



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

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4: APRIL 2006

RECENT IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, DC - Despite broad-based agreement on the need to reform legal immigration to the United States, House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner is promoting legislation that would worsen one of the broken features of current immigration enforcement law. This bill, the "Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005" (H.R. 4437), will expand the number of detainees held indefinitely." The bill would overturn two Supreme Court rulings mandating fair treatment and due process for immigrants held indefinitely by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Under these Supreme Court decisions and DHS's own regulations, DHS must periodically review the continued detention of deportees whose countries have refused to take them back. Although the vast majority of immigrants ordered deported are removed from the U.S. immediately, a few thousand every year are held for months or years while the U.S. government tries to execute their removal.

Under the Sensenbrenner bill, even more of these "indefinite detainees" would be held in legal limbo for long periods of time, separated from families, jobs, and communities in both the U.S. and their countries of origin. In a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, Bishop Gerald Barnes, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops noted that "it is inhumane to indefinitely incarcerate persons who have served their sentences." The Sensenbrenner legislation does nothing to solve the real problem of indefinite detention. DHS has the legal ability to speedily process detainees' removal but it does not commit the resources needed to do this in a timely way.

The lack of allocated resources impedes DHS communication with detainees and their lawyers, who often do not know what they need to do to assist DHS in processing the detainee for deportation. "This legislation would eliminate any possibility of release for the vast majority of indefinite detainees, says Donald Kerwin, Executive Director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc (CLINIC). Keeping an immigrant whose home country will not accept him or her detained in prison is inconsistent with our basic notions of due process and justice. Immigrants should not be punished with perpetual detention because of bureaucratic incapacity or poor diplomatic relations."

Current law allows for deportees who violated the law to be considered for temporary supervised release after serving out their sentence only if DHS cannot remove them in six months. Under DHS rules, the agency may detain indefinitely persons who are "especially dangerous." Thus, the current system does not undermine DHS's ability to protect the nation. By categorically eliminating the possibility of supervised release for most detainees, the bill will overwhelm existing detention capacity and worsen pre-existing detention problems. "If Mr. Sensenbrenner's bill passes, we can expect, at minimum, an increase of thousands of indefinite detainees in U.S. detention facilities," states Donald Kerwin. He added, "this would be a huge step backwards. We should not expand a legal black hole that leaves migrants imprisoned in legal limbo."

After hundreds of thousands marched for immigrant rights throughout the country, the immigration reform debate took a dramatic shift. The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (Committee Bill) was passed by the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee on March 27, immigration reform debate now

turned to the full U.S. Senate. We expect the Senate to debate Immigration Reform over the next couple of weeks. After the Senate, there will be negotiations between House and Senate to create a bill that will go to the desk of President Bush. To become law, Bush needs to sign it. The full Senate is expected to vote in the next two weeks.

SOUTH DAKOTA ABORTION BILL TAKES AIM AT 'ROE'

By Evelyn Nieves, Washington Post Staff Writer, Thursday, February 23, 2006

South Dakota lawmakers yesterday approved the nation's most far-reaching ban on abortion, setting the stage for new legal challenges that its supporters say they hope lead to an overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The measure, which passed the state Senate 23 to 12, makes it a felony for doctors to perform any abortion, except to save the life of a pregnant woman. The bill was designed to challenge the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe*, which in 1973 recognized a right of women to terminate pregnancies. Its sponsors want to force a reexamination of the ruling by the court, which now includes two justices appointed by President Bush.

"The momentum for a change in the national policy on abortion is going to come in the not-too-distant future," said Rep. Roger W. Hunt, a Republican who sponsored the bill. To his delight, abortion opponents succeeded in defeating all amendments designed to mitigate the ban, including exceptions in the case of rape or incest or the health of the woman. Hunt said that such "special circumstances" would have diluted the bill and its impact on the national scene. Kate Looby, director of Planned Parenthood of South Dakota, which plans to immediately challenge the ban, said that while she was not surprised, she was still a "little shocked" by the vote. "Clearly, this is a devastating day for the women of South Dakota," she said. "We fully expected this, yet it's still distressing to know that this legislative body cares so little about women, about families, about women who are victims of rape or incest."

National abortion rights organizations said the South Dakota vote has set the stage for a new fight to keep abortion legal at the federal level and in the states. "When you see them have a ban that does not include exceptions for rape or incest or the health of the mother, you understand that elections do matter," said Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. "We will be very active in '06 and in '08 in electing candidates that represent the views of most Americans."

