



# WOMEN'S VU

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

April 2004, Volume XXVI, Issue 8

## PROJECT SAFE RESPONDS TO THE RECENT SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA

Project Safe would like to thank the *Vanderbilt Hustler* for its in-depth report on these statistics.

In 2003, VUPD received 19 reports of sex offenses. Of the 19 sex offenses, four were rapes, two attempted rapes and 13 involved forcible fondlings or inappropriate touching. Victims of the sex offenses knew the offenders in 11 out of the 19 cases. While this number represents a significant increase over past years, we know that it still only represents a fraction of the actual incidence of sexual violence on campus. Project Safe continues to work towards gathering the most accurate figure through our Anonymous Reporting Form System. In 2003, of the 23 sex offenses reported through our Anonymous Reporting System, 18 were rapes, one was an attempted rape, and four were forcible fondlings. We believe that a central element of a community that refuses to tolerate violence against women is the creation of a safe and supportive atmosphere for victims to report. We hope that the increase in reports indicates that we are doing that here at Vanderbilt.

*Submitted by Sandra Harrell,  
Co-Director of Project Safe*



## APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH: REMEMBER AND SPEAK OUT!

*By Sandra Harrell,  
Co-Director of Project Safe*

**"We survive through amnesia."**

--Andrea Dworkin,  
Terror, Torture, and Resistance

We have gotten in the habit of forgetting. Indeed, we have made a conscious choice to eliminate from our daily discourse anything that might make us remember. We choose, for instance, to ignore the staged sexual violence of a half-time show and lament, instead, that our children were exposed to a bared breast. We choose to pretend that one rape charge is shocking, ignoring the fact that over 300,000 women are raped each year. We like to believe that it doesn't hap-

pen that often so we train ourselves to dismiss the high incidence through graphic representations in the media; through accusations about the victim's character and choices; through endless safety precautions teaching women to avoid the mythical, ne'er do well, caveman type. We want desperately to forget that our brothers, friends, cousins, lovers are more likely to harm us than anyone else. We choose to forget to survive.

Yet, despite all we do to pretend all is well, something nags at our consciousness, begging us to remember. Perhaps it's the sound of your best friend's voice telling you she was raped. Or the memory of his breath as he whispered, "Stop moving." *continued on page 2*

## Women's Center Honors Alison Piepmeier with Prestigious Mary Jane Werthan Award



During the annual Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Lecture, which this year was part of the Chancellor's Lecture Series, the Women's Center presents the Mary Jane Werthan Award. Mary Jane Werthan, a Vanderbilt alum, was the first woman on the Board of Trust at Vanderbilt, and the first woman to become a life member. She and her husband, Albert, have been one of Nashville's leading philanthropic families. The award was named in her honor in 1988 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Women's Center and she received the first award that year.

The award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize, is presented annually to an individual

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## Alison Piepmeier Honored

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who has contributed significantly to the advancement of women at Vanderbilt University. The award honors three qualities characteristic of the first recipient for whom it is named: **vision, persistence, and extraordinary skill in interpersonal and institutional relations.** It recognizes the debt that women at Vanderbilt University owe to those individuals who have had the vision to see how things ought to be, the courage to persist in their hopes over time, and the skills necessary to bring new attitudes and practice into being. The Mary Jane Werthan Award offers tribute to the humor, intelligence and graceful determination of those individuals whose work has enhanced our entire community.

This special year, which marks the Women's Center's 25th Anniversary, we are honored to present this award to a very deserving and special individual, the Assistant Director of Women's Studies, Professor Alison Piepmeier.

Alison's teaching and research interests clearly converge in her passion for social justice and civic responsibility. Alison is well known for incorporating service learning into her classroom, so that students might have a more complete, hands-on experience of the material that they are trying to understand. She is so committed to service learning that last year, after designing and co-facilitating the first in the nation graduate seminar on service learning, she was awarded the Outstanding Leadership in Service-Learning Honor. Alison walks her talk

when she works regularly with the women at Magdelene House, a program that is run out of St. Augustine's Chapel here on campus to serve community women trying to overcome drug addiction and transition out of prostitution. Most recently Alison has engaged these women in a class that is, among other things, dialoguing about concepts of feminism in their everyday lives.

