DENIM DAY

APRIL 23, 2014
WEAR DENIM AND HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
History

Italy, the 1990s

- A 45 year old driving instructor picked up an 18 year old woman for her first driving lesson
- He sexually assaulted her and then threatened to *kill her if she told anyone*
- BUT—she bravely told her parents what had happened, and they helped her press charges
- He was eventually convicted and sentenced to jail
- BUT—he appealed...and the case made it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court
The Court Case

- In 1997, the conviction was overturned and the man was released
- The reason? The woman was wearing very tight jeans and members of the court determined that he could not have gotten her jeans off of her without her help, which indicated consent
In a statement released by the head judge, it was revealed that the court concluded that it is a “FACT of common experience” that it is impossible to remove tight jeans without the “active collaboration of the person wearing them”

The very next day following this controversial decision, enraged female members of the Italian Parliament WORE JEANS IN PROTEST of the ruling.

They held signs that read:

“Jeans: An Alibi for Rape.”
Meanwhile in Rome...the justices rethink their previous decision

- The Italian court eventually overturned their own decision
- Today, the removal of tight jeans is no longer considered equivalent to consent in Italy

For an excellent definition of **rape according to the California Penal Code**, please access the following link to Stanford University’s site: [http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sara/info/policies/california](http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sara/info/policies/california)
DENIM DAY IS BORN in the U.S.

- Peace Over Violence, a non-profit based in L.A., took up the cry and organized the first National Denim Day in 1999
- Next, the California State Senate and Assembly took up the cause and also wore denim in protest
- An American movement was born...

Make a socially conscious fashion statement by wearing denim!
The first Denim Day at MSJC—2013

Graphic Design by MSJC student Natasha Bresna

- Last spring, members of the Diversity Committee voted to bring Denim Day to MSJC
- Note the startling statistics on last year’s poster
- An excellent paper on rape on college campuses by Asst. Dean Nancy Chi Cantalupo can be found at: http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1430&context=facpub

DENIM DAY
BREAK THE SILENCE

JOIN US IN PROTEST AGAINST THE VIOLENCE BY WEARING DENIM
APRIL 24TH 2013

Every two and a half minutes, someone is sexually assaulted in America.

One in six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape. Law enforcement arrests for internet sex crimes against minors are on the rise.

82.8% of rapes committed by an intimate are not reported to the police.

Research conducted at several universities revealed that 35% of college men who voluntarily participated in a psychological study indicated they might commit a rape if they knew they could get away with it.

15,000 to 19,000 people with developmental disabilities are raped each year in North America.
At MSJC, we will **WEAR DENIM** to protest sexual assault—**THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE** of any kind—our goal is to raise awareness.

The statistics are staggering—in the U.S., nearly one in five women will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime—and **MOST WILL KNOW THEIR ATTACKER**.

One study found that “**rape is the most common violent crime on American college campuses today**” (Sampson, 2003, p. 1).
Sexual assault and the college connection

- One study found that alcohol is often involved in rapes of college aged women, especially 18-24 year olds (Sampson, 2003, p. 2).
- Unfortunately, **90% or more of college women who are raped do not report the violence** (Fisher et al., 2000, p. 24).
- The controversial rape case at Steubenville High School has caused much discussion and condemnation.
- Here is a link which tells about what happened at Steubenville High: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steubenville_High_School_rape_case](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steubenville_High_School_rape_case)
- This video, by Laci Green, may also spark much needed discussion and help raise awareness: [http://youtu.be/z86oaQ4aLcM](http://youtu.be/z86oaQ4aLcM)
TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO WEAR DENIM—explain why!

Help BREAK THE SILENCE of sexual assault

DENIM DAY MSJC

- Stop by the Denim Day and Clothesline booths for a free button and sticker
- Meet us between 12:30-2 for photo ops wearing our jeans with a purpose
- Help raise awareness by wearing DENIM not as a fashion choice, but as a social statement

APRIL 23, 2014
There is *no excuse* and NEVER an invitation to rape.

See you on the Quad April 23rd.


Denim Day in USA and LA. http://denimdayusa.org/