



SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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**PRESS RELEASE DATED JUNE 8, 2005: BIDEN, HATCH, AND SPECTER USHER
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH VAWA 2005**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Taking the next step in the fight to protect our nation's women and children from violence, U.S. Senators Joe Biden (D-DE), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) today introduced the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005. This legislation renews several successful programs and provides funding for training, education and outreach so that state and federal agencies can do a better job of preventing violence against women and assisting victims of violence. Senator Biden, author of the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and VAWA 2000 called the legislation "critical to ensuring the safety and well being of our nation's women and children."

"We broke tremendous ground in 1994 and 2000. We wrote new domestic violence laws. We outlawed marital rape. We distributed over \$3.8 billion dollars to states and towns to train and support police, lawyers, judges, nurses, shelter directors and advocates to end domestic violence and sexual assault. And as a result, we've seen an almost 50% drop in domestic violence. But we must do more," said Biden, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime. "The bill we are introducing today provides a comprehensive approach to combating violence. It stiffens penalties for repeat offenders, provides more money for vital services and will help women get the assistance and support they need," continued Biden. "Violence against women knows no social, economic, or geographic bounds. Women and children are assaulted in their homes, on the streets, in the workplace, and on campuses," said Senator Specter, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. "This legislation enhances programs that help women and children to combat the incidence of domestic violence, and I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this important legislation and for its swift passage."

The bill now goes to the Judiciary Committee where it must be approved before being voted on by the full Senate. A summary of the bill follows:

Title I on the criminal justice system will: (1) renew and increase funding to over \$400 million a year for existing grant programs for law enforcement, lawyers, judges and advocates; (2) stiffen existing criminal penalties for repeat federal domestic violence offenders; and (3) update the criminal law on stalking to incorporate new surveillance technology like Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Title II on critical victim services will: (1) create a new, dedicated grant program for sexual assault victims that will strengthen the 1,300 rape crisis centers across the country; (2) reinvigorate programs to help older and disabled victims of domestic violence; (3) strengthen existing programs for rural victims and victims in underserved areas; and (4) increase funding to \$5 million a year for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Title III on youth and children includes measures to: (1) promote collaboration between domestic violence experts and child welfare agencies; and (2) enhance to \$15 million a year grants to reduce violence against women on college campuses.

Title IV aimed at prevention strategies includes programs supporting home visitations and specifically engaging men and boys in efforts to end domestic and sexual violence.

Title V strengthens the health care system's response to family violence with programs to train and educate health care professionals on domestic and sexual violence, foster family violence screening for patients, and more studies on the health ramifications of family violence.

Title VI eases the housing problems for battered women by, including (1) \$20 million grant programs to facilitate collaboration between domestic violence organizations and housing providers; (2) programs to combat family violence in public and assisted housing, including new requirements that domestic violence victims may not be evicted or cut off from voucher services because of the violence; and (3) enhancements to transitional housing resources.

Title VII helps abused women maintain secure employment by permitting battered women to take limited (up to 10 days) employment leave to address domestic violence, such as attend court proceedings, or move to a shelter. Because the type of leave needed can differ significantly from leave covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act -- and often will be non-medical -- these provisions do not amend the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in any way; however, the notice and certification requirements are very similar to those required under the FMLA.

Title VIII improves and expands the immigration protections for battered women. In addition, it would ensure that victims of trafficking are supported with measures such as permitting their families to join them in certain circumstances, expanding the duration of a T-visa, and providing resources to victims who assist in investigations or prosecutions of trafficking cases brought by state or federal authorities.

Title IX focuses more closely on violence against Native American women by creating a new tribal Deputy Director in the Office on Violence Against Women dedicated to coordinating federal policy and tribal grants. Authorizes tribal governments to access and upload domestic violence and protection order data on criminal databases, as well as create tribal sex offender registries, and strengthens available criminal penalties.

