Following is a letter Sent out to minority Students from the Dean of Students in 1979.

It gives a feel of the Atmosphere on Campus at the time.

November 21, 1979

Dear Student,

We are sorry for the use of this informal letter, but we would like to bring to your attention the mounting racism currently permeating in this community.

Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans are being verbally and physically attacked by members of the Madison and UW communities. The following are but a few incidents which have been reported to us (the October 12 Alliance, a Chicano and Native American UW staff organization).

1. Two couples (one Chicano, the other Puerto Rican) have been physically attacked in two separate incidents in which they were mistaken for Iranian students. The attacker in one of those incidents threatened the couple with a hunting knife. The words "Iranian pigs" were used in both instances.

2. Several Chicano students were harassed at the Memorial Union, while others were threatened at a downtown apartment.

3. Two women, a Puerto Rican and a Native American, were surrounded (in broad daylight) by six men calling them "You Iranians". It was not until one woman cried out "I am a Puerto Rican" that the men walked away from them.

4. A Puerto Rican man walking towards his home near the Square was threatened by two men. They fled when he put down his duffle bag and pretended to search inside it for a weapon.

While attacks have been made on Hispanic and Native American students earlier in the semester, there are certain people who are using the Iranian situation as a pretext to intensify these attacks. Therefore, we would like to inform you of the best ways to protect yourself from such attacks.

Your response to a situation involving physical or verbal attack should depend on the situation. Right now there is a need to reduce the possibility of harassment, threats or attacks. The best way, of course, is to avoid these situations whenever possible.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES CAN REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF PHYSICAL OR VERBAL ATTACKS. Walking in pairs or groups, especially at night is one means of avoiding the dangers. Wearing a whistle is also an excellent preventive measure. Use it if you feel threatened, even while travelling in the company of others and especially when alone. It is also important to avoid demonstrations or situations, places, or persons where or about whom the potential for attack is apparent. Alcohol or drug abuse frequently present this potential. Use your own judgment in avoiding these situations.

If you and others would like to know more about the preventive measures to take on how to protect yourself, contact UW Protection & Security, 262-45-28, or the Madison Police Department, 266-4052, and ask them to arrange to make such a presentation for you and your friends.

OTHER THAN PREVENTIVE MEASURES WHAT IF YOU WITNESS PHYSICAL OR VERBAL HARASSMENT? Call the police as soon as possible. Call the Madison Police if you are in the city. The dispatchers phone number is 266-4275. Call the University P&S if it is on campus, 266-2957. If you are in doubt whether it is campus or city, call either one. Call as quickly as you can after

the incident. The more information you can provide when you call, the better. Physical descriptions, license number, names, witnesses, phone numbers, place and time are all important details. If you phone as a witness it is not necessary to give your name, however, if you do, it may be more helpful. And, if you request the police to do so, they will contact you later on to tell you what they have done in response to the information you provided them.

Mr. Ed Forbes, the Community Relations Specialist with the Madison Police Department, has asked that he be informed of any such attacks--physical or verbal. Call him to report after you talk to the dispatcher. Mr. Forbes' number is 266-4052. If he is not in, leave a message and a phone number where he can return your call. Also, after you report the incident, you may find it helpful to write down what happened.

WHAT IF YOU ARE IN A SITUATION WHICH INVOLVES A THREAT TO YOUR PHYSICAL SAFETY? The best way to protect yourself is to take yourself out of the dangerous situation. Report it to the police and give all the information you can to them. However, do not risk your safety to obtain further information. Leave as quickly and unconspisciously as you can.

WHAT IF YOU ARE ATTACKED VERBALLY AND CANNOT GET TO A SAFE PLACE AND PHYSICAL ATTACK BEGINS? If you are wearing a whistle, use it! If not, scream for the police and for help. Try to escape. The possibility exists that you will have to resist or defend yourself from a physical attack. Avoid being placed in this situation if it is at all possible. If you must defend yourself, you should escape to safety at the earliest opportunity. CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY. Protect yourself by leaving the situation. When the police arrive, give them descriptions of the attackers, names of the attackers (if available), names of witnesses, etc. Your account of the incident is very important. The police will follow-up and investigate the attack. Remember, however, that if your response was not necessary to, or exceeded what was necessary to defend yourself, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION. In such a case any statement you give may be used against you in such a prosecution. If you think this may be the case, you should consult immediately with an attorney BEFORE giving a statement to the police. You may call the State Public Defender at 266-9150.

Be sure to get whatever medical assistance you may need as soon as possible after the incident.

In summary, the best way to reduce the possibility of being a victim, is to take preventive measures and to leave such situations as quickly as possible. Use all due caution in attempting to avoid any situation which involves a threat to your physical safety. If the situation begins to pose a threat to you, leave the area, go to a safe place and call the police. If you cannot get away, scream for help and for the police. If no help is forthcoming, defend yourself only if there is no other safe alternative. REMEMBER: report any attack immediately to the police, the Dean of Students (263-5700) or one of the UW staff members listed below.

Please keep in touch,
"The October 12 Alliance"

CONTACT PEOPLE:

Ricardo Enriquez, 263-3324
Che Goding, 262-3961
Maria-Anita S. Oyarbide, 262-3961
Walter Lane, 263-4174