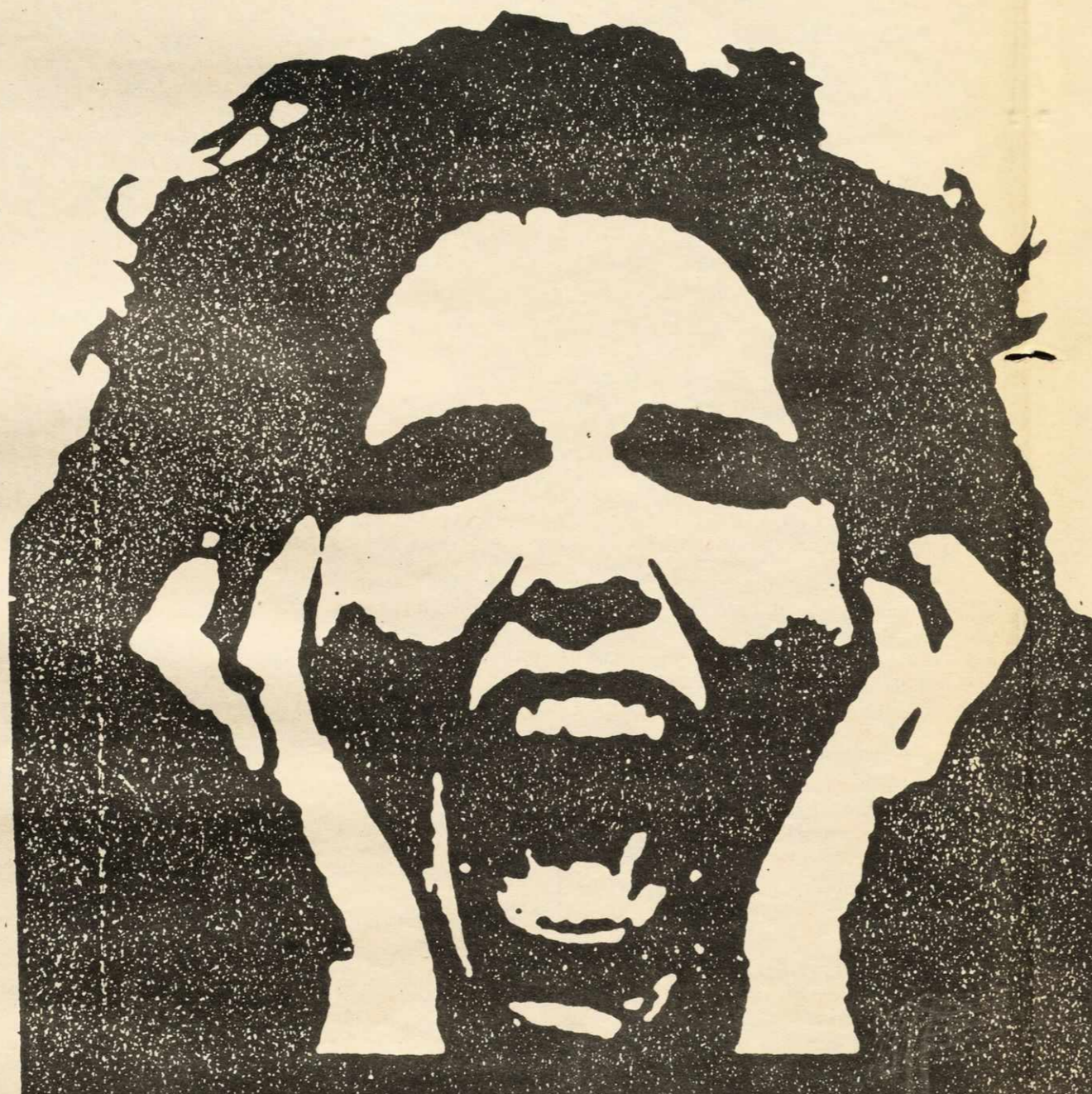


# SEXUAL ASSAULT CONTINUING PROBLEM ON CAMPUSES

*Orientation week 1990. Drinking and partying is going on all over the campus. For new students anxious to make friends and worried about fitting in, it's a time to sit back and indulge. But for many female students, it's also the time of year when they are most likely to be raped during a date.*



## College survey reveals need for awareness

(CPS/CUP) — Five per cent of the men on US college campuses have forced their dates to have sex with them, says Cornell University professor Andrea Parrot.

These men fail to see their actions as rape, and probably won't seek help to change their behaviour, Parrot said during a two-day conference on sexual assault on college campuses at North Carolina State University.

"We're not going to help them. The best thing we can do is adjudicate them, kick them off campus but make sure they don't do it again," advised Parrot, a sex ed consultant and author of "Coping

with Date Rape."

Parrot also said up to 25 per cent of the women on a college campus will experience rape or attempted rape.

Parrot's figures are close to those of other researchers. Most recently, a University of Illinois task force reported that more than 16 per cent of the women there had been raped. A 1989 survey of 6,000 college students by a Santa Monica, California, hospital found that one in six college women had been raped.

"I think it's higher than five per cent," said Robin Brassie of the University of New Mexico's Rape

Crisis Centre. "A lot of men don't think that what they're doing is rape."

Parrot said college students need to be educated to guard against becoming a victim, to offer assistance should one of their friends be assaulted and to stop behaviour condoning sexual assault.

In addition, students need to learn not to "desensitize" women, Parrot said.

Laughing at sexist jokes, wet t-shirt contests and other such behaviour leads to viewing women as objects and ultimately condoning rape, she said.

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According to a 1988 survey conducted in American colleges and universities, one in four female students is a survivor of rape or attempted rape. Research indicates figures are similar on Canadian campuses

"This is a dangerous time for a lot of reasons," says Mimi Jones, an Ontario Federation of Students researcher who is co-ordinating a rape awareness campaign. "I went to Queens and their whole Orientation is based on drinking and having sex. Because of that there were a large number of date rapes."

"People are on their own and away for the first time. The concept of Orientation is that you are being introduced to one big happy family. This leads to a pressure to drink and fit in. In reality everyone is really a group of strangers. There is no real reason to believe that you are safe."

Because date rape is committed by an acquaintance or friend, women often feel too ashamed, betrayed, or frightened, to report

the assault, or even to seek help.

"The most important thing is to dispel the myth that most rapes are stranger rapes," says Jones. "Up to 85 per cent of rapes are committed by men the women know."

### Women should listen to their gut feelings.

Often men who commit the rape say they didn't realize they have committed a sexual assault. Statistics show 84 per cent of the men who commit rape (as defined by law) say what they did was definitely not rape.

Because few date rapes are reported, there are no official statistics on the actual numbers that occur. However, the University of Toronto's health services department estimates over 50 per cent of date rapes that occur on campus happen during Orientation week.

Alcohol and drugs are significant factors in the occurrence of date rapes, Jones says. Research shows 75 per cent of the men in-

involved in date rapes had been drinking or taking drugs at the time.

But she also cautions that if women drink or take drugs they should be more careful because men may be more likely to take

advantage of them. Fifty-five per cent of the women who have been date raped were drinking or taking drugs at the time.

Susan Addario, U of T's personal safety awareness officer, says women and men have to be more aware of how drinking impairs people's judgments and perceptions of what is happening around them.

"Men need to be aware that the consumption of alcohol or drugs interferes with their ability to listen," she says.

"Men should be aware of when a woman is incapable of giving consent to sexual activity. If a woman is intoxicated or passed out then having sex with her could

be characterized as sexual assault. In group situations, such as in Orientation, I think it's important if someone sees a woman in trouble, that they should get involved. Don't be afraid to get involved and help her."

Nancy Adamson, U of T's sexual assault officer, says that in the two-and-a-half years she has held the position, she has only talked to about ten women who reported date rape, but the majority happened during Orientation.

"Almost all of the cases I have seen have taken place in or around residence buildings may also be a major factor in date rapes on campus, she says.

"Among the ten women I've talked to, all but one of them happened in residence," says Adamson. "I suspect when you party where bedrooms and privacy are close by, it may be more liable to happen."

Women should never have to alter their behaviour or sexual activity because of the fear of date rape. But until male attitudes regarding old stereotypes change, Addario says there are some things

women can do to reduce the risk.

"I think that women should listen to their gut feelings," she says. "When they feel that they are getting into a situation that could get dangerous, they should leave, particularly during Orientation."

Jones says date rape can usually be avoided if the woman and man communicate with each other clearly.

"Women should never have to control their actions more than they want to," she says. "But they have to use 'no' properly when they mean it. It's important that women know their own sexual limits and convey them firmly."

Addario agrees that verbal communication is important.

"Men and women shouldn't rely on vibes. I think it's really important that men take the time to hear what a woman is saying. There are men who still believe that 'no' means 'maybe' or 'convince me'."

She says men often don't listen to what women tell them.

"I don't think men should make any assumptions about a woman. If they think they are getting mixed messages, they should clarify what

the woman is saying. Just because a woman consents to kissing doesn't mean she wants to have sex; or just because she's had sex with a man once before doesn't mean she wants to have sex with him again."

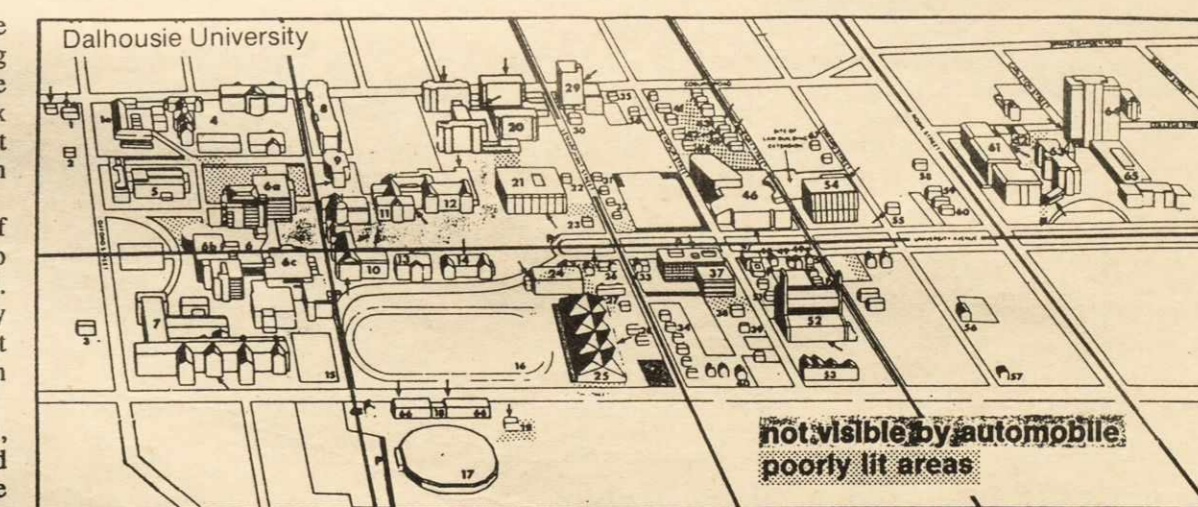
Jones says there are a lot of practical things women can do to prevent being sexually assaulted. "Women should always carry enough money with them to get home and should try to travel with a friend," she says.

"On university campuses, women are more likely to get raped by the man who walks them home from the pub than if they were walking by themselves. I would advise you to call your housemates and tell them who you are walking home with and how long you expect to be. If the man knows you have done this, he is not likely to try anything."

Jones says men's attitudes also have to change.

"It's also important for men not to buy into the idea that sex is conquest. Orientation plays this up. It's the 'another notch in the bedpost' concept."

## NO MEANS NO MEANS NO MEANS NO MEANS NO



### High risk areas on campus

This campus guide was compiled by three people, two of whom are trained in martial arts. The guide does not include underbrush, trenches or blind corners, and it was assumed that all of the lights seen at the time would remain on for the entire night.