Alison is the go-to person for cutting edge women's issues, and last year won the Mentoring Award on campus.

She is especially well-known for her classes on *Gender and Violence* as well as *Third Wave Feminism*, a topic that also encompasses her first book, an edited collection called *Catching A Wave*, which was published last year. We also look forward to her forthcoming book, *Out in Public*, about the public self-construction of 19th-century women's bodies.

Alison's colleagues would like you to know that Alison is not only the heart and soul of Women's Studies; she is also its best, most dedicated mind. Every day she inspires us, students, faculty and staff alike, with her clear-eyed intelligence, her deep knowledge of and passion for issues facing women. That knowledge is both scholarly and experiential, gathered by her reading and her research and also by the many different kinds of work Alison does at Vanderbilt and in the greater Nashville community.

What connects all of this work is Alison's talent for listening carefully, for caring deeply, and for thinking pragmatically. This is how Alison meets the world, and the world is a much better place for its encounter with her. Vanderbilt is lucky to have her!

It is because of this and so much more that we are pleased to present the Mary Jane Werthan Award to our colleague and friend, Dr. Alison Piepmeier.

*Submitted by Jennifer Hackett, adapted from her award presentation, February 26, 2004*

**m**

The Women's Center congratulates the  
Vanderbilt women's basketball team  
on their fourth consecutive  
SEC Tournament Championship  
with a 62-56 win over Georgia.

Go Commodores!

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**Address changes:** Please contact our office manager, Robin Van Arman

**Deadline for newsletter:** 1st of the month preceding publication

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Remember and Speak Out!

*continued from page 1*

Or that one girl in class whose eyes well with tears, seemingly for no reason. Or the cousin nobody talks about. Maybe you are struck by the incongruity that such a “minimal” problem receives federal funds to establish rape crisis centers in almost every community. Or the fact that almost every woman you know employs at least one tactic every day in an attempt to ward off rape. Try as you might, you cannot reconcile these facts with a world where sexual violence is peripheral.

If our survival is predicated on forgetting, we cannot truly live our lives to their potential. For there is a special sort of power inherent in convincing us to deny our own reality. If we are not in control of defining and naming our experiences in this world, who will be? Do we really want to abdicate the power to name to those who would have us hide away after dark, who would have us accommodate the rape culture rather than challenge it? Are we truly satisfied with our society’s response to rape considering that, according to the Department of Justice, reports of sexual violence result in fewer arrests and in fewer convictions than other felonies? A report by the majority staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1993 found that only one percent of convicted rapists are sentenced to more than one year in prison. Almost one-quarter are not sentenced to prison at all, but are instead released on probation. Don’t we deserve better?

If you think we do, I challenge you to stop trying to forget. Instead, consider what it means that, according to a study recently conducted by Brown University, two out of every five women will experience some type of sexual violence in their lifetimes. Allow into your consciousness the horrifying reality that, according to the FBI’s most recent National Crime Bureau Report, every three minutes five adult women are forcibly raped. Only when we remember, when we cast light into those places concealed in shadows, do we begin to recognize the need for substantive change. In remembering we face the injustices visited upon the bodies of our mothers, sisters, and friends. We face them with the clarity of righteous anger and we demand that the world right these wrongs.

Throughout April, we invite you to join Project Safe at the various events we will be sponsoring. If you so choose, you can begin the process of lifting the cloak of silence that conceals the realities of violence against women. And, if in bearing witness to these truths, you are moved to action, we invite you to act. Visit our website [www.vanderbilt.edu/ProjectSafe](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ProjectSafe) for our calendar of events and join us.

Together we can make a difference...  
in fact, we can change the world.



