

MISCOMMUNICATION IN SEXUAL
INTERACTIONS:
A CLOSER
LOOK

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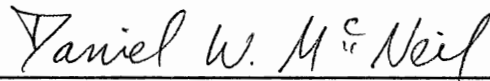
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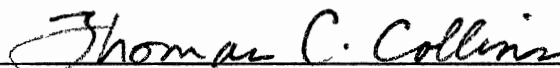


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Abstract

Previous research strongly suggests that at least two aspects of miscommunication are involved in the occurrence of date/acquaintance rape. These aspects involve the male perceptions of female refusals of sexual advancement and male and female perceptions of desire for and intent to have sexual intercourse. Two studies utilizing scenarios depicting a female and male target in a sexual interaction were conducted to examine communication in sexual interactions. The results were somewhat consistent with previous research: the studies suggest male subjects generally do not accept coercion in sexual interactions, regardless of a woman's timing, assertiveness, or persistence in refusing sexual advancement, and that both male and female subjects perceive a probability higher for male targets than female targets that the target desires and intends to have intercourse. The results suggest that young men and women should proceed cautiously in sexual interactions, and that more research is needed to better understand the role of miscommunication in date/acquaintance rape.

MISCOMMUNICATION IN SEXUAL INTERACTIONS:

A CLOSER LOOK

Rape

Statistics

Forcible rape against women in the United States is a tremendous problem. Rape has been described as "nothing more or less than a conscious process of intimidation by which all men keep all women in a state of fear" (Brownmiller, 1975, p. 5). Forcible rape has been defined as "carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts" (U.S. Department of Justice, 1988, p. 708). Definitions of rape vary from state to state but generally include aspects of nonconsent, force or the threat of force, and sexual penetration (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1985; Kanin, 1984, 1985; Koss & Oros, 1982).

In 1987, there were 37.7 reported rapes per 100,000 people in the U.S. (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 1988; U.S. Department of Justice, 1988). This rate has risen 10% since 1984. It is estimated that one rape occurs every six minutes (FBI). One independent study (Russell, 1982) of 930 randomly selected women in the San Francisco Bay area found that 44% of the women disclosed at least one completed or attempted rape, but that of these only 8% had been reported. The government estimates that 40% to 60% of rapes are not reported to the police. Reasons for not reporting ranged from treating the experience as a private

matter to the belief that the police would be inefficient, ineffective, or insensitive to fear of reprisal (U.S. Department of Justice). Skelton and Burkhart (1980) suggest that the more force that is used and the less well the victim knows the rapist, the more likely the rape will be reported. Feldman-Summers and Norris (1984) described women who reported rape. These women tended to feel that reporting the rape would result in a test for pregnancy or venereal disease and that it would result in a feeling of calm and safety. For whatever reasons, it seems a very high percentage of rapes goes unreported.

Of reported rapes, 93% of the victims are female, 62% are 24 years old or younger, and 48% are casually acquainted with or well known to the rapist (U.S. Department of Justice, 1988). Further, of reported rapes, nearly 60% occur in the home of the victim or in the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor of the victim (U.S. Department of Justice). Even though a small percentage of rapes is reported, many of these occur between people who are at least casually acquainted and in a place that is at least somewhat familiar to the victim. It is likely that this is the case for many unreported rapes as well.

Victim Experience

The experience of rape generally leaves the victim highly traumatized. Rape victims may experience a wide range of distressing symptoms, categorized as Rape Trauma

Syndrome (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1985; Parrot, 1988; Pritchard, 1985) or Rape Crisis Syndrome (Rosenberg, 1986). Burgess and Holmstrom, Parrot, and Rosenberg describe two phases in coping with the rape experience. The acute phase, which may involve shock, disbelief, inability to concentrate, and anger, may last a few days to a few weeks. The reorientation or reorganization phase involves the victim's moving from confusion about the rape experience and interactions with others to feeling stronger and making some sense of the rape. Rape victims may be described as experiencing Rape-related Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (Burgess & Holmstrom; American Psychiatric Association, 1987). The symptoms of Rape-related Post-traumatic Stress Disorder include persistently reexperiencing the rape (through thoughts or dreams), persistently avoiding stimuli associated with the rape, and persistent increased arousal. This disorder may be delayed by at least six months (American Psychiatric Association).

Date/Acquaintance Rape

Victim Experience

As can be seen, rape affects thousands of women each year, with traumatic results. Government estimates (FBI, 1988; U.S. Department of Justice, 1988) suggest that nearly 50% of reported rapes occur between a perpetrator and a victim who are at least casually acquainted. Women who are raped by acquaintances (who may be dates) are as highly

traumatized as women who are raped by strangers, and perhaps even more so. Women who are raped by men with whom they are acquainted are as likely as women who are raped by strangers to experience depression and Post-traumatic Stress symptoms (Koss, Dinero, Siebel, & Cox, 1988), but are more likely to blame themselves and have a destroyed sense of trust in friendship (Ehrhart & Sandler, 1985).

Incidence

Through the 1980s, rape and sexual aggression among young men and women became increasing concerns on college campuses around the U.S. The American College Health Association (1987), in a pamphlet targeted toward college students, stated that one of every two women is the victim of some type of sexual aggression, one of every four the victim of rape or attempted rape, and that 84% of the assailants are dates or acquaintances. Burkhart (1989), in a national teleconference on date and acquaintance rape prevention, estimated that 25% of undergraduate women will be the victims of date/acquaintance rape by the time they are graduated. Burkhart also estimated that 10% of men will disclose that they have forced a partner to have intercourse against her will.

Numerous studies have specifically examined the incidence of date/acquaintance rape among college students. In a study of a national sample of higher education students, Koss, Gidycz, and Wisniewski (1987), reported that

27.5% of their subjects had been the victims of acts that met legal definitions of rape. Muehlenhard and Linton (1987), in a study examining incidence and risk factors of date rape at a Southern university found that 14.7% of their female subjects had been the victims of date rape. This study also found that 7.1 % of the male subjects reported perpetrating a date rape. Koss, Dinero, Siebel, and Cox (1988) reported that 13% of their female subjects at a Northeastern university were the victims of date/acquaintance rape. An incidence rate of 27% of the participants at a Midatlantic university was reported by Miller and Marshall in 1988. Aizenman and Kelley (1988) reported 22% of their subjects at a Northeastern university had been the victims of date rape, and 51% had been the victims of attempted rapes that were successfully avoided. Yegides (1986) found 22% of her female subjects at a Southern university had been the victims of a forced sexual encounter with an acquaintance some time during their lives. Yegides also reports that 6% of her male subjects admitted forcing a date to engage in some sexual activity within the year preceding the study. Finally, McDermott, Sarvela, and Banracharya (1988) reported that 13.2% of their subjects had engaged in intercourse against their will in the 30 days preceding the study.

Risk and Causal Factors

What is going on between young men and women that results in such a high incidence of date/acquaintance rape? Many approaches have been taken to examine this question, and many factors have been implicated in contributing to the high incidence of this type of rape.

Several studies have examined risk factors involved in date rape. Muehlenhard and Linton (1987) examined risk factors by asking male and female subjects questions about their most recent dates and their worst experience with sexual aggression during a date. They found that both men and women seemed to feel the man had felt "led on" by the woman more on the dates that involved sexual aggression. Male subjects were divided on whether this was intentional on the women's part; female subjects generally felt it was unintentional and that the men had misinterpreted the behaviors. Muehlenhard and Linton also found that the most frequently used coercive strategy by the men was ignoring the woman's protest. These authors suggest that differences in perceptions of sexual intent and nonassertive communication by women are both significant factors in the occurrence of sexual aggression in dating situations.

Koss and Dinero (1989) examined risk factors involved in sexual victimization by comparing women at five different levels of experienced sexual victimization (from nonvictimized to victim of rape). These authors concluded

that certain attitudes or behaviors alone could not predict sexual victimization. They also concluded that a woman's vulnerability to rape was either linked to early experiences beyond the victim's control (i.e., experiences with incest) or was not predictable.

"Attributional" Studies

Many researchers have examined risk factors associated with date rape through "attributional" studies. That is, they have examined observer attitude toward the sexual behavior of different targets utilizing scenarios of some sort. It seems these researchers assume that observers' attitudes regarding what is and what is not acceptable behavior is indicative of risk factors related to date rape. These researchers also assume that types of situations that justify sexual coercion (as judged by observers) are also indicative of risk factors related to date rape. As Muehlenhard, Friedman, and Thomas (1985) argue, "It is important for women to know what might influence their potential dates' attitudes to the justifiability of rape" and "what circumstances increase the justifiability of rape in men's eyes" (p 298). These authors have found that traditionality seemed to influence acceptability of rape behavior (forced intercourse). Traditionality was determined by scores on the Attitude Toward Women Scale (Spence & Helmreich, 1972, cited in Muehlenhard, Friedman, & Thomas). This scale measures the degree to which an

individual accepts traditional sex-role stereotypes. Twenty percent of traditional men, but only 12.9% of nontraditional men, thought rape was somewhat justifiable in certain situations. These authors also found dating activity and who paid for the date influenced the justifiability of rape behaviors. Forced intercourse was judged as more justifiable if the man paid and if the couple went to the man's apartment rather than to a movie or religious function.

Muehlenhard (1988a), utilizing 11 scenarios, found that 22.5% of her male subjects thought it was sometimes justifiable for the male to have intercourse with the female against her will. As in Muehlenhard, Friedman, and Thomas (1985), rape was judged more justifiable when the couple went to the man's apartment, when the man paid all expenses, and when the subject/observer was more traditional. Rape was seen as more justifiable when the woman initiated the date. Muehlenhard also reported data on perceptions of the women in the scenarios' willingness to have intercourse. Male subjects consistently rated the woman's willingness to have intercourse higher than female subjects. Muehlenhard suggests, "This discrepancy could cause some men to feel 'led on'...and some men regard being led on as justification for rape" (p. 31).

Other authors have utilized scenarios, in the form of videos or vignettes, to assess risk factors of date rape

through attribution of responsibility and justifiability. In 1983 Shotland and Goodstein found that forced intercourse was less likely to be identified as rape if the onset of the woman's protest to sexual advancement occurred late in the interaction and if a low level of force was used by the man to obtain intercourse. Collier and Resick (1987) found that sex-role stereotyping influenced victim blame: Highly sex-role stereotyped subjects engaged in more victim blame. Jenkins and Dambrot (1987) reported that male and female subjects who agreed with rape myths (determined by Burt's [1980] Rape Myth Scale, cited in Jenkins and Dambrot) blamed the victim more (saw rape as more justifiable). Other authors (Tetreault & Barnett, 1987) have found that subjects feel stranger rape is more serious than acquaintance rape, that subjects were less certain that forced intercourse was rape if it was engaged in by an acquaintance, and that subjects attributed more responsibility to the victim if the rapist was an acquaintance. Still other authors (Johnson & Jackson, 1988) have found no significant acquaintance effects but have found subjects view the victim less favorably and the rapist less harshly if the victim's refusal of sexual advancement is ambiguous.

