

SELF-DEFENSE WEAPONS

STUN GUN

DESCRIPTION: Hand-held, electronic unit capable of immobilizing an individual via an electronic pulse. Requires close contact.

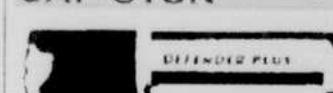


HOW IT WORKS: Emits a charge into the neuromuscular system interrupting voluntary muscle control.

EFFECTS: Suspect becomes weakened, dazed, disoriented and may collapse.

COST: \$50 - \$75.

CAP-STUN



DESCRIPTION: Hand-held device on key chain.

HOW IT WORKS: A fog of cayenne pepper in a cone-shaped spray envelops the attacker and is immediately absorbed by the body tissue.

EFFECTS: Closes eyes and constricts the throat; immediate and total incapacity for 5 - 10 minutes.

COST: \$12 - 15.

GUNS

DESCRIPTION: Varies.



COST: Varies.

PROCEDURE FOR BUYING:

Seven day waiting period for registration of hand guns. Must be 21 and have committed no felonies or misdemeanors in the last four years. It is illegal to carry guns on campus.

CAT-EYES

DESCRIPTION: Keychain with metal points.

HOW TO USE: The points are very sharp and cannot be easily wrestled away from the victim.

EFFECTS: Used to puncture.

COST: \$5.

Graphic by Jeff Paslay.

PRE-REGISTRATION ADVISING

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RAPE

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handguns.

Although illegal on campus, one University student requesting anonymity said she carries a 9mm pistol for protection.

"The main reason I carry it is for a deterrent," she said. "In the event that they continued to threaten me after I made it quite clear that I have the gun, then yes, I would use it. I feel pretty confident with it."

Campus rules pertaining to weapons differ somewhat from city laws. Just about everything that is considered a self-defense device is legal on campus as well as in the city. However, concealed guns, even ones registered with the county, are not legal on campus.

Many people feel women should not rely solely on self-defense weapons for various reasons.

"I think there are pros and cons to women carrying self-defense devices," said Nadia Telsey, who teaches a women's self-defense class at the University.

"It's easy for women carrying weapons to think they are Superwoman," she said. "I think the best tools are your mind, awareness, attitude and intuition."

Women need to undo the feeling that they have to be nice all the time, Telsey said. She said this condition often impedes listening to intuition.

Telsey stresses the importance of self-defense training as the primary defense and weapons as a possible backup method. She said women should take a workshop to learn how to use the weapon.

Relying just on a self-defense device is not wise, Telsey said.

"Most assaults are by acquaintances and how are you going to have a weapon ready, in your hand, in that situation?" she asked.

Mike Todd, who has recently been selling a chemical spray in the EMU, said he doesn't think that his product of CS, which is a form of tear gas, creates a sense of false security because it is enough of a deter-

rent.

"Anything in addition to my product is a plus," Todd said. "But a bad guy will overpower a woman nine out of 10 times, so self-defense training won't do much good in that situation."

Others feel that self-defense training is imperative for women to know in addition to having some sort of training with a weapon.

"I don't feel a device is sufficient," OPS Director Carney Drayton said. "The training along with the device is imperative."

It's crucial that the woman is trained to use the device, he said, because "it's not fair" for an untrained person to pick up the device and expect it to work in the event of an assault.

"That's like someone going to a gun shop and never being trained until you need it — it just doesn't work," Drayton said.

Drayton has recently started a group through OPS that is looking at the possibilities of making self-defense weapons available.

"We're considering the idea of obtaining and selling devices, but we just started meeting so nothing definite has been decided yet," said Felise Padron, an OPS officer and member of the new committee.

Jenny Root, a student and co-director of the Women's Referral and Resource Center, said weapons are not the way to go in most cases.

"The idea in fighting off an attacker is to be angry and assertive enough to put the person off," Root said. "A friend of mine recently got a knife taken away from her by her attacker; so the best defense is self-defense training."

ASUO student senator Alexandra Foote, who carries a Cat-Eye key chain because "it is not easily taken from my grasp," said self-defense is more than the physical aspect.

"Self defense is more than just a weapon — it's on the inside," Foote said. "You state your needs and be assertive."

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