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The Differing Attitudes Between College Students and  
Police Officers Toward Women as Rape Victims

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## Abstract

Rape is a violent crime. Myths and misconceptions surrounding it only further its injustice. Many victims, especially college students, don't report the crime because they fear police officers' attitudes towards them. Research by the FBI has shown that police officers as a whole are more understanding of the rape victim than is society in general. This experiment assesses the different attitudes of college students and police officers in two different cities (Helena and Kalispell) toward women as rape victims by means of a rape attitude survey. Each individual's scores were totalled and the two test groups for each city compared using an independent sample t-test. There was not a significant difference between the attitude scores of the two Helena groups or the two Kalispell groups. However, there was a significant difference in attitude scores as a combined function of occupation and sex of the respondent using the one-way ANOVA test: Police officers (Helena and Kalispell Police Departments combined) had significantly more empathetic attitude scores than college students (Carroll College and Flathead Valley Community College combined) did.

Rape is a prevalent crime, but it is still very misunderstood. Its victims are often even more misunderstood. The current prevalence of rape and sexual assault can be attributed to a variety of sociocultural factors. Among these: increased tolerance of violence, misleading stereotypes of relationship and sex roles, and widespread myths about rape (American, 1997, p.1). Much of the blame lies with our generations--old beliefs about the rape victim. Popular myths about rape include: only women can be sexually assaulted; victims who truly resist cannot be raped; "no" really doesn't always mean "no"; "nice" women don't get raped; and women ask for or secretly desire rape.

Rape is a very emotional, complex issue. It is a symptom of the current power structures and politics in a given society. It can be used as a tool of oppression to dominate a group of people based on their race, gender, or class (Neville & Pugh, 1997, p. 361). Although rape has been committed for centuries, public understanding of it has always remained a step behind. At one time, rapists were considered psychological deviants. Now rape is considered to be a criminal form of interpersonal violence and public tolerance for offenders has grown thin (Banks, 1997, p.2).

There are many specific and sometimes controversial legal definitions of what exactly constitutes rape. The following was taken from California's definition as it applies to its laws governing rape prosecution: "Rape is an act of sexual intercourse carried out against a person's will by means of force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the person or another" (Legal, 1997). In most state statutes it is defined as "the nonconsensual oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, obtained by force, by threat of bodily harm, or when the victim is incapable of giving consent" (Searles & Berger, 1987, p.25).

Rape is not a selective crime; it affects all people in all walks of life. According to the National Victim Center, more than 700,000 women are raped or sexually assaulted

annually. More than half of these women are minors (American, 1997, p.1). While rape can victimize anyone, women are its predominant targets. (For the purposes of this project, the rape victim is assumed to be female unless otherwise specified). The frightening statistics paint a story of women as casualties of the war of the sexes. "1 in 5 adult women will be raped at some point in their lives. 1 in 7 women now in college have been raped. 1 in 4 of the women now in college have been attacked by a rapist. Only 7 percent of all rapes are reported to police" (Date, 1997, p.1). With increased awareness of rape, and since the women's liberation movement, the number of women reporting rapes has actually increased somewhat.

Even though more women are reporting rape, the number who actually prosecute their attackers continues to be proportionately small (Phillips, 1997, p.1). This is especially true with acquaintance rape because women rarely report an assailant they know. They are also less likely to utilize victim relief services in acquaintance rape. Many times this is because they fear retribution by their attackers (Koss, 1993, p. 1064).

There are numerous reasons why so many rapes go unreported each year. Fear and shame seem to be common denominators. It is not uncommon for rape victims to feel responsible for the attack. As a result of this, they often delay reporting the attack or fail to report it at all. This hampers rape investigations and is a primary reason why it is often so hard to apprehend and prosecute offenders (Date, 1997). Many rapists are repeat offenders but aren't stopped, in part, because their victims do not report them. "Since more than 90% of victims (do) not report the rape to the police, the problem of acquaintance rape is hidden and greater than you might suspect" (Acquaintance, 1997).

To understand why rape is such a prevalent problem, we must shift our focus to the victims. We must examine the reasons why so many victims do not come forward and why there are so many repeat offenders on the streets. Victims may fear the attitudes of

the police officers or hospital staff that would question them. They may be afraid that they will be blamed somehow for the attack and so decide not to report it (NCAVC, 1993). They may also have other reasons for not reporting, such as the attitudes they fear from their friends, family, and coworkers.

