



VOICES



THE WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

APRIL 2004

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

BY KATHERINE E. LEONARD

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♀ One fifth of college women experience forced sex by someone they know. (*Ms. Magazine/National Institutes of Health Study*).

Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) uses programming to educate the public on sexual assault, sexual harassment, images of women in the media, pornography, stalking and sex role socialization. Relationship violence and healthy sexual attitudes are also addressed during programs.

community about the realities of sexual assault in today's society. The events held during the month promote a positive environment for survivors and secondary survivors while providing knowledge to others."

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No one likes to think about it, but unfortunately sexual assault is a serious problem on campuses nationwide. It is a violent crime which affects everyone, not only the survivor. It is an act of violence, aggression, and power. Recent studies have shown that acquaintance rape occurs more frequently among college-age women than among any other group. In fact, one study has found that one out of every four women have been survivors of an actual or attempted sexual assault or rape during their college years.

Hilary Jones, student employee at the Women's Center, is the VAWPP Assistant to Annie Rodriguez, VAWPP Coordinator. Hilary is in charge of setting up and presenting workshops for high school and university groups. She explains the upcoming month, "Sexual Assault Awareness Month is dedicated to educating the university and

While many of the events for this month are listed in the Calendar on page 2, there are many additional events to keep in mind. Please refer to the Women's Center website with any inquiries.

♀ The brothers of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at the University of Connecticut are proud to introduce the Pike Walk to End Sexual Assault. The brothers of Pike invite the campus community to join in a walk to (*con't on page 4*)

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MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

BY ALY LANZONE



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History will be made on April 25, 2004 with UConn students, faculty and staff being a part of that history. When the clock strikes noon on April 25th, in Washington, D.C., women, men, and children from all over the country will march together in the March for

Women's Lives. The March for Women's Lives is a demonstration, which was organized in support of reproductive freedom and justice for all women. This event comes at a critical time where existing reproductive rights and the lives and health of women

are in serious jeopardy. The event was renamed after discussion by women of different ethnicities and social standings, coming together in an effort to highlight the impact that taking away reproductive freedoms has on the lives of women. (*con't on page 4*)



SOME EVENTS IN THE MONTHS OF APRIL & MAY

♀ April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month* ♀

APRIL

Visual Testimony Week *April 5th to 9th*

Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project is a visual display that calls attention to violence against women. The project displays shirts designed by survivors of violence and the families and friends of victims of violence. For more information, contact the Violence Against Women Prevention Program at 486-4738. Monday - Friday, 11 am - 4 pm, Women's Center.

Arte Sana/Corazon Lastimado

The Corazon Lastimado: Healing the Wounded Heart survivor art exhibit offers a visual testimony to the impact of sexual violence in our lives. The "Healing the Wounded Heart" uses art to educate and generate public awareness about issues relating to sexual violence and its impact. This display will offer a network of support for the underserved survivors of color and advocates who work to prevent gender-based violence. Sexual abuse survivors and those who work with them are invited to use wooden hearts as vehicles of expression and healing.

April 5-9, at the Women's Center; April 12-16 at the Asian American Cultural Center; April 19-23 at the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center; April 26-30th at the African American Cultural Center; May 3-7th at the Rainbow Center. The exhibit will be available from 11am-4pm each day.

15 *Thursday Night at the Movies – Labor Women*

This documentary is a portrait of three immigrant daughters who are part of a new generation transforming the American labor movement. A discussion will follow the film. Thursday, 6 pm, Women Center Lounge.

21 *Take Back the Night March, Rally and Coffeehouse*

The Women's Center invites all survivors, secondary survivors, friends and allies to this event. The annual Take Back the Night March will begin on Fairfield Way (in front of the library) and move to the Student Union with a rally with guest speakers and key people in the community. We will march with a "speak out" and end with a coffeehouse. This is an evening where the audience will be empowered by musicians and others and a healing of the community and the traditional candle light vigil will also occur. Wednesday, 7 pm, Fairfield way. 8pm, Jonathan's in the Student Union.

22 *Day of Healing*

An evening of empowerment to begin the healing process for survivors and secondary survivors, as well as provide closure after Take Back the Night. Thursday, 6 pm, Women's Center Lounge.

29 *Stress Down Day*

Stress down before finals with free massage and aromatherapy! Co-sponsored with Health Education, Office of Special Programs. Thursday, 11 - 2pm, South Campus.

