

A Sisyphean Task: Anti-Rape Activism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1970s-1990s
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As UNC alumnae Annie Clark and Andrea Pino created a national Title IX network and Emma Sulkowicz carried her mattress across the campus of Columbia University, the media—and the public—began paying attention to student anti-rape activists and their movement to end sexual violence on college campuses. While the unprecedented media coverage may be new, the problem—campus sexual assault—and the subsequent pushback are not. National conversation surrounding the campus rape epidemic and students' efforts to address it has reached a peak in recent years, but the student anti-rape movement has actually been active on college campuses for decades. At UNC, there were three waves of activism—the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s—that were characterized by a specific definition of the problem of rape that determined the ways in which students and administrators chose to address it. Each period witnessed a degree of progress, but also a degree of setbacks that were often caused by the tendency of activists and University officials to simplify an extremely complex problem. Acknowledging the history of this issue is essential to understanding our current situation. The goal of my project is to not only



document this history, but to illuminate it and its potential usefulness to the present.
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