Date rape: It's happening here

By Bill Rupp, Editor

Date rape.
Also known as "acquaintance rape," it is sexual assault involving women who know their assailants. And it is happening on college campuses nationwide.

Bryant is no exception.
Indeed, says Noreen Mattis, Bryant's health educator: "I counsel students frequently on this."

Exactly what is date or acquaintance rape?
Rape, according to Rhode Island law, involves "forced or coerced sexual penetration...." Acquaintance rape adds to sexual assault the factor of perpetration by someone who the victim knows - a date, acquaintance, classmate, co-worker, boss, ex-husband, neighbor, even boyfriend or fiancé. It is far from the common image of rape as a stranger jumping out from some dark place to assault a woman.

According to a variety of sources, two out of three rapes can be classified as acquaintance rape. On college campuses, the figure is even more startling: 90 percent of women who report rape say they knew their assailants, according to a study released last fall by Ms. magazine.

That same study indicates that one out of every four women in college today has been the victim of rape or attempted rape, with more than half experiencing some form of sexual victimization.

The study, funded by the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Rape under the direction of a university psychologist, surveyed more than 7,000 students at 35 colleges.

Some other findings of the study:

- One in every 12 men meet the legal definition of being a rapist, yet almost none saw themselves as committing rape.
- Of the women raped, almost 75 percent did not realize that the intercourse could be defined as rape.
- The average age at the time of rape is 18.
- Almost half of the rapes were by first or casual dates, or by romantic acquaintances.

These results indicate that college women are particularly vulnerable to date rape, emotionally and demographically. They may be away from home for the first time and unsure how to handle...

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Do'a World Music Ensemble to perform

A mosaic of musical cultures will be revealed at Bryant on Friday evening, April 11 when Do'a World Music Ensemble performs in Janikies Auditorium. The 7:30 performance is followed by a dessert buffet in the Rotunda.

Playing original compositions on more than 70 different instruments from around the world, Do'a mixes jazz, classical, and improvisational music to produce what they call "world music." The quintet is currently on a world tour dedicated to the United Nations International Year of Peace.

Founded in 1974, Do'a is working to dissolve the barriers between cultures and musical styles. They have cut five albums. Their music has been described by Downbeat magazine as "a marvelous kaleidoscope of shifting melodies, rhythms, and instrumental colors."

Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for faculty and staff. They are on sale at the Box Office.

The show is funded in part by a grant from New England Telephone and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through the New England Foundation for the Arts.
Make tax day a health of a day

April 15 may not be healthy for your pocketbook, but it can be very rewarding for your health. That's the day of Bryant's annual health fair. Sponsored by the health education and health services offices, the fair this year has the theme of "Audit Your Health." It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 386 A&B.

Among the free health tests available at the fair are height and weight, blood pressure, vision screening, hearing, posture analysis, nutrition, cholesterol, stress management, and chemical dependence.

Blood chemistry and coronary risk tests also will be offered for a fee. Health care professionals will be on hand to interpret test results and offer counseling.

Date rape

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themselves. Their social circles expand greatly and rapidly. They may not have the ability to balance security and independence.

At the same time, men are going through their own emotional insecurities and trying to deal with newfound freedoms. They may want to prove their "manhood" through sexual behavior.

No one seems to know if the number of date rapes being committed actually is rising. It may just seem that way, because women are becoming more aware of what rape is, and are seeking counseling more often, says Mattis.

Despite these trends, Mattis says, "there is still a tremendous lack of awareness of the prevalence and seriousness of acquaintance rape."

At Bryant, Mattis says, "there is some concern on campus."

Mattis said that she deals with the issue in special programs on human sexuality she leads on campus. And the Rape Crisis Center in Providence comes on campus once a semester to hold workshops about rape. But there is a much greater need to educate everyone about date rape, she says.

Alcohol is definitely a contributing factor to date rape, Mattis says. Beer flows at parties; men and women drink a little too much; they become less able to determine what are inappropriate sexual advances; women may be physically unable to stop men from raping them; most significantly, judgment is affected.

Rhode Island law, in fact, considers sex to be rape if it happens when a person is asleep, unconscious, or physically unable to communicate unwillingness.

