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PITTSBURGH ACTION AGAINST RAPE

81 South 19th St. | Pittsburgh | PA | 15203

412-431-5665

www.paar.net

September 2009



Why? Rape in our culture

Why did she go to his room? Why did she dress that way? Why was she drinking alcohol? Why did she leave with him?

After a rape allegation, the questions always focus upon the victim's behavior. It is about why she went to his room. Why she dressed so "provocatively." Why she was drinking so much. Why she left with him. It is rarely about why he felt it was acceptable to force a woman to have sex.

While we at PAAR would certainly argue that it is wrong and unjust,

Issue:8

In This Issue

[PAAR's Fall Groups](#)

[PAAR in the community!](#)

[Spotlight on a great website for teens](#)

[Spotlight on a great website for teens!](#)

Based upon Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape's teen sexual violence prevention campaign, this site allows visitors to listen to clips from the Xpose CD, read excerpts of the TEENesteem magazine, test their knowledge of sexual violence, learn what

it is the current reality that our society places the onus of responsibility for sexual assault on the victim.

The victim stands in the spotlight of public scrutiny when reporting rape. Many victims know this, which is why they don't go to the emergency room, don't report rape to the police, don't tell their friends and families, don't press charges. So many victims. So much pain and trauma, untreated.

We are all part of the solution. We must believe the victim. We must support the victim. This is hard, given that we are programmed to question, dismiss and disbelieve. PAAR believes, supports and assists the victim. We will always believe, support and assist the victim.

Do people sometimes lie? Make false accusations? Yes, of course they do, as in all things. Some lie because of their own history of pain and trauma. Others are more calculated. Regardless, those lies hurt all of us. Those lies make it harder for the vast majority of victims, whose pain is real.

Unfortunately, there are dishonest individuals. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that rape is THE most underreported crime, and that the victims who never speak out far outnumber those who are less than truthful. Our struggle, our purpose, our intense focus is on supporting and believing victims.

Real victims continue to exist, and they need for us to believe.

Fall lecture series ready to start!

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO G-20 SUMMIT ACTIVITIES, THE SEPTEMBER 23RD LECTURE HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Information and Support Lecture Series: Starts 9/9/09, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm, and runs for 8 weeks.

September 9th, 2009-Getting things different: Moving from long

to do if victimized, and find out how to advocate for change. This is a great resource for parents to look over with their kids, anyone who works with teenagers, and the teens will love it. It is interactive, full of music and great activities. Visit today!

www.teenpcar.org

Join Our Mailing List!

term effects into healing

September 16th, 2009-Reclaiming personal power

September 23rd, 2009---CANCELED

September 30th, 2009-Dissociation: Understanding and managing it

October 7th, 2009-PTSD: What it is and what it means to you

October 14th, 2009-Working through the criminal courts: Options and information

October 21st-Substance abuse

October 28th, 2009-Boundaries and assertiveness

November 4th, 2009- Managing triggers and flashbacks

Please call for more information about any of these groups.
PAAR's office number is 412-431-5665
Start thinking about them!

Tailgating with PAAR

When: Saturday September 12, 2009

Where: North Park, Roosevelt Pavillion

Time: 1:00pm-6:00pm

Come nosh on hotdogs, wings, sauerkraut, kielbasa and other flavors of Pittsburgh. There will be live music, games, face painting and more. Wear your black and gold!!

Tickets: \$25 per adult, or \$40 per couple. Children under 8 free. Proceeds benefit PAAR. Please call 412-431-5665 for more information, or click on flier below.



Pittsburgh Action Against Rape

TAKE ACTION

Thanks to all who participated in last month's Take Action Test yourself.

The correct answer to the quiz was False. Sexual assault in Pennsylvania is sex without consent, no physical force is necessary.

September test yourself!

With regard to "getting consent" for sexual activity, the following are all true, except:

- Consent is the responsibility of both individuals involved.
- Giving consent to kiss, does not equal consent to go any further.

- c) If the answer is "I don't know", it is best to stop!
d) If he/she says nothing, consent is implied.

Email your answers to PAAR's Education & Training Program Director, Julie Evans at juliee@paar.net. Be the 3rd individual to answer correctly and receive the got consent? prize pack:got consent? t-shirt, magnet, I Ask First mini button, chip clip post-its and educational handouts. When answering please remember to include your address so we can send your prize!

Accept the challenge...Take Action and intervene when you witness acts of sexual violence.

This Affects Everyone. What will U do about it? www.paar.net



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