

# Rape On Concordia ?

by Phil Houser

The State of Minnesota defines rape in the following way:  
"A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 20 years, if he engages in sexual penetration with another person and if any of the following circumstances exists:

- (C) Circumstances existing at the time of the act cause the complainant to have a reasonable fear of imminent great bodily harm to the complainant or another; or
  - (D) The actor is armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the complainant to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon and uses or threatens to use the weapon or article to cause the complainant to submit; or
  - (E) The actor causes personal injury to the complainant, and either of the following circumstances exist:
    - (i) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish sexual penetration; or
    - (ii) The actor knows or has reason to know that the complainant is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless; or
  - (F) The actor is aided or abetted by one or more accomplices within the meaning of section 609.05, and either of the following circumstances exist:
    - (i) An accomplice uses force or coercion to cause the complainant to submit; or
    - (ii) An accomplice is armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the complainant reasonably to believe it to be a dangerous weapon and uses or threatens to use the weapon or article to cause the complainant to submit."
- MN SS 609.342

Unfortunately, many people suffer from a dangerous lack of knowledge when it comes to rape. In order to prevent a person from becoming a victim of this heinous crime it is important to discuss and understand how to prevent it.

The common thinking about rape is that it happens in dark alleys or that it happens in "bad" neighborhoods. The difficulty with this concept is that it leaves people with a false sense of security. In-

stead of being aware of their present surroundings they think that they will be safe as long as they avoid "bad" neighborhoods. The common misconception about rapists is that they are men in trench coats hiding in bushes. The problem with this social picture is that the overwhelming majority of rapists are not drooling perverts in trench coats.

There are three categories of rape: acquaintance rape, date rape, and stranger rape. There is absolutely no legal difference between these forms of rape. The only differences are the circumstances surrounding the crime.

Date rape is the most prevalent form of rape. Fifty percent of the reported rapes are date rapes. Date rape is also the most misunderstood form of rape. Date rapes happen every day to all kinds of women. "College students are more vulnerable to rape than any other age group. Nationally, the majority of reported victims and offenders are of college age. . . rape is by far the most prevalent, serious violent crime committed on college campuses." Date rape has very serious effects on the victim. These effects include a loss of an ability to trust, and feelings of guilt, fear, and depression. One of the problems with preventing date rape is that there is no one kind of individual that will commit the crime. There are, however, some attitudes that could reveal a potential rapist. Does your date express hostility toward women in general? Does your date act bossy, and treat you like property? Does your date view you as a sexual object, there only to serve their needs? Does your date idolize you or place you on a pedestal?

Even though it is difficult to tell who is likely to commit rape, there are ways to avoid becoming a victim. When on a date, clearly express what you want. Make it clear what your sexual limits are. Try to avoid secluded places. Do not go to a deserted place with someone you have just met. Have your own transportation, especially if you do not know your date well. Always beware of alcohol and other drugs. These narcotics make it harder for you to be in control of the situation. Above all, people should know that they have some rights and responsibilities regarding date rape.

Remember that you have the right to dress as you please,

agree to have sex with someone and then change your mind at any time, and be treated with respect at all times.

You also have responsibilities, including talking openly and honestly about your sexual expectations, wishes, and intentions. Asserting yourself by standing up for your rights and taking equal roles in your relationships are also part of your responsibilities. Women should also reject sexual stereotypes that portray them as passive, weak, and irrational.

The second type of rape is acquaintance rape. This form of rape is committed by a person who has some form of connection with the victim. It may be a member of a class they are taking, or a roommate's friend. This form of rape can be avoided by avoiding vulnerable positions and places with a person that isn't known to you very well. Be aware of your surroundings at all times if on a walk with more than one person. Try not to let your date lead you into any area not familiar to you or someplace you did not plan to go to. Let others around you know your schedule for when you will be gone. These may seem like suggestions for children or overly restraining, but they could save you from becoming a victim.

The third type of rape is stranger rape. This is the "traditional" form of rape that most people think of when they hear the word, "rape." Stranger rape occurs less frequently than the other types of rape. This does not mean that precautions should not be taken to avoid this type, however. Use common sense and good judgement to avoid this crime. Do not venture into unknown areas at night. Do not think that it can't happen to you. Be aware of possible hiding places as you walk (i.e. high shrubs or darkened doorways). The best way to prevent becoming a victim of rape is to use your head at all times and be aware of the possibility of the crime.

## Isaiah 9:2-7

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. . . . For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:2,6*