RAPE COUNSELOR FACES ARREST FOR REFUSAL TO RELEASE RECORDS

The Associated Press, The Sunday Times, May 29, 2005

DENVER, May 28 (AP) - An arrest warrant has been issued for a rape counselor, Jennifer Bier, who refused to turn over records of her sessions with a former Air Force Academy cadet, one of the women whose allegations touched off a scandal that toppled the academy's leaders. The counselor is fighting a subpoena in the court-martial of Second Lt. Joseph Harding, who is accused of sexually assaulting two women at the academy in 1999 and 2000. His lawyers say his right to a fair trial overrides the alleged survivor's right to privacy. Ms. Bier said Saturday that she was angry that she was being forced to choose between betraying her client's trust and being arrested. "For me to betray a client renders my whole field null and void and I refuse to do that," she said.

Ms. Bier's lawyer, Wendy Murphy, said on Saturday that she planned to seek an emergency order on Tuesday in federal court to prevent an arrest, but that she was not sure if the court would accept the

case. Ms. Bier "did the right thing that is ethically and legally demanded of her," said Ms. Murphy, who teaches at the New England School of Law in Boston. Officials at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, where the court-martial is taking place, did not return phone calls seeking comment on Saturday. Ms. Bier, who is a civilian, has indicated that she is prepared to go to jail to protect the privacy of the alleged survivor, a former cadet who sought counseling after she said she was raped by Lieutenant Harding in 2000. The woman was among dozens who said they were ignored or punished when they reported sexual assaults to academy officials. The scandal that erupted in 2003 prompted several investigations, the ouster of the school's four top commanders and new policies.

A separate court-martial was under way on Saturday at the academy for a senior cadet accused of raping another cadet while on a diving club trip last year in New Mexico. Witnesses testified at a preliminary hearing in November that the senior cadet, Benjamin Kuster, said he was drunk and may have mistaken the woman for his girlfriend. Cadet Kuster, his girlfriend and other cadets were sleeping in the same motel room.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BRANDON SONNTAG

Without the work of local artist, Brandon Sonntag, SBRCC's *Wall of Witness* display during Sexual Assault Awareness Month would never have been possible. As you know, the *Wall of Witness* was a collage and mural bringing together artwork, poetry, and testimonials that explored the theme of "Believe Me: *Celebrating the Courage and Resilience of Sexual Assault Survivors*." Community members contributed unique creations expressing their reflections on overcoming sexual violence and the desire to build a safe, inclusive, and just society. The centerpiece of the *Wall of Witness* was a mural created by Brandon.

As a long-time resident of Santa Barbara, Brandon attended UCSB and obtained a BA, with honors in Environmental Studies. He went on to complete a commercial diving program and worked in commercial diving and marine construction for several years. After realizing that his love of arts and teaching children was his true calling, Brandon started a full-time painting business and began inspiring people to express their creative talents. Brandon provides customized design and painting services to residential, commercial and marine clientele. His work represents a wide diversity of projects including logo design, illustration, portraits, graphic signage, paint restoration, custom finishes and full-scale wall murals. In addition to his work with the Wall of Witness, Brandon collaborates with Art Walk for Kids, teaching art classes and conducting workshops for people of all ages and abilities.

Brandon commented: "The *Wall of Witness* was an opportunity for me to contribute to the valiant efforts of SBRCC. I think it is a great idea to use art as a vehicle for educating and increasing awareness. It is my hope that the mural was inspirational, comforting and healing." All of us at SBRCC want to thank Brandon for his tireless devotion and tremendous commitment to our efforts!

Announcements

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT SBRCC

- **Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator (35 hours per week with benefits):** Coordinate team services and compile case information for child, adolescent and adult sexual abuse and assault survivors in Santa Barbara County. Provide program leadership for SART, facilitate countywide meetings with SART Coalition members, provide administrative support, research and submit grants and reports. Strong verbal/written communication and computer skills required.
- **Office Manager (Full-time position):** Oversee use of office space and facilities; maintain an organized filing system for administrative, program and service files; provide technical support on computer systems and software to staff; and ensure facility and office equipment maintenance.
- **Self-Defense Instructor (Part-time, Contracted Consultant):** Provide instruction for women's self-defense classes covering awareness, assertiveness, and physical self-defense techniques. Requires a strong background in women's self-defense, working knowledge of and sensitivity to issues related to sexual assault, and excellent public speaking skills. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred, but not required.

