

The Banner

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Introducing Healthbeat

Date rape often goes unreported by most victims

The Banner introduces a new column, Healthbeat, to address issues dealing with health and safety in our society today.

In future issues, we will feature such topics as alcohol abuse, eating disorders, nutrition and AIDS.

by Michael Gouge
Staff Writer

It happens to an estimated one out of every four women during her lifetime. Out of approximately 1000 incidents, only one will be reported. These uncertain figures are representative of the crime of acquaintance rape, known also as "date rape," according to information provided by the Rape Crisis Center.

Date rape is a crime that rarely makes it to the courtroom. Because of the social context in which it occurs, it can also be the most devastating. Someone you know could have experienced such a crime and she may be passing her assailant on the sidewalk every day, facing her own question, "Was it my fault?"

Kris Booker, the community education coordinator of the Rape Crisis Center, Inc., says date rape usually occurs because of an expectation of sex by the assailant. This expectation is formed perhaps by the manner of dress of the female or her mistakenly friendly charm.

In general, rape is motivated by a need for power and control. Rape is a crime of violence. Not only of physical violence, but of psychological assault as well. The emotional

wounds are most often the most serious," Booker said.

Often men don't realize, or accept, that sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent is rape. Many men counter to the question of forced sex by justifying the action: 'she teased me,' 'I was drunk,' 'I spent a lot of money on her—she owes it to me,' 'I have had sex with her before,' 'I got carried away with my passions,' 'she said no, but meant yes,' Booker said.

For men, sexual aggression is seen as normal male behavior. But there is a point at which every man should draw the line between aggression and assault, she added. Booker advises that any "mixed messages" or perceived expectations should be addressed before situations arise.

John Van Eyk, a UNCA freshman, has seen the effect date rape can have. Two women close to him have been raped by acquaintances. Van Eyk also knew the men involved.

"They were friends...they violated [my] trust and friendship," Van Eyk said.

He stressed the emotional scars left on the women. "[They] lose their self-respect, self-esteem and struggle with the feeling that 'I could have done more to stop it.'"

In both cases, Van Eyk said, "The assailants would play on the victim. The victims were 'manipulated' by verbal and physical abuse."

Scare tactics were used, according to Van Eyk, such as trying to push the victim out a moving car, telling her nobody will believe her if she says anything, or that she is a slut

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Environmental Science professor receives grant to study tap water

by Joan Schnyder
Editor

The Clean Water Fund of North Carolina awarded UNCA's Environmental Science department a grant for a statewide research project to determine the severity and contamination in North Carolina tap water supplies, said Dr. Richard Maas, assistant professor of environmental science.

The project will involve the testing samples from people who submit them to The Clean Water Fund of North Carolina, said Maas.

"To achieve the objectives of the study, we need a very large data base of tap water samples from around the state. We have analyzed about 800 samples so far," he said.

"The results will provide important information on the prevalence and severity of lead contamination. This will be the largest study of tap water contamination ever conducted anywhere in the country," said Maas.

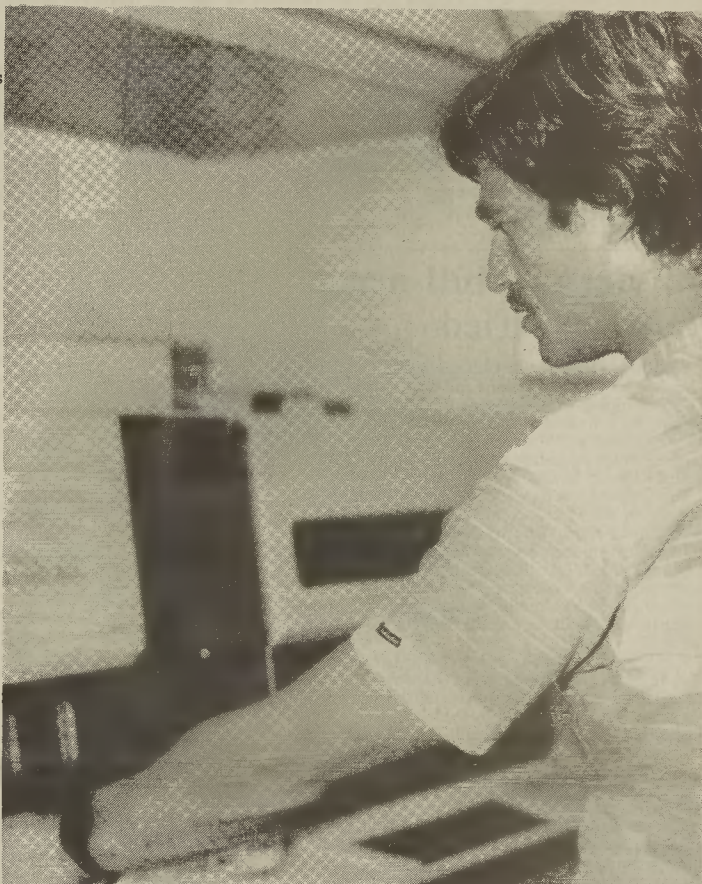
The gathering of this information is vital because recent data indicates that lead, at even very low levels, can cause brain damage and affect children's mental development, said Maas.

