

APRIL 2011

Shocking: College Rapists Almost Always Get Off the Hook

Two Michigan State University basketball players accused of sexually assaulting a young woman in their dorm are off the hook, according to a report released by *The Michigan Messenger*.

Many elements of the case are typical of campus acquaintance rape scenarios. The accused are college athletes and the assault allegedly occurred after a night of drinking and casual socializing:

The victim told police the players penetrated her in various positions. The victim told detectives the players allegedly asked her 'how does that feel?' and 'how do you want it?' The victim says she told the players she didn't want it and gave 'other indicators she was not a willing participant.'

The victim told police that the players pinned her down, but at one point she freed her arms momentarily and struck one in the face. In response, he allegedly said, "Don't. Just relax. C'mon baby," as he continued to assault her.

But what sets this particular case apart from others is that one of the accused players actually corroborates the victim's statement, admitting to authorities that he knew the young woman was unwilling:

During his interview with detectives, the one player who volunteered a statement corroborated much of the victim's statement, the report shows. He told investigators that

when it was clear from the victim's statements that she did not want to have sex, he stopped. However, the other player continued 'despite her reluctance and statements that she did not want to continue.' The victim confirms that player's account.

The player told detectives he was concerned "over the girl's reaction to the circumstances," noting she was "timid" and "not aggressive." The player then admitted to detectives that he understood how the woman believed she was not welcome to leave the room, in part because she kept referencing that the two were "bigger" than her.

Given the player's affirmation of the victim's statement, the case against the men should have been a "slam dunk." Accordingly, the MSU Police Department wasted no time sending their report to the prosecutor's office, with the recommendation that both men be charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct 1, the severest level of sexual assault under Michigan law.

But the assigned prosecutor, Stuart Dunning, has declined to press charges against the athletes, saying that the prosecutor's office is not convinced that force or coercion occurred in this case (a judgment directly contradicted by the police report), and that the victim herself chose not to press charges (a claim denied by the victim).

(Continued on page 3)

Frontlines

April is Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

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2010 STATISTICS

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition:

Assisted 4,187 families traumatized by domestic violence and sheltered 286 adults and children

Assisted 271 direct and 199 indirect victims of sexual assault

Provided 2,498 individual and 1,118 family therapy sessions for 483 individuals

Provided 420 therapy groups, which were attended by 209 individuals

Accompanied 55 victims of sexual assault to the hospital

Assisted 395 victims with filing order of protection petitions and attended 2,029 hearings with domestic violence and sexual assault victims

Provided 612 education/prevention programs reaching 84,524 individuals

583 volunteers contributed 31,699 hours

**United We Stand...Putting the Pieces Together
 (An Interpersonal Violence Conference)**

Friday, October 14, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park

*(CE, Nursing Contact Hours, Social Work, Counselors, Victim Service Providers, Law Enforcement Officers, and Judges Credits Approved)
 Scholarships are available to this conference.*

Registration Fee is \$60.00; Additional fee after September 30, 2011: \$10.00
 Fee includes light continental breakfast, handout materials, refreshments, lunch, and certificate of attendance.
 Deadline for registration is September 30, 2011;
 No refunds will be made. Substitutions are accepted and encouraged.

**For more information contact Marlene Evans
 at 864.583.9803 or 1.800.273.5066.**

Shelter Wish List:

Deodorant * Plastic Cups, Bowls, Plates, Forks and Spoons * Baby Bottles * Baby Wipes
 Canned Vegetables, Meats & Fruits (in natural juices)
 Cleaning Products * Combs & Brushes Toothbrushes
 Toothpaste * Boys' & Girls' Underwear
 Pillows * Twin Bed Linens
 Paper Towels & Toilet Paper
 Laundry Detergent * Dish Detergent
 Dish Washer Detergent * Towels & Wash Cloths
 Ladies' Panties (size 7-12)
 Sugar * Flour * Brown Rice * Cornmeal
 Cooking Oil * Coffee * Tea

School Items Needed

Book Bags * Erasers * Protractors
 Children's Scissors * Pencils (No. 2) * Calculators
 Poster Board * White-Out * Glue Sticks
 Highlighters Colored Pencils * Dividers * Rulers Markers
 Crayons Portfolios * Notebooks
 3-Ring Binders Graph Paper * Pens (Black)
 Permanent Markers
 Notebook Paper—wide/college ruled
 Children's Games (for 11-15 yr. olds)

