



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

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3: MARCH 2004

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**APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

The month of April brings thoughts of new beginnings and warm, sunny weather, but unbeknownst to many, April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This awareness and education effort brings attention to the all too prevalent reality of sexual assault. Throughout April, SBRCC will host events to raise awareness about sexual assault and violence against women. We are excited about the many activities planned for next month and hope you will get involved!

**April 2004: Tentative Calendar of Events**

- April 1: Self Defense Workshop in partnership with Girl Scouts: This workshop will be offered for a badge as part of the Girl Scouts 2B program, which educates young women on assertiveness and awareness of issues of sexual assault and relationship violence. Contact Alena for location, time and any additional information.
- April 6: Proclamation of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month at Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors meeting at 9am and at Santa Barbara City Council Meeting at 2pm.
- April 6: Attend the kick-off of SBRCC's "Pathways to Peace" educational display (see article below) in De La Guerra Plaza from 11am – 3pm. Join U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps and Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson at the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Press Conference at 12pm in De La Guerra Plaza.
- April 6: Crisis Intervention Training in English begins for individuals interested in becoming state-certified Sexual Assault Counselors. Training occurs on Tues/Thurs evenings from 6pm – 10pm. Contact Laura at [laura@sbrcc.net](mailto:laura@sbrcc.net) for more information.
- April 7: *Speaking of Sex* radio show on KCSB-FM 91.9 from 6-7pm; Talk line: 893-2424
- April 7: Pathways to Peace display at UCSB's Women's Center from 12– 2pm. Volunteers needed!
- April 10: Annual Juggler's Festival from 10am-6pm in Rob's Gym at UCSB. SBRCC benefit show at 7pm at the Isla Vista Theater. \$8.00 admission, tickets will be sold at the show. Visit the website to learn more: [www.sbjuggler.org](http://www.sbjuggler.org)
- April 12: UCSB's Take Back the Night Kick Off Rally at UCSB: For more information call the UCSB Women's Center at 893-3778.
- April 15: UCSB Take Back The Night March and Rally at 5 p.m. Anisqoyo Park.
- Apr.15-30: SBRCC Flags against Sexual Violence will hang on State Street.
- Apr. 16-18: Shop at BORDERS and SBRCC will receive a percentage of your purchases. Just mention SBRCC when you check-out!
- April 17: Pathways to Peace educational display will be located at Stearn's Wharf/Beachfront area from 11am – 3pm. Volunteers needed! Please see Alena for more information.



## **Calendar of Events (cont'd).**

- April 21: Denim Day – Wear denim to show your support! See article below to learn more.
- April 21: Pathways to Peace educational display at La Cumbre Plaza from 1–5pm. Volunteers needed!
- April 21: *Speaking of Sex* radio show on KCSB-FM 91.9 from 6-7pm; Talk line: 893-2424
- April 25: Monthly Self-defense Workshop at SBRCC, 10am – 2pm, Call Alena for more information
- April 27: Pathways to Peace educational display at Santa Barbara City College from 11am–1pm. Come hear John Romo, SBCC President, and Carol Mosely, UCSB Rape Prevention and Education Program Coordinator, speak about the Governor’s Blueprint Against Sexual Assault.
- April 28: Grand Rounds from 12pm – 1:30pm at Cottage Hospital, Burtness Auditorium. Come hear more about the Sexual Assault Response Team in which SBRCC participates.
- April 28: *Human Trafficking & Slavery — Basic Tools for an Effective Response*. Educational presentation Co-sponsored with Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking and Santa Barbara City College This presentation will be held at the Schott Center, Tannahill Auditorium, 310 W. Padre St. Free Admission and CEUs available for MFTs, LCSWs, CNAs and nurses.
  - ❖ **Module One (1:30pm –3:30pm):** Dimensions of Human Trafficking and Slavery & Identification of Trafficked and Enslaved Persons: 2 CEUs available
  - ❖ **Module Two (3:45pm – 5:45pm):** Providing Social Services and Understanding the Legal Framework for Trafficked and Enslaved Persons: 2 CEUs available

