothers and Their Infants—unknown as the best program in the country—I think the second approach is much sounder and more humane.

TO BEGIN with, it rightly rejects the notion that teenage pregnancy is an epidemic, as though this is a sudden outbreak of Swine Flu that can be handled with the quick-fix of a miracle drug. Too many social workers have reported the bad news that this solution of show-them-a-film-and-hand-them-a-diaphragm hasn't done much. Dr. James Jekel of Yale Medical School says: "As in many areas of public health, those at highest risk are least likely to use the services."

The thrust behind the contraceptive ethic is that the young—especially the "ignorant" young who are black or poor—deserve to be read out of society because they have sinned. The offense isn't the old-fashioned one of loose sexual morals but the modern and more horrible one of sinning against the budget. If society, it is said, ends up paying for those babies through the immense costs of welfare and food stamps, then it has a right to command obedience to the eleventh commandment, Thou Shalt Not Strain the Federal Budget.

But the birth rate among adolescents—girls 17 and under—continues to rise. Dr. Janet Hardy, the co-director of the Johns Hopkins center in Baltimore and an inspiring physician, says that we are dealing with a diversity of problems. Some are as obvious as poor nutrition, others are the deeper wounds of self-alienation. All of them, she says, "stem from the physical and psycho-social immaturity which, in many instances, leads to complications of pregnancy and fetal damage on the one hand and to a less than adequate family environment in which to nurture children on the other."