

# Coalition Commentary

*Quarterly Newsjournal of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault*

## ICASA keeps after bullies

### Coalition's bullying prevention project begins second phase

By Sean Black  
ICASA Staff

Bullies must back off. In year two of its anti-bullying pilot project, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault is continuing its efforts to curb bullying in elementary schools. Through this project, 10 ICASA centers are working with local schools to implement the Steps to Respect curriculum for grades 3-6. The curriculum is produced by the Committee for Children.

Securing project funding was spearheaded by Sen. Kimberly Lightford. The funds for the second year of the project will be provided through a grant from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority.

"We are very excited to continue this vital project," ICASA Executive Director Polly Poskin said. "Teaching respect at an early age can have monumental benefits later in school and in life. Nothing is more important than teaching our children to respect one another. We believe that the Steps to Respect program will reduce the incidents of bullying, which includes sexual harassment in junior high school and high schools. Hopefully, they will continue to treat one another respectfully as they grow into adulthood."

The pilot sites are located in Belleville, DeKalb, Hickory Hills, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford, Sterling, Springfield,

Streator and Vandalia. Belleville and DeKalb are in their first year with the project, while the other eight programs are beginning year two.

"It's been really, really successful," said Jeanne Anders, a prevention educator with the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria which teamed with Brimfield Elementary School in Brimfield. "At the end of the year, the kids could choose what to do at a program, whether through poems or skits, and by the things they did and the things they said we could tell they really got a lot out of doing the program."

"Also, the teachers are telling us that the kids are less aggressive and the kids are stopping and thinking about what they are doing or going to say. (Teachers) have really noticed the bystanders. The kids are not afraid to step in and help other kids that are being picked on."

Anders will work with Brimfield again this year, and the Peoria center will deliver the program in six area elementary schools, up from four last year.

"It's a very understandable program," Anders said. "I think it's a great program, very easy to follow and very easy to adapt to any school."

The Steps to Respect curriculum focuses on a whole-school approach to combat bullies. The intent of the whole-school approach is to educate and activate schools to prevent bullying and sexual harassment and to intervene effectively when it occurs. All administration, faculty, students and parents have specific responsibilities

**Bully** continued on page 18

### IN THIS ISSUE



The clothesline project was displayed during the Take Back the Night march and rally held in Macomb. For more information on center events please see pages 8-11.

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# Why we do the things we do

## Society provides plenty to think about

I must admit I always find the public's reaction over things interesting. Why do some things rile the masses while others fall away with a whisper? I've been thinking a lot more about this over the past few months, largely in part to a variety of experiences that I'll share now.

### **Example 1: Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick**



**Sean  
Black**

Vick. And I must admit, I'm stunned by his sentence of 23 months in prison.

Sponsors tossed him aside like garbage. Picketers stomped outside the Atlanta Falcons' practice. Commentators raged about his unworthiness from the highest hills. Public Opinion is firmly against him.

It's not that there shouldn't be anger towards him. It's not that there shouldn't be public outcry. But here's what I don't understand — why is the hatred so strong toward Vick? Why are the outrage and the public demonstration so prevalent against Vick? Why this issue when rarely do any of these same people raise a voice when an athlete abuses a woman or child?

It's a double-standard that few people have brought up. And for the one reporter in Pittsburgh who said during a televised discussion on the issue that Vick would have been better off "raping" someone, it was a bad

decision. The reporter had to issue a public apology and was banned from the show for a year. A year. A whole year.

But was he wrong? I seriously doubt the public outcry would have been the same if Vick had been accused of beating his girlfriend/wife. There certainly wouldn't have been congressional house representatives calling for his banishment.

And if he had been accused of rape, I simply go back to the Kobe Bryant case, where there were as many defenders of Bryant as detractors. The defenders of Vick don't dare stick their head out of the foxhole.

I'm all for protecting animals, but society needs to protect women and children with the same fervor.

### **Example 2: Shell Gas station in Clinton, IL.**

Truth in advertising time: I grew up in Clinton. My parents still live there. It's tradition to stop at the Shell gas station on my way out of town. It's the normal end to a visit. I've done it for years. Therefore, it was with great surprise earlier this summer that I turned from the drink cooler to find a new display inside the store. A display of magazines wrapped in plastic. In those magazines were the requisite Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler, right there above the daily newspaper. For some reason it stunned me. I was shocked. I don't know why. I should have seen it coming, but I didn't and I was disappointed. I was disappointed by the fact that another place caved in to the degradation of women. Disappointed that it was another place that I might have to explain to my daughters why there is a plastic-wrapped magazine with naked women on it for sale in a place that should be safe for them to browse. Just plain disappointed in it all.