These "attributional" studies have strongly suggested the use of various scenarios to study beliefs about the use of coercion in sexual interactions. These studies suggest many factors that may be involved in date rape. These

factors include the timing of the woman's refusal, the level of force used by the man, dating activity, and the level of acquaintance between the victim and perpetrator. These studies also indirectly implicate miscommunication as an important causal factor in date rape. In particular, the quality and timing of a woman's refusal is an element of miscommunication that is implicated by many of these studies as a causal factor of date rape.

Miscommunication

Miscommunication has been implicated by a number of other studies as well. Muehlenhard and Hollabaugh (1988) found a substantial minority of their female subjects engaged in "token resistance" in response to sexual advancement; in other words, about one-third of their subjects said "no" to sexual advancement when they actually meant "yes." These authors suggest that token resistance may be a rational response to a sexual double standard. However, the authors suggest "token resistance" may also discourage honest communication and may encourage men to ignore women's refusals.

Miller (1988), in her look at prevention of date rape, suggests students "need to communicate assertively and clearly in the area of sexual relationships," and "recognize that ambivalence can lead to undesirable outcomes" (p. 554). In making these suggestions, she implies that unclear, unassertive communication plays an important role

in unwanted sexual experiences and date rape.

LaFountain, Brown, and Cordes (1990) found ambiguity does exist in college students' understanding of sexual interactions. More specifically, depending on when it occurs, a woman's refusal of sexual advancement could mean anything from "No, I definitely do not want intercourse" to "I'm not sure if I want intercourse" to "I definitely want intercourse but I don't want to look easy." LaFountain and Brown (1990) found similar results. Although neither of these studies found gender differences, subjects' responses still suggested miscommunication between men and women in sexual interactions. Miscommunication seemed to take shape in the ambiguous meanings attached to refusals by both men and women. Such results suggest that ambiguity could lead a couple into a situation where date rape results.

Parrot (1988), in her book Coping with Date Rape and Acquaintance Rape, suggests poor communication is a factor in date rape. Byers and Wilson (1985) found that interpretations of a woman's refusal of sexual advancement by male subjects frequently ranged from "stop now but try again later" to "continue what you are doing," even though the woman making the refusal definitely did not want to continue the interaction.

Perception of Sexuality

Another factor that has been suggested as involved in date rape is a gender difference in perception of sexuality.

Fromme et al. (1986) compared male and female perceptions of touch. They found that regardless of the body area involved, men appeared to view touch in sexualized terms. Abbey and Melby (1986) examined types of information that might be interpreted by men to a greater extent than by women as signs of sexual intent. These authors had male and female subjects rate male and female "targets" in photographs on a number of characteristics. They found male subjects consistently rated the female target higher on sexual traits, such as seductiveness and sexiness, than female subjects did. Abbey, Cozzarelli, McLaughlin, and Harnish (1987) studied the effects of clothing on perceptions of sexual intent using a method similar to that used by Abbey and Melby. These authors also found male subjects consistently rated female targets, regardless of dress, significantly more sexy and seductive than female subjects did. They concluded that males see more sexuality in females than females do, and that this occurs with a minimum of cues. They state that they believe men are likely to overestimate the sexual intent of women with whom they have contact, and this might lead to serious misconceptions that could culminate in date rape (p. 124).

Alcohol

The use of alcohol and other drugs is another element that is suggested as a factor in date rape. Ehrhart and Sandler (1985) believe the use of alcohol and other drugs

may be an indirect cause of date rape because it reduces a man's inhibitions and weakens a woman's ability to assess dangerous situations and limits her capacity to protect herself effectively. Of the date rapists interviewed by Kanin (1984), 66% strongly implicated alcohol in their participation in date rape.

Victim and Victimizer Characteristics.

Two final areas have been examined for contributing factors in date rape: characteristics of the victim and characteristics of the victimizer. The role of women in date rape is not clear. No author wants to imply blame, and several authors have found no distinctions between victims and nonvictims. However, other authors suggest, either directly or indirectly, that there are behavioral differences between victims and nonvictims. Victims may not behave in a way that reduces their risk of date rape.

Victimizer characteristics. There seems to be a substantial argument (Ehrhart & Sandler, 1985; Kanin, 1984; Kanin, 1985; Parrot, 1985) that characteristics of men who are date rapists are qualitatively different from characteristics of incarcerated rapists, and that the attitudes and values of date rapists concerning sex and aggression contribute to date rape. Although Knight, Rosenberg, and Schneider (1985) describe data that suggests 75% of rapes are planned, this may not apply to date rapes. Parrot (1988) describes stranger rape as premeditated and an

attempt to degrade or overpower the victim; she describes date rape as a result of a planned attempt to have intercourse with the consent of the female and generally not a result of a planned crime. Ehrhart and Sandler (1985) suggest that "stranger rape typically involves anger and the urge to dominate and degrade--it is a show of power through sex" (p. 4). On the other hand, "Acquaintance rape is more typically a use of power to obtain sex" (Ehrhart & Sandler, p. 4).

Victimizer characteristics have been specifically examined by Rapaport and Burkhart (1984); Koss, Leonard, Beezley, and Oros (1985); and Kanin (1984, 1985). Kanin (1984) describes statistics of the report, conviction, and prosecution of rape. He argues that approximately 1.5% of all rapists will be reported, prosecuted, and convicted. As suggested by Kanin, this leads to a homogeneous population of incarcerated rapists, a population "whose offenses are of such a nature, e.g., involving extrinsic violence, gang rape, object rape, and stranger rape, that they are significantly more apt to be reported, prosecuted and convicted" (pp. 95-96). He further argues that much of the research investigating rapists and rape utilizes this homogeneous group that may not be representative of the approximately 98.5% of rapists who are not reported, prosecuted, or convicted. In particular, it is Kanin's argument that the view that rape is categorically a

nonsexual crime may not apply to rapes committed by a subtype of rape that is generally not even reported, the date rape.

Kanin (1984, 1985) interviewed 71 male college students who admitted to acts that met the legal definitions of rape. In both of these articles Kanin states that all the rapists knew their victims, that all but six had engaged in rape only once, and that each rape was preceded by consensual sexual activity (generally involving consensual genital play). Although all of these subjects agreed their actions met the legal definition of rape, two-thirds felt the woman was responsible because of her sexual conduct and the remaining one-third felt the women shared the blame (1984). In the 1984 article, Kanin reports that he found no evidence that these men had planned the rape. He states that they had planned to seduce, but rape was not a premeditated option if seduction failed. Further, he reports he found little evidence that violence acted as a sexual stimulant for these men, and that most subjects reported they had used more force with other dates but had been successfully rebuffed. Finally, most of Kanin's male subjects described their dates as verbally and physically protesting their actions, but that the protest quickly diminished.

Kanin (1985) further examined aspects of these rapists' peer groups. He concluded that these men "experienced a differential sexual socialization that resulted in the

development of an exaggerated sex impulse and the placing of an inordinately high value on sexual accomplishment" (p. 229). These men were likely to endorse and report that their friends would endorse coercive/aggressive measures to obtain intercourse. Further, it appears that these men threatened a higher level of force than they intended to use in their dates. Kanin concluded that these men seemed to provide an aura of danger to their dates far beyond their intent (1984). Finally, he concluded (1984) that many of these rapes occurred because "the 'right man' (sexually aggressive and determined) did the 'right thing' (presented a level of force not usually encountered in dating) to the 'right girl' (easily frightened or inebriated)" (p. 102).

Koss, Leonard, Beezley, and Oros (1985) describe a similar type of nonstranger rapist with highly sexualized attitudes, but conclude that the "existence of a sick society in which accepted customs and values foster the occurrence of sexual aggression" (p. 990) maintains these attitudes. Sexually coercive males described by Rapaport and Burkhart (1984) also seemed to have a value system that legitimized the use of force to obtain sexual gratification. It is still open to question what percentage of men in the general population fit into this "highly sexually socialized" group.

As described by the above authors, it seems that men who rape dates or acquaintances might be more likely to

force intercourse with a woman who is ambiguous or unassertive in her refusal of sexual advancement. It seems that they would also be more likely to force intercourse with a woman who is less persistent in her refusal, or who has made her initial protest relatively late in the interaction. It also seems that they are likely to misinterpret a date's degree of desire for intercourse. From these descriptions of date rapists and other factors implicated in date rape, it could be suggested that victims of date rape are less assertive or clear in their refusals, less persistent in their refusals, and make their initial refusal relatively late in the interaction. It could also be suggested that men in general and date rapists in particular behave more coercively with women who refuse sexual advancement less clearly.

Victim characteristics. Does the literature addressing victim characteristics in fact support the idea that victims tend to make a late initial refusal, and refuse sexual advancement less assertively and less persistently? Before this literature is reviewed, it must be pointed out that no current author intends to blame victims for their victimization. Kanin (1984) cautions that although there seems to be some victim contribution, this contribution is unwitting, and recognition of a woman's contribution to victimization could lead to the denial of the sexual self-determination of women. In other words, Kanin suggests

that if certain behaviors are recognized as contributing to the victimization of women, women may be limited in their free choice of how to behave. Giannini, Price, and Kniepple (1987) also caution against overinterpretation of differences between victims and nonvictims of rape because of the possible legal implications. These authors suggest that if any differences are found between victims and nonvictims of rape, and if these differences are misinterpreted or overinterpreted, it might be suggested legally that the victim is to blame for the rape.

Several authors have examined characteristics of victims of sexual aggression by dates or acquaintances, or have compared characteristics of victims with characteristics of nonvictims. Kanin and Parcell (1977) found that offended females seemed to have an overall history of being sexually victimized, but found no significant personal or social variables associated with victimization. Burkhart (1989) also believes there are no significant differences between victims and nonvictims on personal and social variables.

Bart (1981) looked at women who had both been the victims of rape and who had avoided rape. These women were more likely to have been raped when they knew the attacker, when they only used talking or pleading as an avoidance strategy, when their primary concern was not being killed or mutilated, and when there was a threat of force. These

women were less likely to have been raped when they were attacked by a stranger, when they used multiple avoidance strategies, and when their primary concern was not being raped. From Bart's work it appears that situational factors play an important role in whether or not a woman is raped.

