



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

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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BREAST IMPLANTS AGAIN LINKED TO SUICIDE RISK

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - A new study adds to evidence that while women with breast implants are not at greater risk of breast cancer, they do seem to have an elevated rate of suicide. The reason for the suicide risk is unclear, but several studies have now come to similar conclusions. Some researchers believe the link is explained by higher rates of depression, anxiety and low self-esteem among women who undergo breast augmentation. Supporting that theory, one recent study found that women who received cosmetic breast implants were more likely to have a history of psychiatric hospitalization than those who underwent other types of plastic surgery. The current study, published in the journal *Epidemiology*, included 12,144 U.S. women who'd received breast implants between 1960 and 1988, and 3,614 women who'd undergone other types of cosmetic surgery during the same period. Researchers compared the two groups' rates of death from various causes over an average of 20 years; the rates in each group were also compared with statistics for women in the general population. Overall, the study found, women who received implants had a lower risk of death from most causes when compared with the general population. That included a lower risk of dying from breast cancer, a disease that has been a concern among breast implant recipients. Women who received implants did, however, have a higher-than-average risk of suicide. And they were more than twice as likely as women who had other cosmetic procedures to take their own lives. SOURCE: *Epidemiology*, March 2006.

DRIVES TO BAN GAY ADOPTION HEAT UP IN 16 STATES

By Andrea Stone, USA TODAY

Efforts to ban gays and lesbians from adopting children are emerging across the USA as a second front in the culture wars that began during the 2004 elections over same-sex marriage. Steps to pass laws or secure November ballot initiatives are underway in at least 16 states. Some — such as Ohio, Georgia and Kentucky — approved constitutional amendments in 2004 banning gay marriage. "Now that we've defined what marriage is, we need to take that further and say children deserve to be in that relationship," says Greg Quinlan of Ohio's Pro-Family Network, a conservative Christian group.

Florida has banned all gays and lesbians from adopting since 1977, although they can be foster parents. State court challenges and a campaign by entertainer Rosie O'Donnell to overturn the law have failed. A pending bill would allow judges to grant exceptions. Mississippi bans adoption by gay couples, but gay singles can adopt. Utah prohibits all unmarried couples from adoption. Richard Carlson, a professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston, says adoption laws based on judgments of morality offer "a weak argument" and will face legal challenges. He cites U.S. Supreme Court rulings striking down bans on interracial marriage and sodomy, which reflected prevailing views when enacted. The high court has not taken up a state ban on gay adoption.

Religious groups and state courts are grappling with the issue. Roman Catholic bishops in Massachusetts are seeking an exemption from state anti-bias laws to allow the church to bar gays from adopting through its

social service agencies. Meanwhile, a judge in Missouri ruled last week that the state could not deny a foster care license to a lesbian. Social conservatives view family makeup as the next battleground after passing marriage amendments in 11 states in 2004. They welcomed a bill introduced this month in Ohio that would ban gays and lesbians from adopting or raising foster children. They vow to put it on the ballot if the bill fails. Some believe that Republicans - battered by questions over ethics and Iraq - might use the adoption issue to deflect attention and draw out conservatives in close Senate and governor races in states such as Missouri and Ohio. Marriage initiatives mobilized conservative voters in 2004 and helped President Bush win in closely contested states such as Ohio. This may be a “get-out-the-vote tactic.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY ADVOCATE MEETING – MONDAY, JUNE 12TH AT 6 PM

This month, we will be watching a video on domestic violence. Yesenia will also be distributing a make-up assignment for those of you who were unable to make the April HRT. It will be painless. We hope to see you all this month. Thank you for your dedication.

SPEAKER’S BUREAU TRAINING IN ENGLISH

Here’s your chance to overcome your fear of public speaking and help dismantle rape culture at the same time! If you're interested in becoming a member of SBRCC's Speaker's Bureau, please come to a Scheduling Meeting after the next Advocate Meeting in English on **Monday, June 12th at 8pm**. Bring your calendar so that we can try to schedule training in a way that works for everyone interested! Speaker’s Bureau Training is open to all certified Rape Crisis Advocates. After the 12 hour training, you will be ready to give presentations about Sexual Assault Awareness and Rape Prevention to middle and high schools, colleges and universities, parenting cooperatives, faith-based organizations, and other community groups. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Alena at alena@sbrcc.net or 963-6832 ext. 29.

POSITION AVAILABLE AT SBRCC: TRAINING COORDINATOR

Training Coordinator (Full-time position): Provide direct services and case management to clients, prepare and facilitate three 60-hour Crisis Intervention Trainings per year in English according to certification requirements, recruit and screen training applicants, and prepare and facilitate Human Relations Training and medical in-service trainings. **Bilingual English/Spanish required.** *If you or anyone you know may be interested in this position, please submit a resume, cover letter and three references to Alana at alana@sbrcc.net*



Happy Birthday to:



- Sasha S. on June 4th
- Katie M. on June 6th
- Isaura A. on June 9th
- Mary R. on June 14th
- Flor U. on June 15th
- Emily H. on June 24th
- And late, but not forgotten: Brianne D. on May 2nd!