

December 15, 2014

Instapundit post kicks off today's look at developments in the Rolling Stone/UVA fiasco. Reynolds segues from statements from Senators Gillibrand and McCaskill to wonder about the people behind this story going forward. He notes that Emily Renda who worked on Pres. Sullivan's staff at UVA was also part of a White House "campus rape group."

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I'd also like to know how much coordination there was among folks at UVA — Emily Renda worked in UVA President Teresa Sullivan's office, and on the White House "It's On Us" campus rape group, and I believe was the one who told Erdely about Jackie's case — and Rolling Stone, and the White House, and Sens. Gillibrand and McCaskill. Perhaps someone will ask them, or submit a FOIA request to the White House and a state FOIA to President Sullivan's office. Conveniently, McCaskill and Gillibrand aren't subject to FOIA, but that doesn't stop intrepid reporters from asking them.

I'd also be interested in hearing from reporters themselves: Was the White House pushing this story?

Richard Bradley, editor of Worth magazine, was one of those who broke the UVA story wide open. We featured a post from his blog in December 3, 2014 Pickings. He has another worthy post today.

Last Friday, Rolling Stone put out a statement backing off Sabrina Rubin Erdely's story, "A Rape on Campus," and the account of its protagonist, a young woman named Jackie.

"There now appear to be discrepancies in Jackie's account," the magazine said.

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... Which brings me to [a Washington Post story by T. Rees Shapiro](#), just posted about an hour ago, which, I think, is going to have an enormous impact.

Rees interviews Jackie's three friends—the three friends whom, we now know, Sabrina Rubin Erdely did not even try to interview—and they tell a wildly different story of that night than Rubin Erdely recounted in her article.

In their first interviews about the events of that September 2012 night, the three friends separately told The Post that their recollections of the encounter diverge from how Rolling Stone portrayed the incident in a story about Jackie's alleged gang rape at a U-Va. fraternity. The interviews also provide a richer account of Jackie's interactions immediately after the alleged attack, and suggest that the friends are skeptical of her account.

It gets worse for Jackie—and Sabrina Rubin Erdely, who now appears to have lied when she said that "Randall" would not speak to her "out of loyalty to his frat." (Randall tells the Post that Rolling

Stone never contacted him—and that he would have spoken to Rubin Erdely if she had. Rubin Erdely, if you had a career left—now you don't.)

But here's where the plot really thickens: ...

Here is T. Rees Shapiro's piece from WaPo.

It was 1 a.m. on a Saturday when the call came. A friend, a University of Virginia freshman who earlier said she had a date that evening with a handsome junior from her chemistry class, was in hysterics. Something bad had happened.

Arriving at her side, three students —“Randall,” “Andy” and “Cindy,” as they were identified in an explosive Rolling Stone account — told The Washington Post that they found their friend in tears. Jackie appeared traumatized, saying her date ended horrifically, with the older student parking his car at his fraternity, asking her to come inside and then forcing her to perform oral sex on five men.

In their first interviews about the events of that September 2012 night, the three friends separately told The Post that their recollections of the encounter diverge from how Rolling Stone portrayed the incident in a story about Jackie's alleged gang rape at a U-Va. fraternity. The interviews also provide a richer account of Jackie's interactions immediately after the alleged attack and suggest that the friends are skeptical of her account.

The scene with her friends was pivotal in the article, as it alleged that the friends were callously apathetic about a beaten, bloodied, injured classmate reporting a brutal gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. The account alleged that the students worried about the effect it might have on their social status and how it might reflect on Jackie during the rest of her collegiate career and that they suggested not reporting it. It set up the article's theme: That U-Va. has a culture that is indifferent to rape.

“It didn't happen that way at all,” Andy said.

Instead, the friends remember being shocked. Although they did not notice any blood or visible injuries, they said they immediately urged Jackie to speak to police and insisted that they find her help. Instead, they said, Jackie declined and asked to be taken back to her dorm room. They went with her — two said they spent the night — seeking to comfort Jackie in what appeared to be a moment of extreme turmoil.

“I mean, obviously, we were very concerned for her,” Andy said. “We tried to be as supportive as we could be.”

The three students agreed to be interviewed on the condition that The Post use the same aliases that appeared in Rolling Stone because of the sensitivity of the subject. ...

Reason has a blog post.

... Lest anyone think that this debacle is solely the fault of someone who falsely claimed rape, keep in mind that these fraudulent charges were put forth by a national magazine that made no effort to verify them, and ignored every red flag in its haste to publish the story of the century—even when Jackie refused to name her attackers and attempted to withdraw her story. Whatever the truth is—

whatever the excellent reporters at WaPost manage to uncover next—the fact remains that Rolling Stone and Erdely should have known better.

The degree to which everyone involved in this travesty of journalism failed at their jobs is almost unbelievable. But unlike the story of a gang rape at UVA, we now have incontrovertible proof of it.

We'll close this subject with a post from [Daily Caller](#). Jim Treacher who wrote the post is a UVA grad and a member of the frat named in the Rolling Stone article.

