

November 2006 Safety Article

Warning signs of violence and how to protect yourself

- A history of violent or aggressive behavior
- Serious drug or alcohol use
- Gang membership or strong desire to be in a gang
- Access to or fascination with weapons, especially guns
- Threatening others regularly
- Trouble controlling feelings like anger
- Withdrawal from friends and usual activities
- Feeling rejected or alone
- Having been a victim of bullying
- Poor school performance
- History of discipline problems or frequent run-ins with authority
- Feeling constantly disrespected
- Failing to acknowledge the feelings or rights of others

Source: Athena, MVP, Ken Kincaid

Campus Safety Tips

- **BE AWARE** of your surroundings at all times.
- When walking alone in an unfamiliar area, avoid talking on your cell phone, as it could cause you to be less alert and unmindful of your surroundings.
- Do not leave your backpack in the student lounge or unmonitored.
- Establish a code word with your friends that could be used to alert them in case there is possible emergency, violence, danger, or threat. When this code word is said, your friends should be well versed in his or her role in response to the situation.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Do not leave your purse or wallet in your car. Place expensive items, such as CD players or disks, in your trunk or not visible through your car windows.
- Lock your car doors.
- If you would like to be escorted to your car after dark, please visit the Security Desk.
- Please back out of parking spaces carefully! Check mirrors and reverse slowly so you do not hit a car, or even worse, a pedestrian.

Contributed by the Safety & Crisis Management Team.