THIS IS RAPE CULTURE
Comedian to teach students about safe and consensual sex

BARBARA BRITES
Staff Writer

M aria Falzone, comedian and one of the most sought-after college speakers, wants to teach students about sex and as part of sexual assault awareness month, the Women’s Center is bringing her to the University. On April 13, Falzone will host a speaker series called “Sex Rules! Laugh and Learn the Rules to Greater and Safer Sex.”

... We live in a society where sex sells, but we’re often told not to have it outside of a heterosexual marriage, so we don’t get sex advice, detailed education on consent, and how to prevent STIs apart from abstinence.

Meredith Morgan
Coordinator
Women’s Center at BBC

“... We live in a society where sex sells, but we’re often told not to have it outside of a heterosexual marriage, so we don’t get sex advice, detailed education on consent, and how to prevent STIs apart from abstinence.”

According to Meredith Morgan, coordinator of the Women’s Center at BBC, “Sex Rules” is a comedy show about how to have great sex that is safe and consensual, while building in topics such as self-esteem, sexual transmitted infections and relationships. Her message is inclusive of and relevant to all genders, sexualities, and races.

Morgan also explained that they chose Maria Falzone because talking about consent is often a dreaded topic for students. The topic is often approached with a tone that everyone is a potential perpetrator of sexual violence, and this approach doesn’t empower people to be active bystanders and practice consent. Falzone uses humor and entertainment, Morgan says, to show how fun consensual sex is, what the rules are, and how to love and enjoy your sex life in a safe way for you and your partners.

As part of a larger initiative to increase awareness of sexual assault, the Women’s Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus also screened “Audrie & Daisy,” a Netflix documentary exploring rape, trauma, power, and coming of age of the world in social media.

... We live in a society where sex sells, but we’re often told not to have it outside of a heterosexual marriage, so we don’t get sex advice, detailed education on consent, and how to prevent STIs apart from abstinence,” Morgan said.

Morgan thinks that students will be empowered to create the safe sex life they want for themselves — including abstinence, if that’s what they choose. They will learn how to communicate with potential sexual partners so that their sex is safe, fun, and consensual.

The documentary highlights the re-traumatization of victims after sexual assaults, according to Morgan. “Audrie & Daisy” show the story of two girls who were sexually assaulted at parties at the ages of 14 and 15. After the assaults, the girls were bullied and harassed.

“It’s important that students watch this film because many people don’t think about the aftermath of sexual assault — they only think about the assault itself,” Morgan said. Daisy was taunted in school and on social media, and was shunned from her community. Pictures of Audrie’s rape were shared among her classmates. One week after Audrie’s assault, she committed suicide, and Daisy attempted suicide three times. Morgan explained that victims are often blamed for their assault, and if they speak out about it, they are stigmatized and harassed. This can lead to dropping out of school, inability to work, and even suicide.

“It’s important that we not only work to prevent sexual assault by creating a culture of consent, but that we also work to prevent bullying — including cyberbullying — in order to properly care for victims and prevent retraumatization,” said Morgan.

The “Sex Rules” event will be held at the BBC on April 13 in Wolfe University Center ballrooms from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and MMC on April 14 in the Graham Center Ballrooms from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. This and other upcoming events can be found on their social media accounts: Facebook: Women’s Center FIU and Instagram: @womenscenterfiu.

This will be the 13th annual “Take Back the Night” event at the University, but instead of a march and rally, it will be a panel discussion this year.

“This year we are going to have a sexual assault survivor as one of the speakers,” Rodriguez said.

The FIU Police Department and a moderator from the Victim Empowerment program will also be guest speakers. Rodriguez also mentioned that the Women’s Center is trying to confirm two guest speakers from the Nancy J. Cotterman Center, which provides crisis counseling and deals with victims of human trafficking and a guest panelist from the LGBTQA Initiatives under the Multicultural Programs and Services.

Overview of services
Victim Empowerment Program

- 24-hour support, information, referrals and advocacy
- Supportive crisis counseling
- Accompaniment to court, meetings, hearings and depositions involving the criminal justice system or FIU student conduct process
- Assistance with exploration of options and accessing community resources
- Help facilitating academic accommodations
- An educational programming, social work internships, and training for students interested in participating in our peer educator program, for which students receive hourly pay.