Some abortion opponents are more confident than ever that *Roe* could be overturned with two new conservative members of the high court, Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. and Justice Samuel Alito Jr. South Dakota is the first but not the only state to consider new abortion restrictions this year. Ohio, Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky have introduced similar measures. Even without this latest ban, South Dakota was already one of the most difficult states in the country in which to get an abortion, those on both sides of the issue say. It is one of three states with only one abortion provider (Mississippi and North Dakota are the others), and its one clinic, the Planned Parenthood clinic in Sioux Falls, offers the procedure only once a week. Four doctors who fly in from Minnesota on a rotating basis perform the abortions, since no doctor in South Dakota will do so because of the heavy stigma attached.

CHAUNTEL WIGGINS – VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

We at SBRCC are privileged to honor this quarter's outstanding volunteer- Chauntel Wiggins. A Speaker's Bureau member and advocate, Chauntel most often took her shifts at SBRCC, becoming involved in and offering help with work in addition to her hotline responsibilities.

Chauntel has been a volunteer for SBRCC for almost one year, but her awareness of and involvement in social justice began much earlier in her life. As an Elementary school child, Chauntel devoted her recess and lunch breaks to friends in the Special Education program. She opposed the social taunts that others made and instead engaged in developing social skills through activities and daily interpersonal interaction. She learned sign language to help break down communication barriers and assisted those in the classroom with mobility issues. From this early age, Chauntel believed that inclusion of students with disabilities in classrooms with their "normally developing peers" would be beneficial to all students and society.

Chauntel moved to Santa Barbara from Northern California to finish a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology – which she will have achieved by the time this newsletter is printed! Chauntel plans to pursue graduate education in order to achieve her Ph.D. but doesn't yet have a definite picture of where that will take place. Chauntel currently works at Devereux of Santa Barbara, a therapeutic residential treatment facility. She was drawn to the study of Clinical Psychology due to its expansive and inclusive nature and Chauntel's daily activities at Devereux connect her with a diverse variety of people. From this experience, her focus for the future is now on working with children and adolescents. Through friends at Devereux, Chauntel discovered SBRCC. Her choice between ignoring the pain and societal impact of sexual violence or becoming involved and working to eliminate it was clear.

Since volunteering for SBRCC, Chauntel has increased her awareness of and sensitivity to all forms of oppression. She endeavors to eliminate these systems in her personal relationships as well as her educational pursuits, by studying and addressing the nature and application of such oppression. Chauntel works to speak out and interrupt oppressive statements and jokes, which are so pervasive in their mainstream acceptability in our society. Chauntel is motivated to continue her efforts in this field by a basic belief in social justice, but more specifically by the feedback she receives from survivors who feel empowered by the work of volunteers. Chauntel is confident that we, as individuals and as an agency, are a powerful presence in a survivor's life and make a great difference in their recovery process.

Chauntel strongly believes that the involvement of men at SBRCC is a key ingredient to future success in eliminating sexual violence in our society. She is excited by the My Strength training and forum which promotes men's awareness of their own active role in ending sexual assault. Sexual violence affects the whole community and all members need to accept responsibility for preventing oppression.

As a feminist organization, Chauntel believes SBRCC is aligned with her own beliefs in its proactive inclusiveness and appreciates the existence of an all-bilingual crisis intervention staff. Chauntel aspires to increase her own cultural awareness by learning Spanish and traveling through South America this summer. When she has the time, Chauntel enjoys outdoor adrenalin-inducing activities like skydiving and rock climbing, but is also content to be educated and exposed to other cultural perspectives through books and film.

We will miss Chauntel as she prepares for her summer travels closer to home, but thank her for her dedication and passion for creating a society free from all forms of oppression. Keep in touch!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING

The mandatory Human Relations Training (for which all of you have hopefully RSVP'd!) will take place at Cottage Hospital in the following conference rooms:

Wednesday, April 5th 6:00-8:00pm – Conference Rooms E & F

Thursday, April 13th 6:00-8:00pm – Conference Rooms C & D

Please note that the location is slightly different for each night, but all of the conference rooms are in the same hallway near the Cafeteria. Please plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early so that you can find a seat and arrange for headsets if you need them for translation purposes. In addition, parking can be difficult to find, so please allot enough time for that as well. If you still need to RSVP, contact Heather immediately at heather@sbrcc.net or 963.6832 x28. See you there!

