

Campus seeks to improve resources for sexual assault victims: there are no easy answers or quick fixes

Do you ever wonder about the safety of our campus? How about violence? Or sexual assault?

I never did. That is, until I read an article from Amherst University's student newspaper written by a student who was raped on campus.



BY ALLISON DEBUSK
STAFF WRITER

That in itself is heartbreaking enough, but what really upset me was that the student received no help from her school. Instead of receiving proper counseling, the campus police took her to a psychiatric ward because they believed she was

mentally unstable.

This unjust treatment made me wonder what Guilford does for victims of sexual assault. I started searching for information so I could compare Guilford and Amherst.

I can happily say our school scores very well to compared Amherst. We have a club devoted to the issue, Sexual Assault Awareness Support and Advocacy, as well as a Survivors of Sexual Assault group. We have an on-campus counselor for victims who need to and are prepared to talk. We also have an anonymous reporting form for those who are not ready to come forward personally, but still want the school to know.

However, we lack community support for victims and reporting. There are several ways in which we can improve this.

In fact, many people on campus are seeking to improve the services we already offer and to resolve the problems that are occurring. A big player in this is the Violence Prevention Advisory Committee.

"Our mission is to educate the campus

assault, but the issue has not been brought up again in a way that is specific to our school. Because of this, I had to search for information on what is offered, instead of the institution giving it to me.

All students should be told this information, so that if a student becomes a victim, he/she, or a friend already knows what resources are available.

much as I would like to believe that Guilford is an exception to this, we probably aren't. Sexual assaults are rarely reported on our campus. According to Sandra Bowles, director of student judicial affairs, the last judicial case regarding assault was four or five years ago.

Sexual assault traumatizes victims in an incomprehensible way, so it is understandable that coming forward would terrify victims. It is also understandable if a student knows a fellow student was assaulted, it might be uncomfortable to encourage the victim to report it or to do so themselves, even anonymously. But until victims or people who know about assault come forward, our institution can't improve what it offers.

This is where money comes in.

Both students and staff want improvements in what our school offers victims. However, until more people are willing to report cases of assault, the school can't get more funding because it appears as if we don't have a need for it. Because we can't improve, people don't want to report.

Can you see this cycle?

I'm grateful that our school does offer services and support for victims of sexual assault, but there is room for improvement.

There's no easy answer as to what should be done or what can be done, but Winterich explained the best place to start: "We need a community that supports reporting and takes the burden off the victim."

"Our mission is to educate the campus about the nature of violence and harassment and provide support."

Julie Winterich, Violence Prevention Advisory Committee member & associate professor of sociology and anthropology

about the nature of violence and harassment and provide support," said committee member Julie Winterich, associate professor of sociology and anthropology.

In that mission statement, Winterich touched on one of the major ways in which our college can improve: education.

For first-years like myself, we went to a comedic show during orientation about sexual activity in college that touched on

Winterich suggested that classes should be offered on sexual behaviors, or that information about what our school offers sexual assault victims should be integrated into First-Year Experience courses.

I wholeheartedly agree. Education can replace ignorance and fear.

Students can also help increase our reporting rate. About one-fourth of female college students are sexually assaulted. As

Better than Jordan, yeah right, I want to be like Mike

IN MY OPINION: NO ONE IN THE PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE COMPARES TO MICHAEL JORDAN'S LEGENDARY STATUS

I'd rather be like Mike. Not Kobe Bryant. Not LeBron James, but Mike. Although Bryant and James are having phenomenal careers, you'd need to combine both of their careers to come close to topping Jordan's legendary status.

In recent years, the sports world has debated who is the greatest: Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant or LeBron James? Fortunately I've seen all three compete during the time of their prime ability. In my mind, there is no question.

However, some critics and fans point out that Bryant scored 81 points in one game against the Toronto Raptors.

Kobe has won five rings. Three of those rings are Shaquille O'Neal rings. According to Bruce Blitz, Bryant has 393 wins and 271 losses with a winning percentage of 59.2 percent as the team

leader.

Jordan has 640 wins and 290 losses and 68.8 percent wins. "Michael Jordan shot his team to wins," said Blitz on his website. "Kobe Bryant shoots his team out of wins."

Winning as the team leader is one significant stat that no one can deny.

I'm not bashing Bryant by any means. He's just not Jordan, nor will he ever surpass him. "If Kobe wins two more championships, he will be considered the greatest player ever," said senior Kenneth Hyman. "He may not have every record in the record book, but he would have

more rings than Jordan."

Bill Russell won 11 rings with the Boston Celtics during a short 13-year career. Is Russell greater than Jordan? Not in my opinion.

Championships do play a strong role in deciding the greatest, along with individual statistics and how a player helps his teammates get better.

Unlike Bryant and James, Jordan never played with another teammate who demanded a double team. Although Scottie Pippen is one of the top 50 greatest NBA players of all-time, teams would rather Pippen shoot than Jordan. Bryant has played with O'Neal, Pau Gasol and

I don't know what types of genes are in James's DNA, but he has the potential unlike Kobe.

But let's stop the small talk and let's talk about Jordan. During the 1988 season, Jordan won the league's scoring title and the Defensive Player of the Year award.

James should have won the Defensive Player of the Year award last year, along with his Most Valuable Player award, inching him closer to the prize.

This ultimate statistic puts Jordan in a league of his own. Throughout the 1988 season, Jordan not only prevented guards from scoring but he averaged 35 points per game. The amount of energy he used during this

"Michael Jordan shot his team to wins. Kobe Bryant shoots his team out of wins."

Bruce Blitz, Blitz Sports Network writer

now Dwight Howard, all who demand double teams.

The Akron Hammer, James's nickname -given by former SportNation host Michelle Beadle, is now in Miami with the Great Dwayne Wade. Wade demands a double team every game. Before Miami, King James spent seven years leading the Cleveland Cavaliers.

If somehow James had delivered a championship while in Cleveland, I certainly would have moved him up on the list. James may rise higher on my list only if he wins multiple championships, like Charles Barkley suggests.

He's a walking statistic machine every night. He guards and plays every position. Plus he has led his team in points per game every season since he entered the league and I personally haven't seen a player accomplish this feat since Jordan.

season is immeasurable.

For all the critics out there, let's not compare apples and oranges. Bryant's and James's careers are dreamlike, but Jordan's was like a hallucination. Did I really see that?

Out of 1,109 total games with the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan scored in double digits in all but one game.

Come on, man.

Last season, James won his first championship in three tries, along with three MVP awards and a finals MVP.

Kobe has won five championships, but only two as team leader, one MVP and two finals MVPs.

Jordan is a five-time MVP winner as well as winning championships in six out of six tries. With two three-peats and sweeping the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award, I'd rather be like Mike.