Koss (1985) examined personality, attitudinal, and situational characteristics of the "hidden rape victim." She found that personality and attitudinal variables did not differentiate between victims and nonvictims, but that situational variables did. She reported no significant differences on any of the scales of the California Personality Inventory. She also reported no significant differences between victims' and nonvictims' attitudes toward aggression, sex, women, etc. She reported that victims experienced significantly more verbal pressure, more types of force, and higher intensity of force. She also reported victims experienced greater emotional response than nonvictims to attempted victimization.

Levine-MaCombie and Koss (1986) found that rape avoiders experienced less intense nonaggressive emotions (i.e., fear and guilt) than victims. They reported that avoiders more often utilized running away and screaming for help as responses and victims more often utilized crying, turning cold, quarreling, or no outward resistance.

Bart and O'Brien (1985) reported that women who stopped their rapes were most likely to yell, scream, or use

physical force and women who were raped more likely to cry or plead. They found that there was no difference between victims and avoiders in the use of talking or reasoning. They suggest an immediate response of yelling or screaming may increase the chances of avoiding rape, as may utilizing multiple avoidance strategies.

There is a plethora of literature on "avoidance strategies": techniques that are purported to help reduce the risk of rape in general. This literature often directly or indirectly suggests that victims tend to engage in fewer risk-reducing behaviors, probably through naivete. Miller (1988) encourages young people to be clear and assertive in their communications about intercourse, particularly in their refusals of sexual advancement. This suggests that unclear, nonassertive communication increases the risk of date rape. Pritchard (1985) describes 19 steps to reduce the risk of rape, and suggests immediate and forceful resistance can throw a rapist off guard. Cohen (1984) suggests rape is best avoided if the victim uses a dual "verbal defense," i.e., calling out for help and reasoning, pleading, or verbally threatening the attacker. Muehlenhard, Julsonnet, Carlson, and Flarity-White (1989) suggest screening women for their assertiveness in refusing unwanted sexual advancements. These authors suggest treatment for women who report difficulty refusing unwanted sexual advancement. Their treatment involves

cognitive-behavioral training to improve assertiveness in this area.

There is conflicting evidence from studies of victim characteristics, studies comparing victims and nonvictims, and the prevention literature concerning the role of women in date rape. As can be seen, some of the authors report no significant personal or social differences between victims and nonvictims. Other authors suggest significant behavioral differences between victims and nonvictims, particularly in the area of communicating refusal of sexual advancement.

Models of Causal Factors of Date Rape

Shotland (1985) proposes a relationship model of date rape. He suggests that if a woman who has the tendency to be anxious and who is inadequately socially adjusted is dating a sexually aggressive male, she may be hesitant to signal her displeasure with sexual advancement, and be less forceful in doing so. In addition, the man may not take her refusals seriously. In other words, Shotland is describing date rape as resulting from a poor quality refusal on the part of the female combined with a poor quality perception of that refusal on the part of the male.

Muehlenhard (1988b) suggests a similar model. She describes a socialization process that creates "nice women" who don't say "yes" and "real men" who don't say "no" to sexual intercourse. This model also involves men socialized

to pursue intercourse aggressively and women socialized to neither consent to nor assertively refuse intercourse. According to Muehlenhard, women are socialized to refuse intercourse even if they would like to have intercourse. However, women are not generally socialized to refuse intercourse assertively or aggressively. This suggests that a result of socialization of females could be ineffective or poorly communicated refusals. Further, according to Muehlenhard, men are socialized to discount women's refusals and pursue intercourse aggressively. This suggests that a result of socialization of males could lead to the misperception of refusals in general. Muehlenhard strongly suggests that these socialization processes are active in date rape.

As reported above, Kanin (1984) suggests that date rape involves the "right" man doing the "right" thing to the "right" woman. In his view, the "right" woman may be easily intimidated, and may not be persistent in her refusal of unwanted sexual advancement. It should be stressed that Kanin also insists that this is unwitting on the woman's part. Further, according to Kanin, the "right" man in this situation seems to endorse coercive methods to obtain intercourse; he also seems to misinterpret the woman's desire and intention to have intercourse.

Summary

There is a high incidence of rape in the United States, and a substantial proportion of these rapes occur between young men and women who are acquainted or dating. Many factors have been implicated in this high incidence of date/acquaintance rape. Dating activity, style of the victim's refusal, use of alcohol and other drugs, and characteristics of perpetrators and victims are just some of the factors that have been implicated as causal factors of date rape.

Much of the literature, either directly or indirectly, implicates ambiguous communication (or miscommunication) as a causal factor of date rape. This miscommunication seems to involve the quality of the message sent and the perception of the message sent. In particular, lower-quality messages (later, less assertive, and less persistent refusals of sexual advancement) sent by women, and poor perception of women's "messages" (misinterpreting the level of desire and the intention to have intercourse and discounting refusals) by men are both aspects of miscommunication that have consistently been implicated as causal factors in date rape.

Purpose and Hypotheses

The current project proposed to explore these two aspects of communication further, utilizing two studies. The first study proposed to examine male subjects' reactions

to different depicted refusals, made by women, of sexual advancement. This study utilized eight scenarios. The scenarios depicted refusals that represented all combinations of two levels of timing with two levels of persistence with two levels of assertiveness. It was hypothesized that men would respond to later, less persistent, and less assertive refusals with greater willingness to accept the use of coercion or force in sexual interactions. More specifically, it was hypothesized that men would respond to later, less persistent, less assertive refusals by endorsing statements that indicated: 1) the female in the scenario really wanted to have intercourse; 2) the male in the scenario was justified in his coercive actions; 3) the subject would not believe the female in the scenario if she later stated she had not wanted to have intercourse; 4) the female in the scenario was not raped.

The second study proposed to explore gender differences in the perception of sexual desire and intent in a dating interaction. This study utilized four scenarios depicting different progressions of sexual interaction in a dating situation. It was hypothesized that male subjects would perceive a higher probability than female subjects that both targets (the man and the woman in the scenarios) desired and intended to have intercourse. It was also hypothesized that both male and female subjects would perceive a higher level of desire for and intention to have sexual intercourse in

both targets the further the scenario progressed.

Method

study 1

Subjects

Seventy-two male volunteer subjects were recruited from introductory psychology courses at Oklahoma State University. Each subject received one extra credit point for his participation. Subjects were told that the purpose of the study was to investigate perceptions of communication in sexual interactions in dating situations.

The average age of the subjects was 19.8 years, with a standard deviation of two years. Ninety-two percent of the subjects (66 subjects) were Caucasian, 3% (2 subjects) were Native American, 1% (1 subject) was African American, 1% was Pakistani, and 1% preferred not to respond to the question of ethnicity. On the average, the subjects were at the end of their second year in college, with a standard deviation of 0.9 years. Thirty-three percent of the subjects were freshmen, 42% were sophomores, 21% were juniors, and 4% were seniors. The majors of the subjects ranged across 36 fields of study in five colleges. Most of the subjects had majors in the College of Arts and Sciences (48.6%), 19.4% had majors in the College of Education, 16.7% in the College of Business, 9.7% in the College of Engineering, and 5.6% in the College of Agriculture. The mode major indicated by the subjects was "Undecided": Eight subjects indicated their

major was "Undecided."

Materials

A consent form which explained to subjects that the general purpose of the study was to examine perceptions of sexual interactions in dating situations was used (see Appendix A, Consent Form). The consent form also stressed that participation was voluntary, that responses would be anonymous, and that the volunteer could withdraw at any time without penalty (without losing the extra credit point). A brief questionnaire on personal variables was used (see Appendix C, Information Questionnaire). These variables included age, gender, ethnicity, year in college, and major field of study.

This study utilized eight scenarios (see Appendix D for complete scenarios). Each scenario consisted of the same background information:

John and Joan have gone out two times; he asks her out for Friday night and she accepts. After the date he invites her back to his apartment where they have a soft drink and sit on the couch and talk for over an hour. They begin to make out and at some point Joan refuses further sexual advancement by John.

Each scenario depicted one of two levels of timing (early or late) of the refusal. The scenarios continued by describing John making several more advances that Joan refused. Each scenario depicted one of two levels of assertiveness (high or low) of Joan's refusal, and one of two levels of persistence (high or low) of Joan's refusal. Each scenario then ended by stating, "John tries the advancement again and eventually has intercourse with Joan."

The levels of timing were determined from previous research (LaFountain, Brown, & Cordes, 1990, LaFountain & Brown, 1990). The early initial refusal occurred when the man and woman had been French kissing and he had begun to kiss her neck. The late refusal occurred when the man had unfastened the woman's bra and had begun to rub her thigh.

The levels of persistence were developed from the literature suggesting what steps a man might take to coerce a woman into participating in unwanted sexual activity (e.g., Koss & Oros, 1982; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983). In the low level of persistence, the woman refused sexual advancement through two coercive acts. In the high level of persistence, the woman refused sexual advancement through five coercive acts.

The levels of assertiveness were developed through several steps. First, ideas of how a woman might refuse sexual advancement were gathered from the literature (Bart, 1981; Cohen, 1984; Levine-MacCombie & Koss, 1986; Shotland

& Goodstein, 1983). The background information for the scenarios (described above), followed by six statements describing coercive steps taken by the man were presented to three male and four female graduate psychology students. The students were also provided with a list of 12 ways the woman might refuse sexual advancement. These students were asked to choose which method of refusal was the most assertive way and which was the most passive way the woman could refuse John's advance initially and then each of John's subsequent coercive acts. There was a high degree of agreement among the choices made by these graduate students of "assertive" and "passive" refusals to each of the advances. In the few instances of disagreement, the mode choice of the graduate students was selected as the response.

After the highest and lowest levels of assertiveness were determined for each step of refusal, they were worked into two scenarios. In one scenario the woman made the "passive" refusals to each of John's advances, and in the other, the woman made the "assertive" refusals to each of John's advances. A group of four (two female and two male) graduate students rated the "passive" scenario, and a second group of four (two female and two male) graduate students rated the "assertive" scenario. All raters were asked to rate the overall level of the woman's assertiveness in refusing sexual advancement on a scale from "1" (not at all

assertive) to "5" (extremely assertive). The assertive scenario received ratings of "5" by all four raters and the passive scenario received ratings of "2", "2", "2", and "1.5."

A questionnaire related to the scenarios was also used (see Appendix E, Scenario Questionnaire, Study 1). The questionnaire contained four questions which inquired about the subject's perceptions about Joan's desire to have intercourse and John's justifiability in having intercourse with Joan. Finally, a brief Dating Information Questionnaire was used (see Appendix H). The questionnaire data were used to describe the subjects as a group.