TRAINING HELP NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping with the upcoming English Crisis Intervention Training, contact Heather ASAP. This can be another rewarding way to give back to the community and ensure quality training of future Advocates. Whether you're interested in presenting on a specific topic, assisting with roleplays, or participating on the Advocate Panel, Heather wants to get you involved. Contact her at heather@sbrcc.net or 963.6832 x. 28.

TEN PERCENT TUESDAYS IN APRIL

Support SBRCC by enjoying a delicious Italian dinner! Aldo's Italian Restaurant will donate 10% of profits from Tuesdays in April to SBRCC. Come in for lunch or dinner. Call for reservations at 963-6687 and mention SBRCC. On Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30pm, join us for spoken word performances and for information about ending sexual violence. Come early to enjoy dinner before the program begins. Aldo's is located at 1031 State Street.

SAFE ZONE

SBRCC is partnering with local agencies to offer self-defense classes for members of LGBT/Q (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) communities. Come learn awareness, assertiveness, and physical self-defense techniques in a safe, supportive, and empowering environment. The workshops are designed for LGBT/Q community members of all gender identities.

UCSB Workshop co-sponsored by the Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity, the Rape Prevention Education Program, the Queer Student Union and SBRCC:

Friday, April 28th. 1pm – 5pm

Space is limited. Call 893-5847 to sign up!

Community Workshop co-sponsored by Pacific Pride Foundation and SBRCC:

Saturday, April 29th. 10am – 2pm

Cost: \$30. Partial scholarships are available!

Spaces are limited. Call 963-6832 to sign up!

JUGGLER'S FESTIVAL AND SHOW

Please join us in attending the 30th Annual Juggler's Festival and Show: A Benefit for SBRCC in memory of Patty Laney, a SBRCC volunteer who was kidnapped, assaulted, and murdered in 1977. Please help us

celebrate her life, have fun, and support the vital work of SBRCC by attending a Juggling Festival event. The details:

Who:

Jugglers, Unicyclists, Clowns, Magicians, Juggling Prop Vendors.
The general public; those interested in learning to juggle are especially encouraged to attend.

When & Where:

- April 14th, 7:30pm – midnight, Robertson Gym, UCSB – FREE ADMISSION
- April 15th, 10am – 6pm, Robertson Gym, UCSB – FREE ADMISSION
- **Sat., April 15th, 7:30pm-- Juggling Show, Isla Vista Theater, 960 Embarcadero del Norte
Tickets sold at the door; Adults \$10; Students & Seniors \$5 – benefit for SBRCC**
- April 16th, 10am –sunset, Anisq'oyo Park, Isla Vista

Contact Alena if you can volunteer to be at an SBRCC information table during any of these events!

DOS PUEBLOS HIGH SCHOOL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS WEEK

SBRCC empowers youth to take action in ending sexual violence and building safe, equitable environments on campus and in their communities. April 17th through 21st, SBRCC will partner with Dos Pueblos High School (DPHS) student organizers from POWA (People's Organization of Women Activists), STAR (Students Talking about Respect, and Amigas Positivas/Positive Peers to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Sexual Assault Awareness Week at DPHS will feature sexual assault prevention and self-defense workshops for students. In addition, DPHS will commemorate Denim Day on April 19th. Denim Day began in 1999 as part of an international protest following an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the survivor wore jeans. As a result, advocates around the world wear jeans on Denim Day to protest this ruling, and the many lingering myths surrounding sexual assault.

DPHS junior and SBRCC intern Leigha Bolduc is bringing together the coalition of student groups as part of her participation in the National Conference on Community and Justice's (NCCJ) Central Coast Social Justice Internship Program. Leigha says, "I do social justice work out of pure necessity. I feel it is every person's responsibility (especially as a teenager) to practice compassion and understanding-- actually lobbying for change is something we all need to strive for. I became involved with SBRCC because, as a teenage female in my generation, I definitely feel the critical want and absolute necessity to end sexual violence-- the idea of such a supportive, inclusive, and safe environment for survivors is a complete essential in our community."

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS
TAKING PLACE AT UCSB!**

- April 17 – 20: UCSB It Affects Me Week: www.studentsstoppingrape.org
- Thursday, April 27, 5:00pm: UCSB Take Back the Night March and Rally



Happy Birthday to:



- Melinda G. on April 4th
- Kay S. on April 19th