For detailed job announcements for any of these positions, please refer to SBRCC's website at: www.sbrapecrisiscenter.org. If you - or anyone you know may be interested in these positions - please submit a resume and three references as soon as possible. Thank you!

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ADVOCATE MEETING: MONDAY, JULY 11, 6PM – 8PM

Joanne Garcia, Victim Services Liaison, from the Department of Corrections' Office of Victim Services and Restitution will be visiting SBRCC from Sacramento. Her office provides assistance to crime victims whose offenders have been sentenced to State prison. The training will provide an explanation of the California restitution law, the two types of restitution that the CDC can collect on, how a survivor can collect, etc.

JULY OFFICE CLOSURE

SBRCC's office will be closed on Monday, July 4th, 2005 in observance of Independence Day. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the holiday.

SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **August 2, 2005 – September 20, 2005**. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Maria by email at maria@sbrcc.net or by phone at 963-6832, x. 27.
- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **October 3, 2005 – November 30, 2005**. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Heather by email at heather@sbrcc.net or by phone at 963-6832, x. 28.

END OF QUARTER REMINDER

The current quarter ends on June 30th, 2005. Please remember to submit in-service report forms to Jen if you have attended any in-service trainings in the past three months.

- **Advocates:** Please make sure to submit all call report forms and shift logs to Yesenia.
- **Long-term Counselors:** Please submit your timesheets to Jen.

CALL REPORT FORM REMINDER

Advocates must complete and return Call Report Forms to SBRCC *within 48 hours* after the contact date with the client. In addition, follow-up should be provided within 72 hours after initial contact.

