



The Highland Cavalier

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CVC cannot file charges for rape victims

Michelle Napier
Co-Editor

CVC cannot file sexual assault charges for student victims. They can, however, inform students of their different options, according to Dean of Students Carolyn Brooks.

"The college cannot prosecute an accused rapist either on campus or in town. The victim has to bring the charges," Brooks said. "What the college does do is provide the student with the opportunity to

make those charges and explain the options that are available.

Medical attention along with a PERK (physical evidence recovery kit) exam is the 1st option Brooks would suggest. Some hospitals, however, call the police after treating a rape victim.

"My recommendation to students would be, if you want to go to the hospital and have the exam done, and you don't want the police called go to St. Mary's (Norton)," Brooks said.

Another option is to file charges

with the campus police. By doing this, the alleged attacker would be tried by the appropriate campus group, Brooks said.

Victims could also press criminal charges. According to Brooks, they could "simply file a report of the rape and ask that it not be pursued in any way," or they could have a full investigation.

Brooks also recommends counseling. "We have some local referrals that can be made very quickly. For example, the campus ministers or through St.

Mary's," she said.

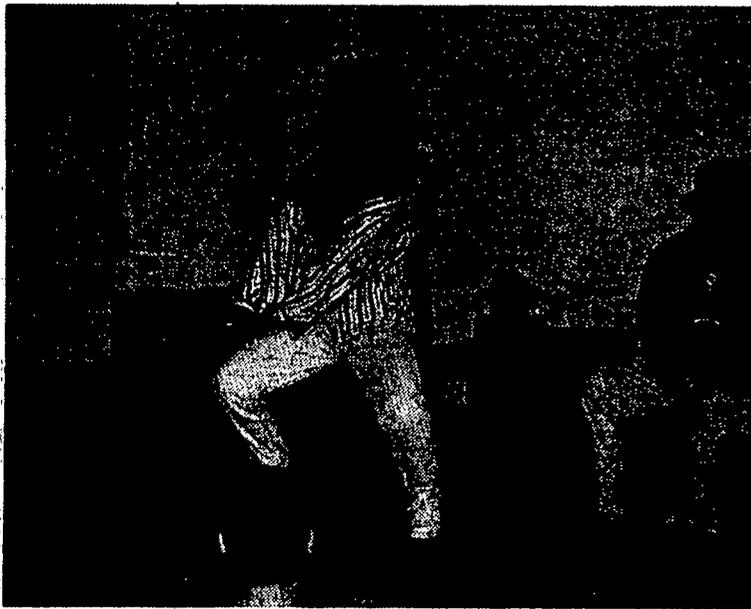
This school year, four cases of assault have been brought to Brook's attention. She said two were sexual assaults and two were batteries committed by a male on a female.

Brooks said neither sexual assault victim prosecuted their alleged attacker(s). The administration, however, informed them of their options, she said.

"We have been accused of not

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Man for Sale!



David Waters 'struts his stuff' for Pi Beta Kappa's Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction on Feb. 13.

Photo by: Robert Engle

What should I do?

Campus police talk about sexual assault

Lori Little
Assistant Editor

The very first thing a woman should do when she has been raped is to contact the police, according to campus policeman Steve McCoy who used to investigate sexual crimes.

According to McCoy, if this happens on CVC campus, contact campus police. The main thing is to report the crime as soon as is possible after the incident has occurred.

"This is vitally important that she calls the police for the preservation of evidence," says McCoy. "At this time, [the victim will] feel dirty.... She does not in [any] way need to take a shower. She does not need to change clothes. She needs to call...campus police." If the victim has a close friend, the friend can be present for support when the investigating officer takes the statement.

"She needs then to go...to a licensed physician." In the physician's office, there will be a "physical evidence recovery kit (called PERK for short)" used to collect evidence from the victim's body.

"[The victim's] clothes will be taken cause if any bodily fluids are secreted by a suspect, they can be obtained from the clothes." Samples collected from soiled clothes can result in fluids recovered which can be used to match the attacker's DNA.

"The biggest factor that we need is 100% cooperation. There's no need to hold anything back...Any collaborating evidence that we may

get to back up her statement is vitally important. It may seem so little to her..."

Without the cooperation of the victim, there is no case. In order to convict the suspect, the victim must supply the necessary information, McCoy said.

"It's really bad because any more there are so many rape victims that are embarrassed....There are services provided to rape victims. There's counseling and therapy to psychologically get them ready to testify."

According to McCoy, if a victim is afraid to come forth because of fear for the assailant, there are ways to provide the victim with security such as the Hope House in Norton.

No one will know where they are; isolation is provided.

It is very important that the victim come forth within 24 hours because the PERK and suspect kits cannot be used after the initial 24 hours.

If the victim can identify the assailant, search warrants can be used to collect the clothes he was

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New "Student House" address student needs

Lori Little
Assistant Editor

There are many students on this campus that feel they are not able to voice their opinions. Well, now there is a group that will cater to your needs. The Student House is a student concern organization with no help from CVC staff and faculty. It is for the students by the students. Travis Baugh has been sitting at a

table in Zehmer Hall handing out survey sheets at various times of the day. These surveys are the first step in finding out the needs and views of the student body. So far, Baugh says that the cooperation has been exceeding their expectations. The survey includes most of the issues at hand on campus regarding benefit from College 101, the new GPA scale, football, use of student fees,

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Style

Victim, from pg. 1

doing anything and we're insensitive and it doesn't do any good to tell the administration," Brooks said. "That's not true. I will always handle the case in the way the victim wants it to be handled."