Procedure

Subjects were seen individually by a female graduate student. They were first given the consent form to read and sign. Each was then given a Preliminary Instruction Sheet (see Appendix B) and an envelope containing the appropriate scenario and questionnaires and was shown to an office. The administrator waited outside the office while each subject completed the study in private. Each subject was asked to read the Preliminary Instruction Sheet and to follow its instructions. These instructions asked the subject to complete the brief personal Information Questionnaire first. The Preliminary Instruction Sheet then instructed each subject to read the enclosed scenario and to answer the questions attached to the scenario. Finally, the

Preliminary Instruction Sheet asked subjects to complete the Dating Information Questionnaire, to place all materials in the envelope, seal the envelope, and return it to the administrator.

Since subjects were recruited from different classes and signed up for different times to participate, the first scenario was administered to the first subject, ninth subject, seventeenth subject, etc.; the second scenario was administered to the second subject, tenth subject, eighteenth subject, etc.; and so on. Each scenario was presented to a total of nine subjects.

Subjects were debriefed by being told that the study was part of a larger study investigating miscommunication and date rape. Each subject was presented with written information which described what date rape is, the effects of date rape, and the incidence of date rape. The information also listed agencies on the Oklahoma State University campus where one could go for help in case the subject knew someone who had been the victim of date rape (see Appendix I).

Study 2

Subjects

Thirty-two male and 32 female volunteer subjects were recruited from introductory psychology classes at Oklahoma State University. Each subject received one extra credit point for his/her participation. Subjects were told that

the purpose of the study was to investigate perceptions of communication in sexual interactions in dating situations.

The average age for female subjects was 20.2 years, with a standard deviation of 4.6 years. Ninety-four percent of the female subjects (30 subjects) were Caucasian, 3% (1 subject) were African American, and 3% (1 subject) were Hispanic. On the average, the female subjects were at the end of their second year in college, with a standard deviation of 0.9 years. Forty-four percent of the female subjects were freshman, 41% were sophomores, 9% were juniors, and 6% were seniors. The majors of the female subjects ranged across 14 fields of study in five colleges. Most of the female subjects had majors in the college of Arts and Sciences (55%), 19% had majors in the College of Education, 16% in the College of Business, 6% in the College of Engineering, and 6% in the College of Home Economics. The mode major indicated by female subjects was "Psychology": Eight female subjects indicated that their major was "Psychology."

The average age for male subjects was 21.6 years, with a standard deviation of 4.6 years. On the average, then, the male subjects in this study were approximately one year older than the female subjects. Approximately 88% of the male subjects (28 subjects) were Caucasian, 6% (2 subjects) were Hispanic, 3% (1 subject) were Native American, and 3% (1 subject) preferred not to respond to the question of

ethnicity. On the average, the male subjects were in the middle of their third year in college, with a standard deviation of 0.95 years. Twelve percent of the male subjects were freshmen, 41% were sophomores, 28% were juniors, and 19% were seniors. The majors of the male subjects ranged across 19 fields of study in five colleges. Fifty percent of the male subjects had majors in the College of Arts and Sciences, 16% in the College of Education, 12.5% in the College of Engineering, 12.5% in the College of Business, and 9% in the College of Agriculture. The mode major indicated by the male subjects was "Psychology": Five male subjects indicated their major was "Psychology."

Materials

The same consent form and the same brief questionnaire on personal variables used in Study 1 were used in Study 2. Study 2 utilized four scenarios (see Appendix F for complete scenarios), all adapted from a scenario utilized in two earlier studies (LaFountain, Brown, & Cordes, 1990; LaFountain & Brown, 1990). The complete scenario utilized in the earlier studies consisted of 23 steps depicting a sexual interaction between "John" and "Joan" that led progressively toward sexual intercourse.

After the scenario was originally developed, it was presented to two sets of graduate student raters (see LaFountain & Brown, 1990). The first set of raters (four female and four male) was presented with the scenario in its

original form and asked if any important factors were missing. It was explained that Joan did not take an active part because the scenario would be used in research that would examine conditions of Joan's acceptance of John's actions (the studies in which the scenario was to be used were interested in the point at which Joan would no longer accept John's behavior under certain conditions). The first set of graduate student raters all stated that the scenario was realistic and that no major elements were missing.

The second set of graduate student raters (four male and four female) was presented the 23 steps of the scenario in randomized order and asked to put the steps in the order that made the most sense to them. Again, it was explained that Joan did not take an active part because of the nature of the research in which the scenario would be used. The rank orderings made by these raters did not suggest the need for any major changes in the ordering of the steps.

The four scenarios in this study depicted four progressions of John and Joan's interaction. Each scenario added new behaviors to John and Joan's interaction. The first scenario stopped before John and Joan kissed. This stopping point was equivalent to step 8 in the scenario of LaFountain, Brown, and Cordes (1990) and LaFountain and Brown (1990). The second scenario stopped when John began to massage Joan's breast through her shirt (step 12 of the original scenario). The third scenario stopped when John

unfastened Joan's bra (step 16). The fourth scenario stopped when John unfastened Joan's pants (step 20).

A Scenario Questionnaire was also used in Study 2 (see Appendix G, Scenario Questionnaire, Study 2). This questionnaire contained questions regarding the subject's perception of the desire and intent of both John and Joan to have sexual intercourse. Subjects were asked to read all of the questions first to ensure the distinction between "wants to have" and "intends to have" intercourse was made. The same Dating Information Questionnaire used in study I was used also used in Study 2. The responses to the questionnaire were used to describe the subjects as a group.

Procedure

Subjects were seen individually by a female graduate student. They were first given the same consent form used in Study 1 to read and sign. Each subject was then given the same Preliminary Instruction Sheet used in Study 1, an envelope containing the appropriate scenario and questionnaires, and was shown to an office. The administrator waited outside the office while each subject completed the study in private. Each subject was asked to read the Preliminary Instruction Sheet and to follow its instructions. These instructions asked the subject to complete the same brief Personal Information Questionnaire used in Study 1 first. The Preliminary Instruction Sheet then instructed each subject to read the enclosed scenario

and to answer the questions attached to the scenario. Finally, the Preliminary Instruction Sheet asked subjects to complete the same Dating Information Questionnaire as in Study 1, place all materials back into the envelope, seal the envelope, and return it to the administrator.

Since the subjects were recruited from different classes and had signed up for different times to participate, the first scenario was administered to the first, fifth, ninth, etc., subject of each gender; the second scenario was administered to the second, sixth, tenth, etc., subject of each gender; and so on. Eight subjects of each gender received each scenario so that a total of 16 subjects received each scenario. Subjects were debriefed using the same statement and format as in Study 1.

Results

Study 1

Responses to the Scenarios

The independent variables in Study 1 were timing of refusal (early and late), assertiveness of refusal (high and low), and persistence of refusal (high and low). The dependent variables consisted of the subjects' responses to the four questions about the scenario.

The four questions were phrased in multiple-choice form, with the responses following a Likert-type scale. On Question 1, "How likely is it that Joan wanted to have intercourse?" the response choices ranged from "It is highly

likely that Joan wanted intercourse," (response 1) to "It is highly unlikely that Joan wanted intercourse," (response 5). On Question 2, "How justified was John in having intercourse with Joan?" the response choices ranged from "John was highly justified," (response 1), to "John was highly unjustified," (response 5). Response choices on Question 3 ("If you later heard that Joan said she had definitely not wanted to have intercourse with John, how likely is it that you would believe her?) ranged from "I would very likely believe her," (response 1) to "I would very likely not believe her," (response 5). Response choices to Question 4 ("How strongly do you feel that Joan was raped?) ranged from "I feel very strongly that Joan was raped," (response 1) to "I feel very strongly that Joan was not raped," (response 5).

A 2 X 2 X 2 (Timing X Persistence X Assertiveness) between subjects multivariate analysis of variance was conducted. MANOVA test criteria are summarized in Table 1. The MANOVA suggested only one significant main effect (Persistence) and no significant two- or three-way interactions.

Insert Table 1 about here

The results from Study 1, collapsed across scenario, are presented in Table 2. Across the two levels of each of

the three factors (early and late timing, high and low persistence, and high and low assertiveness), the average ratings indicated that it was unlikely (response 4) to highly unlikely (response 5) that the female target wanted intercourse (Question 1). On the average the ratings indicated that the male target was unjustified (response 4) to highly unjustified (response 5) in his actions (Question 2). On the average the ratings also indicated that it was likely (response 2) to highly likely (response 1) that the subjects would believe the female target if she later stated she had not wanted intercourse (Question 3). Finally, on the average, the ratings indicated that it was likely (response 2) to highly likely (response 1) that the target had been raped (Question 4).

Insert Table 2 about here

The hypotheses dictated that several planned comparisons be conducted even though the MANOVA indicated only one significant main effect. As pointed out by Glass and Hopkins (1984, p. 380), "The decision (to conduct) planned comparisons must be made a priori" and allow "no chance for the user to be influenced by the data in the choice of which hypotheses are tested."

To test the hypothesis that men would respond to later, less persistent (a significant main effect indicated by the

MANOVA), less assertive refusals with greater willingness to accept the use of coercion or force in sexual interactions, 12 one-way planned comparisons were conducted. Responses to the two levels of each of the three factors, timing (early and late), persistence (high and low), and assertiveness (high and low), were compared to each other on each of the four questions. The Dunn method of multiple comparisons was used to insure that the probability of one or more type-I errors was not more than .05 (Glass & Hopkins, 1984). This method indicated that for each comparison an alpha level of .004 or less was necessary to indicate significance.

No significant differences were found between early and late timing of refusal on any of the four questions. No significant differences were found between low and high assertiveness of refusal on any of the four questions. A significant difference between high and low levels of persistence was indicated on the first question. This difference was, however, in the direction opposite that stated in the hypothesis.

Dating Information Questionnaire

A summary of the responses of the subjects to the Dating Information Questionnaire are displayed in Table 3. Of the 72 subjects in Study 1, 71 chose to respond to the Dating Information Questionnaire. Responses indicate that approximately 79% of these subjects date two to three times a month or more. It is indicated that over half (52%) are

currently sexually active, and that 34% have been sexually active in the past but are not currently so. Responses also indicate that many subjects (42%) report that they need to be dating someone exclusively or steadily before engaging in sexual intercourse with her. Sixteen percent of the subjects reported they would need to be engaged or married to a partner before having sexual intercourse with her. Twenty-one percent reported they would need to have dated a partner more than twice, but not exclusively or steadily, before having intercourse with her. Twenty-one percent also reported they would have intercourse with a partner on the first or second date.

Insert Table 3 about here

Data from the Dating Information Questionnaire also indicate that none of the men reported having had intercourse with a partner because they threatened to use force. One subject reported that he may have had intercourse with a partner because he used force, but he was not sure. Most of the subjects (96%) reported they had not engaged in intercourse because their partner had threatened to use or actually did use force to make them. One subject reported this did happen to him, and two subjects reported that it may have happened but that they were not sure.