### **Example 3: Newark International Airport, N.J.**

In this airport, which looks just like

all other airports, I once again wondered how women get through it all. ... How they handle all the subtle obstacles placed before them? ... How they just don't go crazy with anger? ... And why don't I and other men get angrier and do more, do anything?

I say this from an airport bookstore where I was perusing whether to go with Doublemint or Bubbalicious. It's here that I see a mom supervising her daughter and son as they select reading material. She had her hands full. Both children were working their way through the puzzle books and tween magazines on the lower shelf when I looked up and right above these puzzles is the bookstore's selection of pornographic magazines. And so it goes. I felt so sorry for the mom. Here she is, trying to buy her children something to pass the time and instead she is stared down by pornography, all the while probably hoping her teenage son doesn't look up.

### **Example 4: Holiday shopping online**

Why, oh why, would anyone want to put a baby in a "porn star" onesie? But there it is on Amazon.com. That's right. Pick up a new chair, some pots, some bowls and top it off with your "porn star" onesie. That's the shopping experience we all need. Ugh. Amazon's reaction was prototypical, jumping behind first amendment arguments. It's just sad that someone had the idea in the first place and someone else decided to support it by offering to sell the item. All we can do is stay away from Amazon.

But all is not lost. There are reasons for hope.

### **Example 1: Sexual Violence Symposium**

ICASA held a Sexual Violence Prevention Symposium this summer and had a follow-up meeting this winter. It was a chance to brainstorm

*Why continued on page 3*

## WHAT Is ICASA?

The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a not-for-profit corporation of 34 community-based sexual assault crisis centers working together to end sexual violence. Each center provides 24-hour crisis services, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual assault and conducts educational programs in Illinois communities.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) is to end sexual violence and to alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims. This work is inseparable from ICASA's commitment to eliminate oppression in all its forms. To accomplish these goals, ICASA advocates for public policy that prevents sexual violence, guarantees sensitivity to victims, and promotes social justice. ICASA uses the power of public education to change beliefs and attitudes about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and the devastation of oppression. Through community programs that provide advocacy, counseling and education, ICASA works for a safe, free and just society.

## SUBMISSIONS

ICASA welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit all submissions. The Coalition Commentary is published quarterly.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

ICASA  
100 North 16th St.  
Springfield, IL 62703-1102  
**Phone:** 217-753-4117  
**Website:** [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org)

## STAFF

**Executive Director:** Polly Poskin  
**Editor:** Sean Black

**ICASA est. 1977**



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY To Us

ICASA Executive Director Polly Poskin, left, and Mickie Owens, an advocate at SACIS's satellite office in Robinson hold up an anniversary cake celebrating ICASA's 30th anniversary at the coalition's Governing Body meeting in September 2007 in Chicago.

## Why

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with rape crisis center staff and other allies. It was a chance to think and to rejuvenate each other. Ideas were hatched and hope was alive. There it was easy to believe there is a chance to put a dent in sexual violence and to borrow an old cliché, "to make a difference."

## Example 2: Illinois State Capitol

Public protest. It's a good thing. ICASA was proud to join in with the national protest against a Nebraska judge's ruling outlawing the word "rape" in a trial about rape. The effort and the passion that people from around the country showed during this spontaneous event was exciting and energizing. The war is not over and we can win.

## Example 3: Harry Potter opening night

Anything that can drag that many people between the age of 10 and 99 to buy a mainstream book at midnight instead of watching bad movies or playing worse video games can't be a

bad thing.

## Example 4: ICASA's 30th Anniversary Party

What fun. What joy. It's hard not to be energized when thinking about ICASA's 30th Anniversary celebration featuring Nikki Giovanni and Gabrielle Union. The event was a gala, a celebration of all ICASA has accomplished and all that it hopes to accomplish. Rape crisis centers have come a long way in 30 years and while there is a long way to go, the past provides hope for the future.

What to make of all this? I don't know. The first few were sad reflections on what garners attention and how mainstream negative images are in society. The last few allow me hope and prevent me from being overwhelmed and disappointed in it all. We must enjoy the final things and take the small victories and revel in the camaraderie of those who see it the same way. Society must change and we must be the catalyst.

