Date Rape Study by UD Researcher Shows Need for Clearer Communication; UD Professor Studies Subtle Cases of Clinical Incompetence
DATE RAPE STUDY BY UD RESEARCHER SHOWS NEED FOR CLEARER COMMUNICATION

College men and women's different perceptions of the "dating game" play a major role in the number of date rapes on campuses across the nation, according to a criminal justice professional at the University of Dayton.

Jefferson Ingram, an associate professor of criminal justice at UD, and colleague Darrel DeGraw of University of Central Texas surveyed college students from six U.S. universities and found that 10 percent of the women responding reported that they had been raped during a date, while another 60 percent said they had been in a situation where rape was likely to occur. Of that number, nearly half of the women reported that they were able to keep the situation in control by being assertive.

"We found that one of the best chances of reducing date rape would be to train women to be more assertive and communicate more clearly their desires," explained Ingram. The researchers also recommend orientation courses--perhaps as early as the junior high school level--that would aid both men and women in understanding body language by promoting an open expression of feelings.

"For example, if some contact is made on the dance floor," Ingram said, "men may believe some more intimate behavior will follow if they were raised in an environment where hugging and touching weren't acceptable."

For media interviews, contact Jeff Ingram at (513) 229-3028.

UD PROFESSOR STUDIES SUBTLE CASES OF CLINICAL INCOMPETENCE

Cases of gross incompetence on the part of clinicians and mental health professionals are the ones receiving all the headlines. It's the cases of subtle professional incompetence that have a University of Dayton psychology professor worried.

Mark Fine, an associate professor of psychology at UD, and colleague James C. Overholser of Case Western Reserve University reviewed five cases where clinical incompetence was identified. Reasons for incompetence ranged from a lack of knowledge to disturbing personal attributes, such as a clinician who habitually fell asleep during sessions with patients.

To manage such subtle cases of incompetence, the researchers recommend licensure examinations that assess technical knowledge and clinical skills by requiring candidates to submit a work sample or conduct an interview with a client. Continuing education programs--currently required in just 19 states, excluding Ohio--are also encouraged to enable clinicians to keep abreast of developments in the profession.

For media interviews with Mark Fine, contact Kate Cassidy at (513) 229-3241.