April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Meet, Eat & Learn
Wednesday, April 3rd
Noon - 1 PM
International Centre

To date, very little research has been done on the Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project is a visual display of T-shirts that represent victim’s experiences to bring awareness to interpersonal violence. Natalie Marcussen and Jackie Hoffarth, Graduate Student Assistants at UND Women’s Center, along with Dr. Andrew Quinn PhD, associate professor of Social Work, will discuss their research on UND’s Clothesline Project held in the fall of 2012.

They will discuss how the Clothesline Project impacts those who participate and what people learn from the experience. They will introduce how demographics play a part in how people respond to the project, how a person’s background may affect the project’s ability to raise awareness, along with recommendations for future projects.

Water Giveaway
April 5th
Memorial Union
10 AM - 2 PM

Come and enjoy a FREE bottled water and learn about how alcohol plays a role in sexual assault.

If you or anyone you know has been sexually assaulted please call the Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks at (701) 746-0405, the North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services toll free at (888) 255-6240, or the UND Counseling Ctr. at 701-777-2127

Contact Information:
Staff:
Kay Mendick, Director
Patty McIntyre, Program Associate

Address:
UND Women’s Center
305 Hamline Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Phone:
701-777-4300

Website:
www.und.edu/student-life/womens_center

Hours:
M– F ; 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Find us on Facebook for Event Updates and Information:

Search UND Women’s Center
Sexual Assault In North Dakota

According to the North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services, “Sexual assault is any sexual contact or sexual attention committed by force, threats, bribes, manipulation, pressure, tricks, or violence. It includes rape and attempted rape, child molestation, incest, and sexual harassment. Sexual assault is a terrifying and often brutal crime: assailants can be strangers, acquaintances, friends, or family members. The devastating effects are shared by victims and those who love them.”

2011 statistics both nationwide and throughout North Dakota:
- One out of every Eight women are victims of rape.
- Rape is the most underreported crime throughout the nation.
- 83% of sexual assault victims and survivors are under the age of 25 throughout the United States.
- 90% of sexual assault perpetrators did not possess a weapon at the time of the assault. However, most victims of sexual assault fear for their lives, fear threats of bodily harm, or fear threats of harm to friends or family.
- 828 Primary victims and 258 secondary victims were served by 21 sexual assault centers throughout ND. This is a 13% decrease from 2010.
- At least 90% of the victims were female.
- At least 96% of the assailants were male.
- In at least 41% of all cases the assailant was a friend/acquaintance/date of the victim in ND.
- At least 36% of the victims were referred to sexual assault service providers by themselves, friends, or family members.

If you know someone who has been sexually assaulted you can:
- Know the facts
  The more educated you are, the more likely you are to be a positive support. Know how often sexual assault happens in your area, what the effects are, how to best support survivors, and who the professionals are in your area.
- Support the victim
  Believe the survivor. There will be a lot of doubt preventing the survivor to talk about the assault and could discourage them from reporting the crime or seeking help from local crises centers. Listen without judging or giving advice and do not criticize the survivor’s feelings or actions.
- Know what to expect
  The survivor’s feelings may vary during the crisis. Survivor may sadness, grief, guilt, confusion, and other feelings. These feelings may disrupt sleep or cause a loss of appetite.
- Get help to deal with your own feelings
  It is important to understand your feelings. You may feel responsible for protecting the survivor or feeling angry about what has happened. Accept these feelings and seek help to deal with these natural reactions.
- Understand all reactions will be different.
  This includes the survivor, family members, and friends.

Information found at: http://www.ndcaws.org/index.html
**Sexual Assault Myths and Facts**

**Myth:** It can’t happen to me.  
**Fact:** It can happen to anyone. Most victims are women, but assault can happen to anyone regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, education, or socio-economic class.

**Myth:** Rape is sex.  
**Fact:** Rape is an act of violence. This experience is life threatening and may be influenced by power, control, or anger. It is not a “crime of passion” or a “loss of control”.

