Increasing rape crimes committed on the black women in the Atlanta university center; causes and preventive measures

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INCREASING RAPE CRIMES COMMITTED ON THE
BLACK WOMEN IN THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER;
CAUSES AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

A SUBSTANTIVE PAPER
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to explore the problem of increasing rape crimes committed against the black women in the Atlanta University Center. It further examines causative as well as preventive measures that may be utilized by women, and the Atlanta University Department of Public Safety to reduce rape in the Atlanta University Center.

The major findings of the study are as follows: (1) that black women in the Atlanta University Center must begin to take the responsibility of insuring their own safety and (2) to reduce the problem of rape there must involve a community wide effort to promote a safer environment.

Clinical

Comprehensive Health
THE WOMAN WHOSE FEAR IS RAPE

In the dark of night
The horror, the fright.
The glint of silver,
The flash of the knife.
A frightful revolver
   in his pocket--a gun!
   (A sickening feeling at
   the mere hint of one....)

Her edginess magnified,
Escape down the drain;
it chills the heart
and freezes the brain
of the woman
whose fear
is rape.

A little word
For a great big act;
She carries the scars,
And this is a fact,
For the rest of her life...
the sister,
the mother,
the girl
whose fear
was rape.

The day is engraved
When a man so depraved
Forced himself on her,
Destroying her honor,
Her feelings of cleanness--
Her thoughts of self-worth--
They all went down screaming;
She now feels like dirt,
The woman
whose fear
was rape.

They say we're all sisters,
The black and the white.
When the sun sinks down slowly
And day becomes night--
The nagging fear gets us
To find we're alone
   on the street
   with a stranger
Following us home....
If we're women,
we all
fear
rape.            Linda Snow, March 5, 1980
This study was limited due to the fact that there is very little research conducted on the black woman and rape. There was also very little printed data relating to causative factors in the increase of rape in the Atlanta University Center. The preventive measures explored were basically generic to all women, although there were a few articles directly related to the subject of black women and rape prevention.
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The literature reviewed specifically related to the facts about the crime of rape, the victim's reaction and rape prevention techniques. There will be little emphasis placed on the past history of rape and the black woman. Mainly due to the fact that this paper is addressing the causative and preventive measures.

The literature surveyed will be divided into the following four subcategories:

First, the definition of the term rape,
Second, the causative factors of crime, including the most common reasons why men commit rape,
Third, the victim's usual reactions to rape and
Lastly, a brief overview of rape prevention measures and techniques.

Definition of Rape

The legal definition of rape is unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman, not one's wife, by force and against her will. For rape to occur there must be proof of a combination of circumstances;
(a) the assailant and victim are not married to each other,
(b) there is direct contact between the penis and the vagina.

Presently more state laws are including anal intercourse, insertion of foreign objects into the vagina or anus and
fellatio and cunnilingus in this category.

(c) the act takes place with some type of force,
(d) the assailant threatens the victim with words, weapons, or physical strength,
(e) the victim makes clear that she doesn't agree to the contact, and
(f) she refuses by resisting verbally, physically, or both.\(^1\)

Proven rape in an American court of law is defined as; the perpetration of an act of sexual intercourse with a female, not one's wife, against her will and consent, whether her will is overcome by force or fear resulting from the threat of force, or by drugs or intoxicants; or when, because of mental deficiency, she is incapable of exercising rational judgment; or when she is below an arbitrary age of consent.\(^2\) The more general definition of rape is a sexual invasion of the body by force.

Unfounded Rape

In 1978, 19 percent of all rapes reported ended up with the word unfounded stamped on it. When the police departments receive a report of a charge and the investigation indicates that no crime was committed, they stamp unfounded upon it. Many authorities would say that a case is unfounded, if it falls into one of the following circumstances listed below:

1. If the victim waits more than a day or two before reporting the rape;
2. If she has been drinking or taking drugs;
3. If she and the rapist knew each other;
4. If she is too confused, embarrassed, or scared to cooperate thoroughly with the investigation;
5. If she has placed herself in one of those "bad" situations such as hitchhiking, going some place with a person she's just met, or at a party, among others;
6. If she is on a date with the man.\(^3\)

None of these situations implies that rape did not happen but the authorities know how difficult it is to get a conviction on the above circumstances.

