

Along the primrose path to rape

By JILL TWEEDIE

LONDON—If I.E. Lawrence had been a lady would experts have spent quite so much obsessive time tracing his subsequent behavior back to a possible Turkish rape?

As far as I am concerned, rape is quite simply definable as any coercion, particularly the use or threatened use of physical strength, that makes a woman submit to intercourse against her will. That woman may be a vestal virgin or Salome of the Seven Veils—raped she is if she didn't want it.

But, of course, it is deeply ingrained in us that only a virgin can truly be raped: as the old saw puts it so endearingly, a slice from a cut cake is never missed. And this adage, whether official or not, lies at the root of the workings of our rape laws.

In fact, the way British law and British prejudice stands at the moment, a

woman's only redress in the law courts is rape by a perfect stranger. A survey of sex offenders in England shows that most are unmarried and most had left school at 14. Only 11 per cent were known to have had any form of higher education. The largest single group were laborers, many had been drinking when they committed offenses, and there was a higher percentage of men with deformities or disfigurements in the group.

From these figures one writer recently and predictably concluded that "without being facetious they could be said to have been the men who by their violence gave rape a bad name." In other words, rape between acquaintances cannot happen, just as rape in marriage has no legal existence.

We know, of course, that it does. Incest, for example, is often a synonym for rape and a high percentage of all our grandmothers, at least, were raped on their wedding night and from then on through endless nights of marital struggle apparently because few men ever thought it possible (because of the masculine moral edict imposed on women) that their wives could actually accept sex willingly.

There must be thousands of households across the country where rape will be committed tonight, carefully camouflaged in the sacraments of marriage. Men drunk; men obstinate; men indignant will have intercourse with reluctant wives because they want to, because it is their right, because they have such overriding needs, because they are stronger.

A girl (how many girls?) was raped last month by more than 80 Pakistani soldiers and went out of her mind. How many men can truly say they see no

connection, however small, between this extreme event and their own occasional behavior?

And this belief allied to the myth of uncontrollable male sexuality and the convention that a woman's body is there not for herself but for men, leads straight along the primrose path to rape.

"Straw dogs," Sam Pechinpah's latest and bloodiest filmed contribution to sadism, illustrates all these points to sickening perfection.

A young wife is raped by two village louts and Mr. Peckinpah obviously believes she deserves everything she gets. After all, the shameless hissy has A) slept with one of the men before her marriage, B) wears no bra, C) pulls up her skirt to examine a run in her tights and worst of all, D) appears to be keener, if anything, on sex than her husband.

Heavens to Betsy, the girl's begging for it.

On cue, in come the village rapists, she struggles, she gets belted, threatened with a gun and down she goes in the familiar foggy foggy dew. Ah, but wait now for the coup de grace, ladies and gentlemen. All is not lost. Our heroine is a woman like other women, despite her aching jaw and dislodged teeth. Soon, sweetly soon, her little arms steal round her rapist's neck and boom ta-ra boom, she's loving every minute of it.

At this point in the film a long sigh escapes the men in the audience and they lean back, triumphant. Didn't they always say? Didn't they always know in their bones? The ladies, God bless 'em, like nothing so much as a clout across the earholes and a couple of cauliflower ears to add spice to the act of love. Mild-mannered men (till now) curse their own

gentleness and vow to be different in the future.

Later in the film a teenage girl walks the village idiot out on a moonlit night, seduces him into kissing her and, by her accidental death, triggers off the last 20 minutes of mayhem and bloody murder. The message comes over crystal clear: flaunt yourself, however unconsciously, and you'll get your come-uppance, if you'll excuse the language, because rape is always the woman's fault. As the middle-aged manager of the cinema commented to me afterwards: "If a gentleman makes a personal approach of this sort to a woman, most of the time she likes it."

And of course, women think so too—none more than the respectable middle-aged housewife. "Straw dogs" and, in particular, that rape scene, was discussed last week on a Granada television program by a panel of Gallup Poll-picked men and women and all of them blamed the rape unanimously on the girl. One apple-cheeked lady, smiling brightly, pointed out that, after all, the girl had slept with one of the men before her marriage so what else but rape could she expect?

Unsurprisingly, given these feelings, the incidence of rape goes up in this country every year. In Washington, D.C. the capital of rape (one woman every 15 minutes) official advice to females is to submit, advice echoed by a male friend of mine last week who pointed out with some asperity that there would be no violence in rape if women didn't struggle.

