



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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FDA STALLS TO APPROVE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION OVER THE COUNTER

It is estimated that 25,000 U.S. women become pregnant as a result of sexual assault each year. When a woman is raped, emergency contraception can be an important tool to help avoid the additional trauma of an unwanted pregnancy. Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) also called the “morning-after pill” are the most commonly used method of emergency contraception. Although this method has been available to women by prescription since the late 1990’s, it has largely been unknown and unused.

On Thursday, May 6th, the FDA rejected over-the-counter sales of the emergency contraceptive Plan B, saying the distributor had not proved that young teenagers can take the drug safely without a doctor's guidance. The decision was an unusual repudiation of the lopsided recommendation of the agency's own expert advisory panel, which voted 23 to 4 late last year that the drug should be sold over the counter. In a letter to Barr Laboratories, the agency said the application was denied because only 29 of the 585 women studied by the company were younger than 16 -- a sample that was too small to assess safety.

The agency held out the possibility of a future approval if the company could prove the drug is safe for young girls or devise a plan that would keep Plan B on by-prescription-only status for girls younger than 16. The FDA said that keeping the drug prescription-only for adolescents had been discussed with the company, but that not enough information was provided on how that might be accomplished. Plan B consists of two high doses of a hormone used for birth control called levonorgestrel, which has been shown to prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after having sex. Unlike Mifeprex, or RU-486, it is not considered by the medical profession to be an abortion pill, because it prevents a pregnancy from starting.

In California, pharmacists can provide emergency contraceptive to women without a prescription. However, in a December 16, 2003, New York Times article, Dr. Carole Ben-Maimon, the president of Barr Laboratories, stated that California had a huge media campaign but only 14 percent of pharmacies and pharmacists provide the drugs without a prescription. She added that finding emergency contraception in California without a prescription is still an enormous challenge. California has a state law – AB 1860 – that requires hospitals to offer emergency contraception to rape victims.

HHS ANOUNCES ANTI-TRAFFICKING HOTLINE & AWARENESS REPORT

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a major public awareness effort to combat human trafficking and help its victims. The federal government estimates that between 18,000 and 20,000 men, women and children are trafficked to the U.S. each year. The new tools include:

- A toll-free number (888-373-7888) run by the Covenant House
- A website (www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking) that serves as a clearinghouse for victims
- An initial three-city public awareness effort (Philadelphia, Atlanta and Phoenix) to educate Americans on the problem and how to help
- A public service television announcement

VIDEO VOYEURISM MAY BECOME FEDERAL CRIME

Congress is aiming to punish digital age “Peeping Toms” who secretly snoop on people with cell-phone cameras and other high-tech gadgets. Lawmakers say a growing trend of video voyeurism threatens personal privacy and dignity in an era where indecent images can be beamed onto the Internet in seconds. Legislation moving through Congress would make it a federal crime to surreptitiously film, videotape or photograph unsuspecting people in places like locker rooms and public bathrooms. The federal anti-snooping bill is expected to pass the House of Representatives before Memorial Day. It would establish fines or penalties of up to one year in prison for digital offenders - however, it would apply only to offenses on federal property.

Supporters hope the enactment of the measure would help spread the same kind of protection to all 50 states. They say the problem of sneaky candid-camera like surveillance is becoming urgent as high-tech video and picture-taking devices become increasingly common.

STATE LEGISLATION: TWO IMPORTANT GUN CONTROL BILLS

- California will become the first state in the nation to require guns to have two new safety devices under a bill that was signed September 24, 2003 by then Governor Davis. Gun safety advocates said the bill, which will require semiautomatic pistols to have both a chamber load indicator and a magazine disconnect device by 2007, will make the state safer and bolster California’s reputation for tough gun laws. The bill requires gun manufacturers to add indicators that show if there is a bullet in the chamber or make it impossible to fire if the ammunition magazine is not inserted in the gun.
- A gun safety bill authored by Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson was also signed into law on September 24, 2003. This bill, AB 1290, prohibits anyone who is the subject of emergency protective orders due to stalking and/or restraining orders for elder abuse, from owning, purchasing, possessing or receiving a firearm while the order is in effect.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER: MARGARITO REYES & EVA CASILLAS

We are happy to acknowledge Eva Casillas and Margarito Reyes for their invaluable contributions to SBRCC. We value the dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment that they bring to the movement to end sexual violence. Margarito has been a Speaker’s Bureau member and advocate for the past three years, and Eva became a hotline advocate and joined the Speaker’s Bureau one year ago. In addition to their work in the Crisis Intervention and Community Education programs, Margarito and Eva consistently participate in other SBRCC activities and campaigns, including the various events of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

One of Margarito and Eva’s most impressive accomplishments is their work with Ofelia Cervantes to organize a large benefit dance for SBRCC. On April 3, more than 300 people attended the dance at La Casa de la Raza to enjoy various performers, including Azteca de Oro, Magia Norteña, a Vicente Hernández impressionist, and Alerta Tres. As a result of their successful efforts, we know that the community will be waiting for the next SBRCC benefit dance.

