

Companions Provide aid for victims

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Maturity is more important than age, Chap said, adding that she could not assign a minimum age to participate in the program. At present the youngest companion is 21, she said, but some 16-year-olds have applied to the center.

As a companion, the largest part of the work is helping the victim sort out their "laundry list" of feelings after the act, she said.

"We define rape as the client defined it," Chap continued. "If the client said she had been sexually assaulted we assume that it's been done. It's not our job to legally define what has happened to you."

Most rapes go unreported to police, according to Chap. The center has almost twice as many clients as there were reported rapes in Orange County last year. Clients are encouraged to report sexual abuse, she said, but the center does not consider it a requirement of its clients.

Chap, who received her master's degree from the University, said there used to be a racial stereotype attached to rape and its victims, but she said the stereotype no longer exists in Orange County.

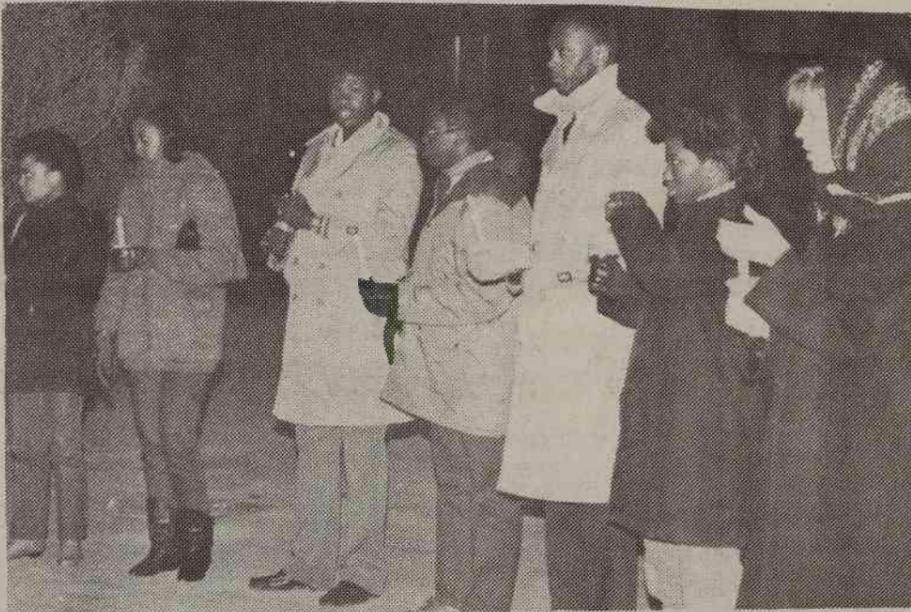
"From the cases we have worked with in court, I have not noticed any racist distinctions," she said. "But how the public views these in general may be a different thing."

Another myth associated with rape is that black men tend to rape a majority of white women. Chap said, "By in large white women are assaulted by white men and black women are assaulted by black men."



Candlelight Vigil for Dr. Martin Luther King

photo by Tammi Foust



Black Student Movement President Sibby Anderson (left) passes the flame onto a candle held by Suzanne Jeffries (right). The candlelight vigil was sponsored by the BSM. It was part of the ceremonies which preceded a lecture by TransAfrica's executive director Randall Robinson.

photo by Tammi Foust

Why We Can't Wait

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*Black pride, black pride, the hearts of
Your elders are filled with great joy,
Black pride
To know that our children are at
your side
Our faith in the future is renewed in
you
Black pride, young black pride
Like Moses, you will lead your
people over
And through*

*Photographers
and Writers are
encouraged to join
The Black Ink staff.*

A question-and-answer media session with Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode will be held Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:45 p.m. in the South Parlor of the Carolina Inn. Goode will deliver the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall auditorium. Questions will be accepted from the audience after the address.

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