Unfortunately for such optimist violence, in many cases, appears to be the sine quo non of the act; many women are beaten up, mutilated and killed after being raped.

L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service

N.W. music conference to be held Jan. 21-22

About five hundred students and teachers from throughout the Northwest are expected to attend the annual Conference on Music Education at the University on Jan. 21 and 22, sponsored by the University School of Music and the Division of Continuing Education.

This will be the twentieth year for the conference which has blossomed into a full conference with five sections for different types of music instruction: choral, band-wind, orchestra-string, general music and elementary music.

The public is invited to attend the conference. Pre-registration is encouraged at the School of Music or at the Office of Continuing Education at the University campus. Information can be obtained from either place. Fees for the weekend meeting are \$5.00, and \$1.00 for students.

Briefs

There will be an organizational meeting of Y.A.F. at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the EMU. Members and prospective members are invited to attend.

Campus Gold will meet at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Co-Op Christian Ministry. Officers will be installed and plans will be made for the term.

The East Asian Society will meet at 12:30 p.m. today in the EMU. Future programs will be discussed.

The ASUO Senate-Faculty Liaison Committee will meet at 7 p.m. in 310 EMU.

The ASUO Task Force will hold a public hearing on Senate reapportionment at 3:30 p.m. today in 101 EMU.

The ASUO Senate Legal Affairs Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. today in 310 EMU.

The ASUO Senate Governing Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in 315 EMU.

The ASUO Senate will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in 101 EMU.

State Sen. Don Willner, chairman of the Senate Environmental Committee during the 1971 legislative session, will speak on "Environment and Politics in Oregon" at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in 16 Science.

ESCAPE Tutors—attention, please. ESCAPE I Seminar meeting places and times are listed below for this week. P.E. tutors contact ESCAPE office ext. 4351.

Special area Tutors
Pearl Buck—Thurs. 7:00 at 368 Condon.
Cal Young Tutors—Wed. 4:00 at 327 EMU
ESCAPE Office.
Iliad Tutors—Thurs. 7:30 at 2055 Chambers.

ASUO Child Care Center—Wed. A-J at 2064 Onyx 7:30; J-Z 7:30 at 1143 Oak.

Looking Glass Tutors—Wed. 7:30 at Looking Glass Center.

Roosevelt Tutors—Wed. 8:30 at 327 ESCAPE Office.

Questions? Call the ESCAPE office ext. 4351 or come up to 327 EMU.

Oregon resident can study out-of-state at such places as: Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.; Towson State College, Baltimore, Md.; West Chester State, West Chester, Pa., and pay no out-of-state tuition. Go to room 319 EMU or call 3721 for further information on National Student Exchange. Application deadline is February 10.

A colloquium entitled "Pulsars" will be offered by Thomas Gold of Cornell University at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in 16 Science. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 3:15 in the John Binney Lounge.

The International Program Committee will present a debate between Arab and Israeli students on "The Nature of Zionism" at 12:30 p.m. Thursday in the EMU. Anyone interested in working on future programs should contact the ASUO Executive Office or the International Center in the EMU.

The ASUO is taking applications for five student positions on the Campus Recreation Coordinating Committee. This committee will coordinate use of facilities for physical recreation for the entire campus. Applications are available from the ASUO secretary in 308 A EMU. Deadline for application is Tuesday, Jan. 25.

"Cultural Shock Hour," an informal panel discussion of cross-cultural experience by travellers from different parts of the world Thursday in the EMU. Time and room to be posted. The Cosmopolitan Club invites all students to attend.

There will be an introductory lecture on Transcendental Meditation 12:30 Wednesday in the EMU.

The Alternatives in Education Office has announced that Feb. 4, will be the last day to turn in Spring term course proposals for Search courses. For application forms and information go to 305 EMU or call ext. 4377.

Need some exercise? Slimnastics—every Wednesday night 7-8 p.m. Gerlinger gym B-54. Everyone welcome to come join the fun.

IN PERSON: HONEY CONE

Show and Dance

Friday Nite Jan. 21st

Eugene National Guard Armory Doors Open 9:30 pm

\$2.50 before 10pm \$3.00 after 10pm



Wednesday, January 19, 1972