Brooks said the administration did not think they should have told students about the rapes.

"If we were to have a woman raped while walking across campus, pulled into the bushes and raped, everyone in the whole world would know," Brooks said. "In the cases that have been brought to my attention, those cases were isolated events with a woman and a man."

In hind-sight, Brooks is not sure if the college handled the rapes in the right way.

"I think in retrospect we could have done some programming immediately on the subject," Brooks said. "Now while that may have been uncomfortable for the person's involved, I think that would have been a real positive response for the people living in that community."

Since then, the college has had programs on related topics such as sexually transmitted diseases and self-defense.

Brooks still believes the campus is safe for students.

"From outside intruders I think this is as safe of a campus as I have been on. That does not mean that there is not crime on campus," Brooks said.

The college, however, is trying to make CVC safer. Brooks said that campus security will soon be on duty around the clock, a new campus lock system will be

installed, and McCraray Hall will get door "peep-holes".

Making the campus is not entirely the administration's duty, Brooks said.

"The biggest problem with date rape is that no matter how much protection I give a student, if the woman doesn't assert herself and say 'I really don't want to have sex with you'. . . I can't protect her," Brooks said.

House, from pg. 1

Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Narcotics Anonymous chapters, and the Honor Code.

This organization is designed to inform the administration of student wants and needs by voicing student opinion in an organized manner.

"A lot of times the administration at their business meetings and stuff like that, they don't always have the resources to tap into what the students really think..I'm sure they are aware of it, but there's nothing in concrete terms that expresses that," states Joseph Shorter.

According to Travis Baugh, who has taken charge of this group, "It is critical that they [students] have this opportunity. This school has changed a lot in the last two years particularly and will continue to change drastically in the next three. We are loosing most of our faculty to retirement, and so forth. The school has changed its focus from what it used to be a few years ago, and all indications are that will continue, and if the school is going to change that much the students should get together and voice their opinions on that. The students are affected the most by this change and there's no reason for us to be silent."

"I think that the students have not been able to [voice their opinions]. I mean, they get an occasional Letter to the Editor, or a student somehow gets heard, but as far as the general student population, I don't think they have been able to voice their opinions about certain issues," says Shorter.

Baugh says that the efforts of this group will be very up front. "There is nothing going on under the table, so to speak. Everything I do at the Student House, I want it to be on the level in public...."

"We don't want any of the administration or the faculty to get the idea that we were doing something that we wouldn't come out in the open and share with them," says Shorter. This organization has no affiliation with the fliers found on campus.

Police, from pg. 1

wearing at the time of the rape. There are many classes of rape including aggravated sexual assault. If rape cannot be proved, charges can be dropped down to a lower class, McCoy said.

"The bottom line is we have to have [the victim's] 100% cooperation. And everyone here on campus [campus security officers] is qualified to handle the case. If there are any doubts that we are not

qualified...then we can get them another agency."

All campus officers are qualified to handle rape cases and all other cases just as a county or state officer would be, McCoy said.

Campus security stresses that the officers are here to help, not to just write up parking tickets.

Sun, from pg. 2

proclaim "Buy American and keep jobs at home."

Yet, look at where companies are investing their money. Ford, General Motors, and Zenith are moving factories to Mexico.

At the same time Honda, Isuzu, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Sony, Toshiba, and Toyota have factories in the United States. As a matter of fact, Japanese companies provide 600,000 jobs in the U.S.A., 400,000 of which are in manufacturing.

Don't call for tariffs, call for responsible American business.

Protectionist legislation will not help the economy in the long run. All that will do is raise the price and lower the quality of domestic goods.

It's time for Americans to reexamine our priorities and work ethic.

If you want to see the source of our problems, don't look across the Pacific, just look in the mirror.

Bits 'n' pieces

Editor's note:

The story that appeared February 11, contained an error in charges against Mir Ali and Chris Baker. The students were charged with Residence Hall Judicial Board Article C, No. 7. It was reported that the students were charged with No. 9.

The charge, vandalism, destruction, or unauthorized movement of college or personal property. The students have since been placed on suspension for this incident.

The tuition increase article in the Jan. 30 issue should have stated that tuition would rise \$250-\$300 for the year.

Balfour Representatives will be on campus February 25 to take order for graduation announcements.

Jeffrey Moore, a CVC senior accounting major, won the annual scholarship given by the Highlands Chapter of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The scholarship is open to senior accounting majors who have an overall GPA of 3.2 and a business or accounting average of 3.5.

Applicants should exhibit good leadership skills and write a 200-word essay. They should also have references from accounting or business professors.

Moore is the second CVC student to win the scholarship.

The Highland Cavalier will pay those interested a monetary fee for repertive story-type submissions. For more details, please see Chris Cline or Michelle Napier in the Highland Cavalier office.



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