

Rape: women more aware, but can't be 100% safe

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Staff

As she walked down the road, the attractive young woman heard an authoritative voice. Instinctively, she turned — and saw a barrel of a gun pointed at her.

"Get in the car or I'll kill you," the voice said.

This could have turned out to be a typical case in any big city, but it wasn't for reasons. First, the girl escaped. Second, she was only a few blocks from the Texas A&M University campus.

This girl, like many others, had no idea she was in danger. Although she was walking alone, the road is used frequently by students walking to and from campus. The incident occurred in broad daylight and there were many people nearby.

"Women are more aware than they were a few years ago," said Kerry Hope of Texas A&M's Personal Counseling Service. "But women can be aware enough."

"You can't protect yourself 100 percent

from rape," Hope said. "Women shouldn't be paranoid, but they need to think things through." Hope added that women should avoid "taking foolish chances" like jogging alone at midnight.

University Police Chief Russ McDonald said there have been no reported rapes on campus this year, but there was one rape and one attempted rape in 1978. College Station Police Department statistics show five reported cases so far this year.

FBI statistics from the Department of Public Safety in Houston show 26 rapes or attempted rapes in this area in 1978: Brazos County (outside the city limits) — seven, Bryan — 10, College Station — seven and Texas A&M — two.

These statistics may not seem alarming, but they may not give an accurate picture of the rape problem in this area.

Dr. Marva Larabee of The Growing Center said only "a tiny portion" of rapes that actually occur are reported. She quoted the FBI Uniform Crime Reports

which state: "Unreported rapes outweigh reported rapes 20 to one."

"A great number of women are petrified to mention to anyone that the incident occurred," Larabee said. She feels there are four prevalent myths about rape and rape victims.

Myth One: "If a woman resists, she can't be raped."

Larabee said that if the victim shows no physical trauma — no physical injuries to

addition, Larabee said, women are taught by society not to be aggressive physically or verbally.

Myth Two: "She got what she deserved."

If a woman is raped, it is suspected that she was dressed inappropriately, was moving suggestively or was in the wrong place (i.e. alone at night or in a bar).

"Any woman can be raped just about anywhere," Larabee said. "Our society encourages independence (for women) but blames them if they run into trouble."

The rape prevention guide states that how a woman acts or what she wears does not determine whether she will be selected as a rape victim. Every woman, regardless of age, race, socio-economic class, time, or location, is a potential rape victim.

Larabee said although the most frequent age for both victims and assailants is 15-24, there have been reported rapes of women as old as 85.

Myth Three: "Women really desire to be physically forced into intercourse."

"Rape is an act of violence, not sex," Larabee said. "It is degrading and humiliating."

Although a woman may fantasize about a "Prince Charming" sweeping them off their feet, no woman wants to be raped.

"Rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence in which sex becomes the weapon," according to A&M's rape protection guide.

Myth Four: "Women cry rape when they are not raped."

Larabee said people frequently believe women "accuse men out of anger or to embarrass them."

"Actually, women tend to not want to admit it even happened," Larabee said. "Rape is the only crime where it is assumed that the criminal justice system cannot protect the defendant from the lying plaintiff."

If the victim of an assault or an attempted assault is a Texas A&M student, the University Health Center offers free help.

One of two female counselors from the

Personal Counseling Service, Kerry Hope or Terry DiNuzzo, will be called as soon as the rape victim comes in. These counselors will help take care of the woman's emotional needs and explain to her the options available to her at that time.

It is recommended in the rape prevention guide for the woman to have an examination for her own physical well-being, whether or not she is going to press charges. The examination is confidential and the victim may bring a friend along.

A victim of an assault or attempted assault should call the appropriate police department. All rapes occurring on campus should be reported to the University Police, and all outside the city limits of Bryan or College Station should be reported to the Brazos County sheriff. She may make an anonymous report, request a female police officer and bring a friend with her.

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THE BATTALION

Vol. 73 No. 9
44 Pages in 2 Sections

Thursday, September 13, 1979
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

Weather

Partly cloudy through Friday. High today near 90, low early Friday low 60's.



Skate break

Red Grabowski takes time to grab a bite to eat, and lurching outdoors in front of the Academic Building means he doesn't have to take his skates off. Besides letting him get around on campus faster, Grabowski says he has more control on skates than on a bicycle.

Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Library departments to close Sunday

By RHONDA WATTERS
Battalion Staff

Two of the busiest departments in the library, Current Periodicals and the Reference Room, will be unavailable for use Saturday while they are moved to their permanent locations in the new library complex.

"We hope to have them moved by Saturday evening, Sunday at the latest," said Deborah Brown, special projects librarian.

The transfer of the two departments is part of the overall move and rearranging that has begun now that the new library is near completion.

"All of the collection is going to move in some degree," Brown said. "The whole thing is expected to be completed by mid-October."

Brown said that although there will be some inconvenience to people trying to use the library, it will be less if students and faculty are aware which days departments are moving.

To find out what day an area is being moved, Brown said people can either call the library at 845-5741 or ask at the reference desk on the first floor.

Since the library is using a professional moving company, transferring an entire floor of books can be done in a short period of time. For example, with four to 10 workers using carts and the elevators, Brown said that moving books from the fifth floor to the sixth floor can be done in only a half hour.

Brown also said that on Monday the furniture installers will begin work. Some new modular furniture that will be

assembled as it is installed and reupholstered furniture from the old library will be put in one floor at a time.

"There will be some obstruction from workers and boxes," Brown said, "but it is going to be worth it because the furniture is much nicer than in the past."

Brown had these hints for library users, to help lessen the inconvenience:

—Watch closely for boxes and and pieces of furniture that might be in the way.

—Since only one floor will be worked on at a time, try another floor if one is too noisy.

—Try to avoid using the elevators as much as possible. At times there may only be one available for use, so it will probably be slow.

—Plan work in a certain area according to its scheduled move.

Best interest now 13 percent

Lending rate hits high

United Press International
NEW YORK — The Chase Manhattan Bank Wednesday increased the prime lending rate to its most creditworthy customers a quarter point to 13 percent, the highest level ever.

The increase becomes effective Thursday at Chase, the third biggest U.S. bank. It sets the stage for other big banks to move to 13 percent after less than a week at the 12.75 percent level.

The increases in the prime rate in recent

weeks are a reaction to credit tightening by the Federal Reserve Board in its effort to cool inflation through a slowdown in borrowing. Paul Voleker, the board's new chairman, sees this monetary policy as necessary to quell inflation despite the risk it will deepen the nation's economic recession.

Banks have been setting record highs for the prime with regularity lending rates since August. Chase boosted its key lending rate to 12 percent on Aug. 15, tying the

previous record set in 1974 when the nation was in the sharpest recession since the Depression era of the 1930s.

The prevailing rate went to 12.25 percent late last month and last week it took a highly unusual half-point leap to 12.75 percent at most major banks. At 13 percent, the prime is 3.5 percentage points above the level a year earlier.

The prime is an indicator of all interest rates, including those charged consumers. Charges on consumer borrowing, however, are restrained by state usury laws.

Frederic slams Gulf Coast, wind 130 mph, tide 15 feet

United Press International
MIAMI — Hurricane Frederic, "one of the most intense hurricanes ... this century," barreled into the Gulf Coast Wednesday night with devastating winds of 130 mph, torrential rains and tides up to 15 feet.

Buildings were blown down, roofs ripped off and windows shattered between Mobile, Ala., and Pascagoula, Miss., in the destructive frenzy of the second hurricane to hit the mainland in a week. Trees and power lines snapped and buildings crum-

bled. Many people were injured from flying glass, but there were no immediate reports of fatalities.

The eye of the hurricane was near Mobile early this morning, moving 15 mph on a course slightly west of due north. "Frederic... should begin losing strength as the main circulation moves over land," a weather bureau spokesman said. The storm is expected to turn toward the northeast later today.