## Is There Hope for Men? Author and Educator, Brian Paul, Speaks Out

War, steroids, and sex scandals have been among things grabbing news headlines lately, but a movement of men committed to reshaping manhood and masculinity and to bringing an end to men’s violence is quietly taking shape on college campuses and in communities throughout the world. We are not hearing much about this movement at the moment, but increasing numbers of men are gaining skills to be a positive force in their communities and building alliances with women to create a more safe, just, and equitable society.

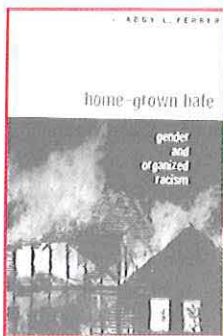
Many wonder why men should be concerned with rape or domestic violence. After all, aren’t these women’s issues? Of course that is how they are typically portrayed. For example, headlines like “A Woman Was Beaten” or “A College Woman Was Raped” or “Girl, 13, Gives Birth” are all too common. What is missing from these headlines and, often from the stories that follow them, is anything about the men who beat, raped, or impregnated these girls and women. When men get left out of these statements, there is an implication we are not involved in the acts, and that the issues raised are ones that do not affect us, but the reality according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics is that 98% of reported sex offenders are heterosexual men and that males are most often both the victims and the perpetrators in 90% of homicides. The reality is

that women who are afraid to walk alone at night, or who take self defense classes, or who only park in well lit areas, or who are overly concerned with sending mixed messages are constantly told to alter their lives in order to keep themselves from being attacked by a man. I dream of the day a newscaster reporting about rape foregoes the obligatory “Women Beware” message and instead say, “Men, Stop Raping Women.” Violence is our issue, and the sooner we decide to stop tolerating it, the sooner our communities become safe places for women, children and men.

Evidence of the growing movement came in the form of a recent internet search which revealed several groups of men against violence, men against sexual assault (and groups with a number of other names) throughout the U.S. on college campuses. There are also groups of men working in their communities providing batterers treatment and prevention education, in addition to the many men supporting already existing sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse agencies in the country. The same search also uncovered similar groups in South Africa, Canada, Australia and several throughout Central and South America. One man involved in a college Men Against Violence group said, “Violence against women affects all of us, whether we know it or *continued on page 7*



## A BOOK REVIEW ON RACISM AND HATE GROUPS; WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YOUNG AND OLD IN THE 21ST CENTURY



The links between gender and hate groups are explored in *Home-Grown Hate: Gender and Organized Racism* (Routledge, 2004), edited by sociologist Abby L. Ferber. While there are many differing white supremacy groups and movements, they share some core beliefs. They feel that there are vast racial and gender differences that are unchanging and that social inequality is natural. Their sense of entitlement leads white men to assume that

their natural position is at the top of the hierarchy. These men believe that they need to protect innocent white women from nonwhites. Most groups also consider that Jews are nonwhite and control much of the world.

Ferber, director of the women's studies program at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, believes that "organizing against the real and perceived advances of the civil rights, women's, and gay and lesbian movements, white-supremacist organizations seek to reassert white, male, heterosexual hegemony." As most members of hate groups are obsessed with the possibility of white genocide, white women's reproduction and sexuality need to be controlled. White children must be produced for the growth of the race so supremacists strongly oppose mixed-race marriage and homosexuality. Some group members who abhor abortion for white women consider it desirable for nonwhite women. Feminists are typically blamed for many of the perceived problems in American society.

Nine contributions on various aspects of right-wing movements are included in this volume. Among the groups analyzed are the militia movement, the Ku Klux Klan, the white separatist movement, the Christian right, skinheads, white nativist environmental movements and neo-Nazis. The contributors show that, in contrast to the usual stereotype, many members of white supremacy groups are educated middle- and upper-class men and women. Some women are attracted to hate groups, many of which actively seek to recruit them. While there are often rigid gender roles, with women relegated to traditional female supporting tasks, some groups include women who join men in committing violent acts.