*Sean Black is Communication Coordinator at ICASA. Viewpoint is a regular feature of Coalition Commentary.*

# Sound Off



*Keeping a watchful eye on the portrayal of women in pop culture ...*

## Cosmopolitan article supports rape myths

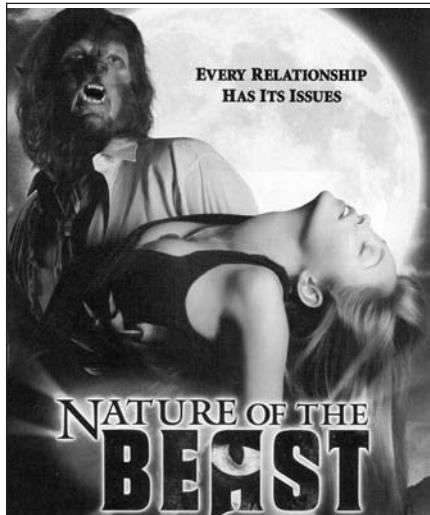
Cosmopolitan trotted out tired old rape myths under a new name in its September 2007 issue. The article "A New Kind of Date Rape" focused on how there is a "grey" rape. The first example of "grey" rape came from a victim who told her assailant she didn't want to have sex. She said "No. Stop" when he was raping her, but she said it softly. Therefore, Cosmopolitan has tagged this as "grey" rape, when the victim isn't really sure if she was raped. There is no "grey" in that scenario. Rape isn't "grey." The article perpetuates rape myths and places the blame solely on the victim. Cosmopolitan is a magazine for women, but it does a tremendous disservice to women everywhere with this perpetration of rape myths.

## Best Buy begins holidays on bad note

Best Buy jumped right onto the "bad" list for its holiday season advertisement. The ad shows a woman from knees to neck dressed in lingerie while holding recently released DVDs. So what was Best Buy selling? The woman's body or the movies? Best Buy and all advertisers should be above this type of marketing.

## ABC Family lacks family touch

As part of its Halloween programming, ABC Family promoted the movie, "Nature of the Beast." It's a movie about a werewolf. But the



print advertisement featured the werewolf holding in his arm an attractive lady, head rolled back, neck exposed, all while wearing an extremely low-cut black dress. The depiction of this woman in the helpless-woman-sexually-suggestive role is unnecessary and builds upon demeaning and harmful stereotypes.

## Put Dog in pound

Dog needs to be put in a pound A&E Network must make a stand against racism and cancel the reality series "Dog The Bounty Hunter." A&E should cancel the show because of the release of the racial-slur-filled rant by series star, Dog Chapman. In the rant, Chapman repeatedly refers to his son's girlfriend, who is African-American, as a n\*\*\*\*\*. Chapman implores his son to break up with the girlfriend. Chapman has since apologized for the rant, but the apology isn't good enough. A&E has suspended filming of the program but the future of the program is undetermined.

## Time to boycott Amazon.com

By selling onesies and bibs for infants with "PORN STAR" and "PIMP" emblazoned on the front, Amazon.com is creating and feeding a market that objectifies children for the pleasure of adults. In response to a complaint, Amazon.com hid behind first amendment protection. Choosing not to market this product does not infringe on free speech — it would just say that Amazon chooses not to prioritize the safety of children. Instead, Amazon will profit from sexual degradation of infants.

Do we really want our girls to be cast as porn stars before they can even walk or talk?

Do we aspire for our infant sons to be someone who buys and sells women and girls?

Do we want our children to think the real world of pimps and porn stars is not only acceptable, but funny? Enough is Enough! It is time to take action against the pornification of our culture that glamorizes pornography and the sexual exploitation of women and children. It's time to boycott Amazon.com. It's time to refuse to allow this type of exploitation. Boycott Amazon and let them know that this is not acceptable behavior.

By Susan Faupel

# On the Shelf



*Material recently added to and available from the ICASA Library. To check out material from ICASA's library please visit [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org).*

## **Beauty and Misogyny: Harmful Cultural Practices in the West.**

Jeffreys, Sheila. 2005.

Author examines the role of common beauty practices in damaging the health of women, creating sexual difference and enforcing female deference.

## **Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism.**

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2005.

Explores how images of black sexuality have been used to maintain the color line and threatens to spread a new brand of racism.

## **Date Rape Backlash**

Media Education Foundation, 2002

DVD traces the origin of the backlash against date rape victims and its infiltration into the culture through popular entertainment.

## **Dreamworlds 3: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Video**

Media Education Foundation, 2007

DVD is an update of Sut Jhally's critically acclaimed look at the influence of music videos. It examines the stories that contemporary music videos tell about girls and women and by extension the boys and men that watch the videos.

## **Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture.**

Levy, Ariel. 2005.

Updated look at how too many women are embracing raunch culture and hurting other women.