Rape is a very serious crime, which is all the more reason to make sure a rape claim has some basis in fact. All the more reason to make sure innocent people aren't smeared with a false accusation. The horror of rape doesn't excuse the abrogation of due process. Whether the charge is witchcraft, communism, or rape, the human impulse to treat an accusation as its own proof must always be resisted.

Now there's nothing left to do but wait for the lawsuits. As a Phi Psi myself, I was ready to throw these guys under the bus for committing such an awful crime, disgracing themselves and our fraternity. That is, if it was true. But it's not. They've been libeled, their house has been vandalized, and the entire Greek system at UVA has been suspended. They don't deserve that, just because feminists hate fraternities almost as much as they hate facts.

*I hope my UVA brothers have fun with Jann Wenner's money. (**Jann Wenner is Publisher of Rolling Stone**)*

Howie Carr draws the connection from Rolling Stone back to Dan Rather.

... Ten years ago, "60 Minutes" ran a fake story about President Bush's Texas Air National Guard service. Turned out the memos were utterly bogus. It took bloggers about an hour to figure that out after the piece aired. For more than a week, CBS (also known as See B.S.) refused to retract the obvious hit piece on the GOP president in the heat of his re-election campaign.

See B.S.'s ultimate excuse was immortalized in a headline in The New York Times (another member of the Rolling Stone-CBS media make-it-up conglomerate). The Times quoted another Democrat as describing the memos as "Fake But Accurate."

Fake but accurate. You can't make this stuff up — and you don't have to! Memo to Rolling Stone: Truth really is stranger than fiction. All those Globe columnists didn't have to pipe it, or lift stuff from the WBUR website. There's this amazing new invention, and I'm not talking about the Internet. I mean the telephone. It's amazing, the stuff you can turn up with a phone, and most of the time, all it takes is one or two more calls to see if it's true....

But now, in a decade we have gone from the "60 Minutes" fake but accurate story to Rolling Stone's scoop, which turns out to be fake and inaccurate. ...

Glenn Reynolds of Instapundit wrote his weekly TODAY column on the campus rape hoax. So today, we start with Glenn and end with him.

... For months we've been told that there's a burgeoning "epidemic" of rape on college campuses, that the system for dealing with campus rape is "broken" and that we need new federal legislation (of course!) to deal with this disaster. Before the Rolling Stone story imploded, Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., were citing the Virginia gang rape as evidence of the problem, but now that the story has been exposed as bogus, they're telling us that, regardless of that isolated incident, there's still a huge campus rape problem that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

And that's the real college rape hoax. Because the truth is that there's no epidemic outbreak of college rape. In fact, rape on college campuses is — like rape everywhere else in America — plummeting in frequency. And that 1-in-5 college rape number you keep hearing in the press? It's thoroughly bogus, too. (Even the authors of that study say that "We don't think one in five is a nationally representative statistic," because it sampled only two schools.)

Sen. Gillibrand also says that "women are at a greater risk of sexual assault as soon as they step onto a college campus."

The truth — and, since she's a politician, maybe that shouldn't be such a surprise — is exactly the opposite. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, the rate of rape and sexual assault is lower for college students (at 6.1 per 1,000) than for non-students (7.6 per 1,000). (Note: not 1 in 5). What's more, between 1997 and 2013, rape against women dropped by about 50%, in keeping with a more general drop in violent crime nationally.

Upshot: Women on campus aren't at more risk for sexual assault, and their risk is nothing like the bogus 1-in-5 statistic bandied about by politicians and activists. So why is this non-crisis getting so much press? ...

Instapundit

[SENS. MCCASKILL & GILLIBRAND SAY: The Facts May Change, But The Narrative Must Remain The Same:](#)

Sen. Claire McCaskill said at the hearing she is “saddened and angry” about the “bad journalism” in the Rolling Stone article.

The article was a “setback for survivors in this country,” said McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat. “This is not a crime where you have rampant false reporting and embellishment.”

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., echoed McCaskill’s concerns.

“Clearly we don’t know the facts of what happened or didn’t happen” in the alleged University of Virginia gang rape case, Gillibrand said. “But these facts have not changed: UVA has admitted that they have allowed students who have confessed to sexually assaulting another student to remain on campus.”

“I refuse to let this one story become an excuse for Congress not to fix a broken system,” Gillibrand said.

Actually, we now have a pretty good idea what didn't happen, which is everything that was reported in the now-exploded *Rolling Stone* article. It's not clear that anyone was raped, and certainly the lurid gang-rape-on-broken-glass scenario can be pretty much ruled out. It's not clear that a fraternity was involved at all.

What is clear is that Gillibrand and McCaskill leaped on this storyline when it looked good, and are now backpedaling. And Gillibrand also hung her hat on the Erdely military-rape story, which I predict won't hold up well under investigation either.

I'd also like to know how much coordination there was among folks at UVA — Emily Renda worked in [UVA President Teresa Sullivan's office](#), and on the [White House](#) “It's On Us” campus rape group, and I believe was the one who told Erdely about Jackie's case — and *Rolling Stone*, and the White House, and Sens. Gillibrand and McCaskill. Perhaps someone will ask them, or submit a FOIA request to the White House and a state FOIA to President Sullivan's office. Conveniently, McCaskill and Gillibrand aren't subject to FOIA, but that doesn't stop intrepid reporters from asking them.