Infographic does not include all services provided by FIU’s Victim Empowerment Program. For more information, visit vep.fiu.edu
It’s our job to lead the charge across the nation than should be answered by ourselves.

Along with these assaults come fear, victim shaming or blaming and a furtherance of rape culture.

Rape culture is a sociological concept used to describe a setting in which rape is pervasive and normalized due to societal attitudes about gender and sexuality.

In laymen’s terms, this translates to a society in which a victim is asked how much they drank prior to being violated and assaulted; a culture that tells victims that they were asking for their assault based on the clothes they wore on the way they behaved.

Rape culture is wrong.

Being that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it’s important that we bring light to the resources and conversations on campus.

We want to break the silence that surrounds sexual assault and rape culture.

To do that, we put together a magazine that features information from The Title IX Office, sexual assault from the Victim Empowerment Program and the National Organization of Women.

As an editorial board, we fight to dispel the myth of the perfect victim. Anyone, including men, can be a victim of sexual assault, regardless of their creed, religion or other background factors.

It’s On Us to stop sexual assault on campus, and we at Student Media would like to lead the charge.

If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, the University’s Victim Empowerment Program is equipped to assist in moving forward, regardless of if the assault is reported.

VEP is located in Student Health Center 270 at MMC and Wolfe University Center 320 by appointment only at BBC.

Both myself and two friends enjoyed and loved the class. … They had very good information, techniques and advice.

Overall, an amazing, life-changing experience.

Come join in the charge. It’s our job to lead the charge, whatever you’re doing,” said Valdes.

Happy resounding yes the whole time you’re doing it, and if they’re uncomfortable…[you have] to know how to protect yourself and thereby, build confidence.

The training includes both a theory class and a technique class in which females are given the opportunity to test their abilities during a simulated attack.

Women learn awareness techniques, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance strategies. They will also learn how properly throw a punch, kick, how to escape a bear hug, among more.

The program was first introduced to the University in 2009 and law enforcement officer Sonia Meneses, a certified RAD instructor, has taught the program alongside Safety Officer Roberto Leal since its introduction.

According to the FIU Police Department, self-defense is 90 percent mental preparedness; the other 10 percent is physical.

Both myself and two friends enjoyed and loved the class. … They had very good information, techniques and advice. Overall, an amazing, life-changing experience.

Women interested in any of the classes can contact Law Enforcement Officer Sonia Meneses. She can be contacted by phone: 305.348.6595 or by email: meneses@fiu.edu. They can also visit police.fiu.edu for more information on the program or the office in the PGS Market Station.

Consent: Continuous ‘enthusiastic yes’ rather than just a definitive no

seven-letter word stands between sexual assault and consensual sex, and that word is consent.

Alyssa Delgado, lead peer educator of the Counseling Center and Victim Empowerment Program at the University, said that the difference between rape and sexual assault is that rape includes penetration, whereas sexual assault is nonconsensual sexual contact.

According to Daniela Valdes, president of the National Organization of Women at FIU, consent has to be a “continuous yes” rather than just a definitive no.

“There’s been a lot of campaigns about how ‘no’ means ‘no’ and that’s … defining what consent is but I think a better way to put it is that it has to be a continuous yes — a continuous yes,” said Valdes.

Delgado stated simply that consent is essentially giving your explicit permission that you are OK to start or continue in a sexual act. As long as you have to explain that both people should be able to enjoy any type of sexual contact.

Sometimes (sic) especially [with] people in relationships, we find that you have to know how to read their body language,” said Valdes. “You have to know how to read the person … you’re engaging with and if they’re uncomfortable. … you have to know that that’s not an enthusiastic yes. Consent would be a very happy resounding yes the whole time you’re doing whatever you’re doing,” said Valdes.

She adds that by not defining consent, it leaves room for miscommunication and can blur the lines of consent.

“You have people who say that if someone was drinking a certain amount, then that means that … they’re looking at the situation and not the individuals. … We want to break the silence that surrounds sexual assault and rape culture.”

Dear Editor,

We want to break the silence that surrounds sexual assault and rape culture.