Study 2

Responses to the Scenarios

The independent variables in Study 2 were gender and scenario presented. The dependent variables consisted of subjects' responses to four questions inquiring about the desire for and intention to have sexual intercourse on the part of both John and Joan (the male and female targets).

The four questions were phrased in multiple-choice form, with the responses following a Likert-type scale. On all four questions the response choices supplied the subject with various probabilities with which to respond to the specific question. Responses ranged from "definitely (90%-100% chance)" (response 1), to "likely" (60%-80% chance)" (response 2), to "equally likely (50%-50% chance)" (response 3), to "unlikely (20%-40% chance)" (response 4), to "definitely not (0%-10% chance)" (response 5).

A 2 X 4 (Gender X Scenario) between subjects multivariate analysis of variance was conducted. The MANOVA test criteria are summarized in Table 4. The MANOVA indicated a significant scenario effect, $F(4,53) = 3.90$, $p < .0001$, but no significant gender effect and no significant gender by scenario interaction.

Insert Table 4 about here

The average ratings, collapsed across male and female subjects, to each question on each scenario are presented in Table 5. On the average, subjects rated the female targets' desire for and intention to have intercourse from approximately a 50%-50% probability (response 3) to approximately a 60%-80% probability (response 2) as the scenarios progressed. Subjects rated the male targets' desire for and intention to have intercourse from approximately a 60%-80% probability (response 2) to a 90%-100% probability (response 1) as the scenarios progressed.

Insert Table 5 about here

To examine the hypothesis that both male and female subjects would perceive a higher probability of desire for and intention to have intercourse in both targets the further the scenario progressed (and to also examine the significant scenario effect indicated by the MANOVA), 24 one-way planned comparisons were conducted. For each question, responses to each scenario were compared to responses to each of the other three scenarios. Again, Dunn's method of planned comparisons (Glass & Hopkins, 1984) was utilized to insure that the probability of one or more type-I errors was not greater than .05. Because a total of 40 comparison's were planned for these data, Dunn's method

suggested an alpha level of approximately .00125 or less was necessary to indicate significance.

These comparisons yielded several significant differences. On question 1 (How likely is it that Joan wants to have intercourse), subjects rated the probability that Joan wanted intercourse significantly lower on Scenario 1 than on Scenario 4, $t(63) = 4.08$, $p < .0005$. Subjects also rated this probability significantly lower on Scenario 2 than on Scenario 4, $t(63) = 3.81$, $p < .001$.

On question 2 (How likely is it that John wants to have intercourse), subjects rated the probability that John wanted intercourse significantly lower on Scenario 1 than on Scenario 3, $t(63) = 3.56$, $p < .0005$, and significantly lower on Scenario 1 than on Scenario 4, $t(63) = 4.15$, $p < .0005$. On question 4 (How likely is it that John intends to have intercourse) subjects also rated the probability that John intended to have intercourse significantly lower on Scenario 1 than on Scenario 3, $t(63) = 5.08$, $p < .0005$, and significantly lower on Scenario 1 than on Scenario 4, $t(63) = 4.18$, $p < .0005$.

No significant differences were found on question 3. Question 3 addressed Joan's intention to have intercourse. Results indicate that subjects' did not perceive this as changing across scenarios. Regardless how far the scenario progressed, subjects perceived Joan's intention to have intercourse as a 50%-50% chance.

Average female versus male responses to each question for each scenario are presented in Table 6. On the average, both male and female subjects rated the female target's desire for (Question 1) and intention to have (Question 3) intercourse from a 50%-50% chance (response 3) to a 60%-80% chance (response 2). On the average, both male and female subjects rated the male target's desire for (Question 2) and intention to have (Question 4) intercourse between a 60%-80% chance (response 2) to a 90%-100% chance (response 1).

Insert Table 6 about here

Even though the MANOVA indicated no significant gender effects, the hypotheses dictated that the a priori planned comparisons be conducted (e.g. Glass & Hopkins, 1984). To examine the hypothesis that male subjects would perceive a higher probability than female subjects that both targets desired and intended to have intercourse, 16 planned comparisons were conducted. Male responses versus female responses on each of the four questions on each scenario were compared. As stated above, Dunn's method of planned comparisons (Glass & Hopkins, 1984) indicated an alpha level of .00125 was necessary to indicate significance. These comparisons yielded no significant difference between female responses and male responses on any of the four questions on any of the four scenarios.

Post-hoc Comparisons

Post-hoc comparisons were made to determine whether subjects perceived a significant difference between the female target's desire for intercourse and the male target's desire for intercourse. Post-hoc comparisons were also made to determine whether subjects perceived a significant difference between the female target's intention to have intercourse and the male target's intention to have intercourse. These two comparisons were made on each of the four scenarios. Because eight post-hoc comparisons were made, Dunn's method of planned comparisons (Glass & Hopkins, 1984) indicated an alpha level of .0125 was necessary to indicate significance.

Table 7 presents the t values and their levels of significance for these post-hoc comparisons. Results indicate that the probability that the male target desired intercourse was perceived as significantly higher than the probability that the female target desired intercourse on all the third and fourth scenarios. Results also indicate that the probability that the male target intended to have intercourse was perceived as significantly higher than the probability that the female target intended to have intercourse on all four scenarios.

Insert Table 7 about here

Dating Information Questionnaire

The responses to the Dating Information Questionnaire are summarized in Table 8. All subjects (32 female and 32 male) responded to this questionnaire. Results indicate that approximately 72% of the female subjects and 62% of the male subjects date two to three times a month or more. Results indicate that 28% of the women and 47% of the men are currently sexually active, and that 31% of the women and 34% of the men are not currently sexually active but have been in the past.

Insert Table 8 about here

Responses to the Dating Information Questionnaire indicate that 6% of the women and 28% of the men would sleep with a partner on the first date. Responses also indicate that 13% of the women and 15% of the men would need to have dated the person more than twice, but not be dating the person steadily or exclusively before having sexual intercourse. 38% of both the women and men reported they would have to have dated a partner more than twice and be dating that person exclusively or steadily before having sexual intercourse with him or her. Forty-three percent of the women and 19% of the men reported they would have to be engaged or married to a partner before engaging in sexual intercourse with that person.

Responses by the men and women in Study 2 to the Dating Information Questionnaire were less variable on the last three questions. For the women, responses indicated that none reported engaging in sexual intercourse because they had threatened to use (Question 4) or actually used (Question 5) force on their partner. Seven subjects (22%) reported that they had had intercourse with a partner because the partner had threatened to use or had actually used force (Question 6). Two subjects (6%) thought this had also happened to them, but they were not sure. For the men, responses indicate that none reported engaging in sexual intercourse because they had threatened to use (Question 4) or actually used (Question 5) force, or because their partner had threatened to use or actually used force (Question 6).

Discussion

Study 1

Responses to the Scenarios

It was hypothesized that men would respond to later, less persistent, less assertive refusals with greater willingness to accept the use of coercion or force in sexual interactions. This hypothesis was not supported. Overall, very few subjects endorsed statements that indicated an acceptance of coercion or force in sexual interactions. These subjects, on the average, did not accept the use of coercion or force by a man in order to have intercourse with

a woman.

This study was designed with the concern for the high incidence of date rape among young men and women on college campuses. Several studies have concluded that earlier (LaFountain & Brown, 1990, LaFountain, Brown & Cordes, 1990, Shotland & Goodstein, 1983), more assertive (Miller, 1988, Muehlenhard, Julsonnet, Carlson, Flarity-White, 1989, Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987, Pritchard, 1988) and more persistent (Kanin, 1984, Shotland & Goodstein) refusals by women to sexual advancement lower their risk for date rape. In other words these studies have implied that men respond less coercively and forcefully to such responses.

This study attempted to test this hypothesis by utilizing a common paradigm in this area of research (e.g. Muehlenhard, 1988a; Muehlenhard, Friedman, & Thomas, 1985; Shotland & Goodstein, 1983). This paradigm suggests that information regarding how men are likely to act in sexual interactions can be discerned from their attitudes toward different depicted behaviors in such interactions. Under this paradigm, the responses of the men in this study did not support the hypothesis that men would respond less coercively and forcefully to earlier, more assertive, more persistent refusals by women to sexual advancement.

At first glance it seems that the current results are inconsistent with previous research. Closer examination suggests that the paradigm used did not allow the hypothesis

implicated by earlier research to be adequately tested. The paradigm itself could be inadequate, or the scope used in this study could be inadequate.

For instance, perhaps young men's responses to a typewritten scenario are not indicative of their responses to a real-life situation, even though this is the assumption in much of the literature (e.g., Muehlenhard, 1988, Muehlenhard, Friedman, & Thomas, 1985, Shotland & Goodstein, 1988). It would be interesting to replicate this basic study, while changing some parameters of the basic paradigm in order to reduce the "distance" (in other words, increase the arousal) of the subject from the situation depicted in the scenario (the sexual interaction).

A change in paradigm might involve direct questioning of how the subject would respond to the different types of refusals. Although inquiring about a subjects' judgements of a depicted behavior may be less threatening, inquiring about what the subjects would do may give more accurate understanding of how young men are likely to behave in sexual interactions.

Regarding other changes in the basic paradigm, it would be interesting to examine whether young men would respond differently if the scenarios were presented in video form. Video presentation of rape scenarios has been utilized in previous research to examine attitudes toward victims in different situations (e.g. Tetreault & Barnett, 1987).

Videos have not been used to examine male reactions to women's refusal of sexual advancement. The current study examined male responses to women's refusals in a relatively relaxed atmosphere that was quite distant from actually participating in a sexual interaction. A video presentation of the scenarios might reduce the "distance" and perhaps increase arousal. A video presentation might produce a closer approximation of how the subject would feel, both physically and emotionally, if he were actually participating in the sexual interaction. This in turn might possibly affect the types of responses subjects would make; subjects might be more likely to endorse the use of coercion in sexual interactions under these conditions. Would men under more aroused states be more likely to endorse the use of coercion in sexual interactions?

It would also be interesting to see if young men would respond differently under the influence of alcohol, as many authors have implicated the use of alcohol as a contributing factor in date rape (Ehrhart & Sandler, 1985, Kanin, 1984). The use of alcohol is perceived to reduce inhibitions and judgement. Perhaps these effects would also affect the type of responses young men make. Again, would men under the influence of alcohol be more likely to endorse the use of coercion in sexual interactions?

As mentioned earlier, there are other possible explanations for the apparent discrepancy between the

findings of the current study and the findings of previous studies. This study examined an extremely limited scope of sexual interactions. The scenarios were all "rape" scenarios in that there was an element of coercion or force utilized by the man, there was an element of nonconsent on the part of the woman, and the situation resulted in sexual intercourse. Perhaps, if clearly "non-rape" scenarios, as well as scenarios that were more ambiguous (not clearly rape and not clearly non-rape scenarios), had been used, different results regarding the use of coercion or force might be found. Would young men endorse or accept the use of coercion or force to continue a sexual interaction if the coercion or force were not used to obtain intercourse?