## **Goddesses and Monsters. Women, Myth, Power and Popular Culture.**

## **THE CATEGORIES**

*Library material catagories:*

- Counseling and Mental Health Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Legal Issues
- Management and Program Development
- Medical Issues
- Pornography
- Prevention Education/Training
- Sex Offenders
- Sexual Assault Victims
- Sexual Harassment
- Social/Cultural/Political Analysis
- Special Populations

Caputi, Jane. 2004.

Collection of essays taking on popular culture and its negative energy

## **New Black Man**

Neal, Mark Anthony. 2006.

Book explores constructing a new model for black masculinity.

## **Not For Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography.**

Stark, Christine & Whisnant, Rebecca. 2004

Essays from feminists on the sex industry with radical critiques of racism, poverty, militarism and corporate capitalism.

## **Porn and Pancakes**

DVD created by xxxchurch.com to promote awareness among men about the problems with pornography.

## **Pornography: Driving the Demand In International Sex Trafficking.**

2007.

Making the connections between pornography and sex trafficking.

## **Recovering Bodies: Overcoming Eating Disorders.**

Media Education Foundation 2006.

DVD doesn't focus simply on problems with food but on the renewed hope for a healthy life that the process of recovery provides.

## **Taking Back Our Lives: A Call to Action for the Feminist Movement.**

Russo, Ann. 2001.

Call to action for the feminist movement to become inclusive, progressive and supportive.

## **Talking the Walk: A Communications Guide for Racial Justice.**

Cutting, Hunter & Themba-Nixon, Makani. 2006.

Resource for learning to discuss and spin issues of race and racial justice.

## **The Decency Wars. The Campaign to Cleanse American Culture.**

Lane, Frederick. 2006.

Look at America's changing attitudes toward decency and the politics of decency, including the danger of overregulation by the government.

## **Unruly Bodies: Life Writing by Women with Disabilities.**

Mintz, Susannah. 2007.

Critical study of personal narrative by women with disabilities.

## **White Women, Rape, and the Power of Race in Virginia 1900-1960.**

Dorr, Lisa Lindquist. 2004.

Historical review of the trials involving black on white rape in Virginia and its impact on white and African-American cultures.

## **Whores and other Feminists.**

Nagle, Jill. 1997.

Examines sex work and the sex industry through the eyes of self-identified feminist sex workers.

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## **SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD AND FAMILY MALTREATMENT**

**What:** 22nd annual event features more than 225 workshops, research and plenary presentations focused on presenting and disseminating the best evidence-based practices in child abuse and domestic violence.

**Date:** Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2008

**Where:** Town & Country Hotel and Convention Center, San Diego

**More Information:** [www.chadwickcenter.org](http://www.chadwickcenter.org)

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING**

**What:** Three-day conference highlighting promising practices and emerging issues in the field.

**Date:** March 31-April 2, 2008

**Where:** The Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, La

**More Information:** [www.evawintl.org/NewOrleans2008.htm](http://www.evawintl.org/NewOrleans2008.htm)

## **ICASA STATEWIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT CONFERENCE**

**What:** Annual conference of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault includes the presentation of the Moxie Awards.

**Date:** May 19-21, 2008

**Where:** Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL.

**More Information:** 217-753-4117

## **WCSAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**What:** Annual conference of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs. The event includes a variety of workshops and plenary addresses.

**Date:** May 20-22, 2008

**Where:** Red Lion at the Park, Spokane, Wash.

**More Information:** [www.wcsap.org](http://www.wcsap.org)

## **RESPONSES, RIGHTS AND RESOURCES FOR CRIME VICTIMS**

**What:** Sponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Oregon Attorney General Sexual Assault Task Force. It will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to sharing promising practices, current research, effective policies, research developments and skill-building workshops.

**Date:** June 2-4, 2008

**Where:** Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, Ore.

**More Information:** [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

# Leave the Kingdom of Spam-a-lot

## 20 methods to reduce unwanted e-mail

By Susan Tenby  
Techsoup.org

Face it; your inbox is infested with spam. And it's not like you asked for all of these messages either. Or did you? Believe it or not, your online behavior plays a big role in who has access to your e-mail address – and that includes spammers. Regardless, you're probably frustrated about unwanted mail and want to do something, anything. Rest assured that there are steps you can take to reduce the amount of junk flooding your inbox. Here are 20.

### **Never, ever reply to a spam message:**

This includes buying a product that is for sale or clicking the often-misunderstood "unsubscribe" link, which actually informs your spammer that you exist. If you can tell from the subject line that a message is spam, don't open it, delete it. Spam subject lines usually promise you a better sex life, a more youthful appearance, prescription drugs without a doctor's approval, love, thicker hair, or a better mortgage rate.

