**Bystander Effect Cases**

**The Kitty Genovese Case**

On March 13, 1964, in Queens, NY, Catherine Genovese was entering her apartment building at about 3:15 AM, from work. She was stabbed twice in the back by Winston Moseley, a heavy machine operator, who later explained that he simply “wanted to kill a woman.”

Genovese screamed, “Oh, my God! He stabbed me! Help me!” and collapsed. Several neighbors in surrounding buildings reported hearing her voice, but decided it was probably just a drunken brawl or lovers’ spat. One man shouted from his window, “Let that girl alone!” which scared Moseley away.

This neighbor was sure to have seen Genovese crawling across the street, under a streetlight, to her apartment, but did nothing to help her. Witnesses saw Moseley drive away, then return about 10 minutes later. He had put on a wider-rimmed hat to hide his face, and searched for Genovese in the parking lot, the train station, and the apartment complex, for 10 minutes, before finding her prone in the external hallway at the rear of the building, where the door was locked. She could not get in.

Moseley proceeded to stab her to death, inflicting multiple wounds in her hands and forearms, indicating that she tried to fight him off. She finally succumbed and he raped her as she lay dying. He then stole around $50 from her and fled. The whole incident spanned 30 minutes.

A newspaper blasted it the next day as “Thirty-eight Who Saw Murder Didn’t Call Police,” but this is inaccurate. There were approximately 12 people who claimed to have seen the first attack. Many of them later stated that they “just didn’t want to get involved.” A simple phone call to the police would have sufficed, but everyone assumed someone else would do it.

**Dr. Wolfgang Friedmann**

On the 20th September, 1972 Dr. Wolfgang G. Friedmann, a professor of international law, was robbed and stabbed to death, in broad daylight. He was just three blocks away from Columbia University, where he had just finished a day's teaching.

As he lay bleeding to death on the sidewalk, passers-by ignored his cries for help, and for some time no one even thought of calling the police. "The jungle could not be more unfeeling towards its creatures," said The New York Times in a bitter editorial on the killing.

**The Richmond High School Incident, California**

At about 9:30 p.m. on October 27, 2009, at the conclusion of the homecoming dance, a classmate invited the victim, a 15-year-old girl, to join a group of males, ranging in ages from 15 to mid-20s, who were drinking alcohol in a dark courtyard on campus. The female victim drank a large amount of brandy, and was propositioned for sex by the alleged attackers. When the victim refused, she was placed on a nearby cement bench and continuously beaten and raped by 10 males for 2½ hours, while the High School Homecoming Dance was taking place inside the gymnasium.

A local resident heard of the attack from her boyfriend and immediately contacted the police. The victim was found unconscious under a picnic table and was air-lifted to a hospital in critical condition. She was released from the hospital on Wednesday, October 28.

All the while ten others watched the assault without calling 911 to report it. The crowd eventually numbered more than 20, and no one called the police. No one went inside to tell a security guard or a policeman, several of which were on campus at the time.

Salvador Rodriguez, a bystander who witnessed the events describes the assault:

*They were kicking her in her head and they were beating her up, robbing her and ripping her clothes off; it's something you can't get out your mind. I saw people, like, dehumanizing her; I saw some pretty crazy stuff. She was pretty quiet; I thought she was like dead for a minute but then I saw her moving around. I feel like I could have done something but I don't feel like I have any responsibility for anything that happened.*

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| What is your reaction to these cases? Why didn’t anyone help? |