Even if the paradigm used in this study is inadequate to further understanding of how young men behave in sexual interactions, the results of this study are discrepant from results in previous studies that used a similar paradigm. There are several possibilities for this discrepancy. Young men in this study were somehow different from the young men in other studies. Perhaps there is a reason why these young men did not accept or endorse the use of coercive acts that young men in previous studies did. Although these subjects were comparable to the subjects in other studies with regard to age, ethnicity, and class in college, there was a "time" difference. The subjects of the current study were questioned at least one to two years later than the subjects

of previous studies. There may have been an "education" effect during this time. Fischer (1986) reported that taking a human sexuality course in college can change attitudes about date rape. Fischer reported that students who had taken such a course were more rejecting of forced intercourse in dating situations. Perhaps the recent media coverage of date and acquaintance rape, as well as a focus on AIDS education, has had a positive effect on young men in that they are less likely to endorse coercive and forceful acts to obtain sexual intercourse.

A second possibility for the discrepancy in the results of the current study from the results in previous studies is a "social desirability" factor. Perhaps, through education, the young men in the current study knew the "right" or "socially desirable" answers, which may or may not have corresponded to what the young men personally believed. Further, the gender of the administrator may have influenced the subjects even though extensive efforts were made to insure privacy and anonymity. The fact that the administrator was female may have influenced the male subjects' responses in a positive direction. More research is necessary to examine the possibility that male subjects might be more willing to endorse the use of coercion in sexual interactions in the presence of a male experimenter or administrator.

Finally, it is possible that only a small minority of

young men endorse the use of coercion and force in sexual interactions, and that this small minority would not significantly influence the average response. Several studies, including that by Muehlenhard (1988a), do suggest that a majority of subjects believe it is never justifiable for a man to have intercourse with a woman against her will. In Muehlenhard's study, 77.5% of the subjects agreed that it was never justifiable for a man to have intercourse with a woman without her consent.

The results of the current study are consistent with Muehlenhard's (1988a) findings. In all of the scenarios, the woman made some type of refusal to sexual advancement, and never clearly and explicitly consented to sexual intercourse. The majority of subjects (89%) endorsed statements that indicated it was not justifiable for the man to have intercourse with the woman. However, a small minority of subjects (11%) endorsed statements that indicated that the man was at least somewhat justified in having intercourse with the woman.

Study 2

Responses to the Scenarios

It was hypothesized that men would perceive a higher probability than women that both targets desired and intended to have intercourse. This hypothesis was not supported. No significant gender differences on these measures were suggested. This is not consistent with

previous studies that conclude that males are likely to perceive higher levels of sexuality than females in a variety of situations (Abbey, Cozzarelli, McLaughlin, & Harnish, 1987, Abbey & Melby, 1986, Fromme et al., 1986; Muehlenhard, 1988a; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987)

Young men and women in this study perceived both targets in all scenarios in a similar way. As in Study 1, there was a time difference between the subjects tested in Study 2 and the subjects tested in previous studies. In this case the time difference was at least four years. Recent media coverage of coercive sexual acts among young men and women, and a focus on sexuality education, at least in post-secondary settings, may have had an educational effect on young women and men. It may be that this effect has lead young men and women to perceive sexual interactions more accurately. Or, this effect may have lead young men and women to misperceive sexual interactions in a similar way. More research is necessary to determine if young men and women actually perceive women's and men's reactions and behavior in sexual interactions accurately.

A second possibility for the discrepancy is a difference in the context of interactions between Study 2 and previous studies. Previous studies looked at the presence of sexuality versus the absence of sexuality in a nonsexual context. The scenarios in the current study were clearly within a sexual context. Perhaps sexual cues are

more easily read by both men and women in clearly sexual situations. Further research is necessary to examine this possibility more closely.

Study 2 also hypothesized that both male and female subjects would perceive a higher probability of desire for and intention to have intercourse in both targets the further the scenarios progressed. This hypothesis was in large part supported.

The results of Study 2 indicate that the further a couple progresses sexually in an interaction, the more both their desires for intercourse are perceived to increase, and the more the male's intention to have intercourse is perceived to increase. These results suggest young women and men should proceed cautiously in their sexual interactions, as it is likely that the further they progress, the more aroused they are both likely to become, and the more likely the man is to perceive a desire for intercourse on the part of the woman and to intend to engage in intercourse himself. This situation may place the woman at substantial risk for date rape.

Clear and explicit communication as advocated by Miller (1988) would seem prudent in relationships that involve sexual interactions. Perhaps if young women and men explicitly discussed their thoughts, feelings, and intentions regarding sexual behavior before they actually engaged in sexual behavior, the risk for becoming involved

in coercive acts would be significantly reduced. Of course, this is a common sense recommendation. Further research is needed to determine the frequency and openness with which young people discuss sexual behavior with dating partners, and to determine whether this actually reduces the risk for becoming involved in coercive sexual interactions. Such research would increase the accuracy of education on how to prevent date/acquaintance rape that could be offered to young people.

It is interesting to note that on question 3 (How likely is it that Joan intends to have intercourse?), responses suggested the probability remained about a 50%-50% chance, regardless of the progression of sexual interaction. These results suggest that from a somewhat objective point of view, young women and men perceive few situations where a woman's intention to have intercourse is a "sure thing." If this perception is accurate it reinforces educational efforts (e.g. Muehlenhard, 1988b) that strongly urge young men not to have sexual intercourse with a partner unless there is clear and explicit verbal consent. Again, it is recommended to young women and men that they engage in clear and explicit communication regarding sexual behavior before they engage in sexual behavior.

Post-hoc Comparisons

The results of the post-hoc comparisons suggest implications similar to those suggested by the results of

the planned comparisons. Post-hoc comparisons indicated that the probability that the male target desired intercourse was perceived by subjects as significantly higher than the probability that the female target desired intercourse. Post-hoc comparisons also indicated that the probability that the male target intended to have intercourse was perceived by subjects as significantly higher than the probability that the female target intended to have intercourse. If the perceptions are accurate, a situation could easily arise where a young man intends to have intercourse. If he does not perceive his partner's desire and intention accurately at that point, the couple may be at higher risk for becoming involved in coercive sexual interactions. Again, the implications are that young men and women need to communicate clearly about sexual behavior and precede cautiously in sexual interactions.

General Discussion

Dating Information Questionnaire

Responses to the Dating Information Questionnaire indicate that most of the subjects in both Study 1 and Study 2 date frequently (two to three times a month or more). These responses also indicate that most of these subjects are currently or have previously been sexually active. It also appears that almost one quarter of the women have been the victims of rape perpetrated by a partner at some point in their lives. This is comparable to incidence rates of

date rape among college women reported by other authors (Burkhart, 1989; Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987; Miller & Marshall, 1988; Yegides, 1986).

Because young people (college aged and perhaps younger) tend to date often and tend to be sexually active, and a substantial minority of young women become the victims of rape in dating situations, improved education on how to prevent coercion in dating situations is needed. This requires further research on causal factors of date/acquaintance rape, as well as further research on effective preventative measures.

Finally, an interesting discrepancy between men and women was suggested from the responses to the question "How well would you need to know a partner before you had intercourse with him or her?" (Question 3). A substantial minority of men in both Study 1 (21%) and Study 2 (28%) reported they would have intercourse on the first or second date (response a). Only 6% of the women in Study 2 reported that they would have intercourse on the first or second date. An almost reverse response pattern was found to response d: Forty-three percent of the women in Study 2, compared to 16% of the men in Study 1 and 19% of the men in Study 2 reported they would need to be married or engaged before they would have intercourse with her/his partner.

The women in Study 2 seem to be reporting that they are much more "conservative" than the men in both studies

when it comes to engaging in sexual activity. Or, conversely, the men in both studies seem to be reporting that they are much more "liberal" than the women in Study 2. This suggests that perhaps there is still a great discrepancy between men and women when it comes to sexual behavior. This discrepancy may also be suggesting, if sexual behavior is similar between women and men, that women have a need to report that they are more "conservative" and/or that men have a need to report that they are more "liberal." Further, if this discrepancy does exist, it may be a regional discrepancy, or it may be representative of a national trend.

Implications for Future Research

The current studies have raised many interesting questions. Several of these are related to the specific paradigm of utilizing depictions of sexual interactions in determining attitudes toward coercive behaviors in sexual interactions. The other questions are more generally concerned with sexual interactions among young people and what may contribute to or prevent the use of coercion in these interactions.

Current Paradigm

With regard to the paradigm utilized in the current studies, at least three methodological alternatives need to be explored. First, it is not known how experimenter characteristics affect subjects in making their responses.

It is suspected that in Study 1, at least, the fact that the administrator was female may have had an influence on the male subjects. In this instance, there may have been a "social desirability" effect. To determine whether this effect was present, both studies could be rerun with an "administrator" variable. This variable might include male versus female administrator, but could include a third factor as well: administration by computer. This would help determine if having any administrator present affected the subjects in making their responses.

A second methodological alternative would involve altering the scenarios. The scenarios in both studies could be expanded to involve a wider range of behaviors. In both studies, the female target could be depicted as taking a much more active part in the interaction. This could have a significant effect on responses. In Study 2, in particular, such a change might greatly alter the perceptions of intent and desire on the part of both targets.

In Study 1, the range of depicted interactions could be expanded. An expanded range might include clearly non-rape interactions and ambiguous interactions that lead to intercourse. Or, an expanded range might include depictions of sexual interactions that involve coercion to obtain sexual interactions other than intercourse (such as kissing or petting). It would be interesting to see how young men, in particular, respond to subtly different stimuli.

Finally, with regard to the methodology of the current studies, attempts might be made to create subject states that more closely approximate states that individuals would experience if they were actually participating in the depicted interaction. For instance, the scenarios might be presented in video form. This might more closely approximate the aroused state experienced while engaging in a sexual interaction. Or, subjects might respond to the scenarios while under the influence of alcohol, as alcohol appears to be involved in many coercive or forceful sexual interactions.

A further alteration would be to change the format of the responses. Instead of inquiring about perceptions of the targets in multiple-choice form, the questions could be open-ended. Or, inquiry might be made as to how the subject would react (or what he/she would do next) if he/she were participating in the interaction, rather than inquiring about subjects' judgments of depicted reactions.

