



For Immediate Release

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5280 Article on Air Force Rape Scandal to be Featured on ABC's 20/20

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Maximillian Potter's compelling report on the Air Force Academy rape scandal in the February/March 2004 issue of *5280* will be the focus of an upcoming segment on the ABC TV newsmagazine *20/20*. The segment is scheduled to air this Friday (*20/20* airs locally on Channel 7, KMGH-TV, at 9 p.m.)

Potter's story raises important questions about the first case the military has chosen to prosecute in the scandal, including the fact that the families of both the accused and the alleged victim fear that the prosecution has more to do with politics than justice. The *5280* article also breaks new ground in the coverage of this ongoing scandal in three important ways:

- It features the first interview with Douglas Meester, the cadet accused of raping a freshman student who was said to be too drunk to resist his advances. the 20-year-old Meester has been likened to a necrophiliac in the press, and faces life in prison if convicted. *5280's* article marks the first time he has publicly responded to the charges, in either local or national media.
- Air Force Academy documents first obtained by *5280* provide new insights into the events of that evening, and raise serious questions about the common perceptions of the case.
- Finally, and perhaps most explosively, the story reveals that, at a hearing next month, Meester's attorney will charge that military officials conspired to prosecute this case first in an effort to undermine the credibility of all the other Air Force Academy women who claim to have been raped.

5280 cooperated with *20/20* on the production of the TV report, and Potter is expected to appear in the segment. Potter is an award-winning journalist, who recently joined *5280* in the newly created position of Executive Editor. He previously was a staff writer at *GQ*, *Premiere*, and *Philadelphia* magazines. His work has also appeared in a variety of other leading publications including *Outside*, *Details*, *Arena*, and the *Chicago Reader*.

5280: Denver's Mile-High Magazine is the essential guide to dining, arts, entertainment, and living well in the Mile-High City. First published in July 1993, the magazine now has a total distribution of more than 80,000, making it the largest largest local or regional magazine produced in Colorado.

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