



RAPE CULTURE & RAPE MYTH

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TRIGGER
WARNING!

Terminology

- ▶ “He” and “She”
 - ▶ Use “she” throughout the presentation
 - ▶ Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault
 - ▶ Not minimizing the impact on victims of all gender, sexual orientation, race or religion
- ▶ “Victim” and “Survivor”
 - ▶ Will be using these today interchangeably
 - ▶ Victim tends to refer to early impact
 - ▶ Survivor tends to refer to later periods of recovery
 - ▶ We try not to use labels

THE BASICS

What is sexual assault?

- ▶ Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.
- ▶ Falling under the definition of sexual assault:
 - ▶ Forced sexual intercourse (Rape)
 - ▶ Forcible sodomy
 - ▶ Child molestation
 - ▶ Incest
 - ▶ Fondling
 - ▶ Attempted rape

*Sexual Assault. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault>

The statistics

- Every 107 seconds another American is sexually assaulted
 - 1 hour = 33 people
- 1 in 6 women has been a victim of attempted or completed rape in her lifetime
- 1 in 33 men has been a victim of attempted or completed rape in his lifetime
- 80% are under the age of 30, 44% are under the age of 18 and 15% are under the age of 12
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker
- 68% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police
- 98% of rapists will never spend a day in jail

Consent

What is consent?

- A voluntary, sober, imaginative, enthusiastic, creative, wanted, informed, mutual, honest, and verbal agreement
- An active agreement: Consent cannot be coerced
- A process, which must be asked for every step of the way; if you want to move to the next level of sexual intimacy, just ask
- Never implied and cannot be assumed, even in the context of a relationship. Just because you are in a relationship does not mean that you have permission to have sex with your partner
- A person who is intoxicated cannot legally give consent. If you're too drunk to make decisions and communicate with your partner, you're too drunk to consent
- The absence of a "no" doesn't mean "yes"
- Both people should be involved in the decision to have sex
- An important part of healthy sexuality

what does

CONSENT

LOOK

like?

Q

Do *both* people

AGREE
SEX ACT?

TO
ANY KIND
OF

YES

NO

Q

Are *both* people

ABLE

to **CONSENT?**



CONSENT
IS NOT
POSSIBLE



!

The *best* way to
get **CONSENT**

IS TO

ASK

ONLY
YES

means
CONSENT

NOT
SAYING
NO

DOESN'T
mean yes

NO

means
== NO ==

!

Saying 'yes' to

ONE

activity (1x)

===== *doesn't mean* =====

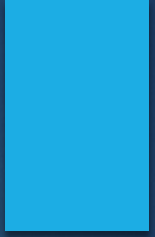
CONSENT *to*

ALL

activities

Non-verbal Communication

- ▶ Remember, an absence of "no" does not mean "yes."
- ▶ Name some ways a person can say "no" with their body?



"Never assume. Ask before you proceed. A good lover is a good listener. A bad listener is at best a bad lover and at worst a rapist."

if it's not a
HELL YES!

it's a no.