29 *WRAAP Picnic*

Everyone's invited! This is an end of the year picnic co-sponsored with the African American Cultural Center, Asian American Cultural Center, Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, the Rainbow Center, and the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs. Thursday, 4 - 6 p.m., South Campus Patio.

**For additional Sexual Assault Awareness Month events, please refer to article on page 1.*

MAY

7 *Annual Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony*

An awards ceremony in recognition of the top graduating females, and the 100 Years of Women Scholarship recipients! Co-sponsored with the Provost's Commission on the Status of Women. Friday, 4 pm - 6 pm, SU 378.

For a complete listing of Women's Center sponsored events, visit our website at: www.womenscenter.uconn.edu



WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH: AN OVERVIEW

BY: LEA LABEL



I have to admit I was a little apprehensive when Kate asked me to write for this month's newsletter. However, I decided that it was important to let our readers know what the Women's Center has been doing for Women's Herstory Month.

Our opening event went off without a hitch; A'Leia Bundles was fabulous! She spent the whole day with the Women's Center staff, talking about her work and her book. We had a wonderful time!

International Women's Day on March 16th was a bit of an interesting day to say the least! As you all know, that night Mother Nature decided she didn't want it to be spring just yet. She ended up sprinkling about 4 inches of white stuff all over the Storrs campus. Fortunately, the snow held off for our lunchtime panel on Women and Globalization. About 30 students, staff and faculty turned out to hear Professor Asma Abdel-Halim (Women's Studies) and Professor Bandana Purkyastha (Sociology) speak on the topic. Even though the snow

fell later that afternoon and into the night we did not want to cancel the evening celebration. Two of our performers were unable to make it but despite the change in schedule, Rubyfruit, Erika Avery and Staceyann Chin put on a terrific show! Over forty people had fun listening to music and poetry, eating the delicious food and creating their own goddesses out of clay. Currently, the goddesses are on display in the Women's Center. I would like to thank the committee: Blenda Chau from AsACC, Zulma Rios & Carissa Roman from PR/LACC, Deborah Rea from the International Center, Sarah Lessard from SUBOG, Kevin Fahey from Campus Activities and Kathleen Holgerson from the Women's Center. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. The success of International Women's Day is completely due to you!

The Multi-Generational Panel on women's activism was an inspirational evening. Ruthe Boyea, Leslie Lindenbauer, Xae Reyes and Jenny Lai all told their stories about how and

why they became activists. They offered those in the audience who were activists a sense of pride and encouragement to continue their hard work.

The closing event was phenomenal. The authors of the book, MANIFESTA: Young Women, Feminism & the Future, Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner, spoke about what it means to be a feminist. They told the audience that being a feminist was a way of living and treating people, not a laundry list of characteristics. The event was very well attended.

In conclusion, I have had a great time planning and working with the UConn community. This has been a month I will not soon forget. ♀

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou
(who spoke at Jorgenson
Auditorium in February.)



CHILD CARE AT UCONN

BY CAROL MILLETTE



In 1999/2000 the University and the AFSCME, UCPEA and AAUP unions funded a Child Care Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study regarding childcare at UConn. The study found that daycare needs of students, staff and faculty who are working parents are increasing, and the Child Labs cannot, and was not intended to, meet the demand at UConn.

Women's Center herstory documents that this issue has been explored and studied for the past thirty years. An ad-hoc committee, *Child Care Now*, has

been meeting at the Women's Center since the completion of the study.

As a result of their efforts a resolution was passed by the University Senate in April 2002. The University established the *Child Care Implementation Committee* (CCIC) charging the Committee to resolve the need for adequate childcare at the University and make it a high priority. Veronica Makowsky and Michelle Helmin co-chair the Committee. To date, the CCIC has explored the expansion of the child labs and found that to not be an option. They are

currently working with the Town of Mansfield, and various local day care facilities to provide information about what is available in the surrounding community. A website is in the works for easy access to information by employees and students. They are also working on a supply and demand survey, as well as a work/life policy.

If you would like more information, please contact the Co-Chairs of the CCIC (Michelle.Helmin@uconn.edu, or Veronica.Makowsky@uconn.edu) or Kathy Fluckiger of Child Care Now at the Women's Center. ♀



RECOGNIZING OUR STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At the close of the semester, we would like to introduce you to our graduates in recognition of their accomplishments at UConn and wish them the best of luck in the future!

Sarah Carlson, of Newtown, CT, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Sarah plans to work full time then onto graduate school.

Elise Curtain, of South Glastonbury, CT, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in English.

