

# Rape: Advocacy, Prevention & Education

Syracuse University  
Division of Student Affairs

Volume I, Issue I  
October 2003

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# Center

Edited by JoLynn Hamilton

## "every 5 minutes" theater group

By JoLynn Hamilton, Graduate Intern, R.A.P.E. Center

In the spring of 2003, the Syracuse University Rape: Advocacy, Prevention and Education (R.A.P.E.) Center began work on reviving e5m, "every five minutes," the interactive theater group that performed for and educated the Syracuse University community from 1992 until 2000. The group name was originally chosen from a poem entitled "with no immediate cause," written by Ntozake Shange. The poem, written in 1978, highlighted the then current statistic that every five minutes a woman was raped.

Interactive theater provides a means for engaging the audience in open discussion about important issues. Through the situations presented during performances, social and cultural attitudes that foster sexual violence are challenged. Opportunities are provided for individuals to examine their own attitudes and how those attitudes impact their communities.

In the spring of 2003, Jill Sneider, Sexual Health Coordinator of the R.A.P.E. Center, and Lisa LaBarbera,



*Front:* Matt Carlberg, Meagan Weatherby, Mike Henry *Middle:* Jill Sneider, Lisa LaBarbera, JoLynn Hamilton, Jessica, Wechter, Jeff Linehan *Back:* Laurel D'Agenais, Erin Straker, Katie Deak *Missing:* Amy Kaufmann, Marie Nocella

Residence Director with the Office of Residence Life, began recruiting for e5m. The response was excellent, and there are now 9 students (male and female) who are active members of the troupe. In addition, JoLynn Hamilton, graduate intern with the R.A.P.E. Center, has joined Jill and Lisa in working on the development of the theater group. In September 2003, the group began meeting weekly to examine the issues, share visions, and understand the value of peer education.

While the finished product is still a work in progress, it is bound to be powerful, moving, enlightening, educational, and rewarding for all those who experience the messages of "every 5 minutes".

*If you are interested in learning more about e5m or becoming a member for the Spring 2004 semester, contact Jill Sneider at 443-7126 or via e-mail at [jasneide@syr.edu](mailto:jasneide@syr.edu).*

## Rape Survivor Support Group Forming

By Susan Pasco, CSW-R, Assistant Director, Counseling Center

The Counseling Center and the R.A.P.E. Center are now forming support groups for Syracuse University students who are survivors of recent or past sexual assault. The groups will provide a safe and supportive environment for survivors to process their responses to the trauma of sexual

assault, to reduce feelings of isolation, and increase understanding about the impact of sexual violence.

The groups are planned to run for approximately 6-8 weeks during the fall and spring semesters. The groups are free of charge

to all full-time Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF students and all sessions are confidential.

*If you are interested in attending please contact the Counseling Center at 443-4715 for more information.*

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## Upcoming Programs

- Developing Healthy Body Image: The Primary Prevention of Eating Disorders

Nov. 7, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Drumlins Conference Center

\*call 445-5606 for more information

- Dr. Drew  
Nov. 17, 7 p.m.  
Goldstein Auditorium

We're on the web!  
[sumweb.syr.edu/health/rape.htm](http://sumweb.syr.edu/health/rape.htm)

**Myth:** Rape is a crime committed by strangers jumping out of bushes or in dark alleys.

**Reality:** People who know their victims commit more than 80% of rapes. Rapes often occur in the house of either the perpetrator or victim.

**Myth:** If a woman or man is passed out from consuming excessive alcohol, it is okay to have sex with her/him.

**Reality:** If someone is unconscious, she/he is unable to give consent; therefore having sex with him/her is rape.

### Featured Volunteers

#### Megan Headley

Peer Educator



*Volunteering at the R.A.P.E. Center has been an invaluable experience. I have made many new friends and I feel that I have contributed a lot to the S.U. community.*

#### Margaret Giovannetti

Peer Educator

*My experience volunteering for the R.A.P.E. Center has been nothing less than amazing. It has given me the ability to educate other students about sensitive and important issues on campus. It's a great feeling to be doing something positive on campus, especially since all the staff members and other volunteers are so great to work with.*

## **AMI: A Men's Issue** By Tremayne Robertson, Residence Director, Brewster Hall

AMI is the brainchild of the Syracuse University (SU) R.A.P.E. Center and originated with Jill Sneider and Janet Epstein. Both thoughtful and energetic women believe men, the dominant group in American society, need to have a forum to discuss and increase their awareness concerning the daily oppression of girls and women that contributes to rape and other forms of sexual assault. Consequently, AMI was formed and now has six members who strive

to make a difference internally and in the SU community.

