Rape ‘victims’ sometimes do lie

The tragic reality that rape is the most underreported of crimes must not blind us to the equally important reality that rape is also the most falsely reported of crimes.

In the first case a woman reported being abducted and raped by a man who hid in her car as she gave a talk to a chemical dependency treatment group at a local high school. When police checked the story, they found that the treatment group had never heard of her and that she didn’t own a car.

In the second case, a 16-year-old girl claimed to have been abducted at a downtown bus stop, imprisoned in a closet and sexually assaulted by a man and his son over a 33-hour period. In reality, the woman had been seen with her boyfriend several times over the 33-hour period and had apparently been bruised by him.

In both cases the women gave police detailed descriptions of their attackers and in both cases the alleged assailants were black.

In Rhode Island, a college student reported that her former boyfriend raped her at gunpoint. She admitted that she made up the entire story after learning that the man she accused was 1,500 miles away at the time.

In New York, a woman who claimed she was raped at gunpoint was arrested after it was discovered that she had filed 11 false reports of rape.

In Nebraska, a woman was required to broadcast an apology to a man she had falsely accused of raping her in order to “get the attention of her husband.”

In Great Britain, a number of highly publicized rape accusations turned out to be false. In one case, a jilted nurse falsely accused her former lover of beating her and also falsely accused his best friend of raping her.

After analyzing several such cases, Angela Lambert, a British journalist, concluded that there are “plenty of reasons why a woman might falsely accuse a man of rape.”

She went on to argue that “the belief that all women are truthful and all men are rapists does not prove us good feminists; quite the contrary. It reveals us as prejudiced, narrow-minded and as bigoted as any racist.”

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Moreover, “acquaintance” or “date” rape is an area in which differing perceptions may produce inadvertently false testimony about actions that may well fall into the gray area between aggressive seduction and criminal sexual assault.

When it comes to sexual encounters, both men and women often “remember” events differently from what a videotape would show.

The truth-testing mechanisms of our criminal justice system must not be compromised in the service of some “politically correct” nonsense that when it comes to rape only women always tell the truth.

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