



ONE OUT OF EVERY SIX AMERICAN



WOMEN HAS BEEN THE



VICTIM OF AN ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED



RAPE IN HER LIFETIME (14.8%



COMPLETED RAPE; 2.8%



ATTEMPTED RAPE).

APPROXIMATELY

EVERY

4 OUT OF 5

SEXUAL

ASSAULTS

ARE

COMMITTED

BY SOMEONE

KNOWN

TO THE

VICTIM



SEX

ASSAULT

Spotlight movie depicts investigation

Zoya Shevchenko

Associate Editor

Thanks to the Oscar winning film *Spotlight* directed by Tom McCarthy, audiences worldwide in 2015 were re-exposed to an important ongoing issue: child molestation in the Roman Catholic church.

Accusations of such cases became highly publicized in the 1990s, primarily in Ireland, Canada and the United States, but according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, many thousands have gone unnoticed. Well over 16,000 people claimed to have been affected by sexual assault in the church as early as the 1950s, and it is predicted that thousands

more cases went overlooked even centuries prior.

The movie *Spotlight* focuses on a team of four journalists, called the "Spotlight team," working for the Boston Globe in 2001. The team is challenged to investigate reported cases of sexual abuse of children in the Roman Catholic church, and the evidence they discover brings forward profound moral injustices and obvious legal

corruption.

The *Spotlight* team closely researched John J. Geoghan, a priest in Massachusetts, later confirmed of committing child molestation since the mid 1990s. The team found highly concealed records of Geoghan's crimes, which allowed him continue in clerical occupations for 34 years.

According to the Boston Globe, Geoghan's attorney, Wilson D. Rogers Jr., was a central contribu-

tor to the ongoing continuously asserted reassignments were and safe" environment, the number amount to be in the

The most unner these crimes is that looked in what is kn stringent environme Catechism of the d writes that "Rape d respect, freedom, pl integrity to which a "right" and claim an intrinsically evil think that bishops fo of their own religio immediate punish many do quite the

Many bishops have kept crimes classified, reassigning the accused to other parishes, where the same crimes can easily be committed.

Opinion

Youth must be educated on assault, consent

Brianna Muzzall

Business Manager

As celebrities and documentaries come out with stories of sexual assault, the realities of campus sexual assault have only become more obvious and horrifying.

People around the globe see America as a safe haven, a place to find freedom and gain an education. For many men and women though, this education comes with a price.

Women enrolled in college in the United States are three times as likely to be sexually assaulted than women in general.

Male college students are 78 percent more likely to be sexually assaulted while attending school than those who are not.

Only 20 percent of assaulted students will ever report their crime to the police, according to RAINN.

Of course, the harshest reality of sexual assault is how it will continue to happen unless we begin to learn about it differently.

Teaching about consent and sexual assault from an early age is the best way to combat misconceptions about

consent and when and where sex is appropriate.

California was the first state in 2015 to mandate that all high school sex education classes teach about consent.

The fact that this very important lesson has been ignored in public schools only adds to the importance of it being taught to all students now.

When consent and sexual assault are not clearly understood, the result can be detrimental.

Consent is the most important, yet most misunderstood, part of sex.

32 percent of college men say they would "have intentions to force a woman to have sexual intercourse, if nobody would ever know and there would be no consequences," while only 13.6 percent of those men say they would "have any intentions to rape a woman" according to a study published in *Violence and Gender* magazine.

This disproportionate statistic shows the massive divide in understanding what rape and consent

actually are.

Put simply, consent is agreeing to sex; sex without consent is rape.

Americans, and society as a whole, have struggled with how to handle survivors of sexual assault.

While people will say they hate rape and rapists, some are equally as hostile towards the survivors, calling them liars, or saying they asked for it by drinking or dressing provocatively.

Survivors are told things such as, "Well, you shouldn't have led him on," or "Next time, you really should really drink less." These attitudes can seriously impact those who have been assaulted, marginalizing what has happened to them and making it harder for them to come forward.

Rape culture has made its way into the public consciousness after important figures such as Lady Gaga and Kesha have come out as sexual assault survivors.

Some in the music industry have supported Kesha's current legal battle against Sony and her alleged rapist Lukasz Sebastian

"Dr. Luke" Gottwa ruled in Sony's favor in her contract with the industry have a including Taylor Swift two hundred and fifty lars to help with Kesha's

Lady Gaga's "T Born This Way," a song about that was featured in

The H was n Academi ing the the Os Gaga song s vora s her in many to tear Vic Biden ing t sexual assault, star ment awareness p Us." Using celebrit from funny to som is another effort to lege age students c consent.

These celebrities inform the public, b and show that anyo of assault. The bes this troubling camp ing with young adu

POLL TAKEN OUT OF

86%

think sexual assault is a problem prevalent in the U.S.

56%

our society shames victims of sexual assault.

QUAL

MULT

igation of molestation coverup

offenses, as he... Geoghan's... "appropriate... Unfortun... of related cases... thousands... v... fact about... they are over-... down to be a most... ent: a church. The... Catholic Church... eeply wounds the... ytical and moral... every person has... it to be "always... act." One would... llowing the rules... on would take to... ment, however... opposite. Many

bishops have kept crimes classified, re-assigning the accused to other parishes, where the same crimes can easily be committed.

So what is the result of these sexual assaults? The Spotlight movie elaborately displays the emotional consequences for victims of these violations. During interviews with the Spotlight team, interviewees show clear evidence of trauma as they think back to their assaults—shakiness, angst and

Rape trauma syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder are often results of sexual abuse, as well as social anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and eating disorders.

inability to make eye contact. Rape trauma syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder are often results of sexual abuse, as well as social anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and eating disorders.

Watching this movie, the viewer may experience one of several reactions. First off, the director's realistic approach shows an absence of government intervention in the cases, leaving the watcher lacking closure. They might also feel some anger towards the Boston Globe itself from not covering such crucial

story any earlier, although it seems one of the producer's intentions was to display the imperfections of the Globe, and any other newspaper for that matter. The ending of the movie is arguably the most moving part; a list of locations is placed on the screen, each corresponding with a church related rape crime.

Spotlight is truly something a viewer must experience for them. To actually acknowledge an important topic is far easier said than done, but McCarthy allows audiences to experience these issues secondhand through well-told stories, new perspectives and impassioned scenes, all without leaving their seat.

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ld. After a judge... or, keeping Kesha... n Sony, many in... ttempted to help... w... ift who donated... ty thousands dol-... sha's legal bills... il it Happens to... ut sexual assault... the documentary... hunting Ground... nominated for an... my Award. Dur-... e 2016 telecast of... scars... ga performed the... with other survi-... standing around... n unity brought... in the audience... s... e President Joe... has been work-... o end campus... ting the govern-... program "It's on... y videos ranging... ver the campaign... help educate col-... on issues such as... s not only help... ut bridge the gap... e can be a victim... t defense against... us trend is work-... lts to educate.

Internet is major meduim for sexual abuse

Bernice Gajda
Associate Editor

Social media is a double edged sword. While it can provide positive connections between individuals and communities, a lingering side effect remains; the enabling of sexual abuse.

The combination of the seeming anonymity and ubiquity of technology makes it an unfortunate "safe haven" for this abuse. Victims are often unable to escape their abusers.

Whether it is sexual harassment in the form of cyberbullying, threats of spreading compromising media or even constant requests for naked pictures, society fosters a culture of accepted abuse on the internet.

Social media often is used as a platform for the encouragement of rape culture.

Marshall University defines rape culture as "an environment in which rape is prevalent and in which sexual violence against women is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture."

An example of this would be the infamous, "they were asking for it," comment based on clothing or behavior.

"If [the aggressor] is unable to control themselves in that sort of situation they should grow up, be an

adult about it and maybe take responsibility for their own actions instead of blaming it on someone else," Nicole Verboncoeur (11) said. "Everyone loves to play the blame game, but there comes a point in life where you have to be the adult."

Consent is blurred in the shocking abundance of inappropriate Facebook comments.

Counselor Cori Akers feels the anonymous factor plays a large role in online abuse.

"People feel much more comfortable being verbally abusive to someone when they can do it behind the monitor," Akers said.

Not only is blaming victims the norm, but the legal system regularly fails these victims.

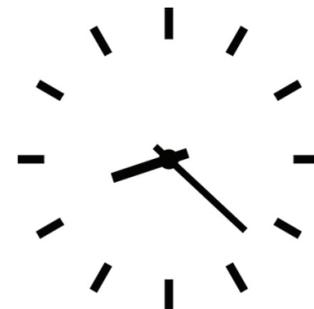
In a 2013 study conducted by the National Institute of Justice, 86 percent of adult sexual assaults that are reported to the police fail to be passed to prosecutors for consideration.

Our society not only encourages this culture on social media, but has little legal backup.

"I feel like it is more society's fault for [a victim] not pressing charges," Nikki Dallas (11) said. "[More school involvement] could help stop internet sexual assault if there are bigger consequences against it."

People feel much more comfortable being verbally abusive to someone when they can do it behind the monitor, -Cori Akers (Guidance)

EVERY 107



SECONDS,
ANOTHER AMERICAN
IS sexually assaulted

VICTIMS OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT
ARE:

- ▶ 3 times more likely to suffer from depression.
- ▶ 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- ▶ 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.
- ▶ 26 times more likely to abuse drugs.
- ▶ 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

81 STUDENTS AT OHS:

48% know someone who has ever been sexually assaulted.

10% are victims of sexual assault.