Nicole Graf, of Vernon/Rockville, CT, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Family Studies, and a double minor in Sociology and Human Rights. Nicole plans to take a year off and move to Cape Cod, finding

a women's rights internship/organization to be a part of.

Aly Lanzone, of Edgartown, MA, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and a minor in Women's Studies. Aly plans pursuing an MS in Counseling Psychology in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University, Boston.

Kate Leonard, of Hillsdale, NJ, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Human Rights. Kate plans to work full time then continue her education in graduate school.

Valencia Louis, of Stamford, CT, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Valencia plans on working at Greenwich Hospital.

We would also like to acknowledge Michelle Noerhen, current regular at the Women's Center, and UConn NOW President. Michelle, of Trumbull, CT, is a candidate to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, an individualized double major in Female Identity Formation and a minor in Women's Studies. Following graduation, Michelle will be the Canvas Director at the Connecticut Citizens Action Group in West Hartford. We would also like to congratulate Michelle on recently receiving the "CT NOW Young Feminist" award this year. The award will be presented during the 16th Annual Feminist Leadership Awards Celebration to be held in New Haven, Connecticut on April 16th.

Congratulations, Michelle! ♀



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

raise awareness of sexual assault on college campuses and raise money for VAWPP at UConn.

♀ Wearing jeans during Sexual Assault Awareness Month became an international symbol of protest of harmful attitudes about rape in 1999 in response to an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. The justices reasoned that the victim must

have helped her attacker remove her jeans, which they felt implied consent. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. This year at UConn, we are encouraging staff, faculty and students to wear jeans on April 21st to increase the awareness of sexual assaults and the myths surrounding it.

♀ Throughout April a visual poster campaign entitled "Got Consent?" will

address the sexual consent policies of the University and the state. Posters will have clear visual explanations of the policies students can relate to their college lives.

♀ April 28th is the closing ceremony of the month, "Shine the Light on Sexual Violence". A candle light vigil will be held on Fairfield Way at dusk, designed to encourage bringing light to the issue throughout the year. ♀

MARCH TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The event was organized through the group effort of seven national women's rights groups. Locally, Aurora Hannigan and I have been working with UConn NOW, Planned Parenthood, the Women's Center, and



Lisa-Marie Griffiths from the Women's Clinic, over the last few months to sign-up UConn students, faculty, and people from the community who

want to go to the march.

The busses leave at midnight, drive down to Washington D. C. through the early morning to arrive before the 10am assembly on the national mall (between the Smithsonian museums) on April 25th. There is a rally on the mall beginning at 10 am with some celebrity speakers and the march begins at noon. After the march, we

will be returning to Storrs later that night. Thanks to USG 100 student seats have been fully funded, which means that there is no cost to students. If anyone else, including the general public, would like a seat on the bus (tickets are \$50 each), you can e-mail UConn_march@yahoo.com. For more information visit www.marchforwomen.org. ♀

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Women's Center is to advocate, educate, and provide services for the achievement of women's equity at the University and within the community at large. Special attention is focused on women who face additional challenges due to their race, nationality, class, sexual identity, religion, age and physical or mental ability. ♀



VOICES

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Some Reminders...

Join Our Listserv!

Want to keep up with the Women's Center on a weekly basis? Then join the UWomens-L Listserv, a weekly updated email featuring Women's Center events, on and off campus events, announcements and local, national, and international news. For information on how to subscribe, please call (860) 486-4738. ♀

Check Out Our Website:

Be sure to visit our regularly updated website at: www.womenscenter.uconn.edu. You can find a complete list of events for the semester, learn about all of our ongoing groups, and get informed on issues such as dating violence and sexual assault. You can also find out what kind of resources we keep in our library. Past newsletters are also posted. ♀



Greetings from the Editor:

Hello Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to pick up and read our newsletter. This month, we have covered some very important issues such as: Sexual Assault Awareness, the March for Women's Lives and Child Care at UConn. Each of these issues is so important right now because they all have such an impact on the UConn community. Educating yourself on the issues surrounding you is important; we hope you will take this knowledge and put it to action. I would also like to thank Hilary Jones, Aly Lanzone, Lea LeBel and Carol Millette for their contributions to this month's newsletter!

As for me, well, this is my last newsletter for the Women's Center. I will be graduating with the Class of 2004 in May. I want to thank the Women's Center for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your lives; this experience has been incredible for me. Like Lea, it has been one that I will not soon forget. With the Warmest & Best Wishes,



-Kate

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VOICES

WHERE ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER