

DEFINING SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

KAYLEY BOAN
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With the rise of the #METOO movement in fooding media outlets, sexual harassment has been discussed more so now than in any other generation, leading many to question exactly what actions fall under sexual harassment. Without a clear definition, many students are sexually harassing or being sexually harassed without knowing, furthering the problem even more.

The U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission defines sexual harassment as, "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature...Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment."

Although this may seem definite, the lines remain blurred. Teasing, jokes, and random conversations can be taken in a multitude of different ways depending on tone, body language, and the amount of trust present between the participants. Sometimes, it is not the comments themselves, but when they are said.

Brendan Lee, junior at Wando High School, believes there is a difference between "locker room" talk and conversations among mixed company.

"As far as locker room talk, I feel like its a private matter. We should be able to say whatever we want behind closed doors. If you're saying things like that out in public, I could see why that would be taken offensively...I feel like it's a fine thing if it's locker room talk," Lee said. It is the fifth amendment, but just because a person is of the same sex does not mean they are not offended by crude language and gestures. One must also remember that every action the action they take can be recorded and shown to the world in a matter of seconds.

"[Sexual harassment] is larger than what people think it is. I think it can be



MAIA MCDONALD

In response to the accusations of sexual harassment/ assault in the media, many woman came forward about their experiences with the hashtag, #METOO. This allowed for other females to know that they were not alone and that sexual harassment is a serious issue that many people go through.

verbal and I think it can be physical so I don't know how our school defines it. If someone feels uncomfortable, I would consider that a form of harassment," AJ Chambers, advisor. Chambers was passionate about the concern of the victims feelings, and he wants to support any young adults, if they were to ever feel harassed. He expressed his deep concern for defending his students and upholding justice.

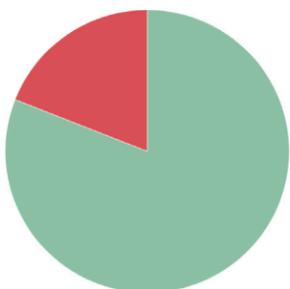
"I just have a very sarcastic personality. At one point, I was talking to this girl and she snapped at me and I didn't understand why. Later, I found out it's because she actually thought I was bullying her," said Robert Brook, from Richard Northeast High School.

Sexual harassment, being the broad subject that it is, requires a clear line and stance from the parties involved. It is the responsibility of parents and teachers alike to educate students on

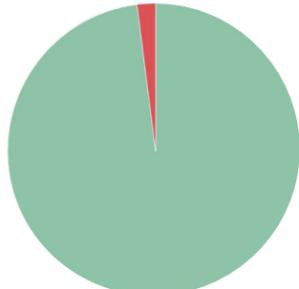
IS IT SEXUAL HARRASSMENT?

YES

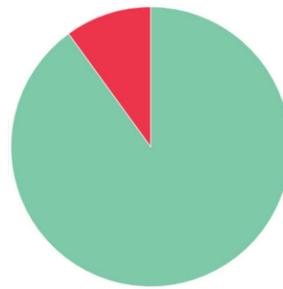
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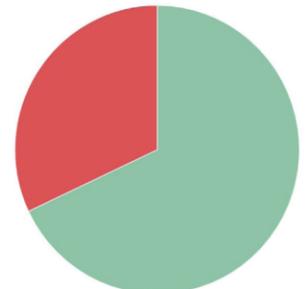
Catcalling/ Whistling



Unwanted advances



Sexual jokes



Flirting with a stranger

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

“I don’t think there’s anyway to clearly define [sexual harassment]. There’s no white and black... It’s like a personal thing,” Hana Donnelly

“I think it[sexual harassment] is unwanted attention whether it’s physical or verbal in a sexual manner,” Robert Brooke



Missoula reveals magnitude of sexual assault on college campuses

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1 in 6 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. These chances however are higher for women between the ages of 16-24 on a college campus. Jon Krakauer scrutinizes the Department of Justice and the University of Montana for minimizing the rape victims rights through an in-depth, real, and disturbing piece of investigative journalism. “Missoula: Rape and the justice system in a college town.”