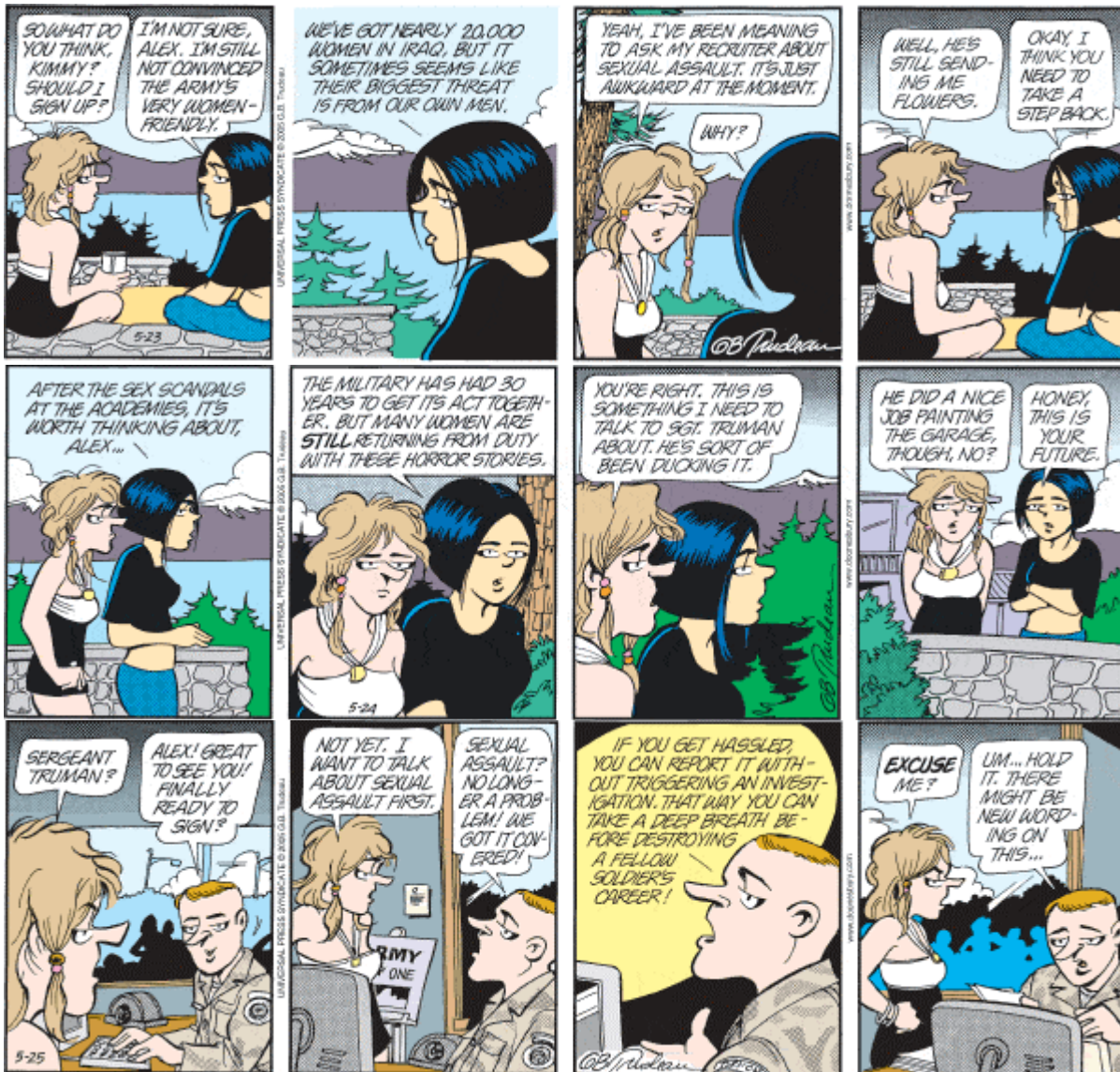
SAVE THE DATE: THE GREAT AMERICAN WRITE-IN

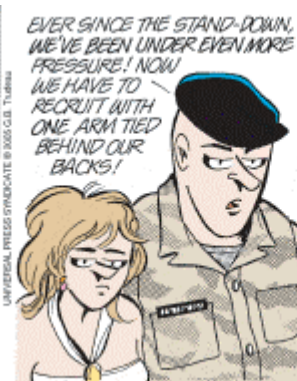
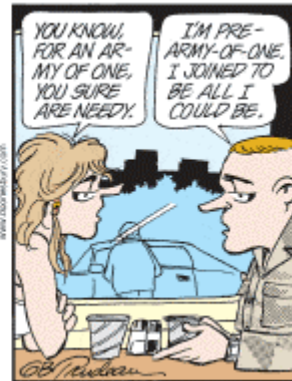
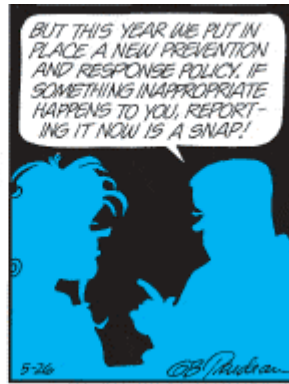
Saturday, August 27th; Time: 2-4pm

Center Stage Theater: 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, 93101

The Pro-Choice Coalition invites you to celebrate Women's Equality Day by standing up for reproductive freedom. Come to the Great American Writer to help us send thousands of letters to our leaders on issues critical to women's reproductive health.

DOONESBURY COMIC STRIPS: MAY 23rd – May 28th, 2005





Happy Birthday to:



- Nick T. on July 1st
- Laura H. on July 7th
- Danielle S. on July 10th
- Susan Y. on July 12th
- Paula H. on July 29th

And, Happy BELATED Birthday to:

- Barbara J. on June 1st
- Kegan A. on June 10th

Somehow, we goofed and didn't include you in last month's newsletter...Hope you had wonderful birthdays!