Intoxication is no excuse, says Mattis: "All it takes is for the woman to say 'no' for sexual intercourse to become rape."

Alcohol, however, is just another ingredient that can lead to date rape, Mattis says. Doing away with alcohol won't do away with date rape. Only education can.

"Our consciousness needs to be raised," Mattis says. "Men and women need to be educated, particularly about each other. We need to realize that there are major differences in the physiology and psychology of men and women."

Mattis adds: "It's not just enough to know the reproductive plumbing. We need to know the psychology."

Indeed, men and women have "very different" outlooks on dating and sex. The "dating in the '80s" seminar held on campus last semester showed that, as have other surveys done on campus.

For example, men view sex primarily as "fun" and "pleasure." Women see it most often as a sign of "commitment, love and caring." Also, signals men and women flash to each other often are confused or misinterpreted. Many men are taught that when a woman says "no" she really means "yes." For whatever reasons, many women simply are afraid to say "no."

"We need a mutual understanding of each other, although we may never fully know how the other feels," Mattis says.

Men must realize that they are rapists if they force or coerce women into having sex with them, Mattis says. She adds that, perhaps, an increased consciousness of what is rape will serve as a deterrent.

Until this education is widespread, however, there are some practical things women can do to help protect themselves from being raped:

- Make very clear your rules and "limits" on sex.
- Be aware of how much you and your date drink so you can retain control.
- Avoid private or secluded places with someone you've just met or someone you're getting to know.
- Use your own transportation (your own car or public transportation), or go out with a group or double-date.
- Actively take part in the decision making when out on a date (don't let the man make all the choices, assert yourself).
- Be more conscious of nonverbal messages you may be sending, and how they are perceived.
- Women also must come to realize that they have a right to dress as they please, attend parties, drink if they want to, and even go with a man to his room or townhouse without expecting to have sex.

Perhaps, most important, Mattis says: "Women are not to blame if they said 'no' and they still are raped."

Date rape.
It's happening. And here at Bryant.
Church, state separation to be debated

“Issues in the Separation of Church and State” will be debated on Wednesday, April 9, when Bryant’s public-forum series on God and government continues in Janikies Auditorium.

The debate, beginning at 7 p.m., is the third forum of the four-part series, titled “God and Government: On the Appropriate Role Between Religious Beliefs and Public Policy.” It will match Anthony T. Podesta, president of a national citizens group, against The Rev. James L. Prest, chairman of the religious studies department at Providence College.

Podesta is head of People For The American Way, founded in 1980 as a national nonpartisan citizens group working to protect constitutional liberties. Since its birth, People For has grown to more than 200,000 members. Supporting America’s tradition of religious and political separation, it has become one of the nation’s leading public interest organizations. People For is sometimes referred to as an antithesis of the Moral Majority.

As the leading spokesman for the organization, Podesta has made numerous network TV and radio appearances, and has written for most of the major newspapers. His background includes serving as a professor of political science, a criminal prosecutor and assistant U.S. attorney, deputy director and lobbyist for Common Cause, and a labor union counselor.

Podesta holds degrees from the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Georgetown University Law Center.

The Rev. Prest has been teaching at Providence College since 1975. He also served as assistant academic dean for five years.

Among his other activities have been serving on the Provincial Council of the Province of St. Joseph, serving as a subprior of the Dominican community for three years, and acting as a state commissioner for academic affairs.

The Rev. Prest holds degrees from St. Stephen’s College, College of the Immaculate Conception, and the University of St. Thomas in Rome. He also attended Harvard University’s Institute for Educational Management.

Moderating the debate will be Suda Prohaska, former TV correspondent and now chief aide and press secretary for Rhode Island Attorney General Arlene Violet.

Greek ‘spirit’ paces phonothon to record

The Bryant Fund Spring Phonothon ended in early March with a new record for giving, paced by Bryant’s Greek organizations.

The 12-night phonothon raised $42,774, said Tony Pioatti, director of annual giving. That amount topped last year’s total of $38,582, and brought the phonothon total for the year to $109,269.

The key to the success of the spring phonothon was the Greek organizations, said Pioatti.

“They did a great job for Bryant, as the total indicates,” he said. “They showed that there is a lot of school spirit and interest in Bryant.”