Krakauer explains that rape happens in many different circumstances but he specifically chose to focus on assaults by a guy to a girl on college campuses. These boundaries both highlight the statistics and reveal that this is only one instance of assaults, making the facts that more appalling.

Though rape crimes fall under the Department of Justice, Krakauer sees it as more of a public health concern. Because of the way victims are treated after coming forward, the mental toll that haunts the victim keeps them from continuing their everyday life.

Krakauer specifically focuses on five instances within the University of Montana that created the so-called “rape epidemic” among frantic citizens. Many in the community saw the hometown-favorite Grizzly football team as the victim of the scandal, that girls were only accusing men for the attention and not because some males at the school saw rape as an unpunishable game.

“Sadly, and too often with tragic repercussions, athletes don’t distinguish right from wrong... Rules don’t apply. Acceptable standards of behavior don’t apply,” Buzz Bissinger, writer for the New York Times, said in Krakauer’s book.

This is not to blame all athletes for raping woman, it’s to blame the society they have been fostered in.

“... it’s not about the individual, or the individual sport, but about the culture we have allowed to grow around them,” Bissinger said.

Krakauer takes a hard to discuss topic and assaults the reader with the truth. This book is difficult to read, which is his intent. If the trials, testimonies, and minute-by-minute account of what happened during the alleged rape are hard for an outsider to read, imagine how the victim feels. How can you look at someone who had no idea what was happening to her and say “it’s all your fault”?

He relies on statistics to build his argument. But that is not to say that Krakauer keeps a completely unbiased opinion when talking about the alleged rapists. This male perspective speaking out against rape is uncommonly found in our society. He put so much

research and time into something that many would see as not affecting him at all. More of this understanding perspective from a male needs to be heard from within the overly-dominant, woman led debate.

But what is even more unsettling is that this town is seen as a special case among college campus rapes. These high statistics are written as rare, revolting, and an outlier among statistics.

When in fact, the annual rate of sexual assaults of women among populations of less than 100,000 was 0.27 percent. When the statistics are applied to Wando High School, that is 4 people who will file charges to the police, not the ones who decide not to report.

At Clemson University, the total is 63.

At University of South Carolina, the total is 91.

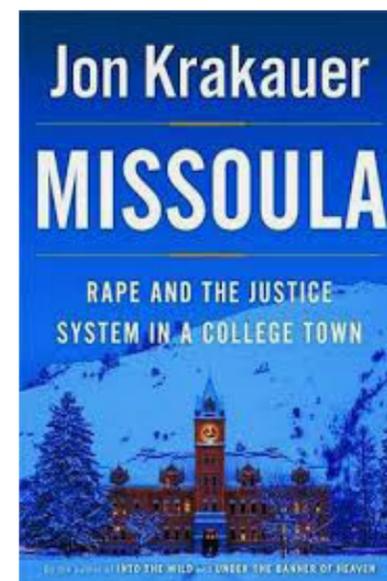
In Missoula, these statistic indicate that it is below the national average.

“This suggest that, rather than being the nation’s rape capital, Missoula had an incidence of sexual assault that was in fact slightly less than the national average. “That’s the real scandal,” Jon Krakauer said in “Missoula.”

Anyone who will be a woman between the ages of 16-24 should read this book. Anyone who will be a wom-

“WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS RAPED IN THIS COUNTRY, MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE TIME THE RAPIST GETS AWAY WITH THE CRIME,”

-Jon Krakauer



an on a college campus should read this book. Anyone who will be dating a woman on a college campus should read this book. Anyone who will have a sister, daughter, mother, or female friend on a college campus must read this book to truly understand the dangers and obstacles they face.

The likelihood of knowing someone who was affected by acquaintance rape is so alarmingly high it is necessary to prepare oneself, even if it is just by reading “Missoula” and preparing one’s mind should they meet someone who has faced this tragedy. If anyone is affected by sexual assault, call 800-656-4673 for confidential support and know that, sadly, you are not alone.