

# CAMPUS SECURITY

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It is no secret that crime and violence are on the increase. One need only to read the newspaper or tune in to the media to reach this conclusion. Nevertheless, school campuses are generally safe places to study, work, and play, or even to live. This is true, in spite of the few incidents that occasionally grab the headlines such as the elementary schoolyard shooting in Stockton, California, a few years ago, or the recent murder of a student in a Virginia university dormitory.

However, crime on U.S. campuses has increased to the point that Congress passed the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act in 1990, requiring institutions of higher education receiving federal assistance to annually report information about crimes occurring on campus. They must also make this information available to students

and prospective students before each school quarter or semester.<sup>1</sup>

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, some 2,400 colleges and universities reported more than 7,500 violent crimes the first year under the new federal law. That total included 30 murders, nearly 1,000 rapes, and more than 1,800 robberies. Those crimes were vastly outnumbered, however, by property crimes.<sup>2</sup> F.B.I. crime statistics show that property crimes (which include larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) on U.S. campuses totaled more than 129,000 during 1992.<sup>3</sup>

By comparison, there are nearly 35 million personal and household crimes in the United States each year. There is a personal theft every 2.5 seconds. An attack on a woman happens every 13 seconds. One in every 100 city dwellers

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and one in every 200 suburbanites becomes a crime victim each year.<sup>4</sup>

Seventh-day Adventist schools have a high moral and legal obligation to provide safe places to study and work. More and more, courts are finding owners and operators of public places responsible for damages and injuries due to crime if they knew, or should have known, a crime could be committed and did not take steps to prevent it, or at least to warn about the possibility. Administrators are urged to study and find ways to reduce the likelihood that crime will affect their students and employees. Contingency planning is important, particularly in today's highly litigious society. While a contingency plan may be new for some Seventh-day Adventist schools, the Adventist Church has had a contingency plan for many years: The Adventist Disaster Response (ADR). While ADR is not generally involved in responses to crime-caused crises, it does offer an excellent example of contingency planning. Its capacity for quick response was dramatically demonstrated following Hurricane Andrew. Not only was suffering and hardship relieved, but the church also received valuable public recognition.<sup>5</sup>

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. The common criminal is looking for an easy prey. In this article, we will explore tips or methods that may be useful to include in a student handbook or to present in an assembly on crime prevention. These tips can help reduce the chances that people on your campus will be victimized.

### On Foot

Try to walk with another person, especially at night. Use common sense,

and trust your instincts; if things seem unsafe, they probably are.

Indoors, avoid dark, deserted hallways, stairwells, and bathrooms. Outdoors, avoid jogging or biking alone. Don't listen to your favorite tunes on a headset stereo; it may make you less alert to your surroundings. Avoid walking close to doorways or trees and bushes at night. Attackers sometimes lie in wait for passers-by. Keep alert, walking with your head up and your eyes scanning the area. Assume an air of

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confidence. Attackers look for a person who appears weak or timid.

Occasionally glance behind to see if anyone is following you. If you think you are being followed, cross the street or change direction. If it still appears that you are being followed, turn around, alerting the person that you know what he is doing. Make a detailed mental note of the person's description (sex, height, build, age, race or color, color of hair, clothing, etc.). If pursued, run to the nearest occupied building, such as a store or residence. Do something to attract attention.

If an attacker demands your purse or other personal property, give it to him. If attacked, scream and fight, unless the

attacker has a weapon. Don't be afraid to hurt him. Inflict pain any way you can. This is no time to be polite. Women usually lack upper body strength, so go for the breakable bones of the nose and the tops of the feet. Stomp hard on the attacker's feet, severely raking his shins with your shoe sole. Avoid kicking upward; this makes it easy to grab your foot and upset your balance. A hard knee-kick to the groin will temporarily disable a man.

If the assailant tries to force you into a car, most authorities advise that you refuse, using force if necessary.<sup>6</sup> (This is, of course, a personal decision.) Abducted persons are rarely found alive.

Do anything possible to get away. Break free and run if you can, screaming all the while. If the attacker grabs your clothing, slip out of it if you can. Try to remain conscious to avoid being abducted. Women used to be taught not to resist when threatened with rape. Newer studies show that it is usually better to fight. Crying and pleading rarely do any good.<sup>7</sup>

### Date Rape

Sometimes called acquaintance rape, this type of assault accounts for the majority of rapes committed. Of the more than 700,000 women in America who were raped this past year, only 22 percent were attacked by strangers. The other 78 percent knew their assailants—family members, acquaintances, or boyfriends.<sup>8</sup> Only 16 percent of rapes are reported,<sup>9</sup> and date rape may be even more likely than other types of sexual assault to go unreported.

Self-protection against date rape is usually quite different than against an attack by a stranger. Here are a few suggestions to reduce the likelihood of this

type of assault:

- Avoid being alone with a dating partner until you know him fairly well.

- Don't date a man whose behavior is domineering or anti-social.

- If you feel uncomfortable about a potential date or activity, follow your instincts.

- Choose dating activities carefully.

Don't leave it up to the man to make all the decisions. Be self-confident and assertive. If a date seems to be getting out of control, terminate it.

