Letter to the Editor

To the Editors:

I was moved, touched, and saddened by the clotheslines that were set up in Hogan to draw attention to the brutality of sexual assault against women. To me, violence against women is one of the most heinous of all crimes. The display of the shirts did make me question a few issues though. I fully recognize that the purpose of the display was to emphasize the occurrence of domestic abuse and sexual assault toward women. What made me somewhat concerned was that there is never recognition on this campus of the presence of sexual assault against men. Most would laugh at the thought of a “real” man being sexually assaulted. They would claim that instances of such were rare, if they happened at all. What is frightening about that line of reasoning is that people actually subscribe to it. They willingly ignore the silent crosses that these men have to bear simply because it is not supposed to happen, according to their gender stereotypes.

A friend of mine at a Massachusetts college once contacted me on AIM to discuss this issue. He explained how a very loud and obnoxiously intoxicated female had assaulted him over the weekend. He was extremely embarrassed and began to feel like something was wrong with him because he couldn’t effectively handle the situation. Much similar to the feelings women must endure, he felt horrible. He was ashamed and felt dirty that this had happened to him. I told him to report this belligerent student, but he flatly refused. I asked him why and he responded, “Yeah Matt, I’ll do that and report her. What will people think of me then?” That response he posed forced me to realize that the issue of sexual assault against men is more prevalent than many people want to admit. Much to the surprise of society, sexual assault runs both sides of the gender field. I encourage women to always shout out against the scum who harm them. I also hope society becomes more accepting of the fact that men are not always the aggressors. I will agree that there is a higher instance of male aggression against females, but the world today must take aim at ALL aggressors and not simply the usual suspects.

This problem of public ignorance toward sexual assault against men makes me think of the early years of AIDS research, when the horrific disease was first coming to light. Society as a whole thought that the deadly disease affected only a small segment of our country. In fact, it affects such a broad spectrum that reaches into every slice of the populace. In this way, sexual assault is a loathsome action committed against BOTH sexes. People who deny that are fooling themselves.

I wish to commend those who brought the display of shirts to Holy Cross. They took an active stand to open our eyes to the most egregious offenses against women. They are making a difference. This campus needs to take a further step and uncover the hidden world of sexual assault against men. It’s only after we present a united front against all kinds of sexual predators that we will be able to send a message to these miscreants who seek to violate our personal safety. My prayers are with all victims of sexual assault that they find some kind of personal ease with the pain and suffering they endured.

Matthew S. Galligan
Class of 2004

Out of Service

What do you think of the scandal in the Church?

-Adam Kotlik '04

I think it’s a shame that some of the men we hold with the utmost respect and trust have violated it.

-Diana Castillo '04

If the Cardinal could keep something like that, what else could be keeping? Can the Catholic Church be trusted?

-Mike Sandstrom '04

I think the presence of these problems should bring about positive change maybe a possible reason to think about another Vatican council.

-Nate Jean '03

It’s a shame that no one picked up on it sooner.

-Nate Kelly '03

Those who cover up [incidences of sexual abuse] are just as guilty as the offenders.

Compiled by Mike Alavian '04

In Your Face!

Out of Order

Please do not try to fix! Will be fixed tomorrow.

Tuesday.

What do you mean you already tried that?

I mean I already tried that...

...already tried that

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