**We will need extra hands, voices, and creative minds this year to make SAAM a success. If you’re interested in helping out with the campaign, please come to a SAAM Volunteer Meeting on Wednesday, March 24 from 6-8pm. Please give us a call and let us know you’ll be there!**

## **PATHWAYS TO PEACE: BE A PART OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH!**

The theme for this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month is “Pathways to Peace” and will focus on the ways each of us can make change in order to create a just, violence-free world. The first step along a Pathway to Peace is education. In order to end sexual assault we must raise consciousness and stimulate dialogue about the various aspects of the problem. To this end, SBRCC is organizing educational seminars on a variety of topics, including Human Trafficking and Slavery. In addition, we aim to raise awareness through visual displays that will rotate throughout the city. The display will include one pair of shoes to represent each of the 350 survivors that SBRCC served last year. This diverse collection of shoes will symbolize the diversity of people affected by sexual assault. On Tuesday, April 6, the Pathways to Peace display will provide a backdrop for SBRCC’s SAAM kick-off rally and press conference. Then, the display will travel to different locations (see above for complete listing) each week during April, where representatives of SBRCC will be present to provide information to community members about the steps they can take to find healing and end sexual violence. In preparation for April’s “Pathways to Peace” campaign, we would like to ask our volunteers for **donations of shoes** to add to the display. Shoes will be returned at the end of the month. In addition, the campaign’s success in raising awareness about sexual assault will depend on the devotion of time and energy by our staff and volunteers. If you can **volunteer your time** to help set up or clean up the shoe displays or be present at an information table, please contact Alena at [alena@sbrcc.net](mailto:alena@sbrcc.net) or at 963-6832 ext.29.

## **DENIM DAY ON APRIL 21: PROTEST HARMFUL ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Denim Day began in 1999 as part of an international protest following an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. The justices opined that since jeans are not easily removed without cooperation, and “impossible” to take off if someone is resisting, the victim must have been complicit in her assault. As a result, advocates around the state, the nation and the world wear jeans on Denim Day to protest this court ruling, and the many lingering myths surrounding sexual assault and sexual

violence. Please wear denim on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> to lend your support. In addition, please encourage your friends, family members and co-workers to wear jeans or other forms of denim as part of this important day of activism. SBRCC will have Denim Day buttons/stickers printed with the simple message: “Ask me why I’m wearing denim” for you to raise additional awareness among those you meet on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **DEMAND FOR SERVICES RISING: SURVIVORS LESS LIKELY TO REMAIN SILENT**

Rape crisis centers and hotlines around the nation are busier than ever – but, believe it or not, that’s good news. New data suggest that, while the number of rapes and sexual assaults has fallen dramatically in the last few years, those women and men who have been attacked are much less likely to suffer in silence. According to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), released by the Department of Justice, sexual assault is down by half since 1993. At the same time, a great percentage of sexual assault victims are reporting the crimes to police: IN 2001-2002, an average of 46.2% of victims reported their attack to police, up from an average of just 30.5% in 1993-1999.

How to explain the increase in victims who pursue prosecution and counseling? There are no simple answers, but it may be due to the extraordinary increase in media attention focused on sexual assault. In the last few years, we have seen a never-ending succession of high-profile sexual assault cases, from the Catholic Church to the Air Force Academy, from Andrew Luster to Kobe Bryant. While the details of each scandal differ, there have been consistent threads in the media coverage. First, it has been extensive and unceasing, suggesting that this is a serious, violent and widespread crime. Second, there has been widespread condemnation of those who tolerate sexual violence. For example, the Catholic Church, according to the Boston Globe, acknowledges, “that the sexual abuse scandal has diminished the church’s moral authority, weakened the faith of parishioners and created mistrust toward church leaders.”

None of this should be taken as an argument that the fight against sexual assault is over. There were more than 248,000 new survivors in the United States last year, and about half of them did not trust the system—or the culture—enough to pursue prosecution. Still, we are seeing continued progress. Part of the proof is that every day, more and more people pick up the phone and call their local rape crisis center, contact law enforcement or call the National Sexual Assault hotline.