To do that, we put together a magazine that features information from The Title IX Office, sexual assault from the Victim Empowerment Program and the National Organization of Women.

As an editorial board, we fight to dispel the myth of the perfect victim. Anyone, including men, can be a victim of sexual assault, regardless of their creed, religion or other background factors.

It’s On Us to stop sexual assault on campus, and we at Student Media would like to lead the charge.

If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, the University’s Victim Empowerment Program is equipped to assist in moving forward, regardless of if the assault is reported.

VEP is located in Student Health Center 270 at MMC and Wolfe University Center 320 by appointment only at BBC.

Both myself and two friends enjoyed and loved the class. … They had very good information, techniques and advice. Overall, an amazing, life-changing experience.

“Both myself and two friends enjoyed and loved the class. … They had very good information, techniques and advice. Overall, an amazing, life-changing experience.”

Women interested in any of the classes can contact Law Enforcement Officer Sonia Meneses. She can be contacted by phone: 305.348.6595 or by email: meneses@fiu.edu. They can also visit police.fiu.edu for more information on the program or the office in the PGS Market Station.

Sonia Meneses, instructor for Rape Aggression Defense Program, declined to speak with Student Media on the program.
FIU changes its ‘application’ of discrimination law

JOSHUA CEBALLOS
Assistant Entertainment Director

The law didn’t change, “Title IX is a 1972 law that’s been around for quite some time. Most people are familiar with Title IX as it applies to sports... Title IX applies to any type of discrimination based on sex or gender,” said McWhorter.

“Whereas people normally think of Title IX as the law that requires women’s basketball teams to be treated just as fairly as men’s basketball teams, FIU takes their approach to a different level, according to McWhorter.”

“The law didn’t change, but our application of this law has changed. Now we’re looking at it holistically. Any type of behavior dealing with sexual misconduct [or] dealing with sex and gender... what Title IX says is that educational institutions, are not to discriminate or to allow discrimination at your school,” said McWhorter.

EOPD handles cases of sexual misconduct that occur between a student and a staff member, or a student and a faculty member. Cases of misconduct between students are handled by Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, according to the sexual misconduct informational pamphlet provided by the EOPD. “Students can report [sexual misconduct] in a number of ways... they can come in in-person; they can call us on the telephone. What we try to do is make ourselves accessible to the students so that we can contact them and of sexual harassment, EOPD and Student Conduct makes sure that students get the proper psychological help from CAPS if necessary, helps refer students to the Victim Empowerment Program, and also accompanies victims in reporting the incident with the police department on or off campus if the student feels it is necessary.

For those who may not know where EOPD, Victim Empowerment Program, or Student Conduct is, McWhorter said that FIU is prepared to direct them. “We’ve trained the university faculty and staff here at the university to deal with Title IX as well, so even if a student went to someone else and it wasn’t my office... those faculty members are trained, they know about my office, they know where [students] should go,” said McWhorter.

The Resident Assistants in the FIU dorms are also trained to direct students to the EOPD according to McWhorter, so should an RA receive a complaint, they’ll know what to do.

Approximately 23 percent of females and 5.5 percent of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. RAINN, an anti-sexual violence organization that aims to enlighten, protect and assist all those affected by sexual assault, rape or abuse and those who witness it, created the national “It’s On Us” campaign to address sexual assault on college campuses.

A few issues “It’s On Us” aims to solve or regulate includes the stigma of a rape victim being a woman. A crime can not, in any way, shape or form, be genderized.

Rape victims and perpetrators can at any time, any place and for whatever reason, be both male and female in no relation to the other.

The “It’s On Us” campaign here at FIU is consistently contributing to the culture of FIU through events, open discussions, tabling and even speakers. But, aside from our own “It’s On Us” campaign, students and parents nationwide are urged, claims that numerous universities are downplaying assault as a whole and are practicing the act of not reporting “on-campus” sexual assaults and/or rapes.

According to the Washington Post, incidents that have occurred included a “University failing[ ] to respond effectively to reports of sexual assault involving football players and others.”

“Universities need to stop trying to treat this as a PR problem, and treat it as the civil rights and public safety issue that it is. It’s happening on their campuses, undeniably. There’s no use putting their head in the sand,” Lisa Maatz, vice president of government relations at the American Association of University Women, said to the Washington Post.

