

EDITORIAL

Task force issues report

Last week Syracuse University's Task Force on Rape made its final report public. The five-page report meets the complex and difficult issue head-on, and they make some excellent recommendations.

Their analysis is broken down into six suggestions: Rape and Sexual Assault Policy, University Center on Rape and Sexual Assault, Prosecution of Suspects, Security, Research and Follow-up.

Each of these recommendations pinpoints a specific area of the problem. The task force has compiled a list which is not well thought out but is entirely credible. In fact, every one of the task force's recommendations should be carried out immediately.

The core of the report is the establishment of a University Center on Rape and Sexual Assault. The task force would like the center to be finished by July 1, 1990, and become a place for education, counseling and support.

The creation of this center gives permanence to the recommendations. It is necessary to ensure that the issue of rape doesn't slip into the university's background. A center geared solely to the prevention of rape and counseling of victims will prevent this apathy from happening.

In addition, the task force advises that security forces be bolstered, a blue light program implemented and that the university tighten security into residence halls.

The recommendation of guests leaving a picture ID at the the check-in desk is excellent. Such a policy will make it easier to track down assailants after a rape or a sexual assault.

As a whole, the task force's final report is straight forward and makes a serious effort to confront the issue of rape and sexual assault. The recommendations are a beginning, a starting point in the fight to stop rape.

Now it's the chancellor's turn to make these recommendations a reality.

Task Force report submitted to Eggers

Editor's Note: Below is the final report by the Syracuse University Task Force on Rape, in its entirety, as it was submitted to Chancellor Melvin A. Eggers on Thursday, Oct. 12. The report lists only suggestions, which the university may or may not follow. For Eggers' response to the report, see story page 1.

1.) SU should adopt the following policy on rape and sexual assault. The policy should be sent to all members of the university community as soon as possible during the current academic year. The policy should be published annually in the appropriate student, faculty and staff handbooks and manuals.

The policy should be sent to all incoming students before they arrive on campus:

SU POLICY ON RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

SU is committed to the maintenance of an environment which is supportive of its primary educational mission and free from all exploitation and intimidation. The university will not tolerate rape, sexual assault or other forms of non-consensual sexual activity.

SU supports this policy for students, faculty and staff, through its educational prevention programs and its counseling and medical support services.

SU will enforce this policy through internal disciplinary procedures, security programs and the encouragement of external prosecution of alleged offenders through appropriate external judicial forums.

"Rape" and "Sexual Assault" under this policy shall include but not be limited to the following:

1.) Any form of non-consensual sexual intercourse, committed by physical force, coercion or threat, actual or implied, by a person(s) known or unknown to the victim. Sexual intercourse can involve anal, oral or vaginal penetration.

2.) Any actual or attempted non-consensual sexual activity, including but not limited to, attempted intercourse, sexual touching, exhibitionism or sexual language of a threatening nature by a person(s) known or unknown to the victim.

Non-consensual activity shall include, but not be limited to, situations where the victim is unable to consent because he/she is mentally incapacitated, or is physically helpless due to drug or alcohol consumption, or is unconscious.

Victims of rape or sexual assault are encouraged to file a complaint through any university office as soon as possible after the alleged incident. Complaints may also be filed by parties not directly related to the university where a significant relationship to the mission and interests of the university can be shown.

Complaints against students will be forwarded to the dean of student relations for resolution within the university's judicial system. Complaints against the

university employees will be forwarded to the vice president for human resources for resolution within the university's respective grievance procedure systems.

Members of the university community found guilty of sexual abuse are subject to sanctions including suspension and permanent expulsion.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: UNIVERSITY CENTER ON RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

2.1) SU should establish a center on rape and sexual assault at 111 Waverly Ave. or in close proximity thereof no later than July 1, 1990. The center should be charged with the establishment and continuance of a comprehensive rape and sexual assault prevention program and the provision of counseling and support services for rape and sexual assault victims.

2.2) The center on rape and sexual assault should have a distinct location and organizational framework and report to the assistant vice president for campus services. The center should include a full-time program director, a full-time counselor, one and one-half educators, a full-time secretary/receptionist and three graduate assistants in related areas, e.g., psychology, social work and law.

2.3) The center on rape and sexual assault should be guided by an advisory board including representatives from faculty, administration, students and the Rape Crisis Center/community.

2.4) The task force further recommends that the education-based prevention program should attempt to reach every student:

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it should begin during undergraduate and graduate orientation and systematically be extended at appropriate times during enrollment; it should occur during rush orientation for men and women and during intercollegiate athletic orientation programs; it should occur in the residence halls, in the fraternity and sorority houses and in the athletic facilities.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTS

3.1) SU should include within its educational and prevention programs information designed to inform potential victims about the options available to prosecute assailants both within the university and in off-campus criminal proceedings.

3.2) Data collected by the university's center on rape and sexual assault, the department of security and the Syracuse police should be cross-coded in a manner that will further the apprehension of suspects.

3.3) SU's department of security should have at least one female investigator trained in rape and sexual assault investigation. She/they should be available to become involved as soon as possible in every investigation of rape and sexual assault within the university community.

3.4) SU judicial boards that hear rape and/or sexual assault cases should be gender and racially balanced.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4: SECURITY

4.1) SU should immediately strengthen security at the entrances to the residence halls

between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. This program of tightened security should include but not be limited to a requirement that all guests must leave a picture identification card at the desk which he/she may retrieve upon departure and sign out from the residence hall.

4.2) The university should review/revise the nature of its resident security aid (RSA) program in the residence halls with particular attention to the student nature of its personnel, the training, the hours of operations, the number assigned to each building and the relationship to the department of security.

4.3) The university should adopt a 24-hour locked entrance policy at all residence halls by fall 1990 through the use of a cardkey access system.

4.4) The university should revise its program of late-night and early-morning off-campus transportation to include minibus or van service to selected locations predominantly populated by students, e.g., Westcott Street, Vincent Apartments and Townsend Apartments.

4.5) The university should institute a "blue light" program throughout the main and south campuses which will provide direct contact with security for all emergency situations. The university should purchase and install at least 10 "blue light" devices each year for the next five years.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5: RESEARCH

To monitor and assess the effectiveness of the multifaceted programmatic response to the problem of rape and sexual assault in the SU com-

munity, appropriate research should be supported. This research should include:

A.) A large-scale, pre-program survey of the student population to determine existing salient beliefs about, attitudes toward and experiences with sexual assault and rape;

B.) Specific program evaluations to determine the effectiveness of each component of the educational and support services efforts;

C.) An annual survey of the student population to track the changes in salient beliefs about, attitudes toward and experiences with sexual assault and rape;

D.) An annual report describing the activities undertaken by the university to address the issues of rape and sexual assault on the campus, accompanied by relevant data, as appropriate to the activity.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6: FOLLOW-UP

The task force recommends that an advisory board representative of the SU community should be formed as a consultative body to assist until the above recommendations have been fully implemented.

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