### **CONGRESS POISED TO APPROVE DNA BILL**

On October 1, 2003, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and a bipartisan group of dozens of legislators introduced the “Advancing Justice through DNA Technology” act, a bipartisan measure that would eliminate the backlog of DNA evidence from rape and murder cases awaiting analysis. The new legislation would provide funding to analyze the DNA evidence from 350,000 rapes that have occurred over the last several years. It would also upgrade and expand the FBI’s database of DNA profiles from convicted felons (known as CODIS). Additionally the bill would improve and expand the DNA Testing capacity of federal, state and local crime labs, increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, provide police and medical workers training on collection and use of DNA evidence and provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent.

### **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SEX SCANDAL**

This week, the University of Colorado’s Board of Regents appointed a panel to investigate a sex scandal involving the University’s football team. The panel’s first meeting will take place next month and it will conclude its investigation at the end of April. So far, six women, including a former member of the team, have charged that they were raped by football players or at recruiting parties for the football team. This week, the University named Brian Cabral as its interim head football coach. Cabral replaces Gary Barnett, who was put on paid leave after saying that Katie Hnida, a former team kicker who charged that she was raped by a teammate in 2000, was “not only a girl; she was terrible.” University President Elizabeth Hoffman called Barnett’s comments “extremely inappropriate and insensitive” and he will remain on leave until the panel concludes its investigation on April 30. The women’s accusations and Barnett’s comments sparked public outrage and have led to an examination of college sports’ recruiting practices and the exploitation of women.

## **FEMALE GIS REPORT RAPES IN IRAQ WAR: 37 SEEK AID AFTER ALLEGING ASSAULTS BY U.S. SOLDIERS**

by Miles Moffeit and Amy Herdy; published on Sunday, January 25, 2004 by the Denver Post.

This is an excerpt from this article. The full text can be found at:

<http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%7E6439%7E1913069,00.html#>

Female troops serving in the Iraq war are reporting an insidious enemy in their own camps: fellow American soldiers who sexually assault them. At least 37 female service members have sought sexual-trauma counseling and other assistance from civilian rape crisis organizations after returning from war duty in Iraq, Kuwait and other overseas stations, The Denver Post has learned. The women, ranging from enlisted soldiers to officers, have reported poor medical treatment, lack of counseling and incomplete criminal investigations by military officials. Some say they were threatened with punishment after reporting assaults.

The Pentagon did not respond to repeated requests for information about the number of sexual assault reports during the conflict. Defense officials would say only that they would not tolerate sexual assault in their ranks. "Commanders at every level have a duty to take appropriate steps to prevent it, protect victims, and hold those who commit them accountable," according to a written statement from the Pentagon. Members of Congress told the newspaper they are alarmed by the assault reports, confirming that they have learned of incidents as well.

Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard - a key figure in the investigation of the Air Force Academy rape scandal - said he intends to raise the issue with colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee. And two Pennsylvania congressmen, Rep. Joseph Pitts and Sen. Arlen Specter, intervened last month on one rape victim's behalf to bring her home. "Congressman Pitts is extremely concerned," spokesman Derek Karchner said. "We have heard that there were cases that hadn't been reported or were not being investigated."

Senate leaders pledged last year to investigate the military's handling of rape and domestic violence cases after a Post series found widespread problems in the armed services, including flawed investigations, inadequate victim services and leniency for thousands of soldier sex offenders. Although congressional hearings were called for, none have been scheduled.

Women have served greater combat support roles in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts than ever before, flying fighter jets, serving on patrols and analyzing intelligence data, among other duties. According to a Department of Defense estimate, women represent 10.4 percent of the total forces between October 2002 and November 2003. A total of 59,742 women have been or are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. As women have returned from duty overseas in recent months, they have sought help from civilian trauma centers and advocates. "We have significant concerns about the military's response to sexual assault in the combat zone," said Christine Hansen, executive director of the Connecticut-based Miles Foundation, which has assisted 31 women. "We have concerns that victims are not getting forensic exams. Evidence is not being collected in some cases, and they are not getting medical care and other services."