AMI is a male organization that aims to educate and raise awareness that sexual violence is a human issue. The philosophy is simple: sexual violence is a systemic issue that needs to be addressed by men and women together.

Male students from the SU community meet to discuss masculinity, gender equity, sexual assault/rape, and the like. AMI aims to

provide a safe space for men of diverse cultural backgrounds, to commune and discuss ideas that are typical or atypical of the male experience that may not ordinarily be discussed among men.

Meetings are held Monday nights at 7:15 p.m. in the Shaw Hall classrooms. Feel free to come listen, learn, laugh, and share.

*For further information, contact Tremayne Robertson at [trrobert@syr.edu](mailto:trrobert@syr.edu).*

## **Sigma Alpha Epsilon Raising Funds for U.R.C.**

By JoLynn Hamilton, Graduate Intern, R.A.P.E. Center

Sigma Alpha Epsilon will continue its tradition of raising money on behalf of the University R.A.P.E. Center. This fundraiser takes place during their traditional Paddy Murphy Week, this year, 10/27-10/31, featuring events based on a competitive rivalry that took place during the Prohibition era. It is celebrated nationally by SAE, but the local chapter is one of the few chapters to

include fundraising efforts and an educational program as part of the celebration.

For many years, SAE has raised thousands of dollars per year on behalf of the Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center. The funds that are raised are used to assist students in paying medical bills incurred from examination and treatment after sexual assault, which can cost between \$1000

and \$2000. For many students, the costs of the exam and medications create a barrier to accessing optimal care after an assault. The efforts of the members of SAE have meant that many students who would have chosen to forego examination and treatment solely because of the cost have been able to get the care they needed.

*The R.A.P.E. Center would like to thank SAE for their continued support.*

## **New York State Legislature Passes Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Act** By JoLynn Hamilton, Graduate Intern, R.A.P.E. Center

In July 2003, the New York State Legislature passed the Forensic Exam Payment Act, part of recent amendments to the Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2000. The Forensic Exam Payment Act creates the Sexual Assault Forensic Payment Program, which provides a mechanism for health care providers to seek

reimbursement for sexual assault forensic exams directly from the Crime Victims Board. Prior to the passing of this act, victims of sexual assault had to file for reimbursement through the Crime Victims Board, and victims with insurance were required to seek payment through their insurance provider and then

seek reimbursement through the Crime Victims Board for costs that were not covered. With the new provision, victims of sexual assault will not have to deal with the added burden of arranging for payment of medical examinations.

The Forensic Exam Payment Act takes effect on April 1, 2005.



## “Orange You Glad We’re Talking?!!”

By Jill Sneider, Sexual Health Coordinator, R.A.P.E. Center

For the first time in Syracuse University’s orientation history, all incoming first-year students were presented with an opportunity to discuss and grapple with the complex issues surrounding sexual violence in our society. Here are some of the issues covered:

Sexual and relationship violence occur in all societies and in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships. In spite of the fact that most sexual violence takes place within the context of a relationship, there is a tradition of viewing the problem as strictly a women’s issue. Consequently, traditional rape prevention education has focused on teaching females how to prevent sexual assault from occurring. In addition, educators have talked to audiences about helping the victim, after the fact, addressing such issues as typical responses to the trauma of having been raped, how to help someone who has been sexually assaulted and where to go for help.

This is still very important information. However, focusing solely on the victim/survivor leaves important gaps in the prevention/education process. First, such a focus accepts that rape happens and tends to perpetuate the existing societal culture that says that rape is part of everyday life in the United

States. Second, the focus on the victim/survivor has an underlying message that the victim/survivor could have done something to prevent the sexual assault from occurring.

This traditional focus neglects to address responsibility on the part of the person who committed the rape or sexual assault. As Don McPherson says, “The only one who can prevent rape is the rapist.” Maintaining the belief that this is a “women’s issue” creates a culture that asks victims to try to figure out how to change another person’s behavior. This is an impossible task. Including males in the discussion of sexual violence, therefore, is necessary in order to work toward reducing the incidence of sexual assault. The fact is, in most cases of sexual violence, the person committing the crime is male.

It is important not to shift blame from women to men, though. Such a shift would ignore the systemic part of human relationships. Both parties are part of the interaction and both are part of a larger society that perpetuates such violence.