Remaining Questions

Many questions have remained unanswered by this and previous research. First and foremost, research thus far in the area of date/acquaintance rape, has focused almost exclusively on young, well educated adults attending college. It is obvious that a large proportion of young adults who date do not attend college. It is questionable whether any of the results of the current or previous

research is generalizeable outside the college population. It is clear that research regarding incidence and causal factors with other populations of young adults is needed.

Second, Kanin (1984,1985) described a "highly sexually socialized" subgroup of young men. Study 1 in the current project, as well as previous studies (Muehlenhard, 1988a), found that a disturbing minority of young men feel it is sometimes at least somewhat justifiable for a man to use coercion to obtain intercourse from a woman without her explicit consent. Do these young men belong to Kanin's subgroup? If so, how large is this subgroup? What percentage of date/acquaintance and other rapes involve young men who belong to this subgroup? It seems imperative that attempts to reach this subgroup are made in any efforts to reduce the incidence of date rape.

Third, Study 2 suggested a situation that might increase the risk of coercive or forceful intercourse in a sexual interaction. What happens when a sexual interaction is somewhat advanced (perhaps clothing has been removed), both the man and the woman are highly aroused, the man perceives a high level of desire for intercourse in the woman, the man intends to have intercourse, and the woman does not intend to have intercourse? What generally happens in such a situation? How does the outcome of that situation affect both partners and the relationship?

These questions are related to a fourth line of

questions raised by the current research. How accurate are young women and men in determining the level of sexual desire and intent in their partners? It seems that the answers to these questions might go a long way in helping reduce date/acquaintance rape, other coercive sexual acts, and their devastating effects.

A final area of questions that remain unanswered is that of communication between dating partners with regard to sexual behavior. How much communication regarding sex do dating partners actually engage in? Does this communication involve their own personal thoughts and feelings, and does it occur before they actually engage in sexual interactions? If it does, does this communication help reduce the incidence of coercion in force in the couple's sexual interactions? Common sense tells us it should, but there is little empirical evidence of this to date.

It seems clear that research to date, including the current project, leaves extremely important questions unanswered. Without these answers, the education that can be offered to young men and women concerning protecting themselves from becoming involved in coercive sexual interactions is limited at best. These questions must be addressed in future research in order to make accurate, useful information available to young people.

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Appendix A

Consent Form

I, _____,
 (name of subject, please print)

hereby authorize Dr. Larry Brown or Sue Ellen LaFountain, M.S., to perform the following procedure:

Administer to me a short questionnaire inquiring about my age, gender, ethnicity, year in college, and major field of study; a scenario depicting a man and a woman in a sexual interaction in a dating situation (this scenario may cause some embarrassment); a short questionnaire pertaining to the scenario; and a short questionnaire inquiring about my behavior in dates. This study takes approximately five to ten minutes to complete.

I shall receive one extra credit point in my introductory psychology class for my participation. The answers to the questionnaires will be used as part of an investigation of perceptions of communication in sexual interactions in a dating situation. My participation will help in the understanding of perceptions of communication in sexual interactions between young men and women.

I UNDERSTAND THAT PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND THAT MY RESPONSES WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS (NO IDENTIFYING DATA WILL BE RECORDED ON MY RESPONSES AND MY RESPONSES WILL BE SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE UNTIL ALL DATA ARE COLLECTED). I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE; I AM FREE TO WITHDRAW MY CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION AT ANY TIME WITHOUT PENALTY.

I may contact Dr. Larry Brown at 744-7495, or Sue Ellen LaFountain at 744-6028, should I wish further information about the research. I may also contact Terry Maciula, University Research Services, 001 Life Sciences East, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078; (405) 744-5700.

I have read and fully understand the consent form. I sign it freely and voluntarily. A copy has been given to me at my request.

SIGNED: _____
 (signature of subject)

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____
 (Sue Ellen LaFountain, M.S., project director)

Appendix B

Preliminary Instruction Sheet

In the envelope you will find several questionnaires, with instructions printed at the top. Please read and follow all instructions carefully. First, please complete the Information Questionnaire. Next, please read the enclosed scenario and complete the Scenario Questionnaire. Finally, please complete the Dating Information Questionnaire.

Please complete all questionnaires in the order in which they are presented to you. All responses will remain anonymous; there will be no way to connect your responses with your name. When you have completed all questionnaires, return them to the envelope, seal the envelope, and return the envelope to the administrator. If you have any questions, please ask the administrator.

Appendix C

Information Questionnaire

Please circle the correct choice or fill in the blank.

1. Gender: Male Female
2. Age:
3. Ethnicity
4. Year in college: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
5. Major:
6. College: Agriculture Arts & Sciences
 Business Education Engineering
 Home Economics School of Technology
 Other (please specify):

Appendix D

Scenarios, Study 1Scenario 1--Early refusal, high persistence, high assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. Joan responds by saying, "No, John, I don't want to." John ignores this and tries to kiss her neck again. This time Joan says, "No! I don't want to!" John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to kiss her neck. Joan responds by saying, "Stop! I want to go home!" At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. Joan pushes him away with both hands. John threatens to hit Joan if she won't let him kiss her on the neck. Joan screams and pushes him away again. John slaps her in the face. Joan slaps him back and scratches him. At this point John threatens to seriously hurt her if she doesn't let him kiss her on the neck. John tries to kiss her on the neck again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 2--Early refusal, high persistence, low assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. Joan responds by turning cold. John ignores this and tries to kiss her neck again. This time Joan pulls away. John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to kiss her neck. Joan responds by trying to pull away again. At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. Joan begins to cry. John threatens to hit Joan if she won't let him kiss her on the neck. Joan continues to cry and tries to argue with John as to why he should stop. John slaps her in the face. Joan pleads in a soft voice for John to stop. At this point John threatens to seriously hurt her if she doesn't let him kiss her on the neck. John tries to kiss her neck again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 3--Early refusal, low persistence, high assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. Joan responds by saying, "No, John, I don't want to." John ignores this and tries to kiss her neck again. This time Joan says, "No! I don't want to!" John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to kiss her neck. Joan responds by saying, "Stop! I want to go home!" At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. John tries to kiss her on the neck again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 4--Early refusal, low persistence, low assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. Joan responds by turning cold. John ignores this and tries to kiss her neck again. This time Joan pulls away. John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to kiss her neck. Joan responds by trying to pull away again. At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. John tries to kiss Joan on the neck again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 5--Late refusal, high persistence, high assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him. With his other hand, he begins rubbing her thigh. Joan responds by saying, "No, John, I don't want to." John ignores this and tries to rub her thigh again. This time Joan says, "No! I don't want to!" John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to rub her thigh. Joan responds by saying, "Stop! I want to go home!" At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. Joan pushes him away with both hands. John threatens to hit Joan if she won't let him rub her on the thigh. Joan screams and pushes him away again. John slaps her in the face. Joan slaps him back and scratches him. At this point John threatens to seriously hurt her if she doesn't let him rub her thigh. John tries to rub her thigh again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 6--Late refusal, high persistence, low assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him. With his other hand, he begins rubbing her thigh. Joan responds by turning cold. John ignores this and tries to rub her thigh again. This time Joan pulls away. John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to rub her thigh. Joan responds by trying to pull away again. At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. Joan begins to cry. John threatens to hit Joan if she won't let him rub her on the thigh. Joan continues to cry and tries to argue with John as to why he should stop. John slaps her in the face. Joan pleads in a soft voice for John to stop. At this point John threatens to seriously hurt her if she doesn't let him rub her thigh. John tries to rub her thigh again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 7--Late refusal, low persistence, high assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him. With his other hand, he begins rubbing her thigh. Joan responds by saying, "No, John, I don't want to." John ignores this and tries to rub her thigh again. This time Joan says, "No! I don't want to!" John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to rub her thigh. Joan responds by saying, "Stop! I want to go home!" At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. John tries to rub her thigh again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Scenario 8--Late refusal, low persistence, low assertiveness:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out, John invites Joan back to his apartment. She accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him. With his other hand, he begins rubbing her thigh. Joan responds by turning cold. John ignores this and tries to rub her thigh again. This time Joan pulls away. John says, "I really like you and want to make love to you. If you really liked me, you'd let me," and again tries to rub her thigh. Joan responds by trying to pull away again. At this point John puts his hands on Joan's shoulders and holds her where she is. John tries to rub her thigh again and eventually has intercourse with Joan.

Appendix E

Scenario Questionnaire, Study 1

Please circle your response to each question.

A. How likely is it that Joan wanted to have sexual intercourse?

1. It is highly likely that Joan wanted intercourse.
2. It is likely that Joan wanted intercourse.
3. Joan didn't care whether she had intercourse or not.
4. It is unlikely that Joan wanted intercourse
5. It is highly unlikely that Joan wanted intercourse.

B. How justified was John in having intercourse with Joan?

1. John was highly justified.
2. John was justified.
3. John was not justified, but not unjustified either.
4. John was unjustified.
5. John was highly unjustified.

C. If you later heard that Joan said she had definitely not wanted to have intercourse with John, how likely is it that you would believe her?

1. I would very likely believe her.
2. I would likely believe her.
3. I wouldn't believe her, but I wouldn't disbelieve her either.
4. I would likely not believe her.
5. I would very likely not believe her.

D. How strongly do you feel that Joan was raped?

1. I feel very strongly that Joan was raped.
2. I feel strongly that Joan was raped.
3. I feel neutral about it.
4. I feel strongly that Joan was not raped.
5. I feel very strongly that Joan was not raped.

Appendix F

Scenarios, Study 2Scenario 1:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out John invites Joan to come back to his apartment. Joan accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him.

Scenario 2:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out John invites Joan to come back to his apartment. Joan accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him.

Scenario 3:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out John invites Joan to come back to his apartment. Joan accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He then rubs her breast under her bra. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him.

Scenario 4:

Please read this scenario carefully and answer the brief questionnaire that follows it.

John and Joan have gone out twice. John asks Joan out for Friday night. She accepts. After an evening out John invites Joan to come back to his apartment. Joan accepts. When they get to John's, he offers her a seat on the couch. She accepts. John puts on a record after asking Joan's preference. He offers her a soft drink. She accepts. John returns from the kitchen and dims the lights. He hands Joan her drink then sits down near her on the couch. John and Joan sit and talk for over an hour. After a while, John moves a bit closer to Joan. Joan stays where she is. John puts his arm behind Joan on the couch. She allows this. After a few minutes, he begins massaging her neck. She lets him. He then pulls her toward him and kisses her on the lips. She allows him. He puts his other arm around her back and draws her nearer. She does not stop him. The kissing goes on. John begins to French kiss. Joan lets him. After several minutes of French kissing, John starts to kiss Joan's neck. She allows him to do this. He then begins rubbing her back and sides. Again she does not stop him. John moves his hand to Joan's breast. He massages it through her shirt. She lets him. He slides his hand up her blouse and rubs her breast over her bra. She does nothing to stop him. With his other hand, he unbuttons her shirt. She does not stop him. He then rubs her breast under her bra. She does not stop him. He now unfastens her bra. She lets him. With his other hand, he begins rubbing her thigh. She allows him to continue. John continues to kiss down Joan's neck and rub her thigh for some time. He then moves down and begins kissing her breast. This she does not stop. He now starts to rub her genitals through her pants. She does nothing to stop him. John then unfastens Joan's pants. She does not stop him.