**Don't click any links in a spam e-mail:** Spammers often have multiple, unique pages on their sites. Often times, when you click a URL in a spam message, this tells the spammer that you — and only you — received the message they sent.

**Disguise your e-mail addy:** Don't put your e-mail address in plain text on your Web site. An effective way to trick the spiders that traverse the Web to harvest e-mail addresses is to disguise your e-mail address by stripping out periods and "@" symbols. For example, "YOURNAME AT YAHOO DOT COM" or use JavaScript to display your e-mail address as a clickable link.

**Don't forward an e-mail from someone you don't know to a list of people:** You remember those "forward

this e-mail to 20 of your friends" messages? They are perfect for spammers to harvest e-mail addresses, even if the sender of the original e-mail did not have this intent.

**If you have your own domain:** don't use your regular e-mail address when you register at Websites. Instead, create a separate e-mail address for each site where you register, like this: sitename@yourdomain.com. That way, you'll know who's selling your e-mail address.

### **Create disposable e-mail addresses:**

There are now services, such as Sneakemail.com that allow you to create multiple "disposable" addresses that point to your real one.

**Don't use your home or business e-mail address:** when you register on a Website or in a group. If you must sign up for services, want to receive more info, register for newspapers or domains; use a free e-mail address from a site like Yahoo to create an address especially for that purpose.

**Before you join a list:** make sure the list owner or Web master will not sell your address.

**Preview your messages:** before you open them. Outlook (and many other e-mail clients) let you use a preview mode to peek at the contents of a message before you actually open it. To do this in Outlook, go to the View menu and select Preview Pane. Instead of double clicking a message, click it once to select it and you'll see the message displayed in the Preview Pane.

**View a message's headers to see if a sender's e-mail address is valid:** In Outlook, you can do this by right-clicking the message and selecting Options. In the header information you can see if the return address is indeed the address it claims to be. You can also see information about the servers that passed the e-mail along to you.

**Don't use Hotmail/ AOL/ MSN as your primary mail provider:** That's because spammers often flood common usernames on widely-used mail systems (e.g. dave23, dave24, etc.). If your main e-mail address is currently on Hotmail, MSN, AOL, Earthlink, or any other major national mail provider, you may want to think about getting a less visible e-mail address.

**Use complicated e-mail addresses:** Spammers' software will look for the easy and obvious addresses first.

**Use a spam filter:** One to try is SpamBayes for Windows. Another is Mailshell.

**If you work in an office:** forward spam to your IT department so they can adjust the filters.

**Read all your messages as text:** That means turning off the ability to view pictures, HTML, movies, and formatted text.

**Use a Web-posting form:** on your Website to allow users to contact you.

**Make sure your privacy settings are set so you don't receive marketing:** from other sites in your AOL and Yahoo profiles. Many listservs use Yahoo lists as the list provider, you must unselect these pre-selected choices, in your personal privacy settings.

**Never use your e-mail address as your screen name:** in chat rooms.

**Throw in a little HTML or spacing that is undetectable to crawlers:** when posting your e-mail address on a Web site.

**Don't give your real address to a Website for registration:** If you must register with a real e-mail address, make sure you can opt out of receiving unsolicited e-mail from the site where you're registering.

# Back on the Road Again;

## Centers in Charleston, Macomb hold 18th Annual Take Back the Night events

They marched into the night and took it back at Eastern Illinois University.

SACIS and EIU's Women's Studies program held the 18th Annual Take Back the Night March on Oct. 4. More

than 500 people participated in the event that was chaired by Suzanne Enck-Wanzer.

The EIU/Community Sexual Assault Task Force, which includes SACIS, conducted an awareness event on the night of October 18th. The group handed out "Stop Rape" bracelets, information, food, and water to students who were on their way to the Charleston bars. SACIS welcomed back two interns, Marilyn Ridgway and Amber Van Atta, both previously volunteered at the center.

## Macomb

The march also continued in Macomb, as WIRC-CAA Victim Services co-sponsored the 18th annual Take Back the Night March and Rally with the Women's Center from

Western Illinois University on Oct. 11. More than 600 individuals participated in the event which

began with an information table display from Victim Services as well as other WIU and community groups and a small Clothesline Project display.