Marie Forleo

karen gunton | buildalittlebiz.com

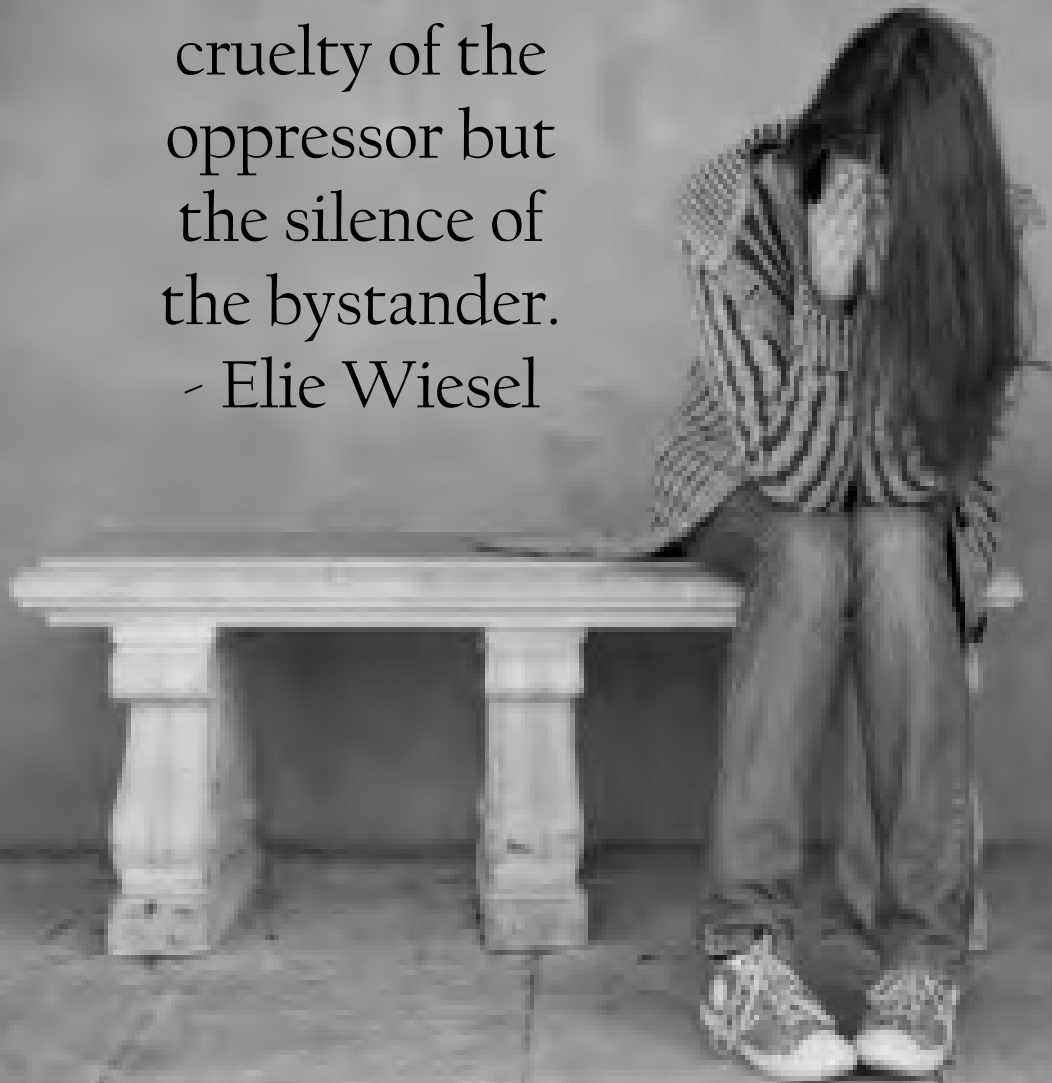


Bystander

What is a bystander?

- ▶ A *bystander*, or witness, is anyone who sees a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation. *Bystanders* may or may not know what to do, or may expect someone else to do something to help.

What hurts the
most is not the
cruelty of the
oppressor but
the silence of
the bystander.
- Elie Wiesel



Don't be a Bystander

- ▶ What can you do to help someone in need?

Tips for being an active bystander

- ▶ Be the “Fake Friend”
- ▶ Call out the harasser/offender
- ▶ Make your presence felt
- ▶ Check in with the target
- ▶ Cause a distraction
- ▶ Be a role model to others
 - ▶ “Whenever one person stands up and says, ‘Wait a minute, this is wrong,’ it helps other people to do the same.” – Gloria Steinem

I always wondered
why somebody didn't
do something about
that, then I realized
I'm that somebody.