**Myth:** People rape because they want sex or lose control.  
**Fact:** Many people have sexual desires, however not all people commit sexual assault. Blaming the victim and failing to hold the perpetrator accountable have developed because of this myth. 70% of sexual assaults are planned and men and women have the ability to control the “biological urge” to have sex.

**Myth:** Most people who rape are strangers to their victims.  
**Fact:** 90% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows. It could be a neighbor, friend, co-worker, spouse, partner, classmate, etc.

**Myth:** Rapists are mentally ill and are not part of the “normal” population.  
**Fact:** Not all rapists are psychopaths or mentally ill. They reside in society just as the rest of us and are just as likely as the general population to develop a mental illness.

**Myth:** Women entice men to sexually assault them by dressing a certain way or leading them on.  
**Fact:** No one deserves or asks to be sexually assaulted by the attire they are wearing. This issue is sexualized in our society and this myth shows that. Regardless of what the survivor was wearing, that person is never responsible.

**Myth:** If college students would stop drinking so much, they wouldn’t be sexually assaulted.  
**Fact:** It is never the victim’s fault, EVER. By law, if a person is unable to consent, because of alcohol or other drugs, it can be sexual assault if the person knew that the victim was incapacitated. Alcohol is the #1 weapon used in sexual assaults. It is not the cause; it is a tool.

**Myth:** When women say no, they really mean yes.  
**Fact:** No means No. There should never be any assumptions or underlying meanings. If that person says no, respect that.

**Myth:** Men can’t be raped.  
**Fact:** All men can be victims. Men are less likely to report than women, with only 1 in 100 reporting a sexual assault.

Source: [http://www.macalester.edu/sexualassault/sexualassaultmyths.html](http://www.macalester.edu/sexualassault/sexualassaultmyths.html)

**Resources**

- **UND Crisis Team:** 777-2664 (day), 777-3491 (night/weekend)
- **Campus Police (UPD):** 777-3491
- **Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC):** 24-Hour Abuse & Rape Crisis Line: 746-8900
- **UND Counseling Center:** 777-2127
- **UND Women’s Center:** 777-4300
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline:** (operated by RAINN 24-hours a day): 1-800-656-HOPE

Remember that it is never too late to tell somebody what happened or to get help.

**Myth:** If college students would stop drinking so much, they wouldn’t be sexually assaulted.

**Fact:** It is never the victim’s fault, EVER. By law, if a person is unable to consent, because of alcohol or other drugs, it can be sexual assault if the person knew that the victim was incapacitated. Alcohol is the #1 weapon used in sexual assaults. It is not the cause; it is a tool.

**Myth:** When women say no, they really mean yes.

**Fact:** No means No. There should never be any assumptions or underlying meanings. If that person says no, respect that.

**Myth:** Men can’t be raped.

**Fact:** All men can be victims. Men are less likely to report than women, with only 1 in 100 reporting a sexual assault.

Source: [http://www.macalester.edu/sexualassault/sexualassaultmyths.html](http://www.macalester.edu/sexualassault/sexualassaultmyths.html)

IT’S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT!  
Talk early, talk often. Prevent sexual violence.
UND President’s Advisory Council on Women’s Issues (PAC-W) presents.....

Thursday, April 25th

11:30 am-1 pm

11:30-12 (lunch)

12-1 (program)

Memorial Union

River Valley Room

WomenSpeak

by Gloria Goldsmith

If your history classes were spotty when it came to the role women played in creating the freedoms we enjoy today, or if you need a refresher—join us for this one-act play. Director, Kathy Coudle-King (UND English Dept. & Executive Director of the Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre) reminds us that it wasn’t just our “forefathers” who contributed to the development of the US—our “foremothers” had important roles too! Watch women of our past come alive during this presentation.

PAC-W is proud to announce and recognize the recipients of the 2013 Book Awards:

Nikki Berg Burin and Twyla Baker Demaray

Announcement of the 2013 Sandra Donaldson Award sponsored by Women and Gender Studies

Complimentary lunch to first 100 attendees who R.S.V.P.

Please contact Patty McIntyre by Thursday, April 18th at:

Phone: 701-777-4302 or

Email: patricia.mcintyre@und.edu