The evening was highlighted by several speakers including student and community survivors of sexual and domestic violence. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Regina Davis-Sowers, member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence Survivors Speakers Bureau and new Sociology and Anthropology professor

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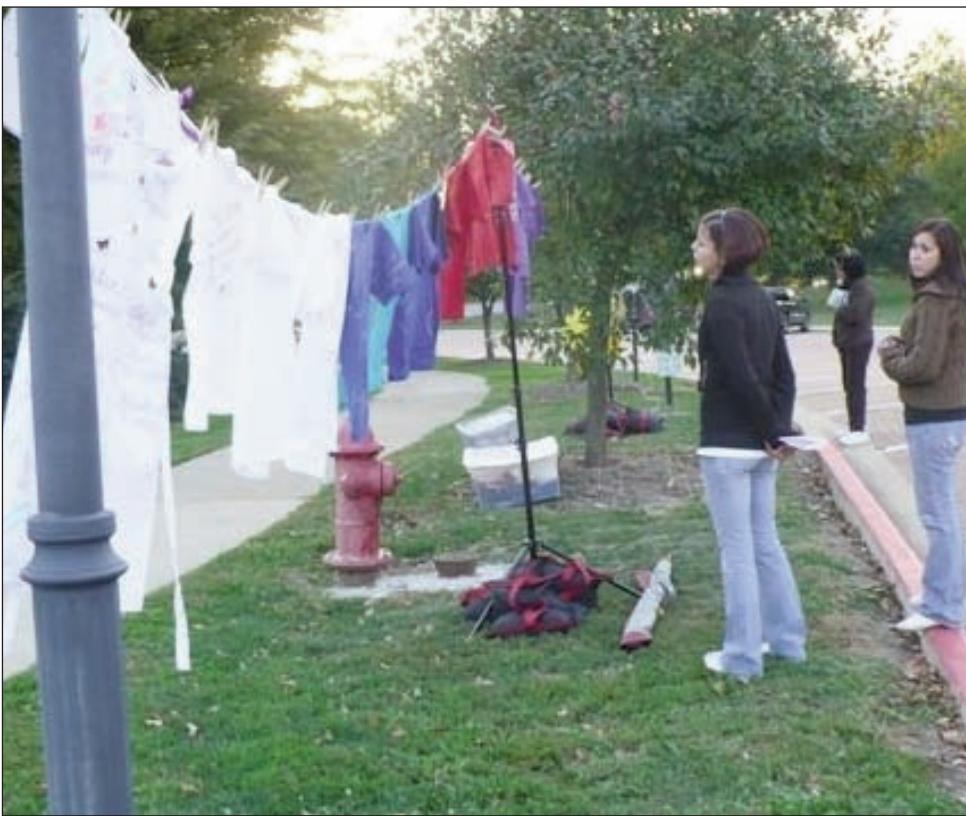


Participants prepare to hit the streets at the 18th Annual Take Back the Night March on Oct. 4 in Charleston. SACIS and EIU's Women's Studies program sponsored the event.



Marchers brave the elements at the 18th Annual Take Back the Night March and Rally in Macomb. The event was co-sponsored by WIRC-CAA Victim Services. More than 600 people participated.

# Princeton tunes in country



WIRC/CAA Victim Services in Macomb constructed a clothesline project as part of the events surrounding the 18th Annual Take Back the Night march and rally held on Oct. 11.



Freedom House staff participated in the Bureau County Homestead Festival Parade, promoting its Harvest of Hope event and sexual violence awareness.

## Road

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at WIU. Music was provided by students and Wild Moon, a community group including Victim Services counselor Gayla Elliott.

## Galena

Riverview Center, Inc. has kicked off its new media campaign for the rest of the fiscal year. The campaign features a pair of billboards that will be displayed throughout the area. One billboard says "Rape will not be tolerated here" and the other billboard says "Sexual Violence will not be tolerated here."



## Kankakee

B-I-N-G-O

Iroquois Sexual Assault Services, a satellite office of KC-CASA, turned this classic game into a money-maker. On Sept. 23, ISAS held its annual Longaberger Basket Bingo and raised more than \$1,000 for the agency. Local businesses donated money to sponsor baskets that were then given as prizes during the course of 11 BINGO games.

Kankakee County  
Center Against Sexual Assault  
KC-CASA

## Princeton

Freedom House went to the country and it delivered a major hit.