Rape Myths

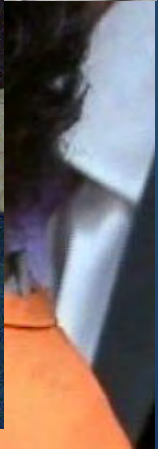
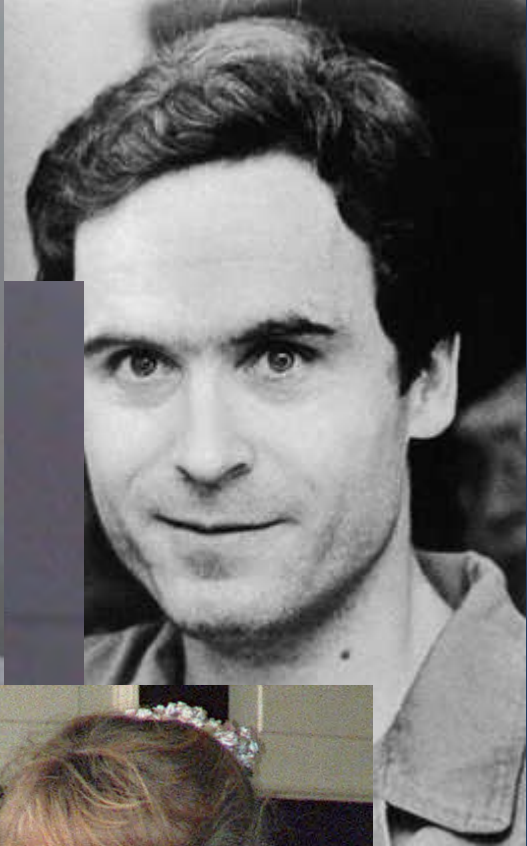
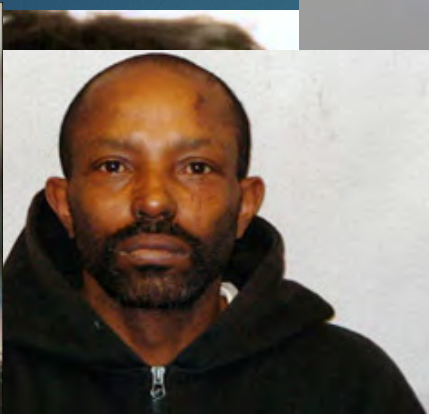
What is a myth?

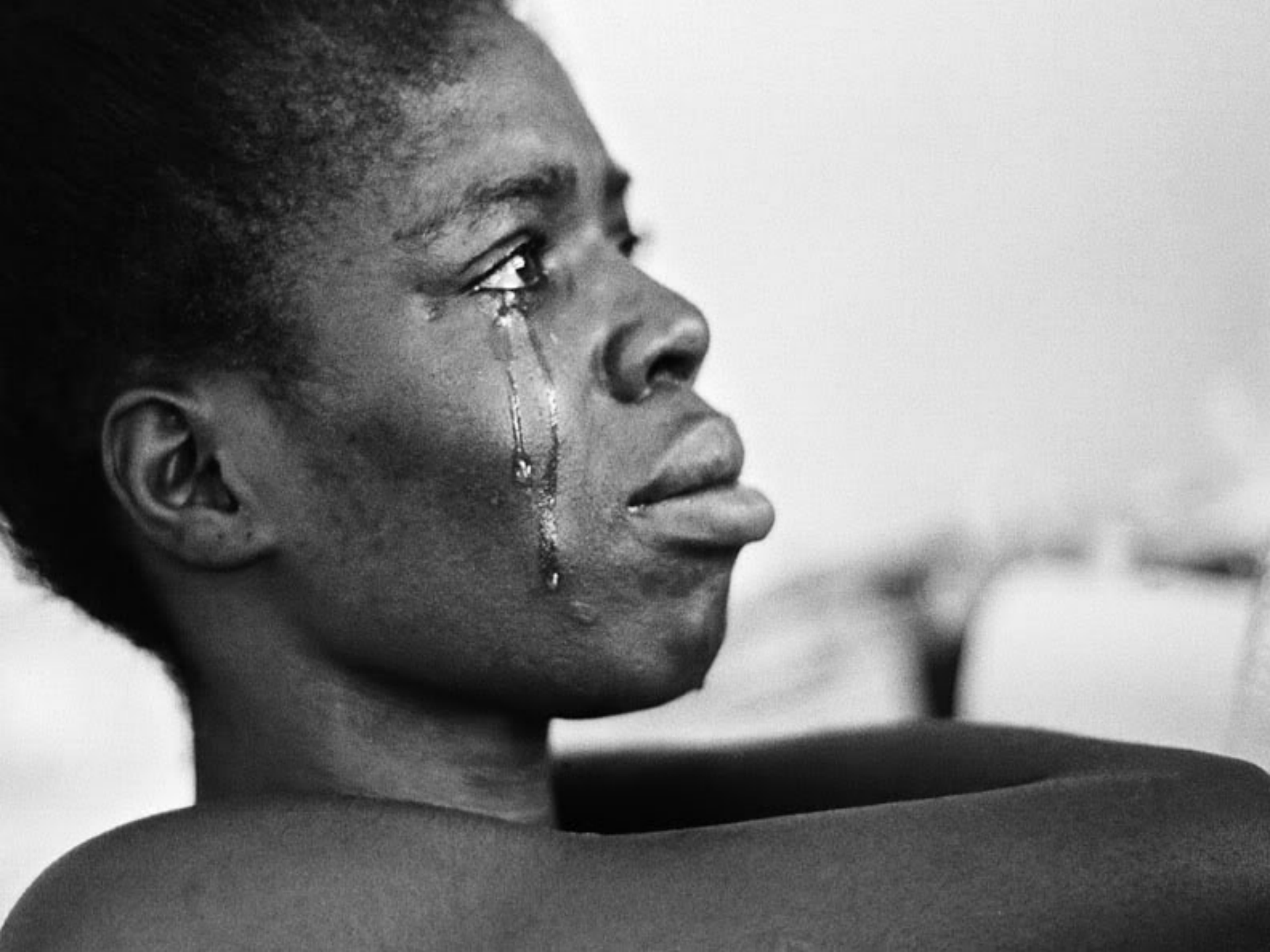
- ▶ A myth is a false idea that many people believe to be true.

Rape Myth

- Rape myths are assumptions about the act of rape and the victims of rape that frequently reduce empathy for -- and even shift blame to -- the victim. Often unproven or wrong, rape myths are widely accepted.







Lara Logan



Media Perpetuates the Rape Myth

- Several media outlets quickly criticized her physical appearance and career choice as reasons why she was raped
 - “.... known for her shocking good looks and ballsy knack for pushing her way to the heart of the action,...” (LA Weekly)
 - “.... at the same time using her Hollywood good looks and spotlight to push a more hard-hitting agenda.” (LA Weekly)
 - “OMG if I were her captors and there were no sanctions for doing so? I would totally rape her.” (MoFo Politics)
 - “.... *girls who happen to fall on the gorgeous side* of the fight for truthful journalism.” (LA Weekly)
 - “Earth to liberated women: when you display legs, thighs, or cleavage, some liberated men will see it as a sign you feel good about yourself and your sexuality. But most men will see it as a sign you want to get laid. Forewarned is forearmed.” (Dan Rottenberg)

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Rape and sexual assault are about sexual attraction and gratification

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Rape and sexual assault are all about power, control and domination

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Clothing does not determine who gets raped

TRUTH

- MYTH
 - Women who wear revealing clothing invite men to rape them

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Sex workers can't be raped

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Sex workers also have to consent to sex

Rape myth or rape truth???

- People lie about all crimes, not just rape. The number of people that lie about being the victim of a crime is very small.

TRUTH

- MYTH
 - Women say they have been raped to: get revenge, hide an affair or cover up regretted sexual acts.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- A woman who withdraws rape charges was never raped in the first place.