- Select your friends and associates with care. Before you go out with a group, think about potential problems, such as transportation.

- Don't attend parties that involve alcohol or drugs.

- Always carry money for telephone calls and a taxi ride home.

Date rape can cause more guilt feelings in a woman than an attack by a stranger because she may blame herself for allowing things to progress that far, or for letting herself get into the situation. Feeling responsible, she may not tell anyone and thus fail to obtain the support she needs. Another reason date rape has the potential for great emotional harm is because the woman feels betrayed by someone she trusted.

Women need some basic guidelines to keep them from getting into a situation where date rape may occur. They should be taught that any trespass against their person is not to be tolerated, and that the institution will not tolerate it, either.

Young men should be taught to understand their own emotions and to respect the feelings of others. Just because they paid for an evening's entertainment doesn't give them the right to demand sex from their date. And when a

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woman refuses, the man should respect her wishes. As one woman put it, "Just which part of NO don't you understand?"

It is important for both young men and young women to attend seminars dealing with subjects such as understanding the opposite sex, date rape, and recommended dating activities. Residence hall deans, deans of students, and campus chaplains can work together to promote healthy relationships between the sexes.<sup>10</sup>

### Weapons

Personal weapons are generally not recommended. Unless you are highly proficient, the attacker may take the weapon away and use it against you. Self-protection sprays may be useful; but again, one must know how to use them. Before purchasing one, be sure to check local laws for the area where you will carry it. Law enforcement officials recommend pepper-type sprays over Mace or its equivalent. If you are nervous, carry the spray in your hand.<sup>11</sup> Whistles and battery-powered alarms are also useful for self-protection. Joggers or walkers may want to carry a small, mus-

cle-building weight in each hand.

These should be made of cast iron, rather than weighted plastic or shot-filled bags, so that a would-be assailant thinks twice before attacking.

### Elevators

Use in public buildings with caution. Before boarding, look at the other passengers. If someone acts suspicious, say you are waiting for a friend. If attacked while in an elevator, do not press the emergency button, or the car will stop between floors. Instead, press as many floor buttons as possible. Every time the car stops and the doors open, scream and try to get off.<sup>12</sup>

### Purses and Wallets

To foil a pickpocket or purse-snatcher, carry your purse close to you, tucked under your arm. If possible, keep it under your coat. Carry your wallet in a front pocket, with your hand inside or over the pocket. As already mentioned, if you are threatened, give up whatever property the criminal wants. Your life is worth more than any material things.

### Cars

When driving, keep alert to all traffic conditions. Don't allow yourself to become boxed in. Allow enough space between your car and the ones ahead to allow you to take evasive action, if necessary. If you are bumped by another car, don't stop. Drive to a service station or similar occupied area. If the other vehicle tries to prevent you from driving away, honk your horn, flash your headlights off and on, or do anything you can to attract the attention of others, but keep driving.

## Suggestions for Administrators

Most of the information in this article deals with personal safety for campus residents and employees. Administrators should use the ideas to develop and implement policies that make their campuses safer places to work, study, and reside. Here are some suggestions to consider:

**Contingency Plans.** Set up a formal plan to deal with emergencies or crises before they arise.

**Rape Prevention and Personal Safety Awareness Seminars.** Conduct these kinds of programs frequently. Deans of students or residence deans can initiate such seminars. If they do not feel qualified, they can organize the seminar and arrange for experienced people to make the presentations.

Contingency plans are especially important in the case of rape. When a woman experiences a rape or attempted sexual assault, this causes severe emotional trauma. Healing takes a long time, and without skilled care, the victim may be scarred for life. Larger schools can call on staff psychologists or social workers to aid rape victims. Above all, however, the counselor must be trained in rape crisis therapy. For too long, women have been made to feel that they contributed to their own rapes by something they did or did not do. The primary concern should be helping the victim. Administrators should never try to cover up evidence or discourage a woman from reporting a rape, regardless of the identity of the person being accused.

**Brochures.** The suggestions in this article and others may be developed into brochures or handouts for students, faculty, and staff.

**Escort Services and Campus Security.** Provide an escort service for anyone who desires it. Encourage women to take advantage of this service, particularly at night. Larger schools or those in high-crime areas should consider establishing a security department with a visible presence on campus. Call boxes located at strategic points can facilitate speedy assistance from campus security.

The campus security department should see as its primary responsibility to ensure the safety and well being of those who study and work on the school campus, with parking enforcement and traffic control being secondary in importance. They should cultivate a good working relationship with local law enforcement agencies.

**Lighting.** Good lighting should surround all occupied buildings and be installed in interior areas such as stairwells, hallways, and entrances. Adequate lighting should also be provided anywhere that foot traffic may be expected, such as sidewalks and parking lots. Take a group of men and women and walk around the campus after dark, noting the kinds of lighting needed. A reputable consultant can advise about equipment and installation.

**Fencing.** Some locations, particularly mission schools or campuses in high crime areas, may require security fencing and sturdy gates at guarded entrances.

