



Wanda Parham, Washella Turner, Andrea Cox and Jelore Spence act out a skit in a forum on date rape Feb. 25 in Johnson Hall. The forum was sponsored by the Honors class.

When a woman says, 'No' to sex: Honors forum examines date rape

By Lavenia Dameron

LaShondra had no reason to get suspicious when her friend Dave followed her into the house.

They had been standing outside talking when she went inside to look for something.

"When I turned around he was standing behind me," she recalled. "I didn't get suspicious because we grew up together. I had known him for years, and I trusted him."

LaShondra recalled that Dave demanded that she kiss him. "I thought he was joking so I just laughed and said no. When he pushed me against the wall and tried to kiss me, anyway, I suddenly became aware of the fact that I was home alone.

"He pushed me on the couch and we struggled, but I was helpless because I'm about ten times smaller (than he is). I started crying and screaming."

The attack was interrupted by the sound of a car outside. When Dave went to look, she was able to lock him outside.

"I slammed the door and locked it," she said. "If the car hadn't come by, then he would have raped me."

Although LaShondra and Dave (both current ECSU students) are not their actual names, their experience is played out

on campuses and in dorm rooms all across the country. According to a recent *Compass* survey, nearly 21 percent of ECSU's female students said they had been raped. Four of the rapes occurred on campus.

None of the victims reported the crimes. ECSU students discussed the issue of date rape in a forum, "Campus Talk," held Feb. 25 in the lecture room in Johnson Hall.

The forum, sponsored by the Freshman Honors Class, opened with a skit in which a young man boasted to his friends about a recent date rape. "I was trying to get on it and she locked up," the young man said, after describing how he took his friend, "Tarsha," parking. "I started working on her shoulders and her thighs. She was still trying to say no, but it was time to go!"

After boasting of forcing his friend to have sex with him, the young man exchanged high-fives with his three friends.

In the second skit, the young victim of the rape tearfully told her version of the story to her friends in her dorm room.

"That's rape," one of her friends declared.

At the end of this skit, the narrator of the program, Lynn Jordon, stepped up to the podium and said, "Some say it's his fault, some say it's her fault. Don't matter what it is, if she says no, it's date rape, it's

wrong and it's a crime."

"Rape occurs anytime a girl says no," said Jordon.

Jordon, President of the Freshman Honors Class, then quoted some statistics about rape, a subject she said was clouded by misconceptions.

"Only one out of five students even knows the facts about rape," said Jordon, adding that one out of four women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. She also said 63 percent of all rapes on college campuses were committed by fraternity members and 50 percent of males said they would commit rape if they could get away with it, according to surveys. More than 50 percent of all rape victims are acquainted with their attacker, she said.

A recent campus survey showed that less than 12 percent of ECSU's students feel that fraternities on this campus are responsible for most sex crimes.

Date rapes, like other forms of rape, are also under reported, said Jordon, who added that only 15 percent of colleges and universities report rapes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After her opening remarks, Jordon introduced panel members and welcomed open discussion between the panel and the audience. Panel members included Mr. William Butts, Professor of Criminal Justice; Ms. Gail Hutchinson, sexual as-

sault counselor for the Outer Banks hotline; freshman honor students, Michael Poyner, Dorothy Hager, Lynn Morris; and sophomore honor student, Richard Harrison.

Harrison, who played the role of a date rapist, provoked a variety of responses from the audience when he said, "If she comes up to my crib, she's asking for it. She deserves it."

Lynn Morris said that Harrison's attitude was "very unreasonable."

"If you're going to have sex with a girl, can't you at least respect her?" she asked Harrison.

"Respect! They better respect me. I'm the mack," Harrison said.

"Does this give you some kind of sick sense of power?" asked a female student.

"Yeah, I'm the mack!" said Harrison, as the audience laughed. "I'll do it to who I want to when I want to."

"If he keeps going like this, he's going to be raped in prison by a big guy named Bubba," said a male student from the audience.

"You aren't going to have very many dates," said Hutchinson.

"If I take you out and spend twenty dollars, you gone do something!" Harrison responded.

"The attitude this man has is against every state's rape laws," said Butts, refer-