Causative Factors of Crime

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Index of Reported Crime classifies seven offenses as "serious crimes"—homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny of more than fifty dollars and auto theft. It classifies the first four; homicide, rape, robbery and assault as "violent crimes" because they involve the doing or threatening of bodily injury.\(^4\)

Violent crime occurs in many places and among all races, although it is heavily concentrated in large cities and especially among the poor blacks. Much has been written about inner city slums where crime and delinquency are bred. In the 1970 report the Crime Commission described the linkage between violent crime and slum conditions in large cities as one of the most fully docu-
mented facts about crime. Referring to numerous studies conducted over a period of years, the Commission found that violent crime, its offenders and its victims are found most often in urban areas characterized by: low income, physical deterioration, dependency, racial and ethnic concentrations, broken homes, working mothers, low levels of education and vocational skills, high unemployment, high proportions of single males, overcrowded and substandard housing, high rates of tuberculosis and infant mortality, low rates of home ownership or single family dwellings, mixed land use and high population density.5

Three other factors, disappointments of minorities in the revolution of raising expectations, the weakening of law enforcement, and the loss of institutional legitimacy have all had their effects on crime rates throughout our society. It is not surprising, however, that the above factors greatest impact has been among the young, the poor, the male, and the black. It is in the inner cities where this reality most frustrates expectations, it is also where the law enforcement provides the least protection and where the social and political institutions of society serve the needs of the individual least effectively. It is also in the inner city where a subculture of violence exists, which is strengthened by the blockage of aspirations, and by the failure of a criminal justice system that would deter adherence to undesirable subcultural values.6

Within this subculture, violence is often used to enable a young man to become a successful member of the ghetto society. Usually in this subculture, proving masculinity may require fre-
quent rehearsal of the toughness, the exploitation of women, and the quick aggressive responses that are characteristic of the lower class adult male. Those who engage in subcultural violence are often not burdened by conscious guilt, because their victims are likely to belong to the same subculture or to a group they believe has exploited them. Thus, when victims see their assailters as agents of the same kind of aggression they themselves represent, violent retaliation is readily legitimized.7

Reasons Men Rape

Researchers interviewed convicted rapists at Atascadero State Hospital in California to ascertain the reasons men rape. They concluded with the following reasons:
- to control or manipulate another person
- rape gave them desired power
- they had someone to push around
- they hoped to humiliate the victim
- anger at life or full of revenge and felt they had the right to take it out on somebody.8

The main reason for the assailants actions was that they wanted to exert power and control, not find an outlet for their sexual emotions.

An extra factor to consider is that most rapes are not spontaneous events. The assailant did not notice a lovely lady and go wild with desire. They are carefully planned in advance.
Menachem Amir examined 646 rape cases and wrote about them in his book entitled "Patterns of Forcible Rape". Amir stated that 90 percent of the group rapes (three or more men attacking the victim) are plotted ahead of time. The same was true for 83 percent of pair rapes and 58 percent of the cases involving a lone man assaulting a victim. 9

Reactions To Rape

Many victims lose their appetites. They don't sleep soundly and when they do, they often have nightmares. Many have headaches, upset stomachs and changes in the menstrual period. Rape also affects the mind and how women think of themselves. Many go through the long months of guilt, embarrassment, depression, shame, disbelief and anger. Next the victim moves into a stage called "outward adjustment". In this stage they deny a lot of the feelings they might have talked about earlier. They usually tell you that they are not upset or frightened any more. Some try to convince themselves and others that they are fine. Others attempt to rationalize the experience by making excuses for the rapist's actions. Occasionally victims start hiding their emotions even from themselves. They get rid of their nervous energy by doing lots of different things. Those who are working sometimes quit their jobs and some change schools.

Often women who are living away from their families search for a new place to stay. It's not unusual for vic-
tims to remain in this stage. They have blocked so many painful memories that they are incapable of examining and understanding them. Usually, concerned relatives and friends assure that the victim is entirely over the bad effects of the rape.