**Residence Hall Security.** A study of the local crime statistics may suggest the need to install security systems in dormitories. Protection should entail more than a simple burglar alarm. Helpful security devices include closed-circuit TV, double-barrier locked entrances with alarm systems, etc. Reputable installers can help you design a security system, but select a company with care, so that you get bona fide information rather than a sales pitch. Of course, security systems must not interfere with emergency evacuation (beware of barring windows and doors).

Keep the car windows closed and the doors locked. If it is too warm, open a rear side window a bit, but not enough for a person to reach in. Open the driver's window as well, but be prepared to roll it up quickly if necessary. Never talk to or pick up a hitchhiker.

Park only in well-lighted areas. Always lock your car before you leave it. Rapists and other thugs sometimes hang out in mall and shopping center parking lots. When walking to and from your car, stay in the thoroughfares, avoiding the spaces between cars whenever possi-

ble. As you approach your car, observe whether anyone is lying beneath it. Attackers have been known to lie under a car and slash the driver's ankle with a knife, severing the Achilles tendon, which prevents the person from running. Although many modern cars are too low to harbor someone under their frame, it still pays to be alert.

Look inside before opening the door. This may not be easy when it is dark, unless the car is a late model equipped with door locks or handles that turn on the interior lights when touched. A small key-chain flashlight or pocket penlight can be useful. Lacking these, check inside when you open the door and the dome light comes on. Be sure to observe whether someone is crouched on the floor behind the front seat. If someone is in the car, slam the door and run.

Of course, it is important to keep the interior light and other equipment in good working condition. A dead battery or empty fuel tank is an invitation for unscrupulous persons to victimize you.

### Car Breakdowns

Good vehicle maintenance is important in preventing breakdowns, but sooner or later, most mechanical equipment will fail. To improve your odds, maintain your automobile according to the requirements in the owner's manual. Keep a close watch on the fuel gauge; fill it when it reaches the halfway mark. Check the oil level at least every other time you fill the fuel tank. While the hood is up, inspect the drive belts and hoses for signs of cracking and wear. Check battery cable connections for tightness and corrosion. Check engine coolant level in the overflow reservoir. Visually inspect tires, turn signals, mirrors, lights, and windshield wipers each time the car is driven. Correct problems as soon as possible.

If, in spite of proper maintenance, your car breaks down on the road, pull onto the shoulder if possible. Turn on the flashers and raise the hood, if you can do so safely. Get back into the car and lock the doors, leaving the windows up. If you need fresh air, open one window a crack—but not enough for

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someone to reach in. Hang a handkerchief or other piece of cloth out the driver's window or place a sign in the window that reads "Please call police."

If someone stops to offer help, open the window just enough to ask him or her to call the police for you. Don't accept a ride with anyone you don't know.

If you get a flat tire in an area where you feel threatened or unsafe, drive slowly, with flashers on, to a service station. The cost of a ruined tire or rim may be a small price to pay for safety.

### **Taxicabs and Public Transportation**

Never get into an unmarked cab. Ask the driver for his or her cab and license number. Ask what the fare is and how long it should take to reach the destination. Sit near the driver on the subway or bus. Don't get on or off at a poorly lit station. Avoid restrooms in transit stations. Try to have a friend arrange to meet you after dark.

### **Residence Halls**

If you live in a dormitory, keep your doors locked at all times. After dark, close the blinds and drapes. Lock all windows that can be reached from the

ground. When leaving the room, lock the door. Tell someone where you are going, and when you expect to return.

### **Conclusion**

The above suggestions can help make Adventist schools a safer and more pleasant place to study, work, and play. ✍

**DISCLAIMER:** While the information and suggestions contained in this article have been compiled from sources believed to be reliable, neither the author, his employer, nor THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION publishers or editors make any guarantee as to the correctness, sufficiency, or completeness of such information or suggestions. Other or additional safety and security measures may be required under particular circumstances. Any liability on the part of the said individuals or organizations for loss or damages is hereby disclaimed.

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### **NOTES AND REFERENCES**

1. The first year of recording commenced September 1, 1991 with the first report due September 1, 1992 and every September 1 thereafter. Reports

are to be made to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

2. Douglas Lederman, "Colleges Report 7,500 Violent Crimes on Their Campuses in First Annual Statements Required Under Federal Law," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (January 20, 1993), p. A32.

3. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Support Section, Number of offenses known to the police, Universities and Colleges, 1992.

4. J. J. Brittenbinder, "Protect Yourself From Street Crime," *Reader's Digest* (November 1993), p. 113.

5. *Vibrant Life* advertisement brochure, 310-01-1.

6. Brittenbinder.

7. Judy Weinkauff, "Violence Against Women: Time to Erase the Bruises," *Family Safety & Health* 52:4 (Winter 1993-1994), National Safety Council, Itasca, Ill.

8. Statistics compiled by the National Victims' Center in Arlington, Virginia; cited in Kay D. Rizzo, *She Said No* (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Publ. Assn., 1994), pp. 155, 156.

9. Statistics compiled by 1992 National Women's Study, a U.S. Government-financed, independent study of 4,000 women over three years' time.

10. A new book on this subject that can be recommended to young people is *She Said No* by Kay D. Rizzo (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1994).

11. Brittenbinder, p. 115.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 116.