However, legislative action has tried to minimize the attitude universities have towards rape. In 2016, for example, students and parents were able to access for the first time precise data on the volume of rape reports on each campus due to a modification within their disclosure rules.

Colleges were once required to disclose under the federal Clery Act the number of “forcible sex offenses,” reports which cover a variety of crimes including rape.

But, since 2016, these reports are now deciphered based on the precise act and as a separate statistic, along with modifications to the definition of rape: “Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ with any body part.”

Despite the new changes to regulations, many rapes are still going unreported. “Politico” did their own investigation stating, “Florida’s colleges and universities report among the lowest rates of on-campus rape in the nation, and relatively few of the state’s higher education institutions are under federal investigations.”

SEE REPORT, PAGE 5
Victim Empowerment Program seeks to ‘promote recovery’

ANGELIQUE DUCOUGE
Staff Writer

Ninety percent of all campus rapes occur when alcohol was used by either the victim or the assailant; most victims, both male and female, are raped by an acquaintance or a romantic partner, not a stranger.

This is where the Victim Empowerment Program at FIU comes in.

“Our mission is to promote the recovery of victims of violent crimes,” said Sharon Aaron, licensed clinical social worker and director of the VEP program. “Also to prevent retraumatization in the aftermath of their victimization, and to promote awareness through prevention education for the university.”

The program focuses on relationship violence, including sexual battery or stalking, while the center’s licensed clinicians also work to provide assistance and support for victims of hate crimes and hazing.

What we do is we explain choices, help identify needs and do safety planning, then lay out whatever options there are depending on what’s happened or is happening with the student but we only fulfill the options that they choose,” said Aaron.

In addition to supportive crisis counseling, the center also offers accompaniment meetings which sees a licensed staff member accompanying students to places like the courts or rape treatment centers.

They can provide assistance with filling for restraining orders or student conduct complaints against their assailants, as well as facilitating academic accommodations by speaking with financial aid or professors when a crisis causes disruption in a student’s academic life.

“We want to help students recover and not get so far behind in their lives and their goals that it becomes a thing that really is disruptive and has a lasting impact on their lives,” said Aaron.

A 24-hour support hotline rotates between victim advocates to ensure someone will always be at hand to answer the phone. Depending on the severity of the situation, the VEP program’s services are provided to students at the Student Health Center, Program’s office is located in the Student Health Center, room 270. Students that attend the Biscayne Bay campus and room 270. Students that attend the Biscayne Bay campus and the University of Miami and University of South Florida. Florida State University is planning to issue a survey as well.

FIU has not participated in the survey, but it would be a great idea to do so. As a community we should play our part in being aware, alert and active in trying to decrease the chances of rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse. That means going against everything and anything and being aware, alert and active.

“Victim Empowerment Program seeks to ‘promote recovery’”

“June 8 – 19

“We should join state schools and report abuse”

REPORT, PAGE 4

for potentially mishandling sexual violence incidents.”

Despite the positivity in the article, students and victims suggest that the sexual incidents do not correspond accurately to the reports. The article suggests that in order to collect relevant data, campuses need to issue Climate Surveys asking questions regarding rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Florida universities that have participated in these surveys include: University of Florida, University of Miami and University of South Florida. Florida State University is planning to issue a survey as well.

“We should join state schools and report abuse”

Laquavia Smith is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, What’s Up FIU, is a commentary on the latest style and entertainment news.
Society needs to confront rape culture’s toxicity

I’ve always admired Johnny Depp for his acting ability, and the films he stared in. Some of his films like “Edward Scissorhands” and “Corrina Bride” remain among my favorites even today. But when news about Depp’s domestic abuse scandal emerged last year, I was both shocked and disappointed. I will never see Depp the same way again.

What shocked me more, however, was the unwarranted hatred that was directed at his now ex-wife, Amber Heard, mostly by his fans. Comments ranging from “gold digger” to “attention seeker” to describe Heard are being thrown around in a society that commonly engages in such behaviors. Moreover, we need to look at the way society thinks that we commonly engage in together as a way to combat sexual violence. Furthermore, we need to realize that rape culture is a complex of beliefs, for the most part, normalizes and condones physical and emotional violence against women.