**Sexual Assault Closet
 Wish List:**

Men's and Women's Drawstring Type Pants & Jogging Suits (S-5X)
 T-Shirts, New Underwear, Elastic Shorts, Socks, Bras (Band width 38 & up)
 Children's Books, Coloring Books, Crayons



(Continued from page 1)

Dunning’s decision, while reprehensible, shouldn’t be surprising. An investigation of sexual assault on campuses conducted last year by The Center for Public Integrity (CPI) found that the number of prosecutions of campus acquaintance rapes is minuscule. When prosecutors turn down these cases, the only available recourse for many victims is to seek justice through their university’s disciplinary system. Unfortunately, most colleges are ill-equipped to investigate and resolve sexual assault cases, and moreover are unwilling to impose harsh sanctions on perpetrators.

A 2002 report commissioned by the Department of Justice found a number of inherent problems with university policies and practices regarding sexual assault, including a tendency to “unintentionally condone victim-blaming.” Only 38 percent of schools require sexual assault sensitivity training for campus law enforcement, while only 37 percent fully comply with federal regulations about reporting crimes. The CPI investigation similarly found that even when college administrators deem a student guilty of sexual assault, they are reluctant to expel the perpetrator:

Verdicts are educational, not punitive, opportunities. ... Not every sexual offense deserves the harshest penalty, [administrators] argue; not every culpable student is a hardened criminal.

So, while a man who rapes off-campus could face years in jail for his crime, a man who rapes on-campus is unlikely to even be expelled. In too many cases, student rapists face mere suspension or even lighter sanctions. The tendency among administrators to view sexual assaults as “teachable moments” flies in the face of evidence that student rapists are often serial rapists—guilty of victimizing an average of six women during their college career.

The decision to absolve student rapists of their crimes can be costly, as doing so could violate Title IX, the federal civil rights law that bars sex discrimination in publicly funded educational programs. In recent years, the ACLU has won two landmark lawsuits against public universities guilty of letting rapists off the hook. In 2008, Arizona State University paid out \$850,000 after it failed to expel an athlete with a history of harassment who later raped a young woman, and in 2007 the University of Colorado paid out \$2.5 million after members of its football team sexually assaulted two women.

Whether Michigan State University will take action against the basketball players accused of rape remains to be seen. The prospects don’t look good. While the Office of Postsecondary Education shows that the university reported 32 forcible sex offenses on its campus between 2007 and 2009, it does not show any reports of disciplinary actions associated with those crimes.

*By Catherine Traywick, Campus Progress
Posted on October 10, 2010, Printed on March 8, 2011
<http://www.alternet.org/story/148460/>
Catherine Traywick is an Arizona-based blogger for The Media Consortium.*

Recognizing and Responding to Sexual Assault in the Elderly and Other Vulnerable Adults


April 4, 2011
8:30am to 4:45pm

**Barrett Room
Spartanburg County
Library
Headquarters**

This is a free all-day workshop and lunch will be provided. E-mail the following information to danielle.spakes@shrcc.org to reserve your spot.


Name
Address
E-mail
Phone Number

For questions contact:
Danielle Spakes,
danielle.spakes@shrcc.org
or 864.683.9803



**Therapy Team
Wish List:**

**bags of play sand,
crayons, watercolors,
brushes, small toys for
therapy prizes (\$1.00-
\$3.00), full length
aprons, legal size or
larger art
paper, punching bag,
2 bean bag chairs,
48" diameter round
table**



**3059 Howard Street
Spartanburg, SC 29303**

In April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Ground Zero, a local bar in Spartanburg, SC is going to have tip jars available for their patrons to make donations to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition.

On **April 15, 2011**, Ground Zero is hosting a Benefit Concert in which the proceeds will go to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition.

For more information regarding the Concert Benefit, please contact Ground Zero at (864) 948-1661/text only line (864) 494-8270.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Honors Outstanding Volunteers

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition's staff and clients have all been touched in a unique way by the spirit of volunteers. It was therefore appropriate to recognize those whose service in 2010 were deemed to be exceptional at our Annual Volunteer Banquet held on March 17, 2011.

LEADERSHIP AWARD - United Way of the Piedmont

This award is not presented every year. It is presented to individuals who display leadership through actions above and beyond the ordinary. This award comes with a "Purple Heart", in recognition of their outstanding leadership in this community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Nancy Kirby Crocker

This award recognizes the superior achievement, commitment and support of a volunteer to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR - Charlie Bebko

This award recognizes outstanding leadership and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by a member of SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition's Board of Directors.

