

Written for the 88.7 KTRM website by Mariah Shields

A 5K run/walk will take place at Thousand Hills State Park on Saturday, April 27 to raise awareness for a too common problem on and off of college campuses, date and acquaintance rape. The event is sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and KTRM 88.7.

According to figures provided by the Department of Justice and Truman's student population, statistically over 120 rapes per year occur at Truman. In the three year period between 2009 and 2011, only eight sexual assaults were reported.

Statistics such as these lead KTRM station manager Geoffrey Woehlk to believe that instances of sexual assault, including date and acquaintance rape, are underreported at Truman.

"We all know that's not true because we all know somebody, and for us to bury our heads in the sand and say well, it only happens eight times, we don't have a problem here, is completely counterproductive and against everything Truman stands for," said Woehlk.

Woehlk said that sometimes minors are too scared to get help for fear of getting charged as a Minor in Possession, insurance concerns and that parents will find out. In addition, there is a heavy emotional burden.

Maegan Rathmann of the WRC cited the stigma surrounding rape as an additional difficulty and said it can be hard for those who have been raped to admit what happened. She said it is important for friends to be supportive so that the person does not have to struggle alone. It can be as simple as going to a counseling session with a friend or suggesting other resources.

In addition to the WRC, local hospitals, Counseling Services, Residence Life, the Department of Public Safety and Victim Support Services are all available to help.

Rathmann says the WRC hopes to use the money to bring a speaker to Truman to discuss issues about consent and to have more resources available to students. All funds raised at the event will go to the WRC to continue awareness efforts, so people will know what to do if this situation happens before it's too late.

The 5K run/walk will be held at Thousand Hills State Park at 8:30 a.m. Registration begins on location at 7 a.m. It cost \$5 to participate in the race or \$15 to participate and receive a t-shirt.