

By MAUREEN O'HARA
Reprinted from UPSTREAM

OTTAWA (CUP) - A film about rape currently being circulated throughout Ottawa and other cities across Canada and the U.S. has been denounced by every Rape Crisis Centre in North America - and its father, Frederick Storaska, is being brought to court by NOW, the American National Organization of Women.

The film, "How To Say No To A Rapist And Survive", used by the Ottawa Board of Education, the RCMP, the Ottawa City Police and other agencies as a guide to preventing rape, is "harmful, unrealistic and based on false assumptions," according to spokespeople representing the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre and various other centres.

They say the film could influence women to put themselves in vulnerable and dangerous situations by accepting the methods suggested in the film.

The film shows one of the several hundred lectures Storaska has given university students since his individual crusade against rape began more than ten years ago after witnessing and breaking up the rape of an 11-year old girl by a gang of rapists.

Since that incident, Storaska has become a self-appointed authority on the prevention of rape. He has lectured to more than a million people and written a book by the same name as the film. He is the founder of the National Organization for the Prevention of Rape and Assault and is consultant to the National Crime Prevention Institute in the U.S.

In a letter to various municipal agencies

"It's your choice," he says, "I'm not going to be there."

At the same time he deals lightly and comically with the situation using jokes and sexual innuendo. Using women in the audience to demonstrate methods for dealing with potential rape situations, Storaska swaggers up to the stage taking off his jacket while eliciting laughter from the audience with comments like: "This won't take long folks" and "You have to feel energetic to take four on up here."

From the outset, the film insists that women have little chance of escaping rape by using self defense or screaming. Storaska says that kind of behavior will only anger a potential assailant causing a violent reaction. The action a woman must take is to exercise her feminine wiles, play up to the rapist, offer him sexual favors and hope to outwit him and escape in the end, he says.

Several studies into rape contradict this method, including the Stanford University study which found out of a group of women who had escaped rape, 100 per cent actively resisted. And in 50 per cent of these cases the attacker was repelled by a loud noise alone.

Another study by Denver psychologist Dr. James Selkin, found that by hesitating and playing along with a potential rapist a woman assures him that she will be his victim.

A number of studies, including Selkin's, found most rapist follow a pattern that starts with choosing a victim, testing her vulnerability, threatening and then acting if it is apparently "safe" to do so. Fear and hesitation encourage the rapist to follow through once the hesitation provides a chance to check whether the victim is alone and without means of escape.

In a paper objecting to Storaska's film,



encourages a rape. For evidence to this, he tells the women in his audience to try it

next time they make love with their boyfriends.

He goes on to say the assaulter is a person to be viewed not as a raving lunatic but as someone with the same needs as every normal person who should be loved and respected. Kindness, love and understanding are the best ways to deal with him, Storaska says.

Trivializing the outrageous nature of the violent act of rape, he says rape is "only having sexual intercourse when you don't

"it is ridiculous to can be appeased

A study by Man Patterns of Force currently teaching Ottawa, shows that married, have no first offenders, s Crisis Centre spok

As pointed out in paper, "violence deep-rooted aggression commit rape" and will only get raped has no basis in fact

Analysis of How to Say No to a Rapist:

How to say no Fred Storaska ... and survive

like the Board of Education, Ottawa MPP's and city police, Rosemary Billings, a worker in the field of rape prevention in Ottawa for the past three years, points out that while the intention of organizations showing the film is admirable because they want to present the facts about a traditionally unmentionable crime, "they could not have selected a worse tool with which to achieve their aim."

Members of the Upstream collective screened the film last week and found it objectionable in the contradictory approach Storaska takes in viewing and dealing with the crime.

On one hand, he is manipulative and intimidating as he presents his measures for dealing with a rape situation, falsely reinforcing his arguments with statements that suggest if a woman chooses not to follow his techniques, she is as good as dead.

the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre points out that lack of resistance is the first thing defense lawyers look for in a rape case.

"If a woman followed Storaska's advice of playing along and leading the man on, and then was raped, she would find it almost impossible to prosecute," the paper states.

Educational and community liason co-ordinator at the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, Jutta Teigeler adds that by playing Storaska's "ego-flattering con game... there will be no physical evidence of a struggle" and "your own statements... will be used against you as evidence of your consent to the act."

The film completely overlooks consent as one of the major legal issues in proving that a rape did or did not take place.

In the first part of the film, Storaska warns women against struggling, claiming that struggle is sexually exciting and

want to... if you think it's the worst... look at a woman who is blind, deaf..."

Members of the Toronto Metropolitan Police have objected to the film saying "... the subject of the violence of rape is not treated realistically." And Storaska's advice in regard to active resistance is dangerous. The film is treated as entertainment rather than as a serious subject about a violent crime, one spokesperson was reported as saying in the Toronto Star.

The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre states that Storaska views rape as a crime of sexual passion rather than one of violence, humiliation and control.

"Storaska sees rape as a crime of sexual passion that occurs when a woman, consciously or unconsciously, provokes a man to the point where he can no longer control his desires." But, the centre maintains "rapists are not driven by a need for sexual contacts and outlets" and

Articulating the rape crisis centre Teigeler says a co accurately informed rapist is, and what be, has "a better initiating resistance rape."

Their reasoning v ness of self defence 1. A woman who h gains an air o diminishes the likelihood chosen as a potent 2. Rapists do not retaliate, so a woman surprise.

3. Resistance at the doesn't give the a assess the situation 4. Putting up a l attracts other people help.

According to Stor to be adopted if ra that women are b shouldn't do anything in a potentially da living alone, hitch-h explicitly articulated regard to physical