I'd also be interested in hearing from reporters themselves: Was the White House pushing this story?

Shots in the Dark **Some Thoughts on “Discrepancies”**

by Richard Bradley

Last Friday, *Rolling Stone* put out a statement backing off Sabrina Rubin Erdely's story, “A Rape on Campus,” and the account of its protagonist, a young woman named Jackie.

“There now appear to be discrepancies in Jackie's account,” [the magazine said](#).

That was an artfully chosen term. The magazine didn't know if Jackie had lied to them or misremembered what happened to her; the magazine couldn't really say for sure if anything at all had happened to Jackie.

Hence the use of the term discrepancies; it is a vague and legalistic word that can mean very little or an enormous amount. And people on both extremes of the discussion about Jackie's story have tried to define it.

Mostly from the right, some observers believe that the term “discrepancies” suggests that nothing happened to Jackie; that she made the whole thing up. Some websites have alleged—without a hint of proof, as far as I can tell—that Jackie has a history of making up rape allegations. These are the same folks who are livid with *Rolling Stone* for not holding Jackie to the highest evidentiary standards. I certainly understand the criticism, but some consistency would seem to be in order.

On the other side, the victims' advocacy wing, there are people who keep writing about “inconsistencies” as if they are by definition trivial.

The context is usually something like this: “Just because there are inconsistencies in Jackie’s story does not mean that it isn’t *mostly* true. So what if she got the date wrong, or the name of the fraternity? *Something* happened to her.”

To these people I would say, let’s not forget what Jackie’s original story was: a premeditated gang rape; nine men in a pitch-black room; rape by seven of them, the last with a beer bottle; three best friends who discouraged her from reporting the rape for fear they’d never be invited to fraternity parties.

Even if there are “discrepancies” in Jackie’s story, we are still left, frankly, with a fantastical story. The argument thus becomes: So what if she got the name of the fraternity wrong? That doesn’t disprove that she was the victim of a premeditated gang rape in a blackened fraternity room by seven men!

“So what if it didn’t happen just the way she said it! She was still forced to perform oral sex on five men!”

Like this writer for the Huffington Post, who says, “[Just Because Rolling Stone Got Jackie’s Story Wrong Doesn’t Mean It Is a Hoax.](#)”

Yet this too is an incredible story that, while it could be true, must be viewed with some skepticism.

For me the challenge has always been: How do you get to something that seems plausible—a rape at a fraternity—to forced oral sex around a circle of five or gang rape by seven men? The leap from the former to the latter does not require simply getting a few details wrong; it involves the invention of dramatic and specific scenarios.

And that doesn’t suggest “discrepancies”—again, Rolling Stone’s term to explain things just not adding up—but “inventions.”

Which brings me to [a Washington Post story by T. Rees Shapiro](#), just posted about an hour ago, which, I think, is going to have an enormous impact.

Rees interviews Jackie’s three friends—the three friends whom, we now know, Sabrina Rubin Erdely did not even try to interview—and they tell a wildly different story of that night than Rubin Erdely recounted in her article.

In their first interviews about the events of that September 2012 night, the three friends separately told The Post that their recollections of the encounter diverge from how Rolling Stone portrayed the incident in a story about Jackie’s alleged gang rape at a U-Va. fraternity. The interviews also provide a richer account of Jackie’s interactions immediately after the alleged attack, and suggest that the friends are skeptical of her account.

It gets worse for Jackie—and Sabrina Rubin Erdely, who now appears to have lied when she said that “Randall” would not speak to her “out of loyalty to his frat.” (Randall tells the Post that Rolling Stone never contacted him—and that he would have spoken to Rubin Erdely if she had. Rubin Erdely, if you had a career left—now you don’t.)

But here’s where the plot really thickens:

[The three friends] said there are mounting inconsistencies with the original narrative in the magazine. The students also expressed suspicions about Jackie's allegations from that night. They said the name she provided as that of her date did not match anyone at the university, and U-Va. officials confirmed to The Post that no one by that name has attended the school.

The narrative they tell is a bit confusing, and I won't recount it here, but let me be blunt:

It is getting very hard not to think that Jackie has not invented much or most of this story out of whole cloth.

It is also getting very hard not to think that Sabrina Rubin Erdely may have made up some crucial details of her article to fit her political agenda.

In short: This may be a situation where both the writer *and* the subject of the story have lied.

If you thought this was messy before, it's about to get much, much worse. We are way past "discrepancies" now.

Washington Post

[U-Va. students challenge Rolling Stone account of alleged sexual assault](#)

by T. Rees Shapiro

It was 1 a.m. on a Saturday when the call came. A friend, a University of Virginia freshman who earlier said she had a date that evening with a handsome junior from her chemistry class, was in hysterics. Something bad had happened.

Arriving at her side, three students —“Randall,” “Andy” and “Cindy,” as they were identified in an explosive Rolling Stone account — told The Washington Post that they found their friend in tears. Jackie appeared traumatized, saying her date ended horrifically, with the older student parking his car at his fraternity, asking her to come inside and then forcing her to perform oral sex on five men.