CORPORATE SERVICE AWARD - Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency (SPARTA)

This award is presented to a local company in recognition of outstanding corporate support and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD OF THE YEAR - Little Caesar's Pizza

This award is presented to individuals and organizations that have exemplified outstanding community service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Lisa Glenn, Kim Jackson

This award is presented to outstanding student volunteers in recognition of superior achievement, commitment and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANN KEARSE AWARD - Ginger Davis

Ann Kearse was the kind of volunteer every group wishes they had. Her death in 1998 was a huge loss for us. In honor of her volunteer service, an award was created and is given to the volunteer that epitomizes that ongoing volunteer spirit and commitment in large and small ways.

DEDICATION AWARDS - Bruster's Ice Cream, The Shop, Johnson Communications, Inc., Bobby Jackson Electrical Inc.

These volunteers have been truly dedicated in their long-term and consistent commitment to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition and the victims we serve.

HELPING HANDS AWARDS - Betty Koester, Uptown Sertoma Club, Dollar General

This award is presented to organizations in recognition of exemplary service and dedication to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SHINING STAR AWARDS - Paul Brown, Denise Blankenship, Heartwarmers

This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of stellar support, and commitment to promoting awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANGELS OF LIGHT AWARD - Arrowwood Baptist Church

This award is presented to faith-based groups in recognition of their dedication and ongoing commitment to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

KELLEY AWARD - Ray & Bea Dillard

Donna Kelley was a much loved friend and staff member. Her death in November of 2002 was an incredible loss for us and the victims she served. In honor of her unparalleled commitment to underserved victim populations, an award was created and given to the volunteer that exemplifies that enthusiasm and dedication to empowering those who would otherwise have no support or guidance.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS - Laura Filler, Spartanburg Methodist College, Cato's, Elise Reed, Allison Skinner, Latwana Gilbert

This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in this community.

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2010 Cash Contributions - Operational

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Dismantling Rape Culture Messages Through Song

By Laura Zárate, Arte Sana Founding Executive Director

While popular songs may convey empowering and positive messages, they are also powerful vehicles for misogynist and victim blaming attitudes. Rape culture themes can be found in daily personal, community, institutional, popular culture and multimedia expressions. Music plays an important role in many types of cultures - youth culture in particular. A recent survey by the Kaiser Family Institute shows that teens ages 15-18 listen to approximately three hours and 21 minutes of music per day. In addition, they watch nearly 4½ hours of TV per day, some of which may include music programs. The power of music is also evident in the international ringtone phenomenon, one of the fastest growing industries worldwide.

The Power of Song to Build Awareness

Practically any song from any genre may be used to make a point, stimulate discussion, exemplify a problem, present an alternative, or identify consequences. Although most current recordings or music videos are not ideologically pure or completely consistent with nonviolent or gender equity themes, significant examples of resistance to exploitative images of women may be used to offer empowering risk reduction messages. The benefits of using songs to promote awareness and discussion of sexual assault issues:

- Songs are readily available
- Songs and song lyrics are available instantly online
- Music can serve as a generational and cultural bridge
- Youth culture is ever-changing and the incorporation of songs can help make presentations relevant
- Use of songs can promote two-way educational experiences and the active engagement of participants

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the troublesome lyrics of some teen music:

- Advocate and glamorize the abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Present suicide as a “solution”
- Display graphic violence
- Describe harmful sexual practices, incest, and a devaluing of women

Rape culture messaging through music is not a new phenomenon, and the following rape culture themes can be found in all genres of music:

- Male entitlement
- Phallic weapon
- Sex with underage females
- Prostitution and sexual exploitation

Examples of songs with an indirect or explicit prostitution or sexual exploitation theme from 1930 to 2006:

“Love for Sale”
– Cole Porter/Billie Holiday
“Let Me Entertain You”
– Stephen Sondheim and Jule Styne
“Sundown”
– Gordon Lightfoot
“Walk on the Wild Side”
– Lou Reed
“Mexican Blackbird”
– ZZ Top
“Bad Girls”
– Donna Summer
“Back in the Saddle”
– Aerosmith

“Roxanne”
– The Police
“A Lap Dance Is So Much Better When the Stripper is Crying”
– Bloodhound Gang
“I’m in Love With A Stripper”
– T-Pain
“Lap Dance”
– N.E.R.D.
“What Would You Do?”
– City High
“When the Sun Goes Down”
– The Arctic Monkeys

The following is a partial list of songs used during Arte Sana’s Girl Empowerment Festivals (GEF) to promote respect, moving on, and resiliency:

“Just a Girl” – No Doubt
“Respect” – Aretha Franklin
“Beautiful” – Christina Aguilera
“Can’t Hold Us Down” – Christina Aguilera
“Don’t Tell Me” – Avril Lavigne
“I Will Survive” – Gloria Gaynor
“Fighter” – Christina Aguilera
“Pocketful of Sunshine” – Natasha Bedingfield
“If I Were a Boy” – Beyonce Knowles



A huge **THANKS** goes out to everyone who helped out during the holiday season! **The Shop**, a local non-profit group of motorcycle Davidson enthusiasts, held their Eleventh Annual Toy Run raising \$5,390.00 and donating loads of toys and bikes for us. Special thanks to FedEx, Hilltop Fire Dept., and the Spartanburg City Police for their escort during the parade and to the 300 motorcyclists that continue to support the work we do.

We couldn't keep doing what we do without you!

Auction For A Cause



With help from the Uptown Sertoma Club and the many folks who contributed their time, talent, donations, and support, Auction for a Cause netted

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
\$15,162.00!



This year's Auction will



SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
would like to
WELCOME....

New Board Members:

Hope Blackley
Rev. Charles Jackson
Judy Martin
Stephanie Rainey

New Staff:

Catherine Baker (PT)
Debbie Bosler
Ken Hughes (PT)
Libby Whitaker

Right at this moment you have all the resources you need to make a difference.... Please VOLUNTEER!!!!

There are various opportunities in our programs where you can take time to give. Volunteers assist with special projects, clerical duties, our thrift store, educations, fundraising, the emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and our 24-hour crisis line. SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition will also be offering a special volunteer training program for domestic violence and sexual assault crisis counselors March 21, 2011 - April 12, 2011. If you are interested in more information, please contact Karen Martin-Wilkins at 864.583.9803.

SAVE A TREE...GO GREEN

Are you receiving multiple copies of *Frontlines*?

Would you like to be removed from our mailing list?

Do you know a friend or co-worker who would enjoy receiving the newsletter?
Have you moved?

Would you like to receive Frontlines via e-mail?

If any of these apply, please contact us:
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
236 Union Street • Spartanburg, SC 29302
Phone: 864.583.9803 • Fax: 864.583.9611
SHRCC@aol.com

Yes, I want to help.

- \$95 to provide shelter for one night
- \$190 to provide shelter for two nights a week's shelter
- I wish to make a gift of my own choosing _____
- I would like my gift to be made in honor/memory of:
In honor of _____
In memory of _____
- I would like more information about volunteer opportunities

- \$475 to provide shelter for five nights
- \$665 to provide shelter for seven nights

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to **SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition**
Mail to: 236 Union Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Donations are tax deductible according to the tax regulations regarding 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

Frontlines

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
236 Union Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302

A United Way Funding Partner



United Way
of the Piedmont

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Spartanburg, SC

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

- March 21-April 12, 2011** **SHRCC Volunteer Training**
236 Union Street ~ Spartanburg, SC
- April 4, 2011** **Sexual Assault in Elderly & Vulnerable Adults Workshop**~ *Spartanburg County Library/Barrett Room 8:30am-4:45pm*
- April 10-16, 2011** **National Crime Victims' Rights Week**
Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past
- April 13, 2011** **Victim's Rights Week - Day of Prayer**
12 Noon at Spartanburg City Hall
- April 13-15, 2011** **South Carolina Victim Assistance Network 23rd Annual Victims' Rights Week 2011 Conference** ~ *Greenville, SC*
- April 15, 2011** **SH-RCC Benefit Concert**
Ground Zero ~ Spartanburg, SC
- October 7, 2011** **Auction For A Cause: Silent & Live Auction:** *Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium Lower level*
- October 14, 2011** **An Interpersonal Violence Conference**
Registration: 8:30am / Program 9:00am - 4:15pm Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park

For more information or services,
please call 1.800.273.5066 or 864.583.9803

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition (SHRCC) provides services to victims of domestic violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties and victims of sexual assault in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Mission

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition is a collaborative effort that exists to end sexual and domestic violence.

The Objectives of SHRCC shall be:

- To build community awareness by providing Information on the dynamics and prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Abuse;
- To provide treatment and supportive services to child and adult victims of Sexual Assault/Abuse or Domestic Violence;
- To provide temporary emergency shelter to victims of Domestic Violence and their dependent children;
- To advocate at local, state, and federal levels on behalf of victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Abuse and to coordinate community resources to alleviate the suffering of these victims.