Appendix G

Scenario Questionnaire, Study 2

Please read all questions first. Please circle your response to each question.

1. How likely is it that Joan wants to have intercourse with John?
 - a. Joan definitely wants to have intercourse with John (90%-100% chance that she wants intercourse).
 - b. It is likely that Joan wants to have intercourse with John (60%-80% chance that she wants intercourse).
 - c. It is equally likely that Joan does or does not want to have intercourse with John (50%-50% chance that she wants intercourse).
 - d. It is unlikely that Joan wants to have intercourse with John (20%-40% chance that she wants intercourse).
 - e. Joan definitely does not want to have intercourse with John (0%-10% chance that she wants intercourse).

2. How likely is it that John wants to have intercourse with Joan?
 - a. John definitely wants to have intercourse with Joan (90%-100% chance that he wants intercourse).
 - b. It is likely that John wants to have intercourse with Joan (60%-80% chance that he wants intercourse).
 - c. It is equally likely that John does or does not want to have intercourse with Joan (50%-50% chance that he wants intercourse).
 - d. It is unlikely that John wants to have intercourse with Joan (20%-40% chance that he wants intercourse).
 - e. John definitely does not want to have intercourse with Joan (0%-10% chance that he wants intercourse).

3. How likely is it that Joan intends to have intercourse with John?
 - a. Joan definitely intends to have intercourse with John (90%-100% chance that she intends to have intercourse).
 - b. It is likely that Joan intends to have intercourse with John (60%-80% chance that she intends to have intercourse).
 - c. It is equally likely that Joan does and does not intend to have intercourse with John (50%-50% chance that she intends to have intercourse).
 - d. It is unlikely that Joan intends to have intercourse with John (20%-40% chance that she intends to have intercourse).
 - e. Joan definitely does not intend to have intercourse with John (0%-10% chance that she intends to have intercourse).

4. How likely is it that John intends to have intercourse with Joan?
 - a. John definitely intends to have intercourse with Joan (90%-100% chance that he intends to have intercourse).
 - b. It is likely that John intends to have intercourse with Joan (60%-80% chance that he intends to have intercourse).
 - c. It is equally likely that John does and does not intend to have intercourse with Joan (50%-50% chance that he intends to have intercourse).
 - d. It is unlikely that John intends to have intercourse with Joan (20%-40% chance that he intends to have intercourse).
 - e. John definitely does not intend to have intercourse with Joan (0%-10% chance that he wants intercourse).

Appendix H

Dating Information Questionnaire

Please circle your response or fill in the answer:

1. How often do you date:
 - a. Less than once a month
 - b. About once a month
 - c. About two to three times a month
 - d. About once a week
 - e. More than once a week

2. Are you currently sexually active, or have you been sexually active in the past:
 - a. Currently sexually active
 - b. Not currently sexually active, but have been in the past
 - c. Not sexually active

3. How well would you need to know a partner before you had intercourse with him or her:
 - a. First or second date
 - b. More than two dates, but not dating steadily or exclusively
 - c. More than two dates, dating steadily and/or exclusively
 - d. Engaged or married

4. Have you ever had intercourse with a partner without his or her consent because you threatened to use force:
 - a. Yes
If yes, how frequently has this happened to you:
 - b. I may have, but I'm not sure
 - c. No

5. Have you ever had intercourse with a partner without his or her consent because you actually used force:
 - a. Yes
If yes, how frequently has this happened to you:
 - b. I may have, but I'm not sure
 - c. No

6. Has a partner ever had intercourse with you without your consent because he or she threatened or actually used force:
- a. Yes
If yes, how frequently has this happened to you:
 - b. This may have happened, but I'm not sure
 - c. No

Appendix I

Debriefing Statement, Studies 1 & 2

It is estimated that 15%-25% of college women will be the victims of date rape by the time they are graduated. Date rape occurs when a man the woman is dating or with whom she is acquainted threatens to use or actually uses force to have intercourse with the woman without her explicit consent. Often the man incorrectly assumes the woman's implicit consent from her actions or behaviors. Date rape leaves the woman highly traumatized. She may become very depressed and lose her faith in her ability to make accurate judgements about others. If you or someone you know has been the victim of this experience, or if you feel you are at risk for becoming involved in a coercive sexual act, there are several places around the O.S.U. campus where one can receive confidential help. These are the University Counseling Services in the Student Union, Student Mental Health Services at the O.S.U. Student Health Clinic, and the Psychological Services Center in North Murray Hall.

Table 1

Summary of Wilk's MANOVA Test Criteria: Study 1

<u>Effect</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>significance level</u>
Timing	1.61	(4,61)	> 0.18
Asser*	0.14	(4,61)	> 0.96
Pers**	2.82	(4,61)	> 0.03
Timing X Asser	1.73	(4,61)	> 0.15
Timing X Pers	0.85	(4,61)	> 0.49
Asser X Pers	1.00	(4,61)	> 0.41
Timing X Asser X Pers	1.61	(4,61)	> 0.18

Note. * refers to "Assertiveness", ** refers to "Persistence."

Table 2

Mean Ratings for Levels of Timing, Assertiveness,
and Persistence: Study 1

Question	<u>Factor</u>					
	<u>Timing</u>		<u>Assertiveness</u>		<u>Persistence</u>	
	Early	Late	High	Low	High	Low
1	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.6
2	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6
3	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
4	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.7

Note. Higher ratings on Questions 1 and 2 indicate that the subject did not accept the use of coercion in the scenario. Lower ratings on Questions 3 and 4 indicate that the subject did not accept the use of coercion in the scenario. All scores were on a scale from 1 to 5.

Note. For complete questions see Appendix E.

Table 3

Responses to Dating Information Questionnaire: Study 1

<u>Question</u>	<u>%</u>
1. How often do you date?	
a. Less than once a month	13
b. About once a month	9
c. About two to three times a month	27
d. About once a week	31
e. More than once a week	21
2. Are you currently sexually active?	
a. Currently sexually active	52
b. Not currently, have been in the past	34
c. Not sexually active	14
3. How well would you need to know a partner before you had intercourse with him or her?	
a. First or second date	21
b. More than two dates, not dating steadily	21
c. More than two dates, dating steadily	42
d. Engaged or married	16

(Table continues)

Table 3 (continued)

<u>Question</u>	<u>%</u>
4. Have you had intercourse because you threatened to use force?	
a. Yes	0
b. I may have but I'm not sure	0
c. No	100
5. Have you had intercourse because you actually used force?	
a. Yes	0
b. I may have but I'm not sure	1
c. No	99
6. Has a partner had intercourse with you because he/she threatened to use or actually used force?	
a. Yes	1
b. This may have happened but I'm not sure	3
c. No	96

Note. Questions have been abbreviated. For complete questions, see Appendix H.

Table 4

Summary of Wilk's MANOVA Test Criteria: Study 2

<u>Effect</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>significance level</u>
Gender	1.25	(4,53)	> 0.30
Scenario	3.88	(4,53)	< 0.0001
Gender X Scenario	0.73	(12,53)	> 0.72

Table 5

Mean Ratings to each Question for each Scenario
Collapsed across Gender: Study 2

Scenario	Question			
	1	2	3	4
1	2.9	2.1	3.9	2.4
2	2.8	1.5	2.8	1.9
3	2.4	1.3	2.7	1.3
4	1.9	1.2	2.3	1.5

Note. Ratings ranged from 1 to 5: 1 corresponded to a 90%-100% and 5 corresponded to a 0%-10% chance in response to the particular question.

Note. For complete questions see Appendix G.

Table 6

Mean Female and Mean Male Ratings for each Question
for each Scenario: Study 2

Scenario	<u>Question</u>			
	1	2	3	4
	Women			
1	2.8	2.1	3.3	2.5
2	2.6	1.6	2.9	2.0
3	2.6	1.5	2.9	1.5
4	2.0	1.3	2.4	1.4
	Men			
1	3.0	2.0	3.1	2.3
2	3.0	1.4	2.8	1.8
3	2.3	1.1	2.5	1.1
4	1.9	1.1	2.3	1.6

Note. Ratings ranged from 1 to 5: 1 corresponded to a 90%-100% and 5 corresponded to a 0%-10% chance in response to the particular question.

Note. For complete questions see Appendix G.

Table 7

Mean Ratings and t-values for Perceptions of
Male versus Female Desire and Male versus
Female Intent: Study 2

Scenario	Female Desire	Male Desire	t
1	2.9	2.1	3.3
2	2.8	1.5	3.5
3	2.4	1.3	5.7*
4	1.9	1.2	4.3*

	Female Intent	Male Intent	t
1	3.9	2.4	4.2*
2	2.8	1.9	3.9*
3	2.6	1.6	3.7*
4	2.3	1.5	3.7*

Note. * indicates $p < .001$ for a 2-tailed test.

Note. "Female Desire" refers to Question 1, "Male Desire" refers to Question 2, "Female Intent" refers to Question 3, "Male Intent" refers to Question 4; for complete questions see Appendix G.

Table 8

Responses to Dating Information Questionnaire: Study 2

<u>Question</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>% Men</u>
1. How often do you date?		
a. Less than once a month	15	31
b. About once a month	13	6
c. About two to three times a month	25	22
d. About once a week	25	25
e. More than once a week	22	15
2. Are you currently sexually active?		
a. Currently sexually active	28	47
b. Not currently have, been in the past	31	34
c. Not sexually active	41	19
3. How well would you need to know a partner before you had intercourse with him or her?		
a. First or second date	6	28
b. More than two dates, not dating steadily	13	15
c. More than two dates, dating steadily	38	38
d. Engaged or married	43	19

(Table continues)

Table 8 (continued)

<u>Question</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>% Men</u>
4. Have you had intercourse because you threatened to use force?		
a. Yes	0	0
b. I may have but I'm not sure	0	0
c. No	100	100
5. Have you had intercourse because you actually used force?		
a. Yes	0	0
b. I may have but I'm not sure	0	0
c. No	100	100
6. Has a partner had intercourse with you because he/she threatened to use or actually used force?		
a. Yes	22	0
b. This may have happened but I'm not sure	6	0
c. No	72	100

Note. Questions have been abbreviated. For complete questions, see Appendix H.

VITA^y

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