The black and white of SEXUAL ASSAULT

Do You Know the Answers?

True or False:

1. Rape is motivated by sexual desire.
   
   False: Rape is an act of violence not sexual passion. It is an attempt to hurt and humiliate, using sex as the weapon.

2. Most women are raped by strangers in high risk situations – hitchhiking, walking alone at night, going alone to a bar.

   False: Rapes can happen in these situations but, approximately one-third of all victims are attacked in their homes and in over half the reported rapes, women know their attackers.

3. Women invite rape by dressing seductively.

   False: Victims do not cause rape. It can happen to anyone...children, grandmothers, students, working women, mothers, wives, the rich and the poor. In fact, police believe that in the stranger
Reduce the Risk of Becoming a Rape Victim.

AT HOME

• Make sure all windows and doors in your home can be locked securely, particularly sliding glass doors. Use the locks. Keep entrances well lit.
• Check the identification of any sales or service person(s) before letting him in.
• Never give the impression that you are at home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door.
• Don't let any stranger into your home when you're alone, no matter what the reason or how dire the emergency is supposed to be. Offer to make an emergency phone call while they wait outside.
• Get to know your neighbours, someone you can turn to if you're worried.

WHILE WALKING

• Be alert to your surroundings and people around you.
• Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
• Walk confidently at a steady pace on the side of the street facing traffic.

WHILE DRIVING

• Keep your car in good working order and the gas tank at least half full.
• Park in well-lit areas and lock the doors, even if you'll only be gone a short time.
• Drive with all doors locked.
• Never pick up hitchhikers.
• If you see another motorist in trouble, don't stop. Help by going to the nearest telephone and calling the police for assistance.
• If you are being followed, don't drive home. Go to the nearest police or fire station. Or drive to an open gas station or other business where you can safely call the police.
• Don't leave your car unless you are certain you can get inside the building safely. Try to obtain the license plate number and description of the car following you.

IF YOU'RE ATTACKED

• Keep your head. Stay as calm as possible, think rationally and evaluate your resources and options.
• It may be more advisable to submit than to resist and risk severe injury or death. You will have to make this decision based on the circumstances. But don't resist if the attacker has a weapon.
• Keep assessing the situation as it is happening. If one strategy doesn't work, try another. Possible options in addition to nonresistance are negotiating, stalling for time, distracting the assailant and fleeing to a safe place, verbal assertiveness, screaming to attract attention and physical resistance.
• You may be able to turn the attacker off with bizarre behavior such as throwing up or acting crazy.

AFTER AN ASSAULT OR RAPE.

• Go to a safe place and call the police. The sooner you make the report the greater the chances the attacker will be caught.
• Do not shower, bathe, douche or destroy any of the clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault.
• Do not disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred.
• Go to a hospital emergency room for medical care. Ask the examining doctor to make a note of all injuries received as a result of the rape. Make sure you are evaluated for the risks of pregnancy and venereal disease.
• Write down a description of the attacker.
• Call someone to be with you, you should not be alone.
Should you be a victim of rape or sexual assault or know of someone who is a victim always call Campus Security and make a report to the 24 hour Campus Security Operations Control Room at 417-4164 or 417-4003 or 417-4163.

The Office of Student Services can also be contacted at 417-4165. They provide free psychological counselling and medical services to students as needed.