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Selling of women must end in order to eliminate rape

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either because she was out late at night, alone, or accepted a ride home, or made a judgemental error, or hitchhiked.

And no matter the so-called areas where a woman may be responsible for an error in judgement, she is never responsible for someone's attack on her.

EXCALIBUR -- What about hitchhiking? There's a billboard campaign on now, linking up death with hitchhiking. Would you discourage women from hitchhiking?

CHASE -- I would say to each woman who called asking, that hitchhiking does tend to be a very heavy hazard thing. I would not say that she shouldn't hitchhike, I believe that's a woman's choice.

But again, the man who is driving the car, is responsible for the attack if it does occur. However, I would warn her that there is a very high possibility that some form of assault could occur if she accepted a ride, particularly if there is more than one man.

EXCALIBUR -- How can a woman defend herself against a would-be rapist? What is the best way of handling a situation where a woman is being threatened with rape?

CHASE -- I'm very glad you asked that, because there are different kinds of rape. One involves stranger rape, in which the precautions I suppose, are a little more straightforward. The other is social rape, rapes that occur within a social situation, either in a circle of casual acquaintances, or a man that a woman accepts a date with, or hasn't dated for a while, and so on, and the kind of sexual retaliation that comes into play in a relationship.

To answer your question, what kind of precautions can a woman take, I would say that the strongest precaution any woman can take is to learn self-defence.

In all cases where rape has been averted successfully, studies confirm that a woman used some active form of self-defence.

EXCALIBUR -- That's in-



teresting. The classic conception of that, or a common conception, is that when a woman is raped, that if she tries to defend herself, then she's just provoking a worse attack.

CHASE -- You see, there is a sort of fringe area, where about five, and possibly up to ten percent, depending on which statistics you use, of rapists are psychopathic. Now, in that group of people, there is a correlation between a woman resisting and the level of excitement that that involves.

But, I think although that's true for a minority of rapists, usually stranger rapes, it's also true that the psychopath generally wants to mutilate and to do a lot of physical violence in the act of rape. There is no guarantee he's going to stop short of murder.

So, you have to make a decision, in that case about what one is to do. To lie there quietly and be mutilated, I think you're aware of the man who asked to be castrated, I'm trying to remember his name. Well, three women were the

victims of that rapist. Two women were murdered by him. The third woman, he said if she did not resist, he would not hurt her, and proceeded to beat her and go towards murdering her, but he was interrupted in the process, so she lived to tell about it.

So, I think if you're given that type of situation, you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. There's no guarantee that you have your life in your hands if you do not resist.

But a woman does have to make an individual judgement, based on her particular fear about what is best to do. And no woman should blame herself if she does not actively resist to try to save her life.

EXCALIBUR -- Where can women learn self-defence? Are there self-defence courses specifically to defend against rapists in Toronto?

CHASE -- Yes, basically through the YWCA, there are self-defence courses, and we have a list of people on file who teach self-defence, particularly Wen-Do. Women can phone us on our business number if they are interested.

EXCALIBUR -- Just one final question. How can rape be eliminated? What must change in our society in order to root it out?

CHASE -- Well, I think that a lot of things have to change in society, in terms of male/female relationships becoming much more honest.

There's an immediate dichotomy which enters in. Women are not prepared for the fact of rape, and men, who may not consider themselves rapists, may just think that they are being healthily aggressive, proving their masculinity. Within this concept, in our society, when a woman says no, it means: "try harder", or "later".

But I think social relations have to change to the extent that women are not objectified as much as they are, and that the whole selling of a woman as a sexually-provocative creature must end.

Of course, many rapes occur to women who do not fit the description of "the attractive woman". It can be two-month old babies or ninety year old women, besides women wearing blue jeans and tee-shirts.

But I think that within this society there still is the sale of women's bodies, and that there is a selling of violence along with sexuality - S&M, the leather trade, porno movies, the misuse of children in porno movies. And until this ends, there will be rape.

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