In their first interviews about the events of that September 2012 night, the three friends separately told The Post that their recollections of the encounter diverge from how Rolling Stone [portrayed the incident in a story](#) about Jackie's alleged gang rape at a U-Va. fraternity. The interviews also provide a richer account of Jackie's interactions immediately after the alleged attack and suggest that the friends are skeptical of her account.

The scene with her friends was pivotal in the article, as it alleged that the friends were callously apathetic about a beaten, bloodied, injured classmate reporting a brutal gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. [The account alleged](#) that the students worried about the effect it might have on their social status and how it might reflect on Jackie during the rest of her collegiate career and that they suggested not reporting it. It set up the article's theme: That U-Va. has a [culture that is indifferent to rape](#).

“It didn't happen that way at all,” Andy said.

Instead, the friends remember being shocked. Although they did not notice any blood or visible injuries, they said they immediately urged Jackie to speak to police and insisted that they find her

help. Instead, they said, Jackie declined and asked to be taken back to her dorm room. They went with her — two said they spent the night — seeking to comfort Jackie in what appeared to be a moment of extreme turmoil.

“I mean, obviously, we were very concerned for her,” Andy said. “We tried to be as supportive as we could be.”

The three students agreed to be interviewed on the condition that The Post use the same aliases that appeared in Rolling Stone because of the sensitivity of the subject.

They said there are mounting inconsistencies with the original narrative in the magazine. The students also expressed suspicions about Jackie’s allegations from that night. They said the name she provided as that of her date did not match anyone at the university, and U-Va. officials confirmed to The Post that no one by that name has attended the school.

Also, photographs that were texted to one of the friends showing her date that night were actually pictures depicting one of Jackie’s high school classmates in Northern Virginia. That man, now a junior at a university in another state, confirmed that the photographs were of him and said he barely knew Jackie and hasn’t been to Charlottesville for at least six years.

The friends said they were never contacted or interviewed by the pop culture magazine’s reporters or editors. Although vilified in the article as coldly indifferent to Jackie’s ordeal, the students said they cared deeply about their friend’s well-being and safety. Randall said that they made every effort to help Jackie that night.

“She had very clearly just experienced a horrific trauma,” Randall said. “I had never seen anybody acting like she was on that night before, and I really hope I never have to again. . . . If she was acting on the night of Sept. 28, 2012, then she deserves an Oscar.”

They also said Jackie’s description of what happened to her that night differs from what she told Rolling Stone. In addition, information Jackie gave the three friends about one of her attackers, called “Drew” in the magazine’s article, [differ significantly from details](#) she later told The Post, Rolling Stone and friends from sexual assault awareness groups on campus. The three said Jackie did not specifically identify a fraternity that night.

The Rolling Stone article also said that Randall declined to be interviewed, “citing his loyalty to his own frat.” He told The Post that he was never contacted by Rolling Stone and would have agreed to an interview.

The article’s writer, Sabrina Rubin Erdely, did not respond to requests for comment this week.

Rolling Stone also declined to comment, citing an internal review of the story. The magazine has apologized for inaccuracies and discrepancies in the published report.

The 9,000-word Rolling Stone article appeared online in late November and led with the brutal account of Jackie’s alleged sexual assault. In the article, Jackie said she attended a date function at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity in the fall of 2012 with a lifeguard she said she met at the university pool. During the party, Jackie said her date, “Drew,” lured her into a dark room, where seven men gang-raped her in an attack that left her bloodied and injured. In earlier interviews with The Post, [Jackie stood by the account she gave](#) to Rolling Stone.

Palma Pustilnik, a lawyer representing Jackie, issued a statement Wednesday morning asking that journalists refrain from contacting Jackie or her family. The Post generally does not identify victims of sexual assaults and has used Jackie's real nickname at her request.

"As I am sure you all can understand, all of this has been very stressful, overwhelming and retraumatizing for Jackie and her family," Pustilnik said. She declined to answer specific questions or to elaborate in a brief interview Wednesday.

Curious about friend's date

Randall said he met Jackie shortly after arriving at U-Va. in fall 2012 and the two struck up a quick friendship. He said Jackie was interested in pursuing a romantic relationship with him; he valued her friendship but wasn't interested in more.

The three friends said Jackie soon began talking about a handsome junior from chemistry class who had a crush on her and had been asking her out on dates.

Intrigued, Jackie's friends got his phone number from her and began exchanging text messages with the mysterious upperclassman. He then raved to them about "this super smart hot" freshman who shared his love of the band Coheed and Cambria, according to the texts, which were provided to The Post.

"I really like this girl," the chemistry student wrote in one message. Some of the messages included photographs of a man with a sculpted jaw line and ocean-blue eyes.

In the text messages, the student wrote that he was jealous that another student had apparently won Jackie's attention.

"Get this she said she likes some other 1st year guy who dosnt like her and turned her down but she wont date me cause she likes him," the chemistry student wrote. "She cant turn my down fro some nerd 1st yr. she said this kid is smart and funny and worth it."

Jackie told her three friends that she accepted the upperclassman's invitation for a dinner date on Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Curious about Jackie's date, the friends said that they tried to find the student on a U-Va. database and social media but failed. Andy, Cindy and Randall all said they never met the student in person. Before Jackie's date, the friends became suspicious that perhaps they hadn't really been in contact with the chemistry student at all, they said.

