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# ed Most colleges fail to report violent crimes Student raped at Las Cruces man haunts Trojan Hall; plans arrested in campus rape town not to prosecute

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student went to the Music Building at around 10 p.m. Friday to practice her musical instrument.

The victim said she spoke with [redacted] minutes upon entering [redacted]

by Professor Mary Koss of the U. of Arizona School of Medicine in 1988, indicated that approximately one in four college women will be the victim of rape or attempted rape in a six-month period.

In another Koss survey, 15.6 percent of college women surveyed said they had been the victim of rape since age 14, and 12.1 percent said they had been the victim of an attempted rape.

Other studies indicates that only about 10 percent of all rape victims report the assaults to law enforcement authorities.

"The problem is that victims are denied basic rights and protections when they do report," Abarbanel says. "We've heard a lot of horror stories where the rights of the victim were treated as secondary to the rights of the accused."

Cindy, a graduate of UCLA who asked that her real name be withheld, was the victim of an acquaintance rape in a university dormitory in 1986. The insensitivity of university administrators following the incident, she says, resulted in further emotional strain.

The incident occurred when Cindy, along with other dormitory students, moved back into the dorms the Thursday before second quarter classes started. Only a small fraction of the students on her floor were back.

Following a beer drinking game, Cindy was escorted back to her room by a male she had befriended the previous quarter.

She passed out with the man in her room, and then woke up to find him turning her over to face him.

"He already had part of my clothes off. He had both of my wrists, and I was pinned. I'd say 'No' and he'd say 'Why' over and over. Finally I said 'I don't have a choice, do I,' and he said 'No.' I

froze, and he raped me."

The bureaucratic sluggishness that followed, she says, increased her trauma and prevented justice from being served.

Despite Cindy's several requests, her assailant was not transferred to another dorm.



Jean Clery  
Killed at Lehigh U., 1986

One day she was told he would be moving, and to stay away from the dorm for the day. She returned to find him still there.

After going through approximately 40 hours of interviews with the university's legal counsel, she and the assailant were brought together with the university's ombudsman, whom she says "was untrained about rape." Following the discussion, the ombudsman had the two shake hands. "The biggest problem for me was a lack of system. People didn't understand what to do," Cindy says.

Don Hartsock, the university's ombudsman, refused to comment or discuss the procedures by which such a

pending, however, after the district attorney's office reviewed the case and did not

case would be handled. All ombudsman services are completely confidential, he said.

Later, Cindy was called before a university panel developing a rape protocol. She says the policy the panel ultimately developed incorporated her views about what the university should have done. "They rewrote my agenda for what should have happened and basically turned it into university policy."

Today, UCLA is praised by experts such as Abarbanel for its comprehensive rape protocol.

But the experts also emphasize that at many institutions, both a policy and a sense of how to aid victims are sorely lacking.

"Awareness is growing, but it's not where I'd like it to be," Koss says. "We need more awareness at the higher levels of administration, where the money is. Otherwise, programs won't be put into effect."

**T**he murderer brandished a large knife and threatened people 10 to 15 minutes before stabbing Northeastern U. student Ignacio St. Rose. Campus security was informed, and they had the power of arrest and did not use it.

—Attorney Jeffrey Newman, describing the incident that resulted in the death of Ignacio St. Rose at a Massachusetts Institute of Technology party in February 1987.

Today, a suit is pending in Massachusetts court against MIT, charging that the murder of St. Rose, an 18-year-old from New York City, was preventable and that the university failed to ensure his safety. It's one of a number of suits being filed against institutions by violent crime victims and their parents.

"People are now realizing one of their rights is to take the school to court," attorney Newman says. "It should be said up front that not all crimes on campus are preventable. But if you could have gotten information or you could have fixed the locks or made sure people are checking IDs and you didn't, that's what allows crime to happen. That's where liability comes in."

According to David Stormer, assistant vice president of Safety and Environmental Health at the U. of Pennsylvania and 1st vice president of the International Association of Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), that lawsuits are being filed and won is having some impact on university acceptance of their responsibility to protect. Before the 1960s, Stormer notes, universities almost invariably used *in loco parentis* policies, which saw the university as a sur-

rogate parental guardian, and kept a tight rein on campus activities. The various movements of the '60s helped open up campuses considerably and gave students more freedom.

"Since then, with that great freedom came some of the court actions and civil litigation which gave rise to the concepts of what is in the contract between the student and the institution," Stormer says. "It's been established that the university has some obligation to protect the student and third parties on campus."

How far this obligation goes has not yet been firmly established. However, campus crime victims have demonstrated that they can win suits that charge universities with failing to protect them. Newman says he knows of approximately 15 campus crime suits settled last year.

The lack of student awareness of campus crime is being addressed by legislators on the state and federal levels.

In fall 1989, a bill was introduced in Congress known as the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act. U.S. Rep. Bill Goodling (R-Pa.), the sponsor, formulated the measure after being approached by Howard and Constance Clery.

The bill attempts to obtain crime information from the 90 percent of colleges and universities nationwide that provide no information to the FBI's uniform crime report.

Because so few institutions report, the true level of violent crime remains a mystery. Some experts like Michael Smith, a criminal justice professor at the U. of Southern Mississippi, argue that crime is rampant. Some campus law enforcement officials, however, say campuses are often far safer than the surrounding neighborhoods.

Others say that while the absence of statistics makes an accurate assessment impossible, it is precisely this lack of information which makes students open to threats. Goodling and others note that unless an accurate assessment of campus crime is provided, many students will continue to view campuses as sanctuaries from crime.

"Our concern is let's be careful about generalizing that crime is out of hand. We don't know that because only 10 percent of institutions are reporting," says Jim Caswell, vice president for student affairs at Southern Methodist University, and chair of a task force on safety of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

Goodling's legislation would require colleges and universities to provide students and employees with an annual report on crime statistics and university security measures. This

## CAMPUS SAFETY CHECKLIST

Michael Smith, criminal justice professor at Southern Mississippi U. suggests several ways colleges can improve campus safety:

- ✓ Increase lighting
- ✓ Issue elevator, lobby and room keys
- ✓ Create security checkpoints in dorms
- ✓ Change locks when residents lose keys
- ✓ Publicize crime reports
- ✓ Implement escort services