

CAMPUS NEWS

North Carolina Central University

March 14, 1991

R\$VP Sponsors Phonathon

North Carolina Central University will be sponsoring a telephone campaign March 12-14 to raise scholarship funds. More than 175 students have volunteered to call alumni. Last spring over \$15,000 was raised by 57 students. Nineteen local businesses are backing the phonathon and have donated prizes including dinners for two and cassettes or compact disks. Other businesses are providing souvenirs and refreshments for three nights of work at a 40-phone bank at Duke University.



Members of the R\$VP Student Phonathon Committee: first row, left to right, Stephanie Troy, Dina Walker, Kelsha Peterson and Tina Buford; Back row, left to right, Tisha Junious, James Dickens, and Janet Pickett.

The Realities of Date Rape

By Roderick G. Freeman
Staff Writer

Picture this hypothetical situation. Steve asks Kelly to go out on a date and she accepts. He takes her to the most expensive restaurant in town and then treats her to a movie. Afterwards, they go back to her apartment where Steve begins to make sexual advances towards Kelly. She says no, but he still persists. Steve ends up raping Kelly; his only excuse was that "she wanted it."

Although the situation illustrated above was fictional, the idea of rape exists. Rape is a horrible crime that cannot be easily forgotten, and it is also a crime which has unclear meanings. At North Carolina Central University, the rape that we as both students and young adults may face is called date rape. Date rape is something that both women and men should know about.

First of all, date rape is a sexual assault committed against a woman usually by someone she knows. There have been rumors stating that all rape is committed by strangers, but FBI statistics show that between 50-70% of all rapes, both parties are acquainted. Date rape often happens because of poor communication between people and mixed messages. The fact is, that when a woman says no, she generally means no.

Another excuse rapists offer as their defense is that if a woman flirts with a man or wears sexy clothing, then she is "asking for it." No one asks to be raped. Everyone likes to look attractive and presentable. A woman has many rights when it comes to sex, one of them being that she has the

right to dress how she pleases, no matter how provocative.

Although many men may disagree with this, another right that a woman has is to agree to have sex...and then change her mind at the spur of the moment. No still means no, whether it is said before or after agreeing to have sex. Men do not have the right to pressure a woman into sex if 1.) they paid for a dinner or a night out, 2.) they've had sex with her before or 3.) they think that she enjoys being forced to have sex.

By the way guys, if you're thinking of getting her drunk before having sex, North Carolina State law says that if a person is too drunk to give consent, your actions are considered as second-degree rape. If convicted, you could receive a maximum sentence up to 40 years in prison.

The most important thing for a woman to do if she is raped is to seek help. Both the Rape Crisis Center in Durham and the Counseling Center here on campus offer services. Hospitals are also equipped to treat rape victims for injuries, diseases, etc. You may also want to report the rape to the police or campus security. Basically, it's still your decision to report the rape, but doing so will help to speed up the capture of the rapist.

All in all, you should be careful when you are alone on campus or with someone you don't know well. Rape is an ugly crime, but it's not the victim's fault.

Here's a word of advice to all of the men on campus: even though the women outnumber the men at NCCU, they should be treated with the proper respect that they deserve. All black women are beautiful and we, as black men, should protect and cherish them.