

Notes on *The Hunting Ground*

***The Hunting Ground (2015)* is a documentary about sexual violence on college campuses. This film discusses several people's stories about being assaulted during college, and thus carries a trigger warning. The following are statistics and facts given by the film, periodically throughout:**

- More than 16% of college women are sexually assaulted during their college years.
- 88% of women assaulted on a campus don't report it.
- At Harvard from 2002-2013, there were 135 reported sexual assaults, and 10 reported suspensions. At UC Berkeley, there were 78 assaults and 3 expulsions. At Dartmouth, 155 assaults and 3 expulsions. Stanford had 259 assaults and 1 expulsion. UNC had 136 assaults and no expulsions. University of Virginia had 205 assaults and no expulsions, yet there were 183 expulsions for cheating and other Honor Board violations.
- Less than 8% of men in college commit more than 90% of sexual assaults.
- Repeat offenders average at 6 assaults per assailant.
- 26% of rapes reported to the police in the US lead to an arrest. 20% of rapes reported to the police in the US are prosecuted.

The following are anecdotes shared by interviewees throughout the film. These are only a few examples shared in the movie, there are many more throughout.

Annie Clark - She was at a party when she got drunk, hit her head against a wall, was raped, and ran away shaking. This was before classes had even started. She acted normally about it. It wasn't until somebody else talked about it happening at a fraternity and asked how to report it, that they looked it up together. Clark figured out how to report it and decided to take action. The Dean said, "Rape is like a football game, if you could go back to that game, what would you do differently?" She was getting blamed.

Andrea Pino – She met a guy at a party, he pulled her to bathroom, hit her head against bathroom tile, she couldn't move, but she could hear the party, and was abused, "Why am I not screaming? When you get scared when something happens to you, you just stay there and hope that you don't die." She wasn't the only one, but nobody talked about it. No one wants to be called a victim or admit it happened to them. She kept telling herself she'd get better, but her mind and dreams were in turmoil. The first person she told was Annie Clark.

Andrea came out publicly with a project called the “Courage Project,” a photo-based project. This provided a gateway to allow people to talk about what happened to them. Within four weeks, she met nine other victims, and she assumed that her school didn’t take any action. She made meetings, but they got delayed. Clark said it was heartbreaking to see it continue with her friends. Andrea started working with the Dean, Melinda Manning, who herself said that there were repeat offenders and everybody got away with it at UNC.

Clark and Pino started working together to try to change UNC for the better. They started doing research and came across Title XIV. It guarantees anyone the right to an equal education. When assailants are allowed to stay on campus, they are in violation of Title XIV by contributing to a harmful environment. The government can revoke federal funds from a school which is found to be in violation of Title XIV, which hopefully can force it to be compliant. They filed a complaint, writing to the Department of Education about what happened and how it is in violation of the case law. They studied the case law, and sent it to the Department of Education, and they took their case. UNC claimed that the allegations were “false, untrue, and just plain wrong” (UNC representative). People started retaliated against them. One person tweeted to Clark: “I hope you die screaming you [sic] monster.” They’ve gotten other death threats online, and one other in person. Pino’s residence hall was broken into, spray painted, and a knife was left behind. One person tweeted to her “You deserve to die. Fuck you and your cult of victimhood.” Pino reports feeling like she was in danger. She never told her parents.

They called a lot of people to get funding for their project, most of whom laughed at them; however, the *New York Times* published it, which led to a lot of emails. Then somebody tweeted to Clark, “Me too.” People reached out through several different media. Many people talking to them were saying things like “My rape was bad, but the way I was treated was worse” (Clark). Now, they are making a map, and every time they receive a story they put a dot in that state. They numbered the spots that had more than one story per university.

Clark and Pino started visiting other college campuses, such as Swathmore and Columbia. They showed people how to file a Title XIV complaint for themselves. Pino says that the work is hard, having to relive these people’s stories, saying at one point that “It’s not fair. It’s not fair.” But doing this work keeps her going. She would have given anything to have somebody to believe and support her. Students have started taking this into their own hands, protesting in several schools, allowing programs such as Clark and Pino’s to excel. The two girls ended up in DC talking to several Senators from both political parties, and were highlighted in a speech by President Barack Obama. Activists such as Pino and Clark are making change in schools around the country. These schools have also been investigated professionally by a third party, and the locations of the problems that the investigation turned up matched Pino and Clark’s map exactly.

Erica Kinsman - She attended Florida State University. A week before finals, she went out, and a guy started following her. Somebody saw her, grabbed her, and said "This is my girlfriend, leave her alone." She bought her a shot, and she is fairly certain that there was something in that drink. She remembers being in an apartment, and this guy was assaulting her. She said stop, and one of his friends even tried to stop him. He locked her in the bathroom, and he was too big for her to fight off. He redressed her, and let her leave, giving her a ride home. She called the police, and was taken to the hospital by the FSU police. She told her story to police officer Scott Angulo. With the information provided, they could have had the guy and his two friends in custody the next day. Obtained video from the surveillance cameras at the bar, or located the cab driver. They didn't. She got his name during attendance in one of the classes the next day, and she told Angulo, who told her to think about whether she wanted to press charges. The Tallahassee Police Department refused to run a DNA test on Jameis Winston, her assailant. Angulo graduated from FSU and has worked for an organization which fundraises FSU athletes, and Winston was a chief football player. The police did almost nothing for ten months. The case got turned over to the Florida State Attorney, and a lot of people were sympathizing with him. They confirmed that the DNA was Winston's, but he maintains his innocence, claiming that it was consensual. FSU kept winning, and Kinsman became "the most hated girl in Tallahassee" according to one Twitter user. Winston was not charged, and Willie Meggs said that they had examined the evidence thoroughly, but in an interview said, "I think I do not have sufficient evidence to prove that he sexually assaulted her against her will. I think that things that happened that night are good." Winston led FSU to victory in the national championship, and Kinsman was accused of lying and being jealous of the attention. She was forced to drop out of school, to the delight of her students. People were celebrating. When FSU finally interviewed him, he refused to answer any further. Two weeks later, he received a letter saying that this prompted the school to cease further investigation. Two years later, FSU finally held a hearing for Winston, and he was not found responsible for violating the code of conduct. He was the first overall pick in the 2015 NFL draft.

These are actual sanctions given by universities for sexual assault:

- Columbia - suspended for a semester
- Indiana University - suspended over summer vacation
- Yale - suspended for one day
- University of Colorado Boulder - \$75 fine
- University of Toledo - \$25 fine
- Brandeis University - given a warning
- University of Chicago - assigned a paper of reflection on your experience
- Occidental College - required to construct a poster board listing ten ways to approach a girl you like