Many of the victims are women of high rank. Several are officers. Most were stationed in Kuwait, a common launching point for troops occupying Iraq. Among the most disturbing trends, say the victim advocates, is a disregard for the women's safety and medical treatment following an assault. Women are being left in the same units as their accused attackers and are not receiving sexual-trauma counseling. The military environment magnifies intense stress for victims, Hansen said. "Just by virtue of the fact that they have to salute the individual who attacked them adds tremendous emotional trauma."

It could take months or years before a more definitive picture of the prevalence of sexual assault during the war takes shape. Defense Department officials have not disclosed such statistics in the past. But some surveys have shown high rates of sexual abuse and harassment among women troops during past military conflicts.

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: PAULA HORNEY**

Although, she may feel hesitant to accept this acknowledgement, it is without a doubt that Paula Horney deserves to be honored as volunteer of the quarter. Once Paula completed her training in June 2003, Paula's integrity for the work and her genuine concern for people was immediately obvious.

Being a volunteer with SBRCC has heightened her awareness on every level. Paula now realizes that it's absolutely necessary to get involved in order to make social change. She no longer stands by the "it doesn't affect me" belief. Paula takes pride in completing the Crisis Intervention Training and feels this was her first important step towards social justice. She firmly believes that taking part in the movement to end sexual violence is the best alternative to giving up. Although, at times she wishes that the support from others was bigger and that the changes in the community were greater, she reminds herself that making a difference in someone's life is the greatest reward.

Paula shares that every story she hears has been heartwarming and sad, but at the same time each case is different. With every contact she has had with clients she feels she walks away with something new. During her time at SBRCC, Paula has been moved by the little miracles she has witnessed, such as a "light bulb going off in someone's eyes" or learning the importance of connecting to people from all backgrounds, always without judgment.

When asked what she envisioned for SBRCC in five years she quickly responded: "a new building." Besides working to eliminate sexual violence, Paula fulfills her other passions by sailing, WALKING, or anything that allows her to be outside in the sunshine.

Even though Paula struggles to recognize her own strengths at times, all of us at SBRCC can clearly see the energy she dedicates to working with sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. We at SBRCC want to thank Paula for all she brings to Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center. She is a great asset and we are lucky to have her as part of our team.

--Thank you, Paula!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MELISSA

It is with excitement that I announce this month that I'll be leaving SBRCC to take a position as Community Relations Associate at the Community Environmental Council. I began my work as SBRCC's Office Manager in 2001, and it has been an amazing experience. I leave with bittersweet feelings – all too anxious to start a fun new job, yet very sorry to leave such a wonderful environment.

In just 2-½ years I've seen SBRCC change and evolve in so many ways. I came here with some experience as a crisis intervention advocate and felt as though I had the issues of sexual assault “under my belt.” I felt ready to take on anything. In retrospect, I see that I've learned more in the past 2 years than I could have imagined, and that there's no such thing as being “ready” for this work. I've seen staff and volunteers come and go, but I feel the lasting impression they made on everything at SBRCC. I've seen clients come in, sobbing, bruised sometimes, and falling apart before my eyes. Then, months later they arrive for an appointment, smiling. Sometimes, I've even see clients leave our services behind because they're ready to survive on their own.

Not everything has been heartening. It is difficult to digest the opinion from a community member or in a newspaper that our issues are irrelevant or less significant than others. After thousands hours of presentations in our community, I'm still surprised when I hear someone say, “they deserved it.” It's easy to forget, but this work is a struggle to combat entire structures already in place in our families, cultures, and society. Every person who holds a “myth as truth” has the potential to learn and change his or her beliefs. Empowerment is the key. After all, we were once in similar shoes. For those of us who make activism our life's work, the reward is in knowing you've been a part of a bigger change, a grand force balancing the inequalities in society. The intensity of the work can easily make you forget “why,” but it can always be found if you take a moment to connect with the motivation inside you.