U-Va. officials told The Post that no student with the name Jackie provided to her friends as her date and attacker in 2012 had ever enrolled at the university.

Randall provided The Post with pictures that Jackie's purported date had sent of himself by text message in 2012. The Post identified the person in the pictures and learned that his name does not match the one Jackie gave friends in 2012. In an interview, the man said he was Jackie's high school classmate but "never really spoke to her."

The man said he was never a U-Va. student and is not a member of any fraternity. Additionally, he said that he had not visited Charlottesville in at least six years and that he was in another state participating in an athletic event during the weekend of Sept. 28, 2012.

“I have nothing to do with it,” he said. He said it appears that the circulated photos were pulled from social media Web sites.

After the alleged attack, the chemistry student who Jackie said had taken her on the date wrote an e-mail to Randall, passing along praise that Jackie apparently had for him.

Randall said it is apparent to him that he is the “first year” student that the chemistry upperclassman described in text messages, since he had rebuffed Jackie’s advances.

Detectives investigating

Jackie ultimately told her harrowing account to sexual assault prevention groups on campus and spoke to university officials about it, although she said in interviews that she was always reluctant to identify an attacker and never felt ready to contact police. In interviews, she acknowledged that a police investigation now would be unlikely to yield criminal charges because of a lack of forensic evidence.

Emily Renda, a 2014 U-Va. graduate who survived a rape during her freshman year and now works for the university as a sexual violence specialist, has told The Post that she met Jackie in the fall of 2013.

At the time, she said, Jackie told her that she had been attacked by five students at Phi Kappa Psi. Renda said she learned months later that the number of perpetrators had changed to seven.

The Rolling Stone article roiled the college campus and set off protests, vandalism and self-reflection. U-Va. officials responded to the article by [suspending the university’s Greek system](#) until early January and promoting a broader discussion on campus about sexual assault and campus safety. University officials have declined to comment on the article or the specifics of the allegations.

In an interview Tuesday, U-Va. President Teresa A. Sullivan said her administration [will continue to cooperate with authorities](#) to investigate the case; she wants the university community to focus on prevention of sexual assault.

Capt. Gary Pleasants of the Charlottesville City police said that detectives are looking into the allegations at the request of the university. Andy and Randall said they have spoken to police about the case since the Rolling Stone article published.

“The investigation is continuing,” Pleasants said.

Last week, for the first time, Jackie revealed a name of her main alleged attacker to other friends who had known her more recently, those recent friends said. That name was different from the name she gave Andy, Cindy and Randall that first night. All three said that they had never heard the second name before learning it from a reporter.

On Friday, The Post interviewed a man whose name is similar to the second one Jackie used for her main attacker. He said that although he was a lifeguard at the same time as Jackie, he had never met her in person and never taken her out on a date. He also said that he was not a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

The fraternity at the center of the Rolling Stone allegations has said it did not host any registered social event the weekend of Sept. 28, 2012, and it said in a statement that none of its members at the time worked at the campus Aquatic and Fitness Center. A lawyer who has represented the fraternity said that no member at the time matched a description of “Drew” that Jackie gave to The Post and to the magazine.

In interviews, some of Jackie’s closest friends said they believe she suffered a horrific trauma during her freshman year, but others have expressed doubts about the account.

“I definitely believe she was sexually assaulted,” said U-Va. junior Alex Pinkleton, a sexual violence peer advocate who survived a rape and an attempted rape her first two years on campus and is a close friend of Jackie’s. “The main message we want to come out of all this is that sexual assault is a problem nationwide that we need to act in preventing. It has never been about one story. This is about the thousands of women and men who have been victims of sexual assault and have felt silenced not only by their perpetrators, but by society’s misunderstanding and stigmatization of rape.”

Rachel Soltis, who lived with Jackie during their freshman year, said that her suite mate appeared depressed and stopped going to classes. Andy, Cindy and Randall all said that Jackie’s behavior clearly changed that semester.

Jackie said in interviews last week that she wants to use her ordeal to help focus more resources on survivors to augment existing prevention efforts. She also said she wants to pursue a career in social work, helping others recover from sexual assaults.

“I didn’t think it could ever happen to me, and then it did and I had to deal with it,” Jackie said. “I didn’t think things like this happened in the real world. Maybe now, another freshman girl will decide not to go into a room with someone they don’t know very well.”

Nick Anderson in Charlottesville, Jennifer Jenkins and Julie Tate contributed to this report.

Reason

[Rolling Stone's UVA Rape Story Just Took Another Massive Hit](#)

by Robby Soave

[The Washington Post](#) just published another investigative report on the University of Virginia gang rape allegations—and whatever credibility Sabrina Rubin Erdely and *Rolling Stone* had left is totally obliterated.

WaPost spoke with the three friends who rescued Jackie after her alleged gang rape on September 28, 2012. The details they provided depart significantly from Jackie’s narrative as reported by Erdely. The friends told *WaPost* that Jackie did not appear battered or bloodied and gave a description of the attack significantly different than what was later published in *Rolling Stone*. They also clarified that it was Jackie who didn’t want to go to the police, not them:

The scene with her friends was pivotal in the article, as it alleged that the friends were callously apathetic about a beaten, bloodied, injured classmate reporting a brutal gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. The account alleged that the students worried about the effect it might have

on their social status, how it might reflect on Jackie during the rest of her collegiate career, and how they suggested not reporting it. It set up the article's theme: That U-Va. has a culture that is indifferent to rape.

