

THE SAFETY PAGE



BRAVO/Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization/www.bravo-ohio.org/report@bravo-ohio.org/866-86-BRAVO

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Play it safe when you're out on the town

STAY ALERT

Awareness is your best self-defense. If you have been partying, remember that your judgment may be impaired.

WATCH YOUR DRINK

Make sure you know the person who is buying your drinks, or buy your own. Drugs like Rohypnol – the date rape drug– can easily be slipped into your glass.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you think there is something wrong, believe your feelings and remove yourself from the situation.

PROJECT CONFIDENCE

While out walking, move like you know where you're going, keep your head up and look around.

CARRY A WHISTLE

Carry it somewhere accessible, like in a jacket pocket or your keychain. When you need help, blow the whistle, but don't expect it alone to save you. If you hear a whistle and see that someone is in trouble, call 911.

Get your whistle today, contact BRAVO.

CONSIDER YOUR SURROUNDINGS

As you are leaving the bar (or any other public space), check to see if there are other people around. Where is the nearest place you could run to be safe? If you feel like someone is following you, change course, cross the street, or move quickly toward other people.

IF YOU DECIDE TO BRING SOMEONE HOME

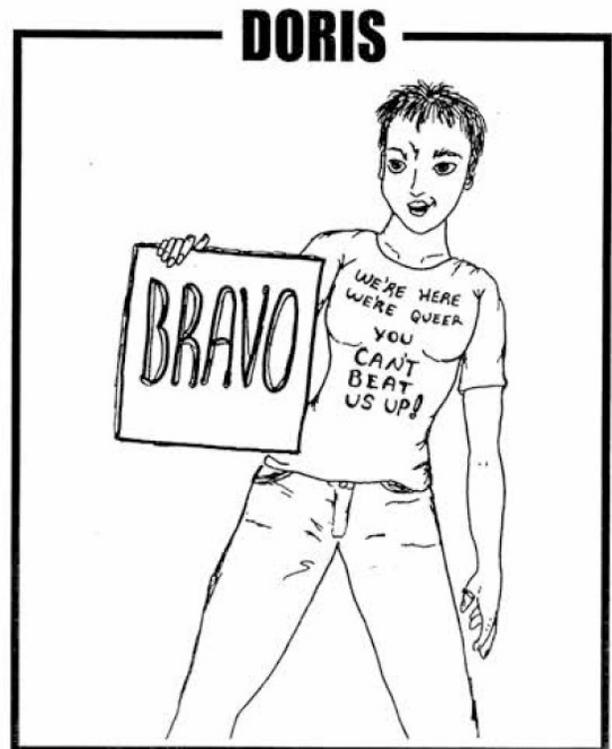
Introduce the person to a friend, acquaintance or bartender, so that someone knows whom you left with. Tell someone where you are going and give them a phone number or tell them you'll call them.

IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED OR HARASSED

Trust your own judgment about how to react. Getting away from the situation, however you do that, is the most important thing you can do.

THINK ABOUT TAKING A SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Call BRAVO – the classes are free and offered throughout the year.



Balance Trust with Caution...

Every year BRAVO receives calls reporting incidents that involve perpetrators who could be seen as “hustlers” according to Executive Director Gloria McCauley. In these incidents, the caller had met someone at a bar or other social setting, invited the person into their home, and within a few weeks had been robbed or violated in some other way. McCauley offers a word of caution when hanging out and hooking up. “Look out for yourself,” she said, “think before you give someone access to your finances or a key to your home...they may have ulterior motives.” Stressing that this does not mean you shouldn't trust anyone, McCauley adds that people should balance that trust with taking care of yourself and staying safe.

Report it to BRAVO at 866-86-BRAVO If you experience violence, it is not your fault.

Safer Dating do and don't quick tools

We may not want to think about it, but pick-up crimes are a reality. When you're out on the town meeting new people, play it safe, some people choose to hurt others, and they look like everyone else. The perpetrators of these crimes choose what they perceive to be "easy marks" who won't suspect, fight back, or report the incident. Don't become another one of their statistics - whether you're going off to party with someone you just met or your rendezvous is more personal - keep these quick do and don't tools in mind:

- DO** Introduce any new people you meet to an old friend, acquaintance, bartender, etc. Make sure that someone knows whom you were with when you left the party or bar.
- DON'T** Forget to stay in touch with others. Tell someone where you are going and give them a phone number or make a plan to call them later that night or in the morning. You can also let someone know you'll be calling your answering machine and leaving a message about where you are.
- DO** Drive separate cars to get where you're going. IF you decide to leave at any point you'll want to have a way out.
- DON'T** Meet at an isolated place, or a location you are unfamiliar with if you can help it. Try to pick a neutral site that is mutually decided on.
- DO** Watch your drink - make sure you know the person who is buying your drinks, or buy your own. Keep an eye on your glass if you lay it down. There are many clear, odorless liquid drugs out there that can be easily slipped in your glass undetected.
- DON'T** Expect your judgment to be the same if you've been partying. Awareness is your best self-defense. Stay alert and remember that drinking and drugs can impair your reaction time and other decision-making capacities.
- DO** Trust your instincts. If you think something is wrong, believe your feelings and remove yourself from the situation.

These safer dating tools are provided as a reference point, things for all of us to keep in our "toolbox."

Remember some people choose to hurt others; it is NEVER your fault regardless of safety tools!