"I think this is vitally important research because it directly affects public health, especially infants and children," said Maas.

A 1979 Boston study conducted by Needleman and colleagues found slowed mental development among 2-year-old children who were exposed to low lead levels before birth.

Similar research published in the August 25, 1988 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine provides similar findings for older children.

This study, conducted by Dr. Anthony J. McMichael and colleagues at the University of



Maas gets the lead out.

Adelaide, Australia, looked at the effect of lead exposure on children's abilities at age four.

The study included 537 children in Port Pirie, Australia, born during 1979-1982 to women

living near a lead smelter.

The article states that "the current analysis indicates that cumulative environmental exposure to lead in early childhood is critical in effecting

subsequent mental development."

The article suggests that "increased exposure to lead Please see LEAD, page 8

Classic 'Far Sides' to run during Larson's absence

by Kenneth Coxie
Staff Writer

Do you like "The Far Side"? If so, get ready for classical copies. Starting this week, The Banner will be carrying classic copies of "The Far Side" by Gary Larson. Larson has asked Universal Press Syndicate (u/p/s), which handles his publication, for a leave of absence until January 1, 1990.

"He said he needed a leave of absence to rest and to gather new ideas for 'The Far Side,'" said Michelle Talley, a customer service representative for u/p/s. "If I wrote a comic strip every day of the week, I would need a rest too," she said.

While on leave, Larson will be doing various activities to recuperate his creative abilities.

"He will probably do a lot of travelling. He's on a safari in Africa right now and he's probably gathering new ideas for 'The Far Side,'" said Talley.

Timeliness will not be a problem for the classic copies. "They are very good. They are as good now as they were then. A comic strip of his nature just gets better," said Talley.

The classic cuts will date back to the early 1980's when the comic strip was only received by about 50 papers.

"He first started on The San Francisco Chronicle. I do not

know if we will go back that far. We will probably start around 1982," said Talley.

"Many of the earlier clips have been published in books, calendars, and greeting cards. They are licensed strips," said Talley.

UNCA students had various opinions about the re-running of Larson's cartoons during his sabbatical.

Richard Wilson, a computer science senior, said "I think it is the best comic strip in publication today. The humor of the comic strip reaches so many audiences and it is not limited to any certain group. It reaches older people, middle-aged people, and college students as well," he said.

"One reason I like the strip is that it is not politically motivated like a lot of comic strips are. It is pure comic material on everyday things people can understand" Wilson said.

"I do not care if the upcoming cuts are older ones. I like the comic and I will continue to read it. If I have seen the earlier cuts before, I probably will not remember them anyway," he added.

As far as Larson's leave of absence, Wilson said, "I do not think that Larson should take such a long time. I understand that every one needs a vacation once in a while, but the

leave he is taking seems to be a bit long. I think that someone of his intelligence should not have to take so long to replenish his creative abilities.

"I think that a comic strip

writer's first responsibility is to entertain his audience. Larson should realize this. He has a lot of loyal readers who read his comic strip every day," Wilson continued.

Nickolas Cullivan, senior,



Repeats of former cartoons will give fans an opportunity to enjoy strip during Larson's sabbatical.

back and seeing how my favorite comic has evolved. I have never seen the earlier issues that have had them. It might even give me a chance to collect them," he continued.

He likes Larson because "he thinks of things in a sarcastic way. He is sarcastic in general. As far as I can see, as long as he can keep up his sarcastic style, (the classics) will be all right," Ammons said.

As far as Larson's leave of absence, Ammons said, "If you spend enough time with anything, you begin to get overloaded. A fresh break is always good to regenerate the mind. If he does not take a rest, he might turn out material that might be detrimental to him."

Ralph Patterson, a physics junior, said "I like it. It is an interesting comic strip. It is humorous. I think that it is kind of sarcastic, but it is sarcastic in a humorous way."

As far as running the classics, Patterson said, "I think it will be fine. No one looks to memorize comics. It is like reading Garfield. You can read 19 of them and not remember any of them. Maybe, by picking out the better cuts, the comic strip can actually be improved," he said.

As for Larson's leave of absence, Patterson said, "Man, if you have the money, go for it. I wish he would take me with him."