"It didn't happen that way at all," Andy said.

Instead, the friends remember being shocked. Though they did not notice any blood or visible injuries, they said they immediately urged Jackie to speak to police and insisted that they find her help. Instead, they said, Jackie declined and asked to be taken back to her dorm room. They went with her — two of them said they spent the night — seeking to comfort Jackie in what appeared to be a moment of extreme turmoil.

Erdely portrayed Jackie's friends as popularity-obsessed sociopaths who deterred her from reporting the assault. They say that's not true; it was Jackie who didn't want to report it.

That may seem damning, but it's just the beginning. According to the friends, Jackie *did* name her attacker, but no one by that name attended UVA. Pictures of the attacker—the man Jackie claimed was a UVA junior who had asked her out on a date—that she provided to the friends were actually pictures of a former high school classmate who never attended UVA and "hasn't been to Charlottesville in at least six years." His name is not the one Jackie gave her friends. These details were all verified by *WaPost*.

Here's the timeline, according to the friends:

The three friends said that Jackie soon began talking about a handsome junior from chemistry class who had a crush on her and had been asking her out on dates.

Intrigued, Jackie's friends got his phone number from her and began exchanging text messages with the mysterious upperclassman. He then raved to them about "this super smart hot," freshman who shared his love of the band Coheed and Cambria, according to the texts, which were provided to *The Post*. ...

Jackie told her three friends that she accepted the upperclassman's invitation for a dinner date on Friday Sept. 28, 2012.

Curious about Jackie's date, the friends said that they failed to locate the student on a U-Va. database and social media. Andy, Cindy and Randall all said they never met the student in person. Before Jackie's date, the friends said that they became suspicious that perhaps they hadn't really been in contact with the chemistry student at all.

U-Va. officials told *The Post* that no student by the name Jackie provided to her friends as her date and attacker in 2012 had ever enrolled at the university. Randall provided *The Post* with pictures that Jackie's purported date had sent of himself by text message in 2012.

The Post identified the person in the pictures and learned that his name does not match the one Jackie provided to friends in 2012. In an interview, the man said that he was Jackie's high school classmate but that he "never really spoke to her."

The man said that he was never a U-Va. student and is not a member of any fraternity. Additionally, the man said that he had not visited Charlottesville in at least six years and that he was in another state participating in an athletic event during the weekend of Sept. 28, 2012.

If the friends' narrative is accurate, it seems doubtful that "Drew" exists at all, and is instead the product of some kind of [catfishing](#) situation. Compare that with *Rolling Stone* editor Sean Woods' [initial claim](#) that "I'm satisfied that [the perpetrators] exist and are real. We knew who they were."

One of the friends, "Randall," also told *WaPost* that Erdely lied when she wrote that he declined to be interviewed because of "loyalty to his own frat." Randall said he would have gladly given an interview but was never contacted.

The friends quoted in the latest article still say Jackie's changed behavior that first semester is evidence of some trauma she sustained. That may be true, although it is difficult to say what, exactly, that might have entailed. There is not a shred of evidence to suggest such a trauma bears any resemblance to the incredible story told by *Rolling Stone*.

Lest anyone think that this debacle is solely the fault of someone who falsely claimed rape, keep in mind that these fraudulent charges were put forth by a national magazine that made no effort to verify them, and ignored every red flag in its haste to publish the story of the century—even when Jackie refused to name her attackers and attempted to withdraw her story. Whatever the truth is—whatever the excellent reporters at *WaPost* manage to uncover next—the fact remains that *Rolling Stone* and Erdely should have known better.

The degree to which everyone involved in this travesty of journalism failed at their jobs is almost unbelievable. But unlike the story of a gang rape at UVA, we now have incontrovertible proof of it.

Daily Caller

[UVA Rape Case: At Least Rolling Stone Spelled 'Jackie' Right](#)

by Jim Treacher

The *Rolling Stone* story about a horrific gang-rape at the University of Virginia isn't as much of a disaster as its critics have claimed. It's far, far worse.

Kudos to [T. Rees Shapiro of the Washington Post](#) for doing the job Sabrina Erdely wouldn't do: Telling the truth. He actually spoke to the three friends of the woman who allegedly made the claim of gang-rape at the UVA Phi Kappa Psi house:

In their first interviews about the events of that September 2012 night, the three friends [identified by the pseudonyms "Randall," "Andy," and "Cindy"] separately told The Post that their recollections of the encounter diverge from how *Rolling Stone* portrayed the incident in a story about Jackie's alleged gang rape at a U-Va. fraternity...

The scene with her friends was pivotal in the article, as it alleged that the friends were callously apathetic about a beaten, bloodied, injured classmate reporting a brutal gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity...

"It didn't happen that way at all," Andy said...

Instead, the friends remember being shocked. Although they did not notice any blood or visible injuries, they said they immediately urged Jackie to speak to police and insisted that they find her help. Instead, they said, Jackie declined and asked to be taken back to her dorm room...