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Women withdraw charges for many reasons: shame, guilt, threat to their or their families safety, pressure from friends and family, scared of facing perpetrator again in court.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Women fantasize about being raped

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Some women have sexual fantasies about having aggressive sex with a stranger or being “forced” into performing certain sexual acts, but they can stop the fantasy when it becomes too frightening. During a real rape, the victim is powerless to stop anything.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- We all have control over our choices and our bodies. Rapists choose not to stop.

TRUTH

- MYTH
 - Once a man is sexually excited, he cannot stop.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Rape mostly involves black men raping white women.

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Most rapes occur between people of the same race. However, statistics show that in fact more white men rape black women than black men rape white women.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- You cannot tell a rapist from a man who does not rape.

TRUTH

- MYTH
 - Rapists are mentally ill madmen, sex starved lunatics, dressed in black in dark alleys.....

Rape myth or rape truth???

- Respectable women do not get raped. Promiscuous women invite rape.

MYTH

- TRUTH
 - Rape can happen to any type of person.

Rape myth or rape truth???

- The stress of the rape can cause the body to respond in a sexual way automatically.

TRUTH

- MYTH
 - If the victim gets sexually aroused or has an orgasm during the rape, it means she enjoyed it.

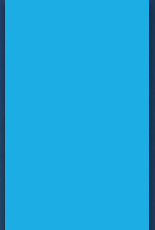
How to combat rape myths

- Know your facts
- Understand what consent means
- Think beyond gender and socioeconomic stereotypes
- Know that no one asks to be raped

Rape Culture

What is rape culture?

- ▶ A culture where rape is pervasive and normalized due to societal attitudes about gender and sexuality



“Everywhere you turn there's condoning, trivializing, and eroticizing rape, and collectively it sets a tone that says this is no big deal or this is what women deserve.”

Lynn Phillips, a Lecturer with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Communication Department.

RAPE CULTURE

- Blaming the victim ("She asked for it!")
- Trivializing sexual assault ("Boys will be boys!")
- Sexually explicit jokes
- Tolerance of sexual harassment
- Inflating false rape report statistics
- Publicly scrutinizing a victim's dress, mental state, motives and history
- Gratuitous gendered violence in movies and television
- Defining "manhood" as dominant and sexually aggressive
- Defining "womanhood" as submissive and sexually passive
- Pressure on men to "score"
- Pressure on women to not appear "cold"
- Assuming only promiscuous women get raped
- Assuming that men don't get raped or that only "weak" men get raped
- Refusing to take rape accusations seriously
- Teaching women to avoid getting raped instead of teaching men not to rape

Rape culture is telling girls and women to be careful about what you wear, how you wear it, how you carry yourself, where you walk, when you walk there, with whom you walk, whom you trust, what you do, where you do it, with whom you do it, what you drink, how much you drink, whether you make eye contact, if you're alone, if you're with a stranger, if you're in a group, if you're in a group of strangers, if it's dark, if the area is unfamiliar, if you're carrying something, how you carry it, what kind of shoes you're wearing in case you have to run, what kind of purse you carry, what jewelry you wear, what time it is, what street it is, what environment it is, how many people you sleep with, what kind of people you sleep with, who your friends are, to whom you give your number, who's around when the delivery guy comes, to get an apartment where you can see who's at the door before they can see you, to check before you open the door to the delivery guy, to own a dog or a dog-sound-making machine, to get a roommate, to take self-defense, to always be alert always pay attention always watch your back always be aware of your surroundings and never let your guard down for a moment lest you be sexually assaulted and if you are and didn't follow all the rules *it's your fault*.

WARNING

The following images are graphic in nature and may be considered offensive to some. Please note that while the images are graphic, they were not taken from adult content sites. The images were taken from product advertisements that appear on television, billboards, magazines, etc. They are intended to raise awareness about rape and to illustrate how easily rape culture is perpetuated within our society.



HOW DOES ADVERTISING PERPETUATE
RAPE CULTURE?