On Sept. 29, the center raised \$7,700 through "Harvest of Hope," a country-western concert to benefit victims of sexual and domestic violence. The event featured impersonators of major country stars Toby Keith, Garth Brooks and Shania Twain and the country tribute band, Smokin' Gunz. Approximately 250

 Freedom House  
A NEW BEGINNING  
respect - dignity - compassion  
800-474-6031

**Road** *continued on page 11*

## CENTER INFORMATION

### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

#### Northwest CASA

Hotline: 888-802-8890 Business: 847-806-6526

### AURORA

#### Mutual Ground, Inc.

Hotline: 630-897-8383 Business: 630-897-8989

### BELLEVILLE

#### Call for Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit (SAV-U)

Hotline: 618-397-0975 Business: 618-397-0975

### BLOOMINGTON

#### Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Services

Hotline: 309-827-4005 Business: 309-622-0461

### CARBONDALE

#### Rape Crisis Services of the Women's Center, Inc.

Hotline: 618-529-2324 Business: 618-549-4807

### CHARLESTON/MATTOON

#### Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service (SACIS)

Hotline: 888-345-2846 Business: 217-348-5033

### CHICAGO

#### Chicago Hotline: 888-293-2080

#### Community Counseling Centers of Chicago/Quetzal Center

Business: 773-765-0612

#### Mujeres Latinas En Accion

Business: 1-773-890-7676

#### YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Business: 312-762-2772

#### Rape Victim Advocates

Business: 312-443-9603

### CHICAGO HEIGHTS

#### YWCA Chicago, South Suburban Center, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Hotline: 708-748-5672 Business: 708-754-0486

### DANVILLE

#### R.E.A.C.H.

Hotline: 888-549-1800 Business: 217-446-1337

### DECATUR

#### Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center

Hotline: 217-428-0770 Business: 217-428-0770

### DEKALB

#### Safe Passage, Inc.

Hotline: 815-756-5228 Business: 815-756-7930

### ELGIN

#### Community Crisis Center

Hotline: 847-697-2380 Business: 847-697-2380

### GALENA

#### Riverview Center, Inc., Sexual Assault Prevention & Intervention Services

Hotline: 888-707-8155 Business: 815-777-8155

### GLEN ELLYN

#### YWCA Chicago, West Suburban Center, Sexual Violence and Support Services

Hotline: 630-971-3927 Business: 630-790-6600

### GURNEE

#### Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Hotline: 847-872-7799

Business: 847-244-1187



## *Around the TRAINING TABLE*

### A LOOK BACK

Highlights of a recent training facilitated by ICASA's Training Institute.

### ADVOCATE TRAINING

**OCT. 8-9, 2007**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL**

ICASA hosted a two-day event for rape crisis center medical and legal advocates.

The conference opened by using open space technology to facilitate discussion on "Advocacy Services: Putting it all Together." The afternoon featured 12 different discussions on a variety of topics.

The second day began with concurrent workshops on the basics of advocacy and advocating for prosecution of difficult cases.

The event concluded with a panel discussion on "Health Care and Evidence Collection of Rape Victims."

More than 50 direct service staff participated in the event.

### A LOOK AHEAD

A look at an upcoming training facilitated by ICASA's Training Institute.

