



We find it ironic that society regards the right to possess and bear arms one of its most cherished freedoms-as long as that freedom extends almost solely to white males.

This is the sort of double standard that encourages rape.

This is the sort of double standard that we are seeking to destroy by any means available.

October 30, 1974

TO: CITY OF DALLAS

FROM: WOMEN ARMED for SELF-PROTECTION

We are W.A.S.P. We are a small group of women growing stronger every day. WE ARE OUTRAGED.

We are outraged because the number of reported rapes in the U.S. has risen 55% faster than the population. There is one reported rape in this country every 11 minutes. In Dallas there were 575 reported rapes last year. Experts agree that this is only 1/4 to 1/10 the actual number.

We are outraged because this society, and our community, directly and indirectly encourages rape through its over-all attitudes toward women. We find such phrases as "They all wanna get raped anyway.", "You can't thread a moving needle.", and "We all know there's no such thing as rape because a woman can run faster with her dress up than a man can with his pants down.", to be reflective of an attitude that has permeated society as a whole.

We are outraged by a society which encourages males to be active and aggressive while females are socialized to be passive and submissive, thereby making the victimization of women inevitable.

We are outraged by laws which do not consider forced, involuntary sex between husband and wife as rape.

We are further outraged by a judicial system that allows value judgements concerning a woman's previous sexual encounters to determine the outcome of the trial. In Texas, as well as other states, a defense attorney may extensively inquire into her past sex life, while with few exceptions, the attorneys for the prosecutor are precluded from asking such questions of the accused. This sort of examination not only makes the woman a double victim, but in many cases puts her on trial instead of the rapist.

We are outraged at the discriminatory application of the law, in that a disproportionately large percentage of minority and low income males are prosecuted, while white, middle and upper income males often have seeming immunity.

We are outraged by the insensitivity that individual police officers often display when handling rape victims.

We are outraged that of the 575 cases reported in Dallas last year, that after the 60 pleas of guilty, there were only 37 accused rapists brought to trial, with 29 convictions.

Finally, we are outraged by a society that often makes the aftermath of a rape more traumatic and painful than the rape itself.

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W.A.S.P. wants to see a society that regards women as human beings; where women as well as men incorporate self-defense into their life-style. We want to see a society that does not condone the rape of women who step out of conventional roles, (i.e. runaways, hitchhikers, prostitutes, and women who take drugs, etc.) by making convictions in these cases impossible.

W.A.S.P. wants a society that educates women about rape instead of forcing each woman to deal with it individually at the moment of crisis. A woman should be aware of the best possible alternatives whether it be fighting, escape, attempting to talk the rapist out of it, or, in defense of her life-submission.

We want to see a society that does not set a curfew on women, (expecting women to stay off the streets at night) and allow rapists to enforce that curfew.

Since it is sexist attitudes that perpetuate rape in our society, it is unlikely that change will come immediately. Until that change occurs, W.A.S.P. will praise and support the actions of Inez Garcia and Deborah Kantaeng and any other women who not only attempt to defend themselves, but take aggressive actions toward rapists.

RAPE IS A DEADLY INSULT AGAINST WOMENS SELF-DETERMINATION. RAPE IS ALL THE HATRED, CONTEMPT AND OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN THIS SOCIETY CONCENTRATED IN ONE ACT.
WOMEN MUST DESTROY THE MYTH THAT THEY ENJOY RAPE.
SUBMISSION IS NOT THE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

In an attempt to combat an unhealthy trend and establish a healthy precedent, Dallas area women have established Women Armed for Self Protection. Our first objective is to become proficient in the use of various forms of weaponry. Our second objective is to encourage other women to do the same, as well as sharing individual experiences and knowledge whenever possible.

WE ARE W.A.S.P.....We are prepared to sting.

WE REPEAT.....WE ARE OUTRAGED. WE ARE ARMED.

WE ARE WOMEN.

WE SUPPORT IMMEDIATE AND DRASTIC RETALIATION AGAINST ALL RAPISTS.

Small donations needed and appreciated.

W.A.S.P.
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