

A rape victim speaks out

by Kelly Hansen

It started when I was 15. I never realized it was date rape until I read about it. I always thought it was normal to be forced into sex. It happened to me over a period of two years. I never reported it or told anyone what was going on. He always threatened to kill me if I didn't do what he wanted in terms of sex. I didn't want to have sex, but he would choke me or force me down to where I couldn't breathe.

No matter how much I said no, he wouldn't stop. I would even cry and he still would not stop the penetration. I would fight but could never get away and because I lived at home I couldn't scream. I didn't want my parents to know.

Afterwards I hurt so bad I couldn't even go to the bathroom. As this went on, I started to get really depressed and angry at myself. I always thought it was my fault and that something was wrong with me because I didn't want sex enough. I

was scared to break up with him because he threatened to hurt me. Because of the depression, I lost excessive weight.

My parents never knew what was wrong. With the help of my friends, I finally got the courage to break up with him when I was 17 and I started counseling for depression and rape. The counseling helped me take the blame off myself and put it on him. But to this day, I still have sexual problems in relationships and nightmares. It never goes completely away. It's been five years now and I never reported it to the police because I was afraid he would come after me. I always wished I would have reported it. It would have made me feel better and I'm sure he's out there victimizing someone else.

Although it's over now I am still affected and I will never forget.

Mary, a UNLV student, told a story that happens all too often. In fact, there are over 80,000 rapes reported yearly

across the nation; it is estimated 10 times this many go unreported.

Dr. Laura Hammond, director of psychological counseling at the Student Development Center, said, "Over 50 percent of women have been at least a victim of an attempted date rape and almost every woman will experience some sort of unwanted sexual advance".

Renata Cirri, of Community Action Against Rape, said, "One woman is sexually assaulted every seven minutes nationwide and one in three women is a victim of some type of sexual assault in their lifetimes, with 65 to 80 percent of these being acquaintance rape. Part of the problem is that only 10 percent of women raped, report it.

"With date rape, many times people don't know they have been sexually assaulted," said Hammond, "The victims usually go through three psychological steps which are denial, self blame and then anger with phobic reactions."

Most victims don't go for help until

years later when they reach the anger stage because prior to this stage, they blame themselves or deny it ever happened at all. Rape is widely believed to be a show of power and dominance, having little to do with sexual urges.

"Dominance is part of the male socialization about sexuality and with females permissiveness is their socialization," said Barbara Brents, associate professor of sociology. "Men need to be taught that having sex isn't their right."

There are many types of rape such as stranger rape, date rape, molestation, etc., but to sum them all up, "any unwanted sex is rape," said Brents.

Some ways women can protect themselves on a date are to verbally make your intentions very clear and stop things early. Never play games with sex (teasing).

With the minimum penalty in Nevada being five years in the state prison and the maximum penalty being life imprisonment, men should always assume that when a woman says no, she means no.

TRAILERS

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floor, and his offices were three floors away.

This situation caused EPS to move to the trailers. Some other departments using "Caliche Estates" are English as a Second Language, Anthropology, Philosophy, and Education.

Walton said that he expects to stay in his trailer for about two years. He said that the new classroom building that the state has recently approved will provide office space for most of the departments now in trailers when it is completed.

"We've never been in a situation where we let in everybody and then can't accommodate them. Nevada could say we'll only admit enough students according to how much space and faculty their is. But Nevada

says let in whoever's qualified. When we've taken on too much, we (UNLV) go to the legislature," said Walton in discussing the "growth boom."

"Sometimes I wonder if what Robin Williams (famous comedian) said is true (about the administration): 'The lights are on, but nobody's home,'" Walton added.

He said that in some ways he doesn't mind the inconvenience because "I'm a backpacker myself." But he said that most of his files are piled on the floor and that it is hard to find his records. He said that there are more faculty/staff members on the north side of campus now than there are parking spaces.

"My secretary had to go

to lunch at 10:30 a.m. because she couldn't find a parking space after running an office errand," he said.

He said that there is only one bathroom for all 24 trailers. For the first few months, they had to use a portable toilet. There is no running water. Also, because of cramped quarters, some furniture, such as Assistant Professor of EPS Dr. Ira Peak's desk and file cabinet, cannot be used. Peak's desk and file cabinet are being stored in a warehouse until new office space is found.

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