INTRODUCTION
Research has documented the profound negative impact of betrayal associated with interpersonal traumas such as sexual assault (Betrayal Trauma Theory; Freyd, 1994, 1997). We posit that the harm of sexual assault may be made much worse by institutional failure to prevent sexual assault or respond supportively when it occurs -- what we call "institutional betrayal." In the current study we examined the involvement of institutions (e.g., universities, churches, fraternities) in events surrounding experiences of sexual assault with a novel instrument, the Institutional Betrayal Questionnaire (IBQ). Specifically we examined the following questions:

How common is institutional betrayal and what does it typically look like?
Are experiences of sexual assault exacerbated by institutional betrayal?

METHODS
Sample: Using the University of Oregon human subjects pool we collected data from female college students (N=345). Three self-report measures were completed via an online survey:

Sexual Assault: SES (Koss & Oros, 1982)
Institutional Betrayal: IBQ (author created)
Trauma Symptoms: TSC-40 (Briere & Runtz, 1989)

RESULTS
68% of the sample reporting experiencing some form of unwanted sexual experience, with many women reporting several experiences (M=3.06, SD=2.17).
46% of women who experienced sexual assault also reported experiencing at least one form of institutional betrayal. As shown in Figure 1, a university or related institution such as a residence hall was the most frequently identified institution (56%).
Over half (56%) of women who experienced institutional betrayal reported no longer being associated with the betraying institution.

RESULTS, CONT.
Institutional betrayal was assessed by seven items on the IBQ which asked about the ways in which an institution was involved in events surrounding a sexual assault. Figure 2 displays these items, along with the frequency at which they were endorsed. Most common was the report that an institution made sexual assault seem common or like no big deal.

CONCLUSIONS
Institutional betrayal was a common experience among sexually assaulted women. Although a range of institutions were implicated, the most frequently named was a university or college. This is perhaps unsurprising, given the college sample. Betrayal most frequently took the form of complicity in sexual assault – both active (creating environments conducive to sexual assault) and passive (failing to take steps to prevent assault). Experiencing institutional betrayal was associated with appreciably negative outcomes. Women who experienced institutional betrayal frequently reported leaving these institutions which were considered important in their lives previously. Additionally, in keeping with Betrayal Trauma Theory, women who experienced institutional betrayal also reported more severe trauma symptoms following sexual assault.