

Fraternity 'infantile subculture' Author: Male definition of sexuality fosters rape

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

Fraternity rape generally occurs in "infantile male subcultures," and needs to be confronted with education and the end of sadomasochistic rituals, a rape awareness author said Monday.

Peggy Reeves Sanday, author of Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Privilege and Brotherhood on Campus, said the behavior exhibited in "infantile male subcultures" fosters rape by defining male sexuality in biological terms.

"It's the idea that if boys get drunk, they can't control these hormones," the University of Pennsylvania anthropology professor said before a mostly female audience of about 110 people in the Nebraska Union.

She said that because many young people don't know the legal definition of rape, she would give the audience the general wording. Rape is the penetration of the body without consent — with the nonconsent arising from intoxication or some other reason, Sanday said.

The subculture leads to rape with some of its excuses, she said.

One excuse is that "boys in the subculture have the right and the privilege to get drunk and get laid" to get away from the boredom of college, she said.

Another cause of rape in the subculture occurs when boys define their sexuality by the pornography they watch, Sanday said.

This definition is called the "porno mode," she said, and it leads boys to think that demeaning female sexual roles are normal.

Sanday gave examples of three rape cases that were observed by students who worked with her on her book.

The first was "working the 'yes'

— 66 —
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Sanday
author of a book on fraternity gang rape

— 99 —
out." This occurs when a female is coerced into saying "yes" to sex, she said.

One of her students heard fraternity brothers talking about how "no means no at the moment, but there might be some other way of getting the 'yes' out."

"Working a 'yes' out" is commonly done through alcohol, she said.

"Pulling train" occurs when men line up like a train and rape a girl who is either passed out or too weak to protest, Sanday said. There have been 110 documented cases of "pulling train" in the past decade, she said.

An initiation ritual that has members rid themselves of femininity is a third case in which demeaning sexual actions are encouraged, Sanday said.

She read a transcript of a ritual in which fraternity pledges were blindfolded with maxi-pads, had their scrotums painted with Ben-Gay and were submerged in ice water.

They then drank a mixture of sour milk, hot peppers and squid until they vomited the femininity out of them, she said.

A rape-free campus can be encouraged by enforceable alcohol and sexual harassment policies, counselors who specialize in rape and rape prevention and judicial procedures that deal specifically with sexual abuse, Sanday said.

Admissions

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"Part of what disturbs me about this is that there are a variety of ways of judging students. Bad grades in high school do not always mean someone is not able," he said.

McShane said there are political as well as academic concerns involved.

"The political support for this institution will not be served in the long haul by telling more and more people in the state of Nebraska that they cannot come here," he said.

NU Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha was more receptive to tougher standards.

"I'm in favor of raising academic standards, but not to the point it becomes exclusionary," she said.

"I hope it (the debate) sends a message to high schools that they need to send us better-prepared students."

UNL currently is admitting "quasi-remedial" freshmen, Skrupa said.

She said that requiring competency tests in English, writing and math for admittance to UNL would be an appropriate standard.

Higher standards would not turn UNL into an elitist institution, Skrupa said.

"Harvard or Yale standards would be elitist. We need reasonable standards done fairly, thoughtfully and in an organized way."

"College education is not the end-all of our society any more," she said.

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk agreed.

"I approve of higher standards," she said. "We have to make sure our

FRESHMEN ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

incoming freshmen must meet one of the three following requirements.

- 1) Have taken these core requirements in high school.
 - A) 4 years of English
 - B) 2 years of Advanced Math
 - C) 2 years of Natural Science
 - D) 2 years of Social Science
- 2) Have graduated in upper half of high school class
- 3) ACT composite score of 20 or an SAT of 850.

Source: Office of Academic Affairs

Scott Maurer/Daily Nebraskan

students are prepared to enter the world."

Robinson said she sees a need for the kind of education that will prepare people not for the past, but for the future.

"We need to move with the issues that are important to the 21st century."

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln said he is concerned about the issue of raised standards.

"I think the whole state should be concerned about it," he said. "We don't want to become or be thought of as an elitist institution."

"What's happening right now is

the whole issue is being raised again by the budget squeeze. It magnifies the conflict between access and quality."

Wilson said the university must make a tough decision between open access and declining quality or high quality and limited access.

Joe Rowson, NU director of public affairs, said NU President Martin Masengale has announced he will form a committee to review standards on all four NU campuses.

Rowson said it has been a long time since the university reviewed its standards and it is probably time they were looked at again.

Rape panel points to UNL liability

By Alan Phelps
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln could be held responsible for rapes in unsafe areas on campus, members of a Monday afternoon panel agreed.

Paul Campbell, a professor of criminal justice at Wayne State College, said that a college or university can be held liable for rapes that occur on campus.

"If you identify a rapist or a dangerous building or social situation, then the college must by law do something about it," he said. "If this was a shopping mall and somebody was raped in the parking lot, then the next victim owns that shopping mall. They are liable."

About 70 people attended the panel discussion as a part of a women and

violence workshop in the Nebraska Union. The workshop was held in conjunction with "Violence Against Women Awareness Week."

"It's not the victim's fault if she is in a situation that's high risk," Marcee Metzger of the Lincoln Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center said. "We need to hold the perpetrator accountable."

Metzger said that from 1984 to 1986, a campus security advisory committee at UNL sent surveys to women faculty members and some women students asking them which campus buildings they thought were unsafe. All but one building, Metzger said, was identified as unsafe. Only two of the buildings have since been brought up to the safety standards recommended, she said.

Also in the report, 80 percent of the women surveyed reported some form of sexual harassment, and 25

percent of the cases would qualify as sexual assault under state law, she said.

UNL administrators have not released the report, Metzger said.

Judith Alexander of the UNL Women's Resource Center called on audience members to ask UNL Interim Chancellor Jack Goebel to make the report public. Those attending also were urged to sign a petition as they left the room.

"In the past four years I've heard of rapes occurring at an alarming rate," Alexander said. "I've run into a lack of concern on part of the administrators."

Alexander said this lack of concern appears in many sectors of the campus.

"When we were going around asking groups for funding for this event, we got little financial support," she said.

Zariski

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of the political science department at the University of California-Los Angeles, as one former student who keeps in touch.

"That's a case of a student who outdid his professor," he says with a laugh.

His own days as a student of political science were sparked by a passionate interest in the New Deal.

The period inspired him because it seemed like it would produce a better world.

"In many ways, I liked political science more because of my values

than because of an interest in the discipline."

He says his father was another major influence on his career.

His father was a mathematics professor, he says, and a good one.

"He once wrote that mathematics was a lovely lady that would never desert him."

Has political science been that lovely lady for him?

"Well, an interesting one, at least."

Leaning back in his chair, Zariski says he has enjoyed his career but regrets not achieving more earlier in life.

"When you are younger you don't think about life as much," he says. "But as you enter your 60s, you start to ask if you have done everything you could have."

This from a man who by age 31 had received his undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard, been awarded a Purple Heart in World War II and had his first journal article published.

Still, Zariski says he thinks he hasn't yet fulfilled his creative abilities.

"I've done my best work since I was 55. I'm 65 now, and I'll certainly go to 70 — maybe even a little longer."

When Zariski does decide to retire, he will have plenty of time to catch up on his reading.

"I suppose I do have a lot of books," he says, laughing.

"But when you divide the number by 30 or 40 years it's not so many a year."

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