#### 40-HOUR CRISIS INTERVENTION

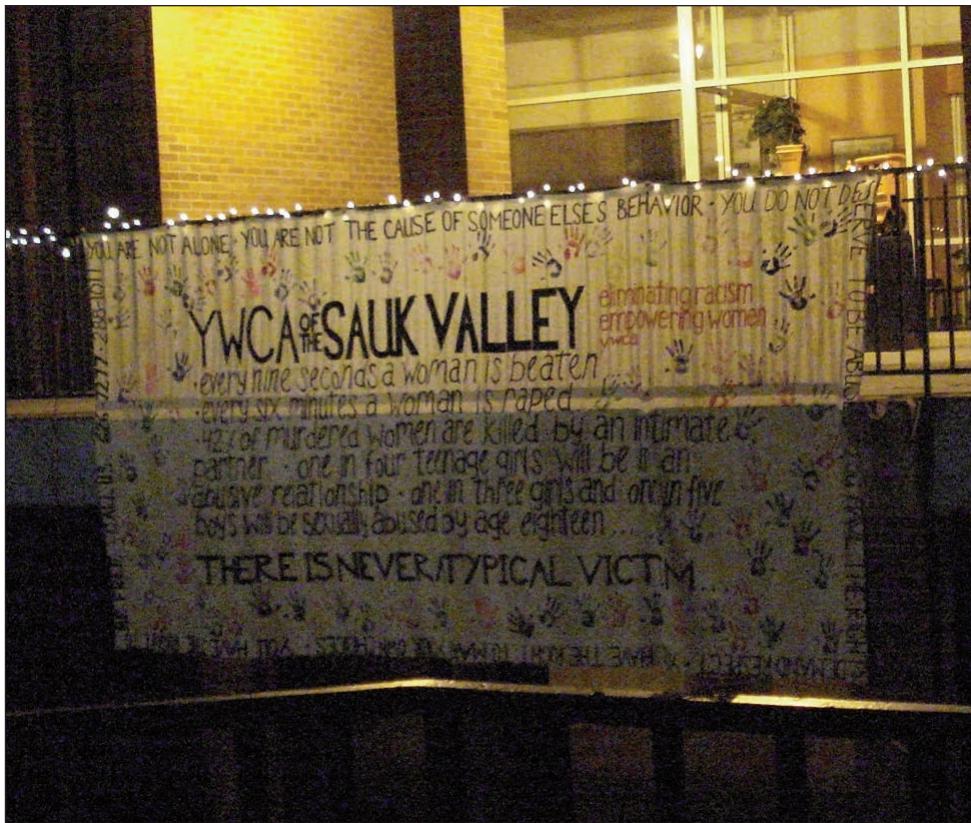
#### TRAINING

**FEB. 4-8, 2008**

**HILTON GARDEN INN,  
SPRINGFIELD, IL**

The objectives of the training are to:

1. Identify a rape culture and its impact on society;
2. Debunk the myths which exist within the rape culture;
3. Distinguish between victim-centered philosophy/services and medical/social services models of intervention;
4. Cite the facts and statistics related to the prevalence of specific types of sexual assault;
5. Identify the forces of oppression and ways to integrate anti-oppression strategies into daily practice as a sexual assault worker; and
6. Practice and demonstrate victim-centered skills related to the provision of crisis intervention services to survivors of sexual assault.



A banner supporting victims of violence was displayed outside the YWCA of the Sauk Valley during its 12th annual Week without Violence from Oct. 14-20.

## Road

*continued from page 9*

people attended the event.

"We were thrilled with the turn-out and the support shown for our cause," Freedom House Executive Director Connie Doran said. "An event like this is important because it raises money to provide services for our clients and also creates an outlet for awareness."

## Sterling

The YWCA of the Sauk Valley held its 12th annual YWCA Week Without Violence throughout Whiteside and Lee Counties on the week of Oct. 14-20. The event included a "Light Up the Night" event from 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 14. Local businesses, churches and individuals were encouraged to have a light display in support of the cause and were provided information kits as well as buttons that say "Enough!" The center also held special "Hands are Not for Hitting" reading sessions for area preschool children and had a display located outside its office building in Sterling.



Participants investigate the wealth of material at a booth sponsored by the WIRC/CAA Victim Services in Macomb during the center's Take Back the Night March and Rally.

### HICKORY HILLS

**The Pillars Community Services**  
Hotline: 708-482-9600  
Business: 708-741-4500

### JOLIET

**Sexual Assault Service Center**  
**Guardian Angel Community Services**  
Hotline: 815-730-8984  
Business: 815-729-0930

### KANKAKEE

**Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault**  
Hotline: 815-932-3322  
Business: 815-932-7273

### MACOMB

**Western Illinois Regional Council/Community Action Agency Victim Services**  
Hotline: 309-837-5555  
Business: 309-836-2148

### MCHENRY

**Pioneer Center/Voices Program**  
Hotline: 800-892-8900  
Business: 815-759-7066

### PEORIA

**The Center for the Prevention of Abuse - Sexual Assault Services**  
Hotline: 309-691-4111  
Business: 309-691-0551

### PRINCETON

**Freedom House, Inc.**  
Hotline: 800-474-6031  
Business: 815-872-0087

### QUAD CITIES

**Quad Cities Rape/Sexual Assault Counseling Program, Family Resources Inc.**  
Hotline: 309-797-1777  
Business: 309-797-6534

### QUINCY

**Quanada Sexual Assault Program**  
Hotline: 800-369-2287  
Business: 217-223-2030

### ROCKFORD

**Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. (RSAC)**  
Hotline: 815-636-9811  
Business: 815-636-9811

### SPRINGFIELD

**Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault**  
Hotline: 217-753-8081  
Business: 217-744-2560

### STERLING

**YWCA of the Sauk Valley**  
Hotline: 815-626-7277  
Business: 815-625-0333

### STREATOR

**ADV & SAS**  
Hotline: 800-892-3375  
Business: 815-672-2353

### URBANA

**A Woman's Fund, Inc., Rape Crisis Services**  
Hotline: 217-355-5203  
Business: 217-355-5214

### VANDALIA

**Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies (SAFE)**  
Hotline: 800-625-1414  
Business: 618-283-1414

# And Justice

## What is the All White Club?

All White Clubs are non-profits that, without trying, find themselves with an all white organization.