



## *Date Rape*

Did you know that 35 to 75 percent of all rapes against women are committed by men that know their victims? This form of sexual assault, commonly known as date or acquaintance rape, is one of the least reported crimes. Part of the reason that this is so is because many women do not realize that they are being illegally victimized since the act is committed by someone they know.

Unfortunately, date rape is a common crime in our society, and it often occurs in a college environment. A nationwide study which was conducted on college campuses revealed some astounding findings:

- 52% of women students have experienced some form of sexual victimization.
- 1 in 8 college women have been victims of rape.
- 1 in 12 college men admitted to sexually abusing women but did not consider themselves rapists.
- Of the women raped, almost 75% didn't identify it as such.
- 47% of rapes were by first or casual dates or by romantic acquaintances.
- Over 1/3 of the women didn't discuss the rape with anyone, and over 90% didn't report it to the police.

The following signs, which you should look for in a date, may indicate that he could be capable of sexual assault: hostility toward women, misconceptions about women and their needs, domineering personality and unrealistic views of women. It is important for women to communicate their sexual expectations openly and reject the sexual stereotype that defines them as passive and compliant. Women who assert themselves and their sexual rights may be less likely to receive unwanted sexual advances.

Men should know that they do not have the right to pressure or force a woman to have sex, even if: he paid for dinner or a night out; she agrees to have sex and then changes her mind; he met her at a bar; she dresses provocatively; he has had sex with her before or he thinks women enjoy being forced to have sex.

If you are a victim of date rape, remember that it is not your fault! There is nothing for you to feel ashamed of or guilty about. And remember, reporting date rape may lessen the chance of it happening to other women.

For help in overcoming the effects of rape, seek counseling. The **Counseling Center** offers supportive counseling services and referrals for victims of rape or sexual abuse. Call **974- 2831** for more information. All services are confidential.

*For more information or assistance:*

*USF students may call 974-2831;*

*Faculty and staff may call 974-5469*