According to a 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, “sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence are major health problems in the United States.”

The fact is, many people cannot believe that women believe that their violent act, assault, or sexual assault can make them feel safe. Denial sets in and anger is then shown onto the accuser, who is made to look like the villain.

Unfortunately, Depp’s abuse towards Heard is just one example of public figures who’ve abused their partners. Actors and musicians alike such as Sean Penn, John Lennon, Chris Brown and Michael Fassbender have also been accused of abuse by their former girlfriends and wives. And it’s been happening for a long time.

In Penn’s case, he committed violence against his then-wife Madonna (yes, the Material Girl) by torturing her for nine hours in 1987, according to The Huffington Post.

Without much regard about his treatment of Madonna, Penn became successful in the industry. The same Huffington Post article states that Penn “has gone on to star in dozens of critically acclaimed movies, won two Academy Awards, and become a champion of numerous political and social causes.”

This occurs with many celebrity cases, where the man walks away from the ordeal without so much a scratch on his career. Casey Affleck has had several allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse against him, but yet he still won Actor in a Leading Role at the Academy Awards earlier this year.

Where was the outrage? Where were the avalanche of comments calling Affleck degrading names? Heard and the other women who brave enough to report their abusers didn’t gain anything from their accusations. They risked their careers by calling out but then shown on their alleged behavior.

Victim-blaming only prevents a woman from reporting a crime and creates a cycle where abuse lingers. It also allows these celebrities, who are used to being accorded with praises and awards, to continue their actions without punishment.

A line has to be drawn somewhere. People should be aware that their favorite actors, musicians, NFL players or whoever are capable of being awful people, just like anyone else.

Fame and fortune does not excuse someone for their actions.

Women are not objects

Fabienn Fleurantin

Grocery shopping should be no brainer right? Get in, get out and bring your groceries to your respective transportation.

Well, two girls tried that approach, but it didn’t turn out so well.

They just exited a Publix with a few grocery bags and as they passed a Dollar Tree on their way to the bus stop, the girls caught unwanted attention from two men perched on the wall beside the store.

The girls walked on, one oblivious to the sudden matching footsteps that lurked behind them while the other grew more weary because they entered an empty mall parking lot.

The two men began catcalling them, telling them to stop and wait for them, but the girls didn’t slow down. Trying to be safe and fearless, they headed towards the nearest store in the mall to surround themselves with people.

One of the men, however, saw the girls go inside, and continued to follow them. The girls screamed and went on their way hoping to get on the bus one way or another.

One of those girls was me. This is something that many women and girls experience when they walk the streets alone.

If we continue to perpetuate this rape culture that we’ve created…we will denigrate the female gender altogether.

Fame not an excuse for victim-blaming

SERIOUSLY FOLKS

Caroline Lozano

I’ve always admired Johnny Depp for his acting ability, and the films he stared in. Some of his films like “Edward Scissorhands” and “Corrina Bride” remain among my favorites even today. But when news about Depp’s domestic abuse scandal emerged last year, I was both shocked and disappointed. I will never see Depp the same way again.

What shocked me more, however, was the unwarranted hatred that was directed at his now ex-wife, Amber Heard, mostly by his fans. Comments ranging from “gold digger” to “attention seeker” to describe Heard are being thrown around in a society that commonly engages in such behaviors. Moreover, we need to look at the way society thinks that we commonly engage in together as a way to combat sexual violence. Furthermore, we need to realize that rape culture is a complex of beliefs, for the most part, normalizes and condones physical and emotional violence against women.

According to a 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, “sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence are major health problems in the United States.”

The fact is, many people cannot believe that women believe that their violent act, assault, or sexual assault can make them feel safe. Denial sets in and anger is then shown onto the accuser, who is made to look like the villain.

Unfortunately, Depp’s abuse towards Heard is just one example of public figures who’ve abused their partners. Actors and musicians alike such as Sean Penn, John Lennon, Chris Brown and Michael Fassbender have also been accused of abuse by their former girlfriends and wives. And it’s been happening for a long time.