The degree to which a rape victim recovers and the psychological impacts she suffers are dependent on several key factors: First, was the attack reported? If the victim does not feel believed and supported by those to whom her report is given, it may exacerbate her feelings of guilt and helplessness. Second, is the victim likely to blame herself for the rape because she knew the assailant, or willingly accompanied her attacker to the crime scene? Third, does the victim feel that she has a support network of understanding friends, family, or coworkers? Fourth, what was the severity of the attack? Although there is no established correlation, it is logical to assume that a victim that suffers more physical trauma will suffer from more severe psychological impacts than a victim of a less severe attack (Norris & Feldman-Summers, 1981, p. 562).

How the victim answers the above questions may determine the degree to which she blames herself as well as the degree to which she recovers. Even if they recover from the physical trauma of a rape, many rape survivors continue to suffer anxiety about intimacy and abandonment. A steady support network or the presence of someone who the victim feels safe to confide in is crucial if the victim is to deal positively with these issues (Thelen & Sherman, 1998, p. 108). The human element of compassionate support is imperative to the healing process.

Victims need to understand that they still have personal rights. The most basic of those are the rights to respect and sensitivity from those that care for them, whether it be hospital workers, police officers, friends, or family members. Health care professionals need to be extremely sensitive while caring for rape victims. It is a doctor's job to collect

forensic evidence and testify about the evidence in court. However, it is also as important that that doctor treat the victim with compassion and respect. Victim caregivers must be able to understand the incredible emotional pain and feelings of helplessness a victim suffers in order to care for them well (Birchard, 1998, p.121).

The victims also need to understand that they have legal rights. If the police are called and come to the hospital, victims have the right to: discuss it with the officer and then decide to report; discuss it with the officer and decide not to report; or refuse to discuss or report it with the officer (Medical, 1997, p.1). Ensuring that the victim understands these rights clearly may help her by empowering her to do something about what happened to her.

The way that the victim is initially treated, in addition to affecting her recovery, may also determine whether or not she prosecutes her assailant. For these reasons, in addition to the legal role the officer may play in the investigation, police attitudes must be closely examined. "Police officers are the entry level to the criminal justice system, and in some jurisdictions, they hold considerable power in determining whether a reported rape will advance to the prosecutors or be dropped" (Campbell, 1997, p. 256).

The police officer is usually the first one on the scene and is sometimes responsible for confirming the victim's feelings of guilt or acknowledging her innocent victimization. The officer assesses the victim's physical condition and questions her about what happened. It is usually standard operating procedure for the victim to then be taken to the hospital for medical treatment. There, the victim is also examined for any physical evidence that a rape occurred (Police, 1997). To accurately preserve any evidence, this exam must occur within 72 hours of the attack (Medical, 1997, p.1). "All physical evidence, including seminal fluids, hair, blood types, and scrapings of flesh from the victim's nails are used in court" (Dallas, 1997). Without this crucial exam, a rape

case has little solid basis and quickly becomes a situation of his word versus hers.

After the exam, the victim faces the police again for questioning. She is asked to tell the investigating officer what happened in her own words. As the investigation continues, she may be asked more detailed questions to ensure that her report is complete (Police, 1997). Often this is just too much for the rape victim to handle. She just wants to be left alone. According to Deniese Fraser-Vaselakos, a clinical psychologist and expert on women's issues, "Most women don't press charges because they don't want to embarrass their families, or they think it's their own fault" (Phillips, 1997, p.3). Unfortunately, failure to prosecute rapists leaves other women as potential victims of these criminals.

Alcohol can be a factor in rapes as well. Because of it, many college rape cases are dropped (Acquaintance, 1997). An intoxicated victim is not a very credible victim in court, even if she does remember exactly what happened (Date, 1997). Therefore, she doesn't press charges in order to save herself from a great deal of humiliation and public embarrassment.

In order to catch a rapist, police officers need to have the cooperation of the rapist's victim(s). That is exactly why investigators question each victim so carefully about the rapist's behavior. The police create a behavioral profile of the rapist based upon this information which is then used to identify a likely suspect (Banks, 1997, p.3). Cooperation and mutual understanding between rape victims and police are essential to apprehending rapists.

