

# Lifestyles

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THE REBEL YELL

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## What part of 'no' is not understood?

"How many women do you know who have been raped?" asked Ray Rodriguez, health educator at the Student Health Center. "Probably not that many but many women do not admit it to themselves or know what date rape is."

The shocking statistics show one out of six women will be raped this year and one out of four will be raped in her lifetime.

Only 5 percent of women admit to having been raped. However, when asked if they have ever had sex against their will, "one in four women will say yes," Rodriguez said.

"Men do not perceive rape the same as a woman does," Rodriguez said. "There is an attitude among men that women need a little push and as a man I find that offensive."

Date rapes may occur due to one partner not listening

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—Ray Rodriguez

closely enough to discern between playing and the actual denial of wanting sex.

Some myths in our society are that men have "uncontrollable" sexual urges and women have a secret desire to be controlled or taken by force. This is why when a woman says "no," men might think she really means "yes" and may continue. If this happens, and the result is date rape, some women then must fight with the guilt of what they have "started."

"The penalty for dressing seductively, dancing close, and going to a man's room is not rape," Rodriguez said.

Another myth is if there is no weapon, no rape has oc-

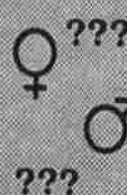
curred. Said Rodriguez, "Not all rape is violent, or uses a weapon." A 'weapon' could be physical weight, threats, paralyzing fear and physical isolation in which a man will drive a woman "out into the middle of nowhere and say f-ck or get out."

"The student health center defines rape (or sexual assault) as anything against the victim's will, without consent or when the victim is unable to give consent. If you are passed out and someone takes advantage of you, that is rape," Rodriguez said.

Being clear about what is wanted and not wanted is an important step in stopping date rape before it happens.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES

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"Rape is not an act of sex, it is an act of violence," Rodriguez said.

A key word in the date rape issue seems to be "consent." Women must realize that they have the right to say no at any time. Men need to listen to what is being said. Consent should never be assumed. It should be clear.

Becoming aware of and talking honestly about what is actually consented to by the women may bring some grey areas into focus.

"Assert yourself. By looking down and saying no, it is not being assertive. Look him in the eye. If you just push him away, that is a grey area, (of consent)" Rodriguez said.

A seminar concerning date rape will be given this evening in room 241 of Frank and Estella Beam Hall at 7:30 pm.

## What to do if it happens to you

According to Ray Rodriguez, health educator at the Student Health Center, if a woman has been raped, she needs to know there are people to talk to who deal with rape. On campus, the university police need to be notified. By reporting a rape, a woman lets officials know and a second occurrence by the same person who committed the rape may just be his last. Reporting does not mean a woman is convicting a man of date rape, only that she is notifying authorities of a criminal occurrence. It is completely the woman's

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## Nevada has nation's highest suicide rate

by William Holt

Not only does Nevada have the highest suicide rate in the nation for people 15 to 24 years old, but the suicide rate for students aged 15 through 19 is twice the rate of non-students in that same age group, according to Laura Hammond, director of psychological counseling at the Student Development Center. After accidents, suicide is the leading cause of death among college students. About 10,000 students attempted suicide in 1989 with about 1,000 successful.

"It's too bad school is stressful," Hammond said. "The amount of work you put into it is disproportionate to what you get, a piece of paper."

People 18 to 22 years old, who are typically going through normal developmental changes, have the added stress of taking heavy study loads often while working to support themselves, said Hammond.

A recent survey was conducted by the Student Development Center of 186 UNLV students. Of these, 5 percent admitted to being moderately to severely depressed while 23 percent were mildly to moderately depressed. Of those 186, 18 admitted to at-

tempting suicide at least once in their lifetime.

With a UNLV enrollment of 15,000, a suicide rate of 1 percent would mean 150 students per year, Hammond said. With a residence hall enrollment of 650, that would be 6.5 students.

Hammond said that of the students expressing suicidal feelings who have come in to see a student development counselor, none of these have actually attempted it so far.

She gave a list of the danger signals a person will display if contemplating suicide:

1) There have been previous attempts. Many people see a suicide attempt as a mere effort to get attention and believe that the person is not serious. However, it is important to take any attempt seriously.

2) There have been threats of suicide. Threats are followed up by attempts about 70 percent of the time. About 80 percent of the people who take their own lives have given warning of their intention to do so. These threats may be direct, "I'm going to kill myself," or more indirect, "You'd never miss me if I were gone."

3) There has been extreme depression or changes in personality or behavior. Look for

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## Astrology affects our lives

by Gena Atkinson

John F. Kennedy vowed to concentrate on high-tech space exploration and to send the first man to the moon by the end of the '60s. The mission was accomplished, and earth beings were delighted to see the first steps on the moon and wonder in awe at earth's image in the background.

With this new knowledge of space came a new perspective. Citizens of the earth began to see themselves in relation to the vast universe and the stars' and planets' influences became more apparent.

"What's your sign?" became a familiar phrase, and according to a 1975 Gallup poll, 12 percent of Americans took astrology quite seriously.

It is no coincidence that astrology's new interest coincided with recent scientific advances. About 3,000 years ago, astrology and astronomy were twin concepts, but grew apart over time. Contemporaries of both developed strong misconceptions about the other discipline. One of the most illustrative examples of astronomy's and astrology's joint evolution is Stonehenge. Around 2800

B.C., prehistoric builders constructed a monument of large stones which were used to determine the exact dates of the summer solstice and to keep track of the motions of the moon.

Later, Stonehenge, and the astronomical events surrounding it, was the site for the ceremonial rites performed by costumed Druids and self-proclaimed witches.

Astrology has influenced human existence for thousands of years. This longevity, however, does not insure legitimacy. Can astrology be trusted as a means of predicting the future, and the patterns of human behaviors as well as events? Astronomers view astrology as a pseudo-science and cite several reasons for its dismissal.

At its inception, astrology designated 12 portions of the zodiac to correspond to the constellations. However, modern astrology has been criticized since the precession of the zodiac has shifted considerably since that time. For this reason, a person born on Dec. 8 is called a Sagittarius, but the sun at the time is actually in the sign of Scorpio. William Swick, Jr., a local astrologer, stated that certain astrologers, called sidereal astrologers, make adjustments to correlate the exact planetary positions to

the constellations. Another criticism against astrology is that there is no experimental evidence to support it, and predictions based on astrology have no better than random accuracy. To refute this, Swick said that, "as for predicting, this too is not a significant argument against astrology. Astrology is not a scientific tool for prediction. Much can be learned through the study of astrology without using the discipline as a source of prediction."

"Condemning astrology because it does not measure to scientific standards is not a significant reason for dismissing its value," Swick said. "I think of astrology as a social study, the study of man in relationship to the placement of the stars as measured by the Tropical zodiac."

Astrology can be compared to sociology or psychology in that these are not hard sciences. Since the Renaissance, astrology has flourished alongside scientific thought and even today the ancient magic of 3,000 years ago arrives on our doorsteps in the astrology columns of our daily newspapers.