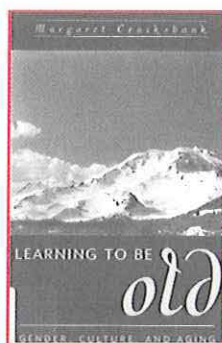
Some contributors stress that hate movements do not cause racism and sexism but rather that they reflect views that are already prevalent in society. The foreword is by Michael Kimmel, who discusses racial entitlement, class-based rage and

the shame of emasculation. Peggy McIntosh, a noted scholar of gender and white privilege, contributed the afterword.

*In Future Girl: Young Women in the Twenty-First Century* (Routledge, 2004) Anita Harris discusses the myths and realities of "girl power." Young women today are often celebrated for their opportunities, goals, accomplishments and promise and are the subject of intense scrutiny and much regulation. Harris, a lecturer in sociology at Monash University in Australia, studies girls and young women in the rapidly-changing western world.



The writer observes "representations of young womanhood, the material conditions young women experience, and the new politics they enact." She discusses how "the needs of global capital shape constructions of the future girl." "At-risk" girls, who usually come from working-class or less-privileged backgrounds, seldom have the same opportunities, goals and attitudes as the "can-do" girls, who are more likely to become leaders. Harris discusses the realities of young women's lives in the spheres of education, jobs, politics, sexuality, and consumerism.



Margaret Cruikshank's *Learning to Be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003) is partly an analysis and psychological study of aging, and partly a source of practical advice for the growing percentage of Americans who are elderly. Most of these are women.

Cruikshank, a lecturer in women's studies and faculty associate of the Center on Aging at the University of Maine, considers that aging is socially constructed and that both genders can learn to be old in ways that will be beneficial. She advocates that they strive for comfortable aging, which encompasses good psychological and physical health. Learning to be old involves discarding the untrue stereotypes about the aging process. There are chapters on cultural myths about aging, sickness and overmedication, ageism, how healthy aging is affected by class and ethnicity, and the great advantages of staying busy and active.





## April 2004 Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE  
AND POST

Unless otherwise indicated, all groups are open to all people and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's Campus.

For directions, please consult the map at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/contact.html>. For more information, please call 322-4843.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 2

#### Single Women in Ministry

**What:** A time to join with other women in sisterhood for rejoicing, relating, and telling stories about being a single woman in ministry.

**Who:** If you are single, female, going into (or in) ministry, come to the first women and ministry group. This conversation is free and open to women of the Vanderbilt and larger Nashville communities.

**When:** 6:00-7:30pm

**Where:** Off-campus location, TBD

For more information, contact Ginger Skaggs, M.Div. candidate and Women's Center intern at [gingerskaggs@hotmail.com](mailto:gingerskaggs@hotmail.com) or 615-319-3144.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 6

#### Dolores Huerta Lecture

**Who:** Dolores C. Huerta is the co-founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO ("UFW"). The mother of 11 children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, Dolores has played a major role in the American civil rights movement.

**When:** 4:10pm

**Where:** Furman 114

For more information, contact [womens-studies@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womens-studies@vanderbilt.edu)

### TUESDAYS, APRIL 6, 13, 20, AND 27

#### Creative Life Planning Group

**What:** A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Open to everyone in the community and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone.

**When:** 12:00noon to 1:00pm (meets every Tuesday)

For more information, call 322-4843.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

#### Dangerous Women: The Elizabeth Key's Freedom Suit--A Story of Race and Gender in the Law

**Who:** Professor Taunya L. Banks, the Jacob A. France Professor of Equality Jurisprudence at the University of Maryland Law School is presenting

**What:** The event is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Women Law Students' Association, the Black Law Students' Association, the American Constitution Society, and is a Hyatt Fund Event. Reception to follow.

**Where and when:** 5:00pm, Flynn Auditorium, VU Law School. Contact [amanda.c.jones@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:amanda.c.jones@vanderbilt.edu) for more info.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

#### T-BLAST (Transgendered, Bi Women, Lesbians and Straight Women Together)

**What:** Too often, lesbians bi-women and straight women are portrayed as being on opposite sides of a great chasm of difference and transgendered women are left out of the equation all together. Yet women throughout history have had loving friendships with their mothers, daughters and best friends despite differing sexual identities. Please join us in a casual conversation and celebration of our differences and our friendships.

