

Rape awareness group strives to raise campus consciousness

Christine Gowen
The Pendulum

One out of three women will become victims of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime, according to the United Council. A group of Elon College students are determined to make students aware of this.

The group, called One in Three, was formed during the fall semester in conjunction with the Rape Crisis Alliance of Alamance County.

Sylvia Passantino, a senior at Elon, got the idea of forming the group after taking a Women's Studies seminar.

"Throughout our discussions in class concerning rape, we realized there wasn't a specific program on campus that helped victims or answered students' questions," Passantino said.

Passantino contacted Brenda Gumm, director of the Rape Crisis Alliance, for advice. Negotiations with Elon College administration were then made to form One in Three.

Psychology and Human Services classes were targeted in the efforts to campaign for student volunteers. Professors were also

asked to spread the word and urge students to participate.

Twenty-two students joined and pledged their services.

"I didn't have to do much advertising because people were willing to be involved," Passantino said.

The Rape Crisis Alliance trained the students in a 25 hour session that took place over one week. Role plays were performed and documentary videos on rape were showed. Each student received a rape crisis handbook listing facts, legalities, statistics, and steps to take in a crisis situation.

"It's going really well. Things have turned out much better than I anticipated," Gumm said. "It's often difficult to get these programs started at colleges and to get students to participate."

All 22 members have volunteered for the Rape Crisis Hotline and some have completed internships at the center.

"I didn't expect that to happen," Gumm said. "They are working real hard. Sylvia has made students aware of the need for this to be done."

In order for Elon College to recognize the group, a constitution



Bill Harvey/The Pendulum

Construction began last week on a student emergency phone located outside of Long Student Center.

had to be drawn up explaining the purpose and future goals of One in Three.

Barbra Prumbly, the group's

advisor, and John Barnhill, director of Elon Volunteers, have served as liaisons between the Elon administration and One in Three.

"I couldn't have done this without the two of them. They have helped and supported me so

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Pauline Bart spoke about violence against women

Author addresses violence against women

Courtenay Houston
The Pendulum

Stereotypes contribute to the continuing cycle of violence against women in this country, author Pauline Bart said Monday night.

"Violence against women is built into the fabric of today's society. We are constantly made aware of how we are put at risk," Bart said.

The forum, "Violence Against Women" was sponsored by the SGA Liberal Arts Forum and One and Three, the rape awareness group on campus.

"Experiencing violence has long lasting relative effects on women," said Bart.

Bart said that 31 percent of the women who are raped experience post-traumatic stress disorder. Also, 33 percent of the

women who have been raped have considered committing suicide as compared to the 8 percent of the non-raped population.

"Women who have been raped have a greater likelihood of using drugs and alcohol," Bart said.

Bart also discussed the issue of flourishing masculinism (woman hating) which has been heightened by Hillary Clinton's non-stereotypical role in the White House. She added that all forms of violence against women are targeted at keeping women subordinated.

"Even 10 or 15 years ago, the advice that women were given (on violence against them) was to sit back and enjoy it...try to get him (the attacker) to see you as a human being," Bart said.

Bart cited a case in which a woman was being attacked and

her attacker told her "Stop yelling and act like a lady."

Bart said that instead of being passive and trying to persuade men not to hurt them, women should try to fend off their attackers by yelling, fleeing and exerting physical force.

"Women who use two or more of these strategies are more likely to avoid sexual assault," Bart said.

"Also, women who had tried to physically resist their attackers had less psychological after-effects," Bart added.

Bart, a professor of sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is the author of three books on violence against women: *Stopping Rape, The Violence Against Women: The Bloody Footprints* and *The Student Sociologist Handbook*.