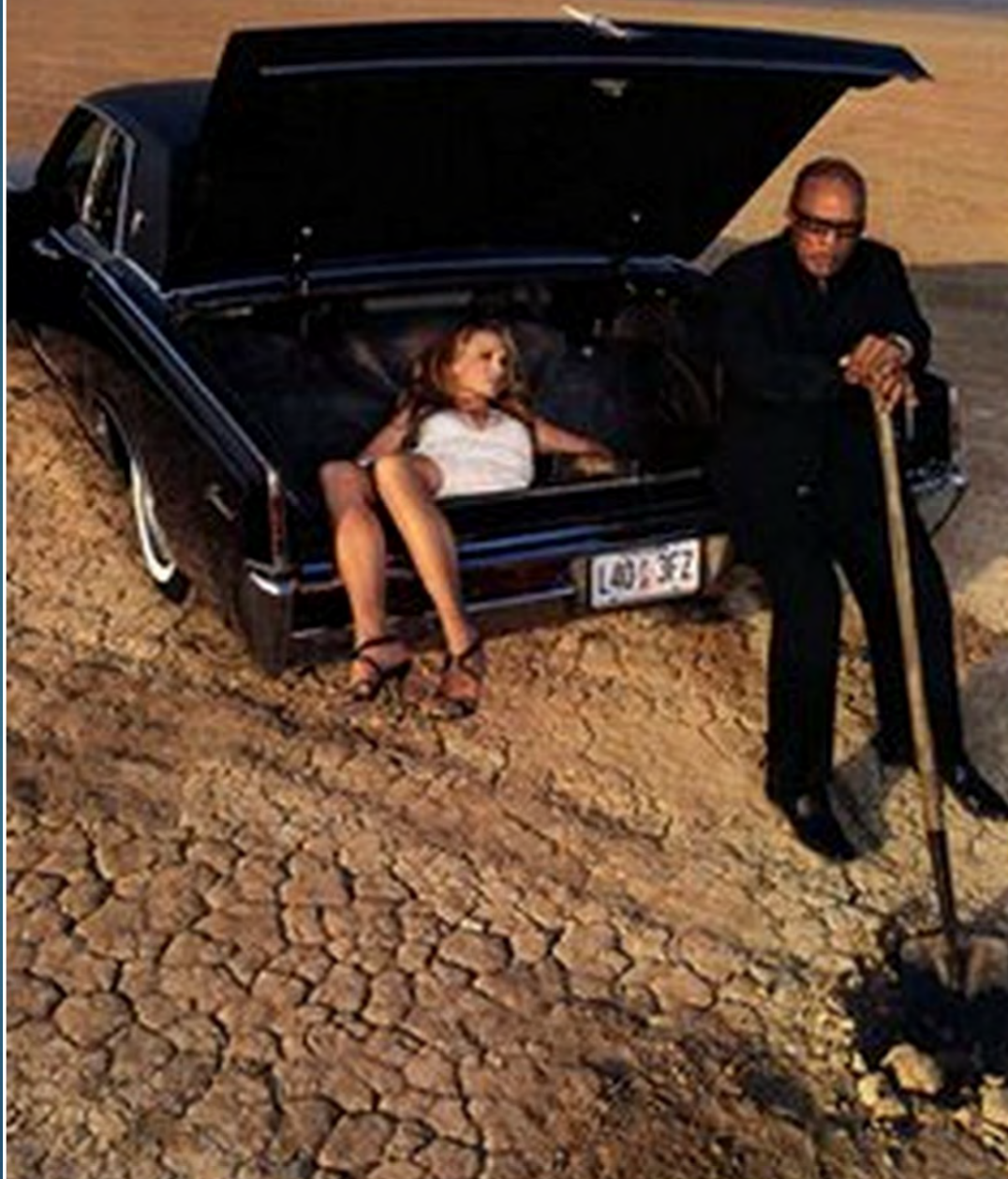
DOLOCE & GABBANA



DOLCE &

GABBANA

JIMMY CHOO





duncan quinn

voodoo

WINTER HOSIERY





THE ONE AND ONLY
Wonderbra

I can't cook. Who cares?

