

Attitudes about rape haven't changed

by Karen Splawn

Well, the inevitable finally happened. Certain newspapers printed the name of the Palm Beach rape victim.

Nearly everyone has read about the now-infamous attack which took place in the sun-kissed land of easy living and unapologetic wealth: Back in late March, a woman, said to be the stepdaughter of an industrialist, went to the Kennedy compound for a drink.

While walking on the beach, she was allegedly assaulted by a formerly obscure (to the public *en masse*, anyway) member of one of the most famous families ever. Journalists from all mediums got to

work, and the story built from there—the gossip about snotty Palm Beach, the rumors of the incident, and Ted Kennedy's ugly past are fair game. It seemed to be your average scandalous rape story (sexual assault, unfortunately, occurs so often that most people accept it like they accept the sun rising and setting every day).

Then, this crime story took a bizarre turn. The victim's name was mentioned on reports on the NBC evening news and several newspapers, including one in London.

The alleged victim reportedly didn't want her name used. The Kennedys are used to being

in the spotlight. She isn't.

Before all of this, printing the name of any sexual assault victim was a journalistic taboo. Rape was a crime of violence, horror and shame, and to be known as a rape victim was to forever be equated with damaged goods.

If it happened to you, some might feel sympathy, but others not so enlightened might think when they saw you on the street, "Did she/he ask for it?" If you were lucky, and weren't afraid to testify, your attacker might get a prison sentence.

Those filthy men who gang-raped a woman in New Bedford, Mass. in 1984 all got sentences of 10 years and up, because the woman was gutsy enough to face them in court.

That was nearly seven years ago, but attitudes about rape haven't drastically changed. In the 1989 Central Park jogger case, supporters of the defendants blamed the woman for the attack.

Several women traumatized by rape, including celebrities, have come forward. Their bravery is admirable, but what about those who don't want their names printed?

Splawn is a staff reporter, and former editor in chief, of The Yellin' Rebel.

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Top Ten Advantages of being a Student Government Director

by Tricia Goldberg

10. No more fretting about that silly GPA!
9. Qualifies you to work as a used car salesman!
8. Doodling skills will improve dramatically!
7. Complimentary banquet at Caesars on student money!
6. Hire all your friends and family!
5. Enrollment in school unnecessary—stay home and watch Green Acres re-runs all day!
4. You'll be a big weasel, but you won't know it!
3. Money for nothing—laugh all the way to the bank!
2. Change the rules as you go along!
1. If you fight, you win!

Raising university entrance requirements is detrimental to cultural diversion

by Thomas Rodriguez

After reading the article "UNLV entrance requirements could be raised" in the April 9 issue of *The Yellin' Rebel*, I felt compelled to respond in order to correct erroneous assumptions set forth in the article.

Briefly, the article argued that students with low grade point averages and test scores are more likely to drop out of school, that underprepared students tend to lower the quality and level of instruction available to all students, and that students who are denied admission based on higher requirements could be better served by attending community colleges who are better able to help underprepared students in developing to a point where they can then transfer to the university and graduate.

Are these assumptions correct, particularly with regard to

community colleges being a transfer system into universities? The answer to this question is critically important since it will, if the raising of entrance requirements is adopted, provide the major vehicle for minority students to obtain a college degree.

In examining the rationale, statistical evidence shows that community colleges are not better prepared to help students prepare for college. For example, in California, the nation's most populated state, the record for minorities attending community colleges and then going on to a four-year university is shockingly low. Last year, of nearly 1.8 million students enrolled in community colleges, only 60,000 (3.3 percent) transferred to public universities.

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community college will be the end of their educational career. For these individuals, community colleges are little more than an open door that leads nowhere.

This sad reality is made even

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worse given the fact that in April 1988, the Commission on the Future of Community Colleges in their report "Building Communities: A Vision for a New Century"

documented that community colleges serve almost one-half of all the nation's college students. They also enroll 55 percent of all Hispanic students and 43 percent of Native American college students. With regard to the college dropout problem the report stated, "Because they lack basic skills, many minority students in community colleges are enrolled in remedial courses, are screened out of demanding technical programs and are far less likely to transfer."

Similar concerns regarding the commitment of higher education to minorities were debated at a 1987 national conference on higher organized by the American Council on Education. At the conference, then President of the American Council on Education Robert Atwell said, "When I talk to people in higher education, I get the impression that many of them think it's too bad that minorities

have failed. But we have to turn that around. We have failed minorities."

Supporting this position, Diana Natalicio, then interim President of the University of Texas El Paso, said "Colleges with limited graduate programs often see the route to their success as raising admission standards and expanding research programs, even if those activities come at the expense of minority students."

For these and many more good reasons, the Board of Regents should move slowly in the raising of admission requirements. At present, there is simply not enough evidence to accurately gauge the impact that such a decision will have on minorities and poor whites.

Rodriguez is a member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Protesting a depiction doesn't affect reality

by Debbie Tubbesing

I recently saw "The Silence of the Lambs." I found the movie to be both brutally honest and an important piece of filmmaking. But this isn't meant to be a movie review. It's an opinion on how there is a need for movies like "The Silence of the Lambs" as long as violence is prevalent in today's society.

Newsweek recently featured the topic of violence in current movies, literature and television. On its cover was one of the principal characters from the movie "The Silence of the Lambs," Dr. Hannibal Lecter, also known as Hannibal the Cannibal. The plot of the movie (without giving it away) is simply an educated, strong, but inexperienced female FBI agent matching wits with a brilliant but insane serial killer/psychiatrist in order to catch another serial killer who skins his female victims. (Yes, all of the victims involved were female.) I admit the movie depicted horrendous crimes against humanity and its ending was unsettling. What shocks me are the reports that feminists are boycotting this movie because it is perceived as an "exploitive" movie about women.

Nothing could be further from the truth. There is no nudity, no gratuitous sex or violence, and Foster's character is a strong, competent woman. What the people boycotting this movie fail to realize is that violence against women is an all too real fact of life.

Both *USA Today* and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* have reported that rape and attempted

rape has increased dramatically in the last year. Rape in Nevada has increased by more than 16 percent, according to some reports. Remember, these are only reported rapes. I was living here when a pretty Boulder City teenager was kidnapped from a local mall and found dead a week later. It was discovered that a serial

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killer, posing as a photographer, was traveling on a cross-country killing spree. This unfortunate young woman was just one of his many victims.

I could continue with numerous crimes against women. The point is that rather than boycott important movies such as "The Silence of the Lambs," energies are better spent preventing and

combating violence in society. If there is a need to boycott (not censor) some form of entertainment, stay away from "slasher" films and teen comedies that feature nothing but nudity and helpless women. These so-called films depict women as objects, and violence against women is accepted in these movies. This is the attitude to fight, not a film about a depiction of a crime, no matter how horrendous or whom it affects.

Entertainment is said to be a reflection of society. This society we live in today is violent and at times a very scary place to be. This is especially true for women. "The Silence of the Lambs" may reflect this danger, but it doesn't add to it. If anything, it should inspire all of us to do what we can to create a more peaceful, loving society. Then movies such as this one will become relics of a past society.

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