By addressing America's beliefs about rape, we can better understand this violent crime. We must become more educated about rape and its complexities. Specifically, we must learn to recognize and reject the myths and misconceptions surrounding rape and sexual assault so that we can better support victims through this violent and emotional

ordeal (American, 1997, p.3).

This study is aimed directly at examining these common misconceptions. In particular, we will examine police attitudes toward rape victims to determine if women's fear of the police is justified. The FBI conducted a survey about attitudes toward rape and rape victims several years ago and found that police officers were actually more empathetic than the average citizen (NCAVC, 1993). This study revisits and attempts to replicate some of those studies. The study hypothesizes that there is no difference between the attitudes of college students and police officers toward women as rape victims.

## Method

### Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was as follows: There is no significant difference in attitudes toward rape victims as a function of an individual's occupation (college student or police officer). I used Carroll College students, Flathead Valley Community College students, Helena Police Officers, and Kalispell Police Officers as my test populations and used the same survey the FBI used in their study. It was expected that my results would support the findings of the FBI's previous study. The independent variable was the individual's occupation. The dependent variable was the score on a survey assessing attitudes toward rape.

### Participants

This study utilized Carroll College students as one of my test samples. Using e-mail, the survey elicited responses from students representing a variety of ages and majors. Only those surveys that were incomplete or incorrectly filled out (13 out of 109 total e-mail responses) were discarded. The final test sample consisted of 96 students with e-mail

on Carroll Campus.

The surveys were also mailed to students at Flathead Valley Community College. Ivan Lorentzen, a Psychology professor at Flathead Valley Community College, agreed to administer the surveys to students in his General Psychology classes. I only received the completed surveys back in the mail, so it is unknown how many students actually had the opportunity to complete the survey. Participation was voluntary, although I will acknowledge that some students may have felt pressure to complete the survey because it was handed to them by their professor.

The participants in my third and fourth test samples were 30 police officers from the Helena Police Department, and 30 police officers from the Kalispell Police Department. These officers were given photocopies of the survey to respond to voluntarily. The surveys responses in all four populations were voluntary and anonymity was guaranteed.

### Materials

Carroll College's e-mail network system was used to distribute the same survey the FBI had used in its previous study (see Appendix A). The survey was sent to all of the 1,477 students at Carroll College with e-mail accounts. The survey was photocopied for the Helena Police Department, the Kalispell Police Department, and Flathead Valley Community College. The questions on the survey were designed to assess the participant's attitude toward various facets of rape. The surveys were the same except for the Demographics questions asked at the beginning for each group. ( Kalispell and Helena Police Department officers were asked about their law enforcement service and their highest level of education. College students were only asked about their highest level of education).

### Procedure

The surveys were sent via e-mail to all 1,477 students at Carroll College (see Appendix A) with e-mail. The surveys (see Appendix B) were also delivered to the Helena Police Department and the Kalispell Police Department. The surveys for all four groups were collected one week later and scored manually by the author. Although 39 attitude questions were asked, only scored eight of the questions were tabulated (numbers 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 23, 29 and 31). These questions assessed the respondent's empathy with the victim and this factor was titled, according to the FBI's previous study, "Women As Victims."

### Scoring

Participants were to rank each question with a number (1-5) according to his or her level of agreement with it (see Appendix A). A score of " 1 " meant the respondent strongly disagreed with the statement. " 2 " meant they disagreed in most respects. " 3 " meant they were undecided. " 4 " meant they agreed in most respects. " 5 " meant they strongly agreed. A total score of "8" was the lowest possible score, indicating a highly empathetic response to the rape victim survey.

### Results

Each individual's total for all eight questions was added up and marked as that person's final score. Then the average score for each of the two test groups was computed. ( Carroll students were compared to Helena Police Department officers while Flathead Valley Community College students were compared to Kalispell Police Department officers). Next, a t-test for independent groups was run. The observed t-value was then compared to a table of critical t-test values.

First the t-test comparing Carroll students to Helena Police Department officers

was analyzed. Utilizing a one-tailed test, and 124 degrees of freedom, I calculated the observed t-value to be 0.2114 and the critical t-value to be 2.362. [  $t_{(124df)}=0.2114$   $p<.01$  ] The null hypothesis that there was no significant difference between the two groups' attitudes toward "Women As Victims" scores as a function of occupation (Carroll College Student or Helena Police Officer) was accepted. There is less than a 1 percent chance these results could occur by chance alone; that is: Helena Police Officers did not have significantly higher (less empathetic) scores on the survey factor "Women as Victims" than did Carroll College students.

Next, the t-test comparing Flathead Valley Community College students to Kalispell Police Department officers was analyzed. Utilizing a one-tailed test, and 121 degrees of freedom, the observed t-value was calculated to be 0.596 and the critical t-value to be 2.362. [  $t_{(121df)}=0.596$   $p<.01$  ] The null hypothesis that there was no significant difference between the two groups' attitudes toward "Women As Victims" scores as a function of occupation (FVCC Student or Kalispell Police Officer) was accepted. There is less than a 1 percent chance these results could occur by chance alone; that is: Kalispell Police Officers did not have significantly different scores on the survey factor "Women as Victims" than did Flathead Valley Community College students. The mean scores for each of the groups were as follows: Flathead Valley Community College = 10.52, Kalispell Police Department = 11.0, Carroll College = 9.73, Helena Police Department = 9.86.

Because the sex of the individual might have been a confounding variable not accounted for by the above t-tests, a factorial design test was conducted using a one-way ANOVA test. This design tested to see if there was a significant difference in scores as a combined function of occupation (college student or police officer) and sex of the individual. The results are depicted in Table I.

Table I

Attitudes Toward Women as Rape Victims as a Combined Function of Occupation and Sex

<u>ANOVA</u>			
<u>Degrees of Freedom</u>	<u>Variance Estimate</u>	<u>F-Ratio</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Rows: 1	4.73	0.48	0.4971
Columns: 1	109.16	11.04	0.0014
Interaction: 1	20.14	2.04	0.1510
Residual: 244	9.89		
Total: 247	10.31		

  

<u>Sample Group</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>
Females	59	10.44	3.68
Males	189	10.12	3.06
Police	120	9.51	2.60
College	128	10.84	3.59
Female Police	9	10.56	3.88
Female College	50	10.42	3.69
Male Police	111	9.42	2.47
Male College	78	11.10	3.52

Although there were no significant differences between the groups during the t-tests, the ANOVA test showed significant interaction results between the combined factors of sex and occupation. Specifically, There is a significant difference at the .0014 level between police officers' and college students' scores (police officers had significantly more empathetic scores). There was no significant difference between males' and females' scores. The mean police officer score was 9.51, whereas the mean college student score was 10.84. The mean female score was 10.44, not much different from the mean male score of 10.12.

The interaction effects were almost significant at the 0.1510 level. A larger sample of females would be required to have more accurate interaction effects. Female police officers had a mean score of 10.56. Female college students had a mean score of 10.42. Male police officers had a mean score of 9.42. Male college students had a mean score of 11.10. Overall, the male police officers had the most empathetic scores of all four groups studied.

### Discussion

In general, the null hypothesis was not supported by the results. The results were somewhat surprising. The study had expected the females' scores to be more empathetic than they were, given the fact that they are most often the victims of rape. Police officers' scores may have been more empathetic because they generally have more field experience and education dealing with rape and rape victims.

There are many possible explanations and sources of error for the study's findings. First of all, college students aren't necessarily very representative of the population as a whole, or of Montana for that matter. Many students are relatively well educated on the issue of rape, and perhaps more liberal in their views toward women's rights. The amount

of education of each respondent was not studied either.

One of the biggest problems with the study was the lack of a larger sample of females in the police departments. The men in the police departments outnumbered the women responding five to one.

Next, the sample population of police officers was smaller than desirable. The officers tended to vary less on their answers as a group than the college students did. Furthermore, the students who responded to the e-mail survey were likely to be students who either have a personal interest in the subject of rape, or are more concerned about social injustice issues than the average student. In this way, the sampling methods were flawed.

Sources of possible methodological errors are: sample size, semi-randomness of test populations, the confusing wording of some of the survey questions, and the fact that some respondents may have supplied an answer they believed to be socially correct, though in actuality they believed differently. In addition, not all of the surveys were delivered in the same fashion; some were e-mailed, some handed out in a class, and others were left in police officers' station boxes to fill out voluntarily.

Some respondents commented about definitions or the wording of the questions (see Appendix C). It is possible that the wording of some of the questions seemed biased or leading to a certain extent.

Another interesting factor was the education level of the respondents. In the future this study will more accurately assess their education levels: high school, some college, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, graduate school, and also those who have had special rape education or training.

To accurately repeat the FBI's original study (and increase the validity of the results), a more random method of distribution should be used -- surveying police officers

and college students in more cities. Additional variables could also be tested such as respondents' marital status, age, education level, and socioeconomic status. This, however, would be a much larger and more complicated project.

According to the verbal comments written by the respondents on the survey instrument (see Appendix C), there are many differing views about rape in our society. It is only through education and the examination of our own attitudes that this society can reach a heightened level of awareness when it comes to dealing with the violent crime of rape. Only when misconceptions and myths are replaced by facts and empathy can we move forward to start trusting ourselves to report this crime, the police to handle it, and society to support us through it.

## Appendix A

College Rape Survey

## DEMOGRAPHICS:

1. SEX: \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female
2. AGE: \_\_\_
3. MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_ Single \_\_\_ Married \_\_\_ Other
4. COLLEGE MAJOR:

Please rank your answers to the following statements according to how you agree with them.

- 1= strongly disagree with this statement                      2= disagree in most respects  
3= undecided            4= agree in most respects                      5= strongly agree

1. \_\_\_ A woman can be raped against her will.
2. \_\_\_ The reason most rapists commit rape is for the thrill of physical violence
3. \_\_\_ Rapists are "normal" men.
4. \_\_\_ In forcible rape, the victim never causes the crime.
5. \_\_\_ All rapists are mentally sick.
6. \_\_\_ A charge of rape made 2 days after the event is probably not a rape.
7. \_\_\_ A woman should be responsible for preventing her own rape.
8. \_\_\_ A man who has committed rape should be given at least 30 years in prison.
9. \_\_\_ Women are trained by society to be rape victims.
10. \_\_\_ A raped woman is a less desirable woman.
11. \_\_\_ If a woman is going to be raped, she might as well relax and enjoy it.
12. \_\_\_ Rape provides the opportunity for many rapists to show their manhood.
13. \_\_\_ Most women secretly desire to be raped.

14. \_\_\_ Some women deserve to be raped.
15. \_\_\_ Women provoke rape by their appearance or behavior.
16. \_\_\_ "Nice" women do not get raped.
17. \_\_\_ Most charges of rape are unfounded.
18. \_\_\_ In order to protect the male, it should be more difficult to prove rape than other crimes.
19. \_\_\_ Rape is the expression of an uncontrollable desire for sex.
20. \_\_\_ Rape is a sex crime.
21. \_\_\_ Rape is a male exercise in power over women.
22. \_\_\_ Rapists are sexually frustrated individuals.
23. \_\_\_ In most cases when a woman was raped, she was asking for it.
24. \_\_\_ The reason most rapists commit rape is for sex.
25. \_\_\_ Rape of a woman by a man she knows can be defined as a "woman who changed her mind afterward."
26. \_\_\_ A convicted rapist should be castrated.
27. \_\_\_ A woman should feel guilty following a rape.
28. \_\_\_ The degree of a woman's resistance should be the major factor in determining if a rape occurred.
29. \_\_\_ A raped woman is a guilty victim, not an innocent one.
30. \_\_\_ Judges are too lenient on convicted rapists.
31. \_\_\_ Rape serves as a way to keep women in their place.
32. \_\_\_ Prosecutors are not properly prepared for court.
33. \_\_\_ The public is uneducated concerning rape.
34. \_\_\_ The victim often fails to testify.
35. \_\_\_ The victim's history often affects the case.

36. \_\_\_ Prior offenses should not be used against the rapist during the trial.
37. \_\_\_ The victim's age or appearance influences the jury.
38. \_\_\_ Previous and willing sex with the accused reduces the seriousness of the offense.
39. \_\_\_ The laws concerning rape are too lenient.

Appendix B

Police Department Rape Survey

DEMOGRAPHICS:

1. SEX:  Male  Female
2. AGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. MARITAL STATUS:  Single  Married  Other
4. YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_
5. RACE:  White  Black  Hispanic  Other
6. JOB CATEGORY:  Traffic  Patrol  Rape Investigator  
 Vice (Including sexual assault)  Homicide  General Criminal  
Investigator  
 Supervisor  Staff/Administrator  Other
7. EDUCATION:  High School or Less  Some College  
 Four-year College Degree  Graduate Study

Please rank your answers to the following statements according to how you agree with them.

- 1= strongly disagree with this statement    2= disagree in most respects  
3= undecided    4= agree in most respects    5= strongly agree

1.  A woman can be raped against her will.
2.  The reason most rapists commit rape is for the thrill of physical violence
3.  Rapists are "normal" men.
4.  In forcible rape, the victim never causes the crime.
5.  All rapists are mentally sick.

6. \_\_\_ A charge of rape made 2 days after the event is probably not a rape.
7. \_\_\_ A woman should be responsible for preventing her own rape.
8. \_\_\_ A man who has committed rape should be given at least 30 years in prison.
9. \_\_\_ Women are trained by society to be rape victims.
10. \_\_\_ A raped woman is a less desirable woman.
11. \_\_\_ If a woman is going to be raped, she might as well relax and enjoy it.
12. \_\_\_ Rape provides the opportunity for many rapists to show their manhood.
13. \_\_\_ Most women secretly desire to be raped.
14. \_\_\_ Some women deserve to be raped.
15. \_\_\_ Women provoke rape by their appearance or behavior.
16. \_\_\_ "Nice" women do not get raped.
17. \_\_\_ Most charges of rape are unfounded.
18. \_\_\_ In order to protect the male, it should be more difficult to prove rape than other crimes.
19. \_\_\_ Rape is the expression of an uncontrollable desire for sex.
20. \_\_\_ Rape is a sex crime.
21. \_\_\_ Rape is a male exercise in power over women.
22. \_\_\_ Rapists are sexually frustrated individuals.
23. \_\_\_ In most cases when a woman was raped, she was asking for it.
24. \_\_\_ The reason most rapists commit rape is for sex.
25. \_\_\_ Rape of a woman by a man she knows can be defined as a "woman who changed her mind afterward."
26. \_\_\_ A convicted rapist should be castrated.
27. \_\_\_ A woman should feel guilty following a rape.

28. \_\_\_ The degree of a woman's resistance should be the major factor in determining if a rape occurred.
29. \_\_\_ A raped woman is a guilty victim, not an innocent one.
30. \_\_\_ Judges are too lenient on convicted rapists.
31. \_\_\_ Rape serves as a way to keep women in their place.
32. \_\_\_ Prosecutors are not properly prepared for court.
33. \_\_\_ The public is uneducated concerning rape.
34. \_\_\_ The victim often fails to testify.
35. \_\_\_ The victim's history often affects the case.
36. \_\_\_ Prior offenses should not be used against the rapist during the trial.
37. \_\_\_ The victim's age or appearance influences the jury.
38. \_\_\_ Previous and willing sex with the accused reduces the seriousness of the offense.
39. \_\_\_ The laws concerning rape are too lenient.

## Appendix C

Written Comments From Survey Respondents

1. "Rape is a sex crime as defined by law. However, it is motivated by other things."
2. "Rape is a sex crime by law, but rape is committed for sex in all cases."
3. "For statistical purposes (rape) is a sex crime, but usually has nothing to do with sex.  
Probably poor wording when talking to law enforcement."
4. "This is a bad question (referring to question 29)."
5. "A man who has committed rape should be given MORE than 30 years in prison."
6. "A woman should take preventive measures to prevent being raped."
7. "No matter what has transpired prior -- once the woman says no, that's it. No means no."
8. "(A woman) should always take common sense security precautions -- but blaming the woman is like blaming a bank for being robbed -- the suspect bears the responsibility for the crime ultimately!"
9. "Rape is a crime of violence usually -- date rape -- although usually has sexual desires, also involves physical violence if it is against the female's will. No means no."
10. "Rape only provides the opportunity for many rapists to show their manhood in their minds."
11. "Rape is an exercise of power over the victim, whether male or female."
12. "I generally agree with the statement that most victims of rape are female. However, I also believe that male rape is grossly underreported by the victim for the same reason that female rape goes underreported. There is no support mechanism in place for male victims however. I tried to respond in a manner based on a female victim, but to keep in mind, males are or can be rape victims as well."

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