**Who:** This group is free and open to all women. Co-Sponsored with the VU GLBT Office.

**When:** 6:15-7:15pm (Meets the first Wednesday)

**Where:** Women's Center lounge

For more information, contact [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu) or [patricia.k.gardner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:patricia.k.gardner@vanderbilt.edu)

### WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 7, 14, 21, AND 28

#### Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

**Who:** Specifically for undergraduates (women and men), but open to all.

**What:** An undergraduate student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

**When:** 5:00-6:00pm

**Where:** Women's Center Lounge

Contact [jessica.n.heaven@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jessica.n.heaven@vanderbilt.edu) or [jessica.l.bearden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jessica.l.bearden@vanderbilt.edu) for more information. Or just come to a meeting!

### THURSDAY, APRIL 15 AND 22

#### Vandy Moms

**Who:** Working Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Superheroes! Open to all working mothers, partnered or single.

**What:** A support network that provides advocacy for working moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. **The meeting on the 15th will feature speaker Eva Daneker who will discuss the necessity of Preparing a Will.** The meeting on the 22nd will be for networking and program planning

**When:** 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meets the second and fourth Thursdays)

**Where:** Women's Center Lounge

For more information or to RSVP, contact [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu) or call 343-4367.

### MONDAY, APRIL 12

#### Book Group

*continued on page 6*

## April Events Calendar

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**Who:** This is a group for anyone of any age who loves to read.

**What:** This month the group is reading *Quality of Life Report* by Meghan Daum and is facilitated by Rita Hall. Look on our website for upcoming books under the book group at [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/getconnected](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/getconnected)

**When:** 5:15pm to 6:15pm (Meets the 2nd Monday)  
For more information, contact Carmen Gherman at [cggherman@yahoo.com](mailto:cggherman@yahoo.com)

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 14

#### Virginity at Vanderbilt

**What:** A conversation with Professor Laura Carpenter, who has done extensive research on the topics of virginity and virginity loss. How is virginity seen in this country, and on this campus in particular?

**Who:** This event is sponsored by the Vandy Fems and the Office of Housing and Residential Life and is open to everyone.

**Where and when:** 6:00-7:00pm at the Women's Center  
For more information, contact [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu)

### THURSDAY APRIL 15

#### Preparing a Will

**Who:** Eva Dancker, Director of Planned Giving, will discuss the necessity of preparing a will.

**What:** The Vandy Moms group is graciously opening up their regular meeting to anyone interested in free advice on preparing a will.

**When:** 11:30am-12:30pm

**Where:** Women's Center Lounge

For more information and to RSVP, please contact [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 27

#### International Stress Fest

**What:** Or should we say, de-stress fest! Finals are upon the campus and it's great to enjoy the spring weather, relax and take a break, international style! Come get your fortune read in Turkish coffee, learn to make origami, bellydance, and so much more!

**Who:** This event is open to anyone who is overly stressed this time of year!

**Where and when:** 3:00-6:00pm in front of the Wall at Rand

### ONGOING:

#### Feeling Sun

Emerging Tennessee artist Melanie Jackson's oil exhibit, *Feeling Sun* evokes a sense of beauty and hope for warmer days in the cold days of winter. Her work is being presented in the Women's Center gallery from **March 2 to April 30**.

This exhibit is free and open to everyone during regular business hours. For more information, contact [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu) or call 322-4843.

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## Women's Center Presents a Special Psychology Conference

As part of our year-long 25th anniversary celebration, the Women's Center presented a Conference on the The Stone Center Relational-Cultural Model of Therapy on March 19 and 20, 2004.



Photo by Misa Culley

Featuring speakers, Judith V. Jordan, Ph.D. and Maureen Walker, Ph.D. of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute, the conference offered participants a chance to become familiar with the core principles of this Relational-Cultural Model, including the emphasis that suggests that people grow through connection rather than separation.