Complete emotional recovery doesn't happen unless the victims reach the point where they are ready to put the event in perspective. The victim must integrate it into their life with all their other experiences that make them into who they are—-but of course this won't happen overnight. Very often just when the victim has returned to her normal routine again, something related to the rape brings all those memories flooding back. Emotionally they feel as if they are back where they started right after the assault. Once again the sadness, depression, and fearfulness set in. Some start withdrawing socially for a second time. They do not want to go out to parties, affairs, or even get together with friends. Many become preoccupied with analyzing the rape. They often feel dirty, damaged or ruined. During this period they must come to grips with the total impact of the crime. The victim must begin to clear up their feelings by resolving any thoughts of blaming themselves and guilt about their actions. Once the victim has arranged to do this, they often discover they have grown stronger emotionally.\textsuperscript{11}

Researchers at Philadelphia General Hospital examined rape victims' reactions to the crime. This information was obtained from interviews and observations of the victims and their families during several intervals in the first year after the attack.
For adult victims eighteen and over they noted these difficu-
76 percent were scared about the offender retaliating agai
them.
75 percent feared being raped again.
70 percent changed their eating habits because they'd lost
their appetites.
65 percent had an increase in nightmares.
64 percent experienced a change in sleeping patterns.
61 percent felt unsafe where they lived.
57 percent were afraid to be home alone.
50 percent had someone they didn't want to tell, generally their
parents.
44 percent said the rape caused a lot of new sexual confusion
they hadn't had before rape.
21 percent thought about keeping the event a complete secret.
16 percent were afraid when they were outside.12

Rape Prevention Methods and Treatments

Primarily, the first step in preventing rape is an awareness
of the rape problem. Brochures are the most popular method of
distributing rape prevention information—but this should not be
presumed to prevent rape. There is a big difference between a-
wareness and prevention. An effective brochure should contain
the following information: (1) It should not present itself as
the entire answer; (2) Common myths, local statistics and list-
ings of local resources are good material for a brochure; (3) Ac-
curate statistics to inform women of specific areas which have a high incidence of sexual assault; (4) It should be written in a positive and constructive manner; (5) Include specific responses to specific assault situations and finally; (6) Stress self reliance and offer constructive alternatives to potentially threatening circumstances. The process of being raped is a life crisis event. It affects your body and emotions in different ways. If one becomes aware of how you could respond, it's less frightening. Anything that's known produces less fear than something that's unknown. If one is prepared, you become better able to cope with any physical or mental difficulties you might encounter. The best defenses are alertness, prevention, precaution and preparation. By staying alert and practicing preventative measures, one will minimize the likelihood of being raped. All women should remain alert of danger and make the best possible choices available at the time depending upon the circumstances. One should also utilize weapons that are available in the environment and any type of defense should be given controlled thought before action is taken. The element of surprise is often the best defense. Many attackers are caught off guard by a victim who fights back and runs. Women should never try to subdue their attacker. Fight only enough to get away. One should also try to remain as calm as possible, because panic paralyzes you and prevents making the best possible defensive decisions. A more detailed description of prevention methods will be examined in the course of this paper.

Beginning in the year of 1967 a group of women who were concerned about crime in Atlanta met with some of the city's crime
prevention officers. Today there are Crime Prevention Centers in eleven different areas of Atlanta. One of the anonymous experts working with the Atlanta Crime Prevention Bureau commented that, "It is the contention of the Crime Prevention Bureau that every crime committed in the City of Atlanta is known by someone else other than the perpetrator. The Crime Prevention Bureau has simply made requests to the public to assist in cleaning up crime in their communities and response has been tremendous". In this program, the women, and now the men also, send anonymous letters to the police with information on crimes.