In Penn’s case, he committed violence against his then-wife Madonna (yes, the Material Girl) by torturing her for nine hours in 1987, according to The Huffington Post.

Without much regard about his treatment of Madonna, Penn became successful in the industry. The same Huffington Post article states that Penn “has gone on to star in dozens of critically acclaimed movies, won two Academy Awards, and become a champion of numerous political and social causes.”

This occurs with many celebrity cases, where the man walks away from the ordeal without so much a scratch on his career. Casey Affleck has had several allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse against him, but yet he still won Actor in a Leading Role at the Academy Awards earlier this year.

Where was the outrage? Where were the avalanche of comments calling Affleck degrading names? Heard and the other women who brave enough to report their abusers didn’t gain anything from their accusations. They risked their careers by calling out but then shown on their alleged behavior.

Victim-blaming only prevents a woman from reporting a crime and creates a cycle where abuse lingers. It also allows these celebrities, who are used to being accorded with praises and awards, to continue their actions without punishment.

A line has to be drawn somewhere. People should be aware that their favorite actors, musicians, NFL players or whoever are capable of being awful people, just like anyone else.

Fame and fortune does not excuse someone for their actions.

Huffington Post
Sexual assault can happen to anyone, anywhere

When it comes to sexual assault or harassment, there is no such thing as a “perfect” victim. Nothing is black and white. Anyone can be assaulted and no victim of any assault should be blamed.

Men and women of all races, religions, nationalities and socioeconomic statuses are at risk of rape because no one has inherent immunity. The fact that the idea of a standard “victim profile” for cases of rape exists is telling of blatant rape culture. No other crime profiles or shame its victim as much as rape.

A girl wearing a skirt to a party and getting raped is frequently compared to a meat dress in a shark tank and getting bitten. "She was asking for it," is the common phrase, and what an insensitive, untrue phrase it is. Comparing a human being to a building that is only good for storing money is a continued acceptance of the idea that women are property; that they do not have their own autonomy.

There are two major issues with these comparisons. Firstly, the standards for what clothing is considered sexual in nature are arbitrary and have changed drastically over the centuries. In medieval France, it would have been revealing for a woman to show her hair in public. In colonial Europe, showing legs even with high and bloomers still was seen as risqué.

The 1920s saw hemlines increase almost up to the knees, which would have been nearly blasphemous twenty years prior. But society today doesn’t concur that if someone walks about with ankles bare and hair flowing in the wind he or she deserves to be raped. What someone wears or even how someone behaves has implications for rape.

Unfortunately, these terms do not well into adulthood.

When it comes to sexual assault, it is to attack the rape culture that exists all over the world. This way, the disease, rather than symptoms — or worse, the pseudo-symptoms like arguments used in victim blaming — is stopped.

The best way to prevent sexual assault is to attack the rape culture that exists all over the world. This way, the disease, rather than symptoms — or worse, the pseudo-symptoms like arguments used in victim blaming — is stopped.

Don’t tell them that wearing what makes them feel good is the price they pay for assault. Don’t persuade them that women are the only ones allowed to be victims of sexual violence. Don’t teach them that men are to be feared and that women are inherently weak.

Instead, raise your children to respect others’ bodies and wishes. Educate them on the importance of consent. Teach them to defend themselves so they have a way to protect themselves in a situation that requires it. And if anyone you know is ever handling sexual assault, be a friend, a parent or a partner who is supportive of the victim’s recovery.

Treat it like any other crime: report it and remind the victim that he or she did nothing wrong, that they did nothing to provoke this, and that it’s nothing that makes him or her any less worthy of self-care and love.

If everyone does this, we can start a revolution in the way the world views rape cases and its victims.

Stop excusing the phrase, “Boys will be boys”

Any woman can empathize with the constant defense mechanisms used by adults to describe boys and men. Regardless of sexuality, the defending of men begins at a young age where girls may meet petulant male children.

Upon voicing their concerns to an adult, the response, “He’s only mean because he likes you,” is unfortunately the most common reply. As they grow, this gives boys the idea that they can get away with anything they want.

In an interview with Babble, psychologist and life coach Dr. Lisa Kaplin spoke of the importance of teaching our children what love doesn’t look like.