The students also expressed suspicions about Jackie's allegations from that night. They said the name she provided as that of her date did not match anyone at the university, and U-Va. officials confirmed to The Post that no one by that name has attended the school.

It gets even stranger, and even worse for Rolling Stone, Sabrina Erdely, and the defenders of this hoax:

- Jackie created a fake boyfriend, using a picture of a high-school classmate that she texted to her friends. She told them she was going on a date with him the night of the purported gang-rape. Shapiro tracked him down, and he says he remembers her from high school but they've never met.
- Jackie didn't say anything to the three that night about the Phi Psi house, and her description of "Drew," the student who allegedly orchestrated the alleged gang-rape, was different than what she later told Erdely.
- "Drew" says he's never met Jackie. In addition, the Phi Psis didn't have a party that weekend.
- "Randall," "Andy," and "Cindy" all say that nobody at Rolling Stone contacted them before the story was published.
- In addition, "Randall" says that Erdely never requested an interview with him. She claims she did, but that he turned her down, "citing his loyalty to his own frat."
- Erdely has refused all requests for comment. Her Twitter feed, which was very busy between the story's publication and the first signs of trouble, has gone completely silent.

Other than that, the story holds up.

Something bad may or may not have happened to Jackie that night. All we know at this point is that she's an unreliable narrator, and *Rolling Stone's* account is sloppy and wrong at best, willfully inaccurate at worst.

Rape is a very serious crime, which is all the more reason to make sure a rape claim has some basis in fact. All the more reason to make sure innocent people aren't smeared with a false accusation. The horror of rape doesn't excuse the abrogation of due process. Whether the charge is witchcraft, communism, or rape, the human impulse to treat an accusation as its own proof must always be resisted.

Now there's nothing left to do but wait for the lawsuits. As a Phi Psi myself, I was ready to throw these guys under the bus for committing such an awful crime, disgracing themselves and our fraternity. That is, if it was true. But it's not. They've been libeled, their house has been vandalized, and the entire Greek system at UVA has been suspended. They don't deserve that, just because feminists hate fraternities almost as much as they hate facts.

I hope my UVA brothers have fun with Jann Wenner's money.

Boston Herald

Moonbats defend fable not the facts

by Howie Carr

“Never let the facts get in the way of a good story.”

You used to hear that occasionally in newsrooms, but the difference between then and now is, in the old days, they were kidding.

Now, not so much. As the UVA rape story in the rag known as Rolling Stone has fallen apart, the “rape advocates” and moonbats have closed ranks, defending the fable rather than the facts.

A student editor at UVA, □ Julia Horowitz, stuck up for Rolling Stone Sabrina □ Rubin Erdely, writing that, “To let fact-checking define “journalist” the narrative would be a huge mistake.”

Where can Rolling Stone go to get its, uh, reputation back? May I suggest the federal courthouse on Thursday? Their heartthrob tousle-haired accused terrorist Boston Marathon bomber will be back in federal court this week.

Put another photo of the blood-stained Muslim welfare leech on the cover like you did last year, after ingesting one too many brandy Alexanders. Here’s your lead, Rolling Stone:

“Like the Beatles arriving in America in January 1964, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev left hundreds of teenage girls and Rolling Stone owner Jann Wenner swooning in ecstasy as he blew onto Northern Avenue protected by a phalanx ...”

Not familiar with Rolling Stone? What Tiger Beat used to be for teenybopper girls, Rolling Stone is for the Pajama Boy generation — a fanzine about crappy no-talent musicians who the “readers” would love to sleep with.

The UVA fiasco is what happens when they try to write something other than a mash note to a heroin addict.

Ten years ago, “60 Minutes” ran a fake story about President Bush’s Texas Air National Guard service. Turned out the memos were utterly bogus. It took bloggers about an hour to figure that out after the piece aired. For more than a week, CBS (also known as See B.S.) refused to retract the obvious hit piece on the GOP president in the heat of his re-election campaign.

See B.S.’s ultimate excuse was immortalized in a headline in The New York Times (another member of the Rolling Stone-CBS media make-it-up conglomerate). The Times quoted another Democrat as describing the memos as “Fake But Accurate.”

Fake but accurate. You can’t make this stuff up — and you don’t have to! Memo to Rolling Stone: Truth really is stranger than fiction. All those Globe columnists didn’t have to pipe it, or lift stuff from the WBUR website. There’s this amazing new invention, and I’m not talking about the Internet. I mean the telephone. It’s amazing, the stuff you can turn up with a phone, and most of the time, all it takes is one or two more calls to see if it’s true....

But now, in a decade we have gone from the “60 Minutes” fake but accurate story to Rolling Stone’s scoop, which turns out to be fake and inaccurate.

I guess you can't blame the Rolling Stone for not getting the rapist's side of the story. It's hard to find somebody who doesn't exist. His name was, or should I say wasn't, "Drew."

But Rolling Stone didn't even attempt to locate "Drew." This is what happens when a sheet no one has read since 1972 tries to reinvent itself as a happenin' website for hep cats. The latest revelation, in the Washington Post, is that the photo of "Drew" that the so-called victim showed her friends was not that of a UVA student.

It was somebody Jackie had gone to high school with. He isn't a student at UVA and he hasn't set foot in Charlottesville in six years. I'm guessing his alibi will check out.

But, but ... there's an epidemic of rape. Don't you remember the Duke lacrosse story? Er, never mind.

Why is that it's always moonbats getting caught doing this sort of thing? How'd that Lunenburg football team racist graffiti thing work out? These are the same mendacious frauds who call Fox "Faux News" and brag that they're members of the "reality-based community."

They're just not making reality like they used to. Just ask "Drew."

USA Today

[The great campus rape hoax](#)

The truth - that rape on campus is becoming less common - doesn't fit the left's narrative.

by Glenn Harlan Reynolds

Americans have been living through an enormously sensationalized college rape hoax, but as the evidence accumulates it's becoming clear that the entire thing was just a bunch of media hype and political opportunism.

No, I'm not talking about the *Rolling Stone's* lurid and [now-exploded](#) fraternity gang-rape story. Whatever the truth behind that story, it's now clear that basically nothing that *Rolling Stone* reporter Sabrina Rubin Erdely told us happened, actually happened. But the hoax is much bigger than one overwrought and perhaps entirely fictional tale of campus goings-on.

For months we've been told that there's a burgeoning "epidemic" of rape on college campuses, that the system for dealing with campus rape is "broken" and that we need new federal legislation (of course!) to deal with this disaster. Before the *Rolling Stone* story imploded, Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., were citing the Virginia gang rape as evidence of the problem, but now that the story has been exposed as bogus, they're telling us that, [regardless of that isolated incident](#), there's still a huge campus rape problem that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

And that's the real college rape hoax. Because the truth is that there's no epidemic outbreak of college rape. In fact, [rape on college campuses](#) is — like rape [everywhere else](#) in America — plummeting in frequency. And that 1-in-5 college rape number you keep hearing in the press? It's thoroughly bogus, too. (Even [the authors](#) of that study say that "We don't think one in five is a nationally representative statistic," because it sampled only two schools.)

Sen, Gillibrand also [says](#) that "women are at a greater risk of sexual assault as soon as they step onto a college campus."

The truth — and, since she's a politician, maybe that shouldn't be such a surprise — is exactly the opposite. According to the [Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), the rate of rape and sexual assault is lower for college students (at 6.1 per 1,000) than for non-students (7.6 per 1,000). (Note: not 1 in 5). What's more, between 1997 and 2013, rape against women dropped by about 50%, in keeping with a more general drop in violent crime nationally.

Upshot: Women on campus aren't at more risk for sexual assault, and their risk is nothing like the bogus 1-in-5 statistic bandied about by politicians and activists. So why is this non-crisis getting so much press?

It's getting press because it suits the interests of those pushing the story. For Gillibrand and McCaskill, it's a woman-related story that helps boost their status as female senators. It ties in with the "[war on women](#)" theme that Democrats have been boosting since 2012, and will presumably roll out once again in 2016 in support of Hillary Clinton, or perhaps Elizabeth Warren. And University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan hasn't apologized for her action in [suspending all fraternities](#) (and sororities) on the basis of a bogus story in *Rolling Stone*. Nor has she apologized for the [mob mentality](#) on campus that saw arrests, vandalism and protests at a [fraternity house](#) based, again, on a single bogus report. Instead, she's doubling down on the narrative.

This kind of hysteria may be ugly, but for campus activists and bureaucrats it's a source of power: If there's a "campus rape crisis," that means that we need new rules, bigger budgets, and expanded power and self-importance for all involved, with the added advantage of letting you call your political opponents (or anyone who threatens funding) "pro rape." If we focus on the truth, however — rapidly declining rape rates already, without any particular "crisis" programs in place — then voters, taxpayers, and university trustees will probably decide to invest resources elsewhere. So for politicians and activists, a phony crisis beats no crisis.

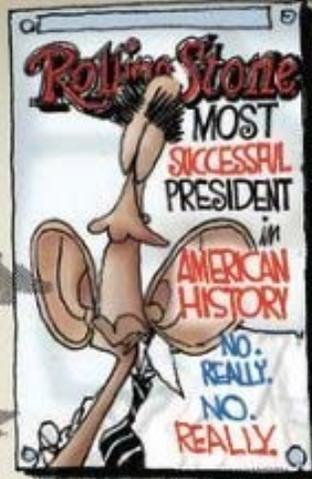
At least until people catch on. As George Washington University law professor John Banzhaf notes, "After a while, the boy who cried wolf wasn't believed, and the women who cry rape may likewise not be believed, especially with the accusations of rape at Duke University and the University of Virginia fresh in people's minds."

Even one rape is too many, of course, on or off of campus. But when activists and politicians try to gin up a phony crisis, public trust is likely to be a major casualty. It's almost as if helping actual rape victims is the last thing on these people's minds.

Glenn Harlan Reynolds, a University of Tennessee law professor, is the author of [The New School: How the Information Age Will Save American Education from Itself](#).

Stone

MAGAZINE



OBVIOUSLY, They DIDNT CHECK the SOURCING on THIS STORY EITHER.