I'd like to welcome a new Office Manager who will take my place. Her name is Jennifer Epstein, and she comes to SBRCC with the right blend of experience for this position. Please think of Jennifer as an invaluable source of information and assistance in the future. Thank you everyone for being a part of SBRCC and my positive experience as a staff member.

## WELCOME TO JENNIFER

Please help us welcome Jennifer Epstein as our new Office Manager. Jennifer brings many qualities to this position, including strong analytical skills, experience with providing computer technical support, and knowledge of contracts and leases. Jennifer's financial background and the attention to detail that this requires will serve her well in working on the statistics for our agency.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MEDIA COVERAGE

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we would like to see coverage about sexual assault and violence against women throughout April. We encourage SBRCC volunteers to submit letters or articles to local newspapers. Topics could include: information about SBRCC and our services, what being a volunteer means to you and how it has affected your life, the importance of speaking out against sexual assault, etc.

For your information, we have included a short list of newspapers below.

- **Santa Barbara News Press:** P.O. Box 1359, SB 93102; Fax: 966-6258; [sbnpedit@newspress.com](mailto:sbnpedit@newspress.com)
- **Santa Barbara Independent:** 122 West Figueroa St., SB 93101; Fax: 965-5518; [letters@independent.com](mailto:letters@independent.com)
- **Daily Nexus:** P.O. Box 13402, UCSB University Center, SB 93117; Fax: 893-3905 or 893-2789
- **The Bulletin:** 126 E. Haley Street, Suite A-17, SB 93101; [bulletin@pacificpridefoundation.org](mailto:bulletin@pacificpridefoundation.org); 963-3636, x.121
- **Tinta Latina:** 316 W. Alamar, Suite A. SB 93105; Phone: 687-1888; Fax: 687-3768. [info@tintalatina.net](mailto:info@tintalatina.net)
- **Montecito Journal:** P.O. Box 50015, Montecito 93108; Phone: 565-1860; Fax: 969-6654
- **Goleta Valley Voice:** 5786 Hollister Ave., Goleta 93117; Fax: 683-7697; [vvoice@goletavalleyvoice.com](mailto:vvoice@goletavalleyvoice.com)

## **MESSAGE FROM ALENA: OUTCRY IS COMING**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is right around the corner, and I'm beginning to collect ideas and submissions for SBRCC's annual publication of **Outcry!** Please spread the word to the clients you work with that we welcome contributions of poetry, testimonials, artwork, photography, book reviews, or other material that would help deepen the community's understanding of sexual violence. If you or a client would like to contribute something to Outcry!, please contact me at [alena@sbrcc.net](mailto:alena@sbrcc.net) or 963-6832 ext.29. Thank you!

## **SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**

- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and one Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for a self-defense class. 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](mailto:laura@sbrcc.net)
- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup>**  
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](mailto:maria@sbrcc.net)

**WE ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE SPANISH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL!**

## **POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT SBRCC**

- ***Development Director (Part-time position, 30 hours per week):*** Responsible for donor development and solicitation. Responsible for grant writing and special event planning. Requires strong verbal and written communication skills.
- ***Executive Assistant (Part-time position, 15 hours per week):*** Maintain files, provide correspondence, assist with submission of grant applications/reports and with fundraising record keeping, and assist with special executive projects.
- ***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.***

## **JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ADVOCATE MEETING: MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2004 FROM 6PM – 8PM**

These mandatory in-service trainings are great opportunities to learn new information, meet other advocates, gain support, and process client work. Join us in March to hear from Marcelino who works for Family Service Agency. He will be sharing information about FSA's important HelpLine program.

## **SENDING OUR THANKS**

Everyone at SBRCC would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mario Da Cunha and Marilyn Goldman for their generous individual contributions towards snacks and drinks at monthly Advocate meetings. We really appreciate it!

## **UPCOMING SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOPS**

- Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm

Classes are \$30 per person. Please help to spread the word! Call SBRCC for more information.

**A self-defense class can be a great present for someone you love. Gift certificates are available.**



**And, Happy Birthday to Robin Cameron on March 14<sup>th</sup>!**