*"This approach, based on listening to the voices of women, acknowledges and values the inevitable interdependency of human life and attempts to address the suffering that arises in isolation."*

## Jackson Katz, Famous Anti-Sexism Speaker Visits Vanderbilt

Jackson Katz, one of the foremost male activists confronting the issues of gender roles and sexual violence, spoke to Vanderbilt athletes on March 22 by the athletic department's request. There was also a public forum that same evening at 7:30pm.

Jackson Katz is known for developing *Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)*, a mentoring organization that provides gender violence prevention training and materials to U.S. colleges, high schools, law enforcement agencies, the U.S. military services, community organizations, and corporations. Katz was the first man at UMass/Amherst to earn a minor in women's studies, and also holds a Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he researched the social construction of violent masculinities through sports and media. A former professional football player, Katz tackles the issues with vigor and clarity.



Photo by Misa Culley

Jackson Katz helped direct the first gender violence prevention program in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a member of the U.S. Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Domestic Violence in the military, becoming the chief organizer for *Real Men*, the Boston-based anti-sexist men's organization, and he has served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence.

Information retrieved from [www.jacksonkatz.com](http://www.jacksonkatz.com)

## *Is There Hope for Men? Author and Educator, Brian Paul, Speaks Out*

not. We can't afford to let this be simply a woman's problem. The best thing we can do is create an atmosphere where violence against and degradation of women is not acceptable." Another said, "Women are our mothers and grandmothers, sisters, wives, girlfriends, and our best friends. To the extent that men care about these people and their indispensable roles in our lives, so too should we care about their well-being. Any injustice against them is ultimately an injustice against us."

Men's involvement in this effort is not new; during the 1970's some men began what were known as "men's liberation" groups in response to second wave feminism. The groups served a somewhat similar purpose for men as women's consciousness raising groups did for women. Men discussed violence, gender socialization, masculinity, fatherhood, brotherhood, relationships, love, intimacy, and many other aspects of life. Some also began working actively to end men's violence against women.

On college campuses today, men are learning from the experiences of these earlier groups and are following in a similar direction. They are becoming educated. Men are realizing there is no such thing as "One Truth," that the discovery of America from one perspective was the invasion of America from another. It is becoming clearer to men that our forefathers did not exist without our foremothers, and that they must have also had important, relevant experiences to share. Men are questioning their unearned power and privilege. They are having thoughtful, meaningful discussions about their lives, about relationships, sexuality, intimacy, violence, and many other things that our society has told them are women's issues. They are seeking out the work of authors who do not look like them or who do not share their experiences to learn first hand about the realities of lives different from their own.

Some of the groups exist to enhance the development of their members through these discussions and study sessions and other groups add an action component to their purpose. They are reaching out to the majority of men who do not commit acts of violence and giving those men skills to intervene in situations they observe or hear about where women are being mistreated, abused, or disrespected. They are facilitating violence prevention education programs and movie nights and discussion groups in residence halls or in the student union. They are supporting *Take Back the Night* events, *Speak Outs*, and *Clothesline Projects*. There are fraternities making conscious efforts to increase the safety of women by declaring their houses "rape-free" and by educating members to make this a reality. These men are taking a stand and making it clear to other men they will no longer tolerate behavior that jeopardizes the safety of women, children and other men.

Men are coming to this movement for many reasons. They are getting involved because they are fed up with the rape, abuse, harassment, stalking, and other forms of degradation of women they love. As our society slowly opens up to the reality of men's violence against women, men are hearing more stories from their sisters, friends, girlfriends, wives, and from women they do not know of assault and abuse they have experienced usually at the hands of men they know and trust. They are getting involved because they witnessed their fathers' abuse of their mothers, and they do not want to repeat the cycle of abuse

“ *I affiliate with the group because I believe it fills an integral niche in our community. It gives men strength, courage and the unique opportunity to speak out against violence and be heard. There is an emphasis on ending violence, but it is done by educating men on the ways they can act and empowering men to be a part of the solution.* ”

or because they felt helpless to stop their fathers, but they are hopeful they can be positive models for other men. A man told me, "I grew up in an abusive household. This group has given me the

opportunity to learn how to help stop situations like mine. We can start by taking responsibility and acknowledging that a problem exists. Men need to realize how much power we have to do something about it."

