

- Encourage teenagers to arrange transportation ahead of time.
- Teenagers should learn about pornography as abusive, exploitive, violent and degrading to both men and women. They should be aware of the links to violence.
- Establish a bailout rule. This rule, followed very successfully by many teenagers and their parents, provides a 24 hour, no-questions-asked moratorium following a bailout call. Teenagers who find themselves in difficulty in a situation where they have been forbidden to be can have the assurance of getting help when they need it. Discussions following a 24 hour cooldown period have a better chance for an open, honest and rational resolution.

DISCLOSURES

The attitudes that are reinforced throughout the study of "My Body, My Rights" provide a permissive atmosphere for student victims to confide in a trusted staff member. For this reason it is critical that the entire staff is involved in an awareness session prior to the teaching of the unit. This awareness session should include an exploration of what sexual assault is; an overview of the unit; a clear understanding of the legalities and responsibilities regarding reporting of suspected assault; and a well established procedure for dealing with disclosures. Many staffs recommend the implementation of awareness sessions for parents as well.

CONCLUSION

By empowering young people to listen to their own feelings, to set limits and be prepared to take responsibility for ensuring their personal and legal rights, teenage students can learn to gain control over their lives.

Betty Lamont is Consultant, Women's Studies with the Board of Education for the City of North York, responsible for the implementation of sex equity in the curriculum. She was a member of Metro Toronto's Task Force on Public Violence Against Women and Children and has published several textbooks on Canadian literature and high school writing.

SOMEDAY

Someday

his murmur in the museum shattered ancient potteries

and mummies rolled their eyes

lovers

someday just the way he said

the word slipped off his lips hardbitten

An old lady sat down in the cafeteria with buttermilk and cherry pie

she stared at our marble faces

The curly groined Hades in impossible youth said

someday like he meant it

someday so much as though he yearned it that the old lady coloured

red as the cherries

the word was fossilized lucklessly remembered

I was captured and dragged down to a distant distant nowhere

One day

I whispered yes

but heard an urgent someday from the museum across the street

That night wrapped in bridal sheets

I nightmared stuffed Indians smoking cold pipes someday

deranged crawling dinosaurs someday

dead cardinals shrieking someday

up a winding marble staircase

along dim dusty halls

between walls I searched

for a little unlabelled drawer mislabelled someday

knowing when I opened it

it would be empty

Sandy Day

Toronto, Ontario