"We're swamped with calls for help," said a Mobile police dispatcher. "There is

no way we can help them. We're completely immobilized at this time. All we can tell them to do is weather the storm and we'll try to get help to them as soon as possible."

A National Guard Army being used as a shelter at Pascagoula was "blown down," according to Civil Defense spokesman Ken Phillips. "There are no injuries as far as we can determine."

A building also collapsed in downtown Gulfport, Miss., injuring 17 people, apparently none seriously.

Thousands inconvenienced by public transit strikes

United Press International
Hundreds of thousands of commuters in three major U.S. cities had to juggle their travel plans Wednesday because of transit worker strikes that have closed down public transportation systems.

A total of more than 1 million commuters in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston were affected by continuing strikes and shutdowns of service.

In Boston, an estimated 16,000 rail commuters had to find other ways to get to work because maintenance workers, who walked off their Boston & Maine Railroad jobs last Friday, defied federal court orders to resume work and expanded their picketing Tuesday to the second of the city's two rail terminals.

In Los Angeles, mechanics agreed to resume talks with the Southern California Rapid Transit District after Mayor Tom Bradley pleaded with them to "settle the strike" that has idled the nation's largest all-bus transit system since Aug. 26. About 1.2 million commuters in a four-county area were affected by the strike.

In San Francisco, Bay Area Rapid Transit service for 165,000 commuters has been shut down for a week and a half. Spokesmen for two unions involved in the BART shutdown said negotiations were expected to resume today.

The Boston strike had its biggest impact on outer suburbs without direct bus and rapid transit service to the city. Buses and subway and rapid transit trains provide the bulk of commuter service to the city.

The 5-day-old strike did not affect commuters until Monday morning when train crew members and conductors refused to cross picket lines set up at Boston's North Station, which serves northern and western suburbs.

Despite federal court orders directing maintenance workers to halt their strike and the crew members and conductors to stop honoring picket lines, the strikers expanded picketing to the city's South Station.

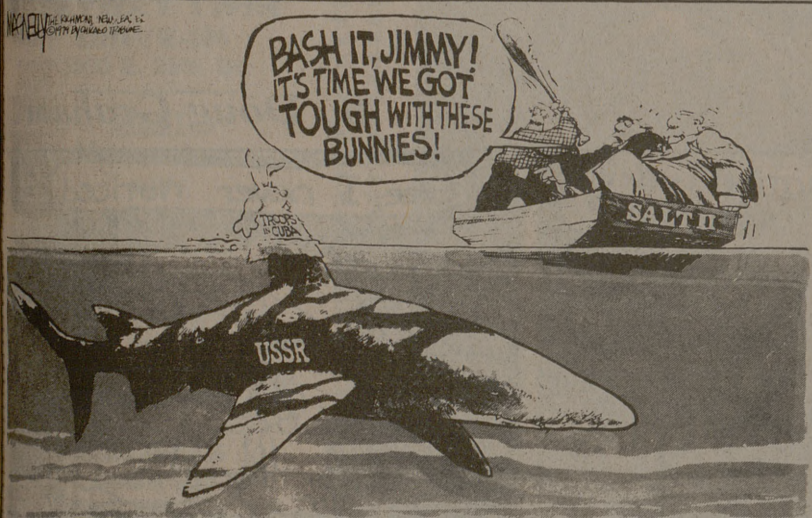
The shutdown of the northern rail terminal resulted in increased use of buses and cars. But the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, already short of usable buses, was unable to get additional vehicles out to the suburbs.



United Way

Don Hellriegel, management department head and chairman of the Campus United Way campaign, said Wednesday at a United Way meeting in Rudder Tower that he has set a goal of raising \$75,000 this school year.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco



Editorial funnies: meet the master

Want to know more about the man behind this cartoon?

Doug Graham, a Battalion staffer, obtained a personal interview with nationally syndicated cartoonist Jeff MacNelly at his office in Washington this summer. Graham's article is in the first issue of Focus, the Battalion's weekly magazine, which is inserted in today's paper.