*The women’s movement has been working against rape for many years, and offers experience and skilled leadership. But men’s violence against women will only end when men*

*take responsibility for changing the actions and attitudes that make it possible.* (The Men’s Resource Center of Western Mass.: website listed below)

The educational programs of the R.A.P.E. Center encourage men to work together with women to put an end to sexual violence. The programs ask men and women to look at their own development as human beings, including understanding “self” in relationships, treat one another with respect, and speak up against sexual and relationship violence. When sexual violence is addressed from a gender perspective, males can examine masculinity and the social pressures placed on men and boys. An example of such pressure is the notion that “we don’t raise boys to be men, we raise them *not* to be women” (As Boys Become Men: Learning New Male Role. Doug Cooper Thompson, New York: Irvington Pub. 1985). Such an attitude sends a message that girls are “less than” boys. Seeing women as “less than” makes it easier for males to justify violent behavior toward women. Males are under great pressure to conform to stereotypes that keep them from being able to freely access a full range of emotions and behaviors.

R.A.P.E. Center programs create opportunities for men and women to think about the narrow parameters within which males are expected to function in society. This reflection and thought process lays a foundation for men to see that they have broader options for responding to situations in their lives than they may have previously experienced. Men who are able to expand their definition of what it means to be a man have the ability to be freer and more integrated, instead of going through life with tight boundaries and parameters.

Examining the issue of sexual violence from a larger perspective has the potential to benefit men and women, the university community, and society at large.

### **Websites for Further Information**

[Men Against Sexual Violence](http://menagainstsexualviolence.org)  
menagainstsexualviolence.org

[Men Can Stop Rape](http://mencanstoprape.org)  
mencanstoprape.org

[Building Partnerships to End Men’s Violence](http://endabuse.org/bpi/)  
endabuse.org/bpi/

[The Men’s Resource Center of Western Massachusetts](http://mensresourcecenter.org)  
mensresourcecenter.org/

[Rape Crisis Center of Syracuse](http://crisiscentersyr.org)  
crisiscentersyr.org

[S.U. LGBT Resource Center](http://students.syr.edu/lgbt/)  
students.syr.edu/lgbt/

[S.U. R.A.P.E. Center](http://sumweb.syr.edu/health/rape.htm)  
sumweb.syr.edu/health/rape.htm

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## Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center Services

### Free, confidential services

**Advocacy:** Medical, Legal/Judicial, Counseling, Academic, Residential)

- Provide support to survivors of sexual assault
- Discuss all available medical, counseling, legal, criminal, and judicial options with survivors
- Accompany students to area hospitals
- Accompany students to area police department and/or the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety
- Accompany students to the Office of Judicial Affairs
- Facilitate referrals for follow up health care and counseling
- Contact academic deans for academic assistance
- Facilitate referrals to the Office of

Residence Life, Housing staff regarding residential concerns

For more information, contact Janet Epstein, epsteinj@syr.edu, 443-7098.

**Prevention and Education:** We provide education about sexual assault and other forms of nonconsensual sexual activity and educational programming in the areas of human sexuality, relationships, and communication.

Peer Involvement: The Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center welcomes students as volunteers in many capacities, including staffing information tables; joining e5m, the peer interactive theater troupe; becoming active in AMI, the new men's group; training to become peer educators; and helping to organize special events.

For a volunteer application, contact Jill Sneider, jasneide@syr.edu, 443-7126.

### Contact Information

#### On Campus Resources

Emergency- Dial 711  
University R.A.P.E. Center-443-7273  
University Health Center-443-2666  
Public Safety-443-2224  
Counseling Center-443-4715  
Hendricks Chapel-443-5044  
Psychological Services Ctr.-443-3595  
Goldberg Couple and Family  
Therapy Center-443-3023  
Judicial Affairs-443-3728

#### Community Resources

Emergency-Dial 911  
Upstate Medical University-464-5540  
Community General Hospital-492-5011  
St. Joseph's Hospital-448-5111  
Syracuse Police Department-442-5111  
District Attorney's Office-435-2470  
Victim Resource Center -422-7273  
Rape Crisis Center of Syracuse-422-7273  
Onondaga County Sexually Transmissible Disease Clinic-435-3240

#### **R.A.P.E. Center Staff**

Janet Epstein, Associate Director  
Jill Sneider, Sexual Health Coordinator



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