

# TELLY RAPE PROBE GIRL PLACED IN MENTAL CARE

THE rape enquiry woman at the centre of the Thames Valley police television row has been committed to a mental hospital.

The 24-year-old was picked up by police on Monday after creating a disturbance in Reading town centre. She was taken to the Castle Street headquarters, examined by a doctor and then committed to a local hospital.

Now the woman's anguished mother has drama-

## EXCLUSIVE

tically claimed that the blaze of publicity surrounding the controversy has pushed her daughter over the top.

She told the *Chronicle* at her Reading home yesterday (Thursday): "It is absolutely terrible what has happened. It came as a direct result of all the publicity which was outrageous. It has caused enough trouble already. Enough has been said and I want to leave it at that."

The girl has been a patient at mental hospitals in the past but her worried mother is convinced pressure following the film has proved too much.

A Thames Valley police spokesman confirmed the woman was arrested on Monday for causing a nuisance in Reading.

He said she was immediately taken to the town centre headquarters where she was seen by doctors.

And after lengthy questioning and examination of the woman, they committed her to a mental hospital.

The news comes just three weeks after the controversial screening of the BBC's "Police" documentary on rape.

In the film the girl was seen being subjected to a tough grilling by Reading based detectives after she registered a rape complaint.

The documentary sparked off a storm of fury and following public outcry Thames Valley police chiefs revealed they had conducted an in-depth review of how they handle rape cases.

Following the film, angry women protesters marched on Reading Police station demanding changes in police procedures. And this week they again reacted angrily to the news that the woman had been committed to a mental hospital.

A spokesman for Reading University Students Union Karen Talbot told us: "It is a very sad case. The lady was supposed to have a history of mental illness and the strain must have been considerable. The strains were obviously too much and she is very unfortunate. To some extent it was an exceptional case because of her history, but treatment like that did nothing to help her problem."

In a special statement for the *Chronicle*, co-producers of the documentary, Roger Graef and Charles Stewart, said: "Naturally we are con-

## Report

### SUE WOOD - MARK GONNELLA

cerned about any further distress this experience may have caused.

"Throughout our dealings with the case we have at all times kept our promise to the

girl and her mother to make every possible effort to keep the girl's identity secret, whilst still being able to show what we believe is a socially important film.

"It has to be remembered that the decision to talk to the Press after transmission was made by the girl and her family following intense pressure from newspaper men."