BY AMERICAN APPAREL
AND **EY!**



© Ey!Magateen



UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE



**BELVEDERE
ALWAYS
GOES DOWN
SMOOTHLY.**

BELVEDERE



**HOW DOES SOCIETY PERPETUATE
RAPE CULTURE?**

HOBBY SEARCH

FEARS

UBE

Don't talk with
your mouth full.

The
Jay

We
respons
or stole

tonight
I'm gonna
get
my
RAPE ON!

ONLY
IT SEXIER



Goldilocks Tween Costume

Item# 01026350

Not too big, not too small, this costume is just right! Relive a favorite storybook tale in this darling Goldilocks costume that's all grown up, and you can have your porridge and more.



Rag Doll Teen Costume

Item# 07075435

Create your own sassy storybook tale in this cute and playful teen Rag Doll costume. The mini pinafore dress is whimsical and girly but you are all grown up now so why not find out if big boys like to play with dolls!

The Music Industry



- ▶ *MOUSE: The neighbors might think...*
WOLF: But Baby it's cold outside
MOUSE: My mother will start to worry
WOLF: Beautiful, what's your hurry?
MOUSE: My father will be pacing the floor
- ▶ *MOUSE: I really can't stay, I've got to go away*
WOLF: The answer is no
- ▶ *MOUSE: Maybe just a half a drink more*
WOLF: Put some records on while I pour
MOUSE: Say, what's in this drink?
WOLF: No cabs to be had out there

The Music Industry



- ▶ *And that's why I'm gon' take a good girl
I know you want it
I know you want it
I know you want it
You're a good girl*
- ▶ *Talk about getting blasted
hate these blurred lines
I know you want it
I know you want it
I know you want it*
- ▶ *But you're a good girl
The way you grab me
Must wanna get nasty...
... Do it like it hurt,
do it like it hurt.*
- ▶ *Yeah, had a bitch, but she ain't bad as you
So hit me up when you passing through
I'll give you something big enough to tear
your ass in two*

The Movie Industry

Lolita (1962)



A black **comedy**-drama based on the Vladimir Nabokov novel about a middle-aged man who becomes obsessed with a teenage girl.

The Movie Industry

- ▶ Is violent and gratuitous sex necessary in movies?
 - ▶ Last House on the Left (2009)
 - ▶ The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (2011)
 - ▶ The Accused (1988)
 - ▶ I Spit On Your Grave (1978)
 - ▶ The Hills Have Eyes (2006)
 - ▶ Deliverance (1972)
 - ▶ Cape Fear (1991)

Rape Jokes

- ▶ If you have sex with a prostitute against her will, is it considered rape or shoplifting?
- ▶ Surprise sex is the best thing to wake up to....unless you're in prison.
- ▶ What do Jedi and rapists have in common? They both use "The Force".
- ▶ I asked a group of women if they found rape jokes funny. They said "No!" But I knew they really meant "Yes!"
- ▶ How can you tell the difference between vertical and horizontal?
 - ▶ Whores lie on their backs!

Rape Jokes



During a set a girl “heckled” him about rape jokes not being funny.

His reply, “Wouldn’t it be funny if that girl [referring to the girl who had heckled him] got raped by, like, five guys right now? Like right now?”

Social Media

Jeremy Meeks – arrested in 2014 and sentenced to Federal prison on weapons charges.



HOW DO WE END RAPE CULTURE?

- Encourage boys and men to express emotions and unravel hyper-masculinity
- Push back against sexual objectification
- Rape prevention courses and education
- Engage bystanders
- Change public perception of what is acceptable
- Get enthusiastic about enthusiastic consent
- Get media literate
- Don't laugh or make jokes about rape

Wrap It up

- Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.
- Know the facts!
- Consent is a voluntary, sober, imaginative, enthusiastic, creative, wanted, informed, mutual, honest, and verbal agreement
- Bystander intervention is a superpower!
- Always believe and never blame a victim
- Push back against sexual objectification
- Get media literate