“Depending on the child’s age we can add some explanation of why some kids might punch, hit, etc. We would explain that is about control, not liking or caring for someone,” Kaplin said.

If that’s not what love looks like, where does this ideology even stem from? The idea that a boy may like someone if he’s violent and the conversation behind “boys will be boys” creates a societal malignant self-fulfilling prophecy.

Psychologist Elizabeth J. Meyer from Psychology Today describes the dangers behind the inclusion of terms like “boys will be boys” as a prompt to construct gender stereotypes, leading towards the formation of unconscious biases, which in the end, "limits the full expression of children; confining them to socially constructed pink and blue scripts.”

Unfortunately, these terms eventaully follow well into adulthood.

According to Persky, Turner was just trying to “have fun” and took it "too far" with his intoxication. He didn’t say “boys will be boys,” but he may as well have done so.

The Stanford case is not the first nor the last to exhibit this apathy towards rape. Many universities such as Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania have been called out on their aloofness towards the women who have come out to confess their abuse.

This has normalized rape culture, making rape the most underreported crime. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center “estimates that 63 percent of sexual assaults are never reported to police.”

Boys can only be boys for so long, and hostility towards another doesn’t equal love or affection. The normalization of these attitudes must be put to a halt alongside the inclusion of these terms in modern day vocabulary.

And always keep in mind that abuse towards women is undeniable by all means; not because you have a sister, a mother, or a daughter, but because she’s a human being.

Daniela Perez, is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, Pulitzer’s Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.

Send Us Your Letters
Have something on your mind? Send an email to opinion@fiusm.com. Be sure to include your name, major and year and a photo of yourself. Letters must be less than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and length. Panther Press will only run two letters a semester from any individual.

Disclaimer
The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Panther Press Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the university community.

Editorial
Panther Press is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during summer. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. Panther Press is not responsible for the content of ads. All content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. Panther Press is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and service fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
Former Stanford University student and swimmer Brock Turner became a household name after sexually assaulting an unconscious woman behind a dumpster in January 2015 and receiving a relatively light prison sentence. The victim released a gut-wrenching statement that drew the attention of millions around the nation and worldwide. “You don’t know me, but you’ve been inside me,” she said to Turner during trial, “and that’s why we’re here today.” In March 2016, the jury found Turner guilty of three felony counts: “assault with intent to commit rape of an intoxicated or unconscious person, penetration of an intoxicated person and penetration of an unconscious person.” Turner only served three months in prison and was released in September 2016 to serve three years of probation at home. His sentencing also includes attending counseling for a minimum of one year, where his distorted views of sex and relationships with others will be psychologically examined and treated. Deputy District Attorney Alaleh Kianerci recommended a six-year prison sentence due to Turner’s evident lack of remorse and the victim’s vulnerable state. However, Judge Aaron Persky ruled that Turner’s previous lack of criminal history and the presence of alcohol signified that Turner was acting foolishly, but it wouldn’t likely occur again. The anger around Turner’s light punishment sparked a national conversation about rape culture and the definition of consent, particularly after Turner’s father publicly released a letter asking the judge not to ruin his son’s life for “20 minutes of action.”

Julieta Rodrigo, a staff writer for Panther Press, wrote a commentary on the latest issues in sports.

WEEKLY WHY

There is a lot of alcohol and drug use in these events, and students of both sexes prey on each other. It’s kind of like a game to see who can get wasted and hook up with someone fastest, but the issue comes when they are so intoxicated that they can’t think clearly or express consent.

Daniel Estevez
Junior
Psychology

1 in 5 women are victims of sexual assault during college

Sexual assault on college campuses

Rape survivors are 6.2 times more likely to develop PTSD. 3 times more likely to have a major depressive episode, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.

Fraternity men are 3x more likely to commit rape than other college men.

Team sports, like football, basketball and hockey, have higher incidences of rape than individualized sports, like tennis and running.

95% of sexual assault incidences are not reported due to social stigma surrounding sexual assault and the fear of being blamed for “asking for it.”

Do you like sports?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cover a sporting event?

If you answered “yes” to both these questions, join our staff!

Visit www.panthernow.com to apply!