Some of them are getting involved because of the abuse they experienced by a family member or other loved one. Many men are coming to the realization, like many women before them, that the abuse was not their fault, not something they deserved, and it was definitely not something they should "learn to take like a man." In these groups of men, they are finding support, validation, care, and the inspiration to be men who take a stand against rigid, violent masculinity.

Some men are also getting involved because they are exhausted by the attempt to live up to the unreasonable expectations and rigid stereotypes of cultural masculinity. Most men learn that "boys will be boys," and that real men don't cry, back down, or "take crap" from women. They learn that real men are always in control, make the decisions, win at all costs and avoid any behaviors that make them appear feminine or gay. Luckily, men are increasingly rejecting this construct, this fabricated notion that all men should be one way and all women should be another. They are discovering that they have the power to define for themselves what kind of men and what of people they want to be, and many describe feeling liberated by this discovery.

There is hope for men. These men and many others like them are beginning to see and hear what women have been telling us for decades. They are beginning to take these things personally, in a positive way, and are beginning to act to change the culture that tolerates, supports and promotes violent masculinity. They understand that when we are bystanders in the face of men's violence against women, we are no better than those who perpetrate these crimes. They believe we can make a conscious decision to end violence against women, to support women's groups, to participate in men's groups, and ultimately to break the cycles of violence.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## APRIL 6 SARAH WEDDINGTON TO SPEAK

Sarah Weddington, lawyer in the landmark case, *Roe v. Wade*, to speak at Langford Auditorium at 7:30pm  
Faculty Staff and Students freewith ticket, (must be obtained ahead of time at the Sarratt Box office); \$10 for community members. For more information, contact [julia.j.park@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:julia.j.park@vanderbilt.edu)

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, APRIL 14 TO JUNE 2 (EIGHT SESSIONS)

### Discover Your Life's Purpose & Intent

Do you find yourself feeling discontent, but don't know the reason? Do you feel unfulfilled in much of how your time is spent? Do you long to feel energized and excited about each new day? Do you know what it's like to feel fully alive and sure that you're on the right path? Take part in an eight week self exploration group to discover what your soul is craving. Through group discussion, creative exercises, & collective energy you can find the inner peace of having a clear understanding of your life's purpose.

**When and where:** Wednesday Evenings 6:30-8:00 (beginning April 14, 2004) at 1221 16th Avenue S., Nashville

**Cost:** \$160 (if registered by 4/1) A \$60 deposit non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place in the group and the remaining \$100 will be due on 4/14. \$240 after 4/1 \$60 deposit and remaining \$180 due on 4/14. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**To register:** To secure your place in the group, contact Tammy Roth at 615-218-1967 or [tammyroth911@aol.com](mailto:tammyroth911@aol.com) Register early - group is limited to 6 participants. Facilitated by Tammy Roth, licensed psychotherapist.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### Eating Disorders from Day to Day: *Perspectives & Strategies for Friends, Families & Sufferers*, with Sondra Kronberg and Carolyn Costin

National speakers, Sondra Kronberg and Carolyn Costin, will present this helpful presentation to the Nashville community on Friday, April 17, 2004 at 7pm. This community chat will feature real life tools and information specifically geared to friends and family of eating disorder sufferers. Their presentation will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience. Cost will be \$10 and all proceeds will benefit the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee. Call (615) 831-9838 for more info. *EDCT - Support for the Right Direction*

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH

### March for Freedom of Choice in Washington, DC

A public demonstration in support of abortion rights and reproductive freedom for all women. Check out the website [www.marchforchoice.org](http://www.marchforchoice.org). This historic event is being coordinated by NOW, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and the Feminist Majority Foundation, and local chapters all around the country are mobilizing hundreds of thousands of pro-choice people to attend. To find out how to reserve your seat on the bus and be part of the Tennessee delegation, contact [vandymarch4choice@hotmail.com](mailto:vandymarch4choice@hotmail.com) for more information.



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### Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

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