Eva and Margarito say that their volunteerism at SBRCC has had an important impact in their lives. Even Eva’s family says that she talks differently and sees the world in a new way after becoming a Rape Crisis Advocate. Margarito says that he has gained the trust and recognition of those around him, and that his boss and co-workers all congratulated him for his work to coordinate the benefit dance. One of Eva’s first experiences with feminist issues involved a very difficult conversation she had with a coworker concerning marital rape. Eva explained her perspective calmly, but was shocked to learn the extent to which people still hold sexist attitudes. Margarito shared a similar experience involving a conversation in which friends made fun of him for insisting that women should be respected. Even though these conversations are challenging, we know that they are key to shifting the attitudes that contribute to sexual violence.

Eva remains inspired to continue her challenging work because she knows that she can help many different people despite their distinct problems. She finds motivation in the sense of relief she feels when a client leaves feeling content, saying that this is like her personal grain of sand to contribute to the world. Margarito is motivated when community members learn more about sexual assault because this knowledge may have an important impact in their lives.

Eva and Margarito are committed to promoting change in their communities and the world. If he could make one change in his lifetime, Margarito says that he would eliminate racism. Similarly, Eva would like to help Latinos/as speak out about the problems they face in the United States and provide them with support.

Outside of her work, Eva enjoys videotaping life's important moments in order to share them with others. She is currently studying at Santa Barbara City College and hopes to continue helping SBRCC and motivating others to do the same. Outside of his professional life, Margarito hopes to start a family.

The SBRCC staff appreciates the commitment, creativity, and generous friendship of Eva and Margarito. We are very fortunate to have them as part of our agency.

Thank you Margarito and Evita!

SBRCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPEAKER'S BUREAU TRAINING

Attention advocates! Do you want to raise awareness in the community about sexual violence? Would you like to become a catalyst for change in the attitudes that support rape culture, and help create a violence-free community? Then join the SBRCC Speaker's Bureau! The 12-hour training will take place June 15, 17, and 22 from 6-10pm. After completing this course, you will be ready to present Rape Prevention Education workshops to middle and high schools, college classes, and various community groups. This training takes place in English, but the next Spanish training will commence in August. Please contact Alena Donovan at alena@sbrcc.net or 963-6832, ext.29 for more information.

SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **June 22nd - August 10th** - classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. If you know individuals who may be interested, please have them call Maria at 963-6832 or send her an email at maria@sbrcc.net
- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **August 16th – September 29th** Classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and one Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you know individuals who may be interested, please have them call Laura at 963-6832 or send her an email at laura@sbrcc.net

WE ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE SPANISH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL!

POSITION AVAILABLE AT SBRCC

- **Crisis Intervention Coordinator (Full-time position):** Provide direct services to clients, coordinate 24-hour hotline, maintain crisis intervention program files, participate in monthly SART Case Review meetings, provide in-service training to law enforcement, supervise Hotline Assistants, supervise all volunteer Advocates and facilitate monthly Advocate meetings. ***Bilingual English/Spanish required.***
If you or anyone you know may be interested in these positions, please submit a resume and three references as soon as possible.

SHARE THE WORD ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE

Do you know a woman who would benefit from awareness, assertiveness, and physical self-defense skills? Tell her about SBRCC's monthly Self-defense workshops! The next workshop is coming up on Sunday, June 27, from 10am-2pm here at SBRCC.

Please tell your friends and family members a little about the class. You can explain that our model of self-defense is one created by women, for the needs of women, from the experiences of women. It is based on the *empowerment* of women as opposed to the *protection* of women. The empowerment model involves giving women information, skills, and support for making their own choices about how to live their lives -- actively participating in their own safety. Our aim is to provide women with *options*. We also believe that a woman's best weapon is herself - her wits, her voice, her body -and that relying on something or someone else would be a last resort. If you took the class, please tell your loved ones what you enjoyed about it, or explain why it's important to you that they take this empowering opportunity.

Anyone interested in the class should call Alena Donovan at 963-6832 ext.29 to pre-register. Classes cost \$30, but like all the services of SBRCC, they are offered on a sliding-scale basis and we never turn anyone away for lack of funds. If you would like to distribute fliers for our self-defense classes in your school or workplace, come pick them up at SBRCC or contact Alena to have them sent to you.

END OF QUARTER REMINDER

The current quarter ends on June 30th, 2004. 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 Vilma.
- ***Long-term Counselors:*** Please submit your timesheets to Jen.

CELL PHONE COLLECTION

We are collecting used cell phones. If you have any cell phones to donate, please call Ofelia at 963-6832 or just bring them to the office. Thank you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



- **Katie on June 6th**
- **Mary on June 14th**
- **Paula R. on June 29th**