Particularly noteworthy are Kappa Delta Rho and Beta Sigma Chi fraternities, and Sigma Lambda Theta sorority. KDR won the organizational competition and the $200 first prize. Beta, assisted by the sorority, took the $100 runner-up prize. Together, the three Greek groups raised more than $19,300, or approximately 44 percent of the spring total.

Comments by members of the three groups show their spirit.

“I think I owe Bryant a lot,” said Mike Langlois, senior president of KDR. “It’s been the best four years of my life, and I just wanted to pay back a little.”

Referring specifically to the new buildings under construction, toward which he expects some of the money raised to go, Langlois added that he knows he won’t be able to use the facilities as a student. But he expects to reap benefits from them in other ways, such as through their en-
...VIP discount passes for General Cinema Theatres are on sale for $3 at the Box Office. Tickets are good at the Lincoln, Warwick, and Garden City Malls. Call the Office of Student Activities at ext. 6160 for more information...

...The Bryant Transit Authority (BTA) has added a Wednesday evening movie service. The van leaves at 6:15 p.m. for the Showcase Cinema in Warwick, 8:15 p.m. for Apple Valley Cinema in Greenville, and 9 p.m. for the Lincoln Mall Cinema...

...Father David Norris, Bryant's Catholic chaplain, addressed the annual Easter Mass and breakfast of the Women's Youth League of Rhode Island on March 16...

...Ted Gautschi, professor of management, presented a paper at the Midwest Case Writers' Conference in Chicago in mid-March. It was titled "The Dynamic Case"...

...Bryant's Southeastern New England Alumni Chapter (SNEAC) will focus on health care at its next luncheon on April 8. Hospital association vice-president William Sweeney will speak on "Health Care in Throes of Change" at the Turks Head Club at noon. Cost is $10. Call the alumni office at ext. 6040 to make reservations, by Friday...

...Bill Hill, assistant professor of social sciences, provided commentary for Channel 10, WJAR-TV, on the March 18 mid-day news. It concerned the aid package for Nicaragua before Congress...

...The first "Women's Expo" of the Bryant Professional Women's Association will be held Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rotunda. A variety of organizations will set up tables with displays and hand-outs dealing with women's issues. Representatives will answer questions...
MONDAY, March 31

**Baseball**  
vs. Rhode Island College  
Home  
3 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

**CLASSES RESUME**

**APRIL FOOL'S DAY**

**Evaluating the Effectiveness of Training**  
Seminar  
The CENTER  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

**Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3**  
Seminar  
The CENTER  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Men's Tennis**  
vs. Rhode Island College  
Home  
3 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

**Campus-wide semi-formal**  
sponsored by Residence Hall Assembly  
Venus de Milo restaurant  
**Baseball**  
vs. U.S. Coast Guard  
Home  
3 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Men's Tennis**  
vs. St. Anselm's  
Home  
1 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Softball**  
vs. St. Anselm's  
Home  
1 p.m.

**Baseball**  
vs. St. Anselm's  
Home  
1 p.m.

**Eucharist**  
CMD Conference Room 4  
Noon & 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Men's Tennis**  
vs. Babson  
Home  
3 p.m.
By the way...

By Gloria Yahn
Assistant Editor

- The first two spring rehearsals for the Bryant Community Chorus were held in early and mid-March. Shirley Morrison tells me that they are still interested in finding new members. If anyone out there would like to share their voice at Commencement or other special events coming up, get in touch with Shirley at ext. 6259.

- The May Breakfast Committee has been formed. Serving this year are Denise Joyce of the public information office, Lorraine Cournoty and Carol Malo of central services, and Lynn Dawson of the President's office. Anyone interested in donating arts and crafts or baked goods for door prizes should contact a committee member.

- Mary Dupre of the alumni office mixed business with pleasure in mid-March. After attending the annual alumni polo picnic in Boca Raton for three days, she continued on to Tampa for a few days with her family.

- Irene Lanowy of the purchasing office is the proud mom of Gary, a junior basketball player at Lincoln High School, which won the Class B state championship. A starter and key player all year, Gary was recognized often for his efforts by TV and the sports pages of local newspapers. Atta boy, Gary! You did it for Mom, right?

By the way...