Presently, Atlanta's primary mechanism for community crime prevention is through a program entitled SAFE. SAFE is funded through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the City of Atlanta, and is a component of the Atlanta Department of Public Safety. The SAFE program is designed to help the police prevent crime through a broad based approach utilizing all available traditional and nontraditional resources within the total community. SAFE is a unique partnership of business, government and community working together to prevent and reduce crime. The SAFE program initials represent the slogan "Safer Atlanta For Everyone". The program requires that everyone help in making for a safer Atlanta.15
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TYPICAL RAPIST

Generally, researchers find it difficult to come up with an accurate description of a typical rapist. The following description basically sums up the general characteristics and traits of the typical rapist. A rapist can be a person of any age, ethnic group and educational background. He can be married, divorced, or single. He wants control, power, or domination over another individual. He's probably used to having things his way. When that doesn't happen, he get mad and decides to take what he wants. He probably thinks of a female as some kind of property, object, or possession that he can temporarily own. If she is single and unprotected by another male, she's especially fair game. He has little respect for women. He's likely to bully and push them around, scares or frightens them into giving in to him. He might rape to prove his manhood to himself or friends. He could even be the guy next door.16

Three other descriptions of the typical rapist are listed below: (1) A rapist is a man with a history of getting what he wants, he sees women as people to be used.17 (2) The majority of assailants fall between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. Usually the rapes are planned by basically sane men who use violence, threats, weapons, or all these against one woman who's decided she wants to live and be raped instead of being badly injured or killed.18 (3) The typical rapist is no weirdo, psycho schizophrenic beset by timidity, sexual deprivation and a domi-
neering wife or mother. Although the psycho rapist, whatever his family background, certainly does exist, he is the exception and not the rule. The typical American perpetrator of forcible rape is little more than an aggressive, hostile youth who chooses to do violence to women.19

CAUSATION FACTORS WHICH INCREASE RAPE CRIMES IN THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

The Atlanta University Center is located in one of the highest crime rate areas in the city of Atlanta. The majority of campuses do not have closed boundaries, with the exception of Spelman College. Strangers and solicitors roam the campuses night and day. Even though there is a security force in effect, there is not enough personnel to adequately ensure safety and security measures on all six campuses.

Statistics and Factors Relating to Rape

The act of rape usually occurs more frequently in cities with populations of 250,000 or more, the city of Atlanta numbers nearly one half million in population size. The largest number of rapes are reported during the summer months with the peak in August. The rate declines a little during the winter months. Atlanta has a moderate climate of warm spring, hot summers and mild winters, which can be advantageous to a rapist.
If you are a female, your chances of being raped are about one out of every twelve. About 50% of all rapes occur in the victim's home. In about 60% of all rapes the victims have had some knowledge of the rapist and lastly, the majority of rapes are planned in advance by the rapist.  

Some of the other aspects of causation were brought out in the course of an interview with Guy Vickers, the Assistant Director of the Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety. Mr. Vickers commented that the students and staff need to become more aware of the possibilities of danger in the Atlanta University Center. There are a lot of young naive women who come from small towns, who are now out to explore the big city of L.A. Lovely Atlanta and end up becoming potential victims of rape. Women should begin to realize that every man that you become acquainted with is not a gentleman. He also estimated that there are 5-7 rapes per week in the Atlanta University Center that are not reported mainly due to embarrassment or fear. These are usually the typical boy meets girl date, where he offers to buy her dinner and then forces her to go to his apartment. The other typical scene is a pick up from the streets by a non college enrolled man. This usually consists of a man driving by in his 1980 Datson 280Z or 1980 Seville, smiling and rapping with a young lady who agrees to go for a ride and returns back to campus as another victim of rape. Statistics taken from the Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety reveal that from September 1979 through April 7, 1980, there was a total of seven rapes reported from the six center schools. Five of these were reported rapes and two were attempted rapes. Another causative factor that was mentioned,
was the lack of manpower or personnel needed to adequately patrol the six center schools.21

PREVENTIVE MEASURES UTILIZED BY THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO PREVENT RAPE IN THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

The Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety was established in 1977 in response to the need for a comprehensive safety and security program throughout the Atlanta University community. The Atlanta University Center is composed of four undergraduate colleges; Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown and Spelman College, and two graduate institutions; Atlanta University and the Interdenominational Theological Center. The Atlanta University Center covers over 250 acres and is located in one of the highest crime areas in the city. There are approximately thirty-three trained officers available to provide around the clock protection to the center's students, faculty, staff, facilities and property. The primary safety and security needs designated by the Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety are as follows: (1) prevention and investigation of crime and criminal activity; (2) apprehension and arrest of criminals and trespassers; (3) facilities and property surveillance; (4) fire prevention; (5) emergency first aid; (6) transportation of the sick and injured; (7) transportation for student safety; (8) parking and traffic control; (9) civil defense; and (10) education in crime prevention awareness.
The preventive measures utilized to lessen rape in the Atlanta University Center include; (a) a public safety handbook for students, faculty and staff which is distributed every September to educate and inform prevention awareness, (b) during freshment orientation the security force visits each campus for 2-3 days meeting with students and their parents to advise them and explain the societal forces that are relevant in the city of Atlanta, (c) for upper classmen and graduate students, the security force holds crime awareness meetings in the dormitory, (d) public safety officers are stationed on each campus and are available if assistance is needed, (e) public safety officers patrol the campuses in motor vehicles from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (f) public safety officers attend periodic inservice and training sessions to increase knowledge and skills required in any well managed safety and security operation and lastly, (g) the department operates in conjunction with the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services. 22

A previous prevention measure consisted of a crime prevention program held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Chapel on the Morehouse College campus. The purpose of the February 7, 1980 program was to provide students with information regarding existing and future crime prevention strategies of the Atlanta University Center Police and the Atlanta Department of Public Safety. The guest presentors included the Atlanta Police Chief, Dr. George Napper, Atlanta University's Department of Public Safety Director Carrell Smith and Major W. J. Taylor of the Crime Prevention Section of the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services.
The guest presentors acknowledged that three major steps are being taken to curb crime in the Atlanta University Center. (1) A Whistle Stop program will be organized for students and faculty; (2) The Atlanta Bureau of Police Services has completed an extensive security inspection survey of the Atlanta University Center's facilities, which include recommendations for improvement of security measures; (3) Increased visibility by Atlanta Bureau of Police Services officers around the Atlanta University Center.

In addition to these measures, Mr. Victors also stressed that students have the responsibility to ensure their own safety while on campus. This involves being aware of crime and not allowing yourself to be victimized. He also listed several ways that students could help reduce rape in the Atlanta University Center. First, students should become acquainted with one another and develop respect for each other. Secondly, students and staff are asked to write letters to the Atlanta Police Department to request for more patrol in the area and also letters could be written to the chancellor stating that there is a need for more security protection in the Atlanta University Center. Thirdly, students should organize escort services for traveling between campuses after dark. The sororities and fraternities on campus could initiate and/or conduct this project to help increase safety. Fourth, students and staff should always utilize good common sense and become more selective when engaging in conversations with strangers, and lastly, students should adhere to safety rules and regulations, including prompt reporting of all crimes to the Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety.
IN THE EVENT OF RAPE

The Atlanta University Center Department of Public Safety urges students to report any rape or attempted rape. Rape can be reported 24 hours a day, any day of the week, and there is no need to worry about seeing your name in the newspaper. The rape victim's confidentiality rights and self respect will be protected at all times. The officers of the Department of Public Safety have been trained to understand the problems and feelings of a rape victim. The victim has a choice of either talking to a male or female officer at the Department of Public Safety or at the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services. After reporting the attack the victim will obtain proper medical and psychological help through Grady Memorial Hospital's Rape Crisis Center.23

ISSUES CONCERNING BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS AND BLACK RAPE VICTIMS

The 1980's, the majority of black men and women still find themselves in a disadvantaged position in American society, continually coping with efforts to survive and to progress. The social role and conflicts of black people, including sexual myths, economic and social opporession, all contribute to the adjustment of the potential rapist and to the position of the woman who is a potential victim. There is a special significance to the matter of black-white relations in this country.
which directly relates to the taboos and permitted sexual behavior of black men and women in general. Beginning with the history of slavery, blacks have been politically and socially oppressed as well as economically deprived. One must consider that the black women of Africa were brought to this country to service the lust of the white master class. Rape was then the rule, and to resist the white man's sexual advances meant the risk of injury or death. Even today the subject of rape immediately stirs up feelings of distaste, anger and defensiveness. Gerda Learner discusses the rape of black women as a weapon of terror, Learner states, "The practice of raping the women of a defeated enemy is world wide and is found in every culture. The occurrence of this practice during many race riots and during periods of terror against blacks at various times in the U.S. history merely affirms the colonial nature of the oppression of black people in the United States. It is the ultimate expression of contempt for a defeated foe since it symbolizes his helplessness more fully than any other conceivable act." 24

Thus the role of black people may still be perceived by the white majority culture as being an inferior way of life. Even in our modern world, since the advent of civil rights, blacks are still struggling against the perception of being a conquered people. We have designed adaptive maneuvers in order to survive. Beginning with early childhood, many black women find themselves in conventional non-permissive families. Black women are especially conditioned to be wary of white males in general social encounters and are taught by parents and past experience to expect a possible
negative encounter. Many black women have developed a psychological aversion and healthy paranoia toward anyone who may tamper with her survival. The black woman is also, usually more independent in her dealings with all males. Black women are conditioned to be a strong contributor, a supporter, and a source of strength and affection in a flexible family unit. These strong characteristics and training within the family unit can contribute to the black woman's survival or ability to cope positively with a rape situation. In a historical and a current sense, social workers must be knowledgeable of the fact that few people other than the family have been interested in the welfare of the black woman. Her working conditions, location of living quarters and economic situation often place her in a vulnerable position. She must rely on her own abilities to be responsible for her own fate and her ability to adequately defend herself.

Black social workers and counselors should be especially aware of all ethical and racial issues. The methods of treatments and response to rape victims should be a combination of reassurance, support, and practical information. Black social workers should become more responsive of the consequences of rape and rape victims by: (1) coordinating rap groups for victims, when they could meet together to help and learn from each other. Victims would be given the opportunity to talk about their experiences, and to realize that they are not alone. Victims would also learn how others are coping with fear and the anger associated with rape. (2) Becoming involved in research dealing directly with the rape of black women. (3) Organizing or working with neighbor-
hood prevention programs in the black community. (4) Dedication and commitment of black social workers to help victims prevent, cope and survive the tragic experience of rape.

While reviewing information on rape prevention, an interview was arranged with Ms. Vinson, a psychiatric social worker at Grady Memorial Hospital Rape Crisis Center. Ms. Vinson elaborated on what to do if someone you knew was raped. "First of all you shouldn't judge her actions or blame her in any way. Give that person all the love and understanding that you would if she had gone through any other crisis. The victim has already punished and blamed herself enough. You should not join in and make her feel worse. No one should be expected to deal with these problems alone. If the victim lives with her family, the parents should try to find a balance between being over protective and allowing her to resume her regular activities. You can not help a victim by locking her in the house and trying to watch her all the time. What's best is treating the rape as you would any other injury like a broken arm or leg. Try to help the victim find a blend of comfort, attention and precautions against it happening again. For victims already leading independent lives, friends can fill this necessary role. All victims regardless of their age must be given the chance to talk about the rape and their feelings. When they aren't allowed to do this, emotional recovery may be slowed down or never takes place. Women can survive rape, but it definitely helps to have good friends and family around to be sympathetic during the blackest times."25 During the course of an interview with Cheryl Crayton,
Rape Crisis Counselor, Ms. Crayton stated that "social workers and counselors must be supportive to the victim, this also involves the victims family and friends. Social workers must be knowledgable of crisis intervention techniques which are necessary in order to allow the victim to return to the point in her life before rape. Inquires should also be made to find out the victims strengths and past abilities to cope with problems. Rape victims should also be encouraged and allowed to feel they are now in control, and it must be their decision of what to do after rape. Lastly, social workers should be able to make appropriate referrals and follow up on the rape victim if necessary."  

On the subject of prevention, an interview with Jacqueline Mays, SAFE Program Director, had this advice for all women: A woman who never even thought about being mugged or raped will be in great trouble if it happened. If a woman would just think, "What if a man attacked me?", she would be much safer. If you have thought about it before, your thoughts will flash into your mind. If you haven't thought about it before, nothing will come to mind and you'll do nothing or you will panic. Ms. Mays stated that the what if technique helps to prepare women for the unexpected. There are also a few general rules about confrontations with a rapist:  

Rule 1, the best defense is prevention.  

Rule 2, during a confrontation, your objective is escape, Fight only if necessary.  

Rule 3, use the minimum amount of force necessary, Screaming, breaking a window or just shoving the offender may stop
some confrontations.

Rule 4, If the man has a weapon, do not start off fighting or he may use it on you.

Rule 5, If you are fighting for your life, fight dirty.

Even though these are some general rules, each circumstance is different, and you can't just go by the rules. Ms. Mays also acknowledged that Ms. Lidia Agosto will be working with the faculty, staff and students of the Atlanta University Center in developing crime prevention strategies specific to the area and their needs. 27
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Black women in the Atlanta University Center must begin to take the responsibility of insuring their own safety. They must realize that they are not alone and that there are resources concerning sexual assault available to them. Rape Crisis Centers are a necessity as well as other supportive resources such as rap groups, block watches, crime prevention programs and a police department that will believe a woman if she reports the incident. It is of extreme importance that the black women in the Atlanta University Center be able to recognize potentially dangerous situations. The mass media can be a very helpful component if it begins to prevent rape in a more realistic way, by informing the public of specific situations that warrant caution. Constructive alternatives or responses could be presented through a responsible, informative media. In order for the women in the Atlanta University Center to utilize such knowledge, there is a need to develop a healthy skepticism. This would involve the process of internalizing your priorities and feeling good about your own intuition and reactions. Black women must also begin to express their rights and develop assertive attitudes to protect themselves. This also includes acquiring knowledge of the body and a certainty that your body will defend you, which is crucial to rape prevention.

Who will be a victim of rape? No one knows for sure, but the woman who gives crime an opportunity, who is not alert and
aware, who is not psychologically prepared, who is not expect-
ing the unexpected--this person will likely be a victim of rape.

Rape and crime are community problems. In the past, the
women in the Atlanta University Center have expected the po-
lice and the Atlanta University Center Department of Public
Safety to assume the responsibility for all that is criminal.
Presently, crime has out grown the expected boundaries and has
become a problem in every neighborhood and on every street.
The police and security forces everywhere are now asking for
our help. Fighting crime and more specifically rape, starts
at home. This includes your immediate neighbors, surrounding
colleges and extends throughout the community. To combat rape,
one can participate in the regular meetings of the community
and the police in your area. One can also work with the local,
state and federal government agencies, church groups, anti rape
groups, social and political groups.

In concluding, I have examined several alternatives for rape
prevention, but there are also many elements that need to exist
for an environment to be conducive to assault prevention. An in-
dividual woman can take precautions and use techniques, but the
support and cooperation of those around her enhance the chance of
her success.

As stated earlier, the problem of rape is not the total re-
sponsibility of the women in the Atlanta University Center. Al-
though it is essential that they learn to insure their own safety
and promote prevention through community, city and state wide
action.
1 Janet Bode, Rape-Preventing It; Coping With the Legal, Medical and Emotional Aftermath, (New York: Franklin Watts, 1979), p. 13.


3 Janet Bode, Rape-Preventing It; Coping With the Legal, Medical and Emotional Aftermath, (New York: Franklin Watts, 1979), p. 13.


5 Ibid., p. 33.

6 Ibid., p. 67.

7 Ibid., p. 59.

8 Janet Bode, Rape-Preventing It; Coping With the Legal, Medical, and Emotional Aftermath, (New York: Franklin Watts, 1979), p. 19.

9 Ibid., p. 20.

10 Ibid., p. 31.

11 Ibid., p. 32.

12 Ibid., p. 37.


14 Safer Atlanta For Everyone, Rape Prevention, Treatment and Facts, (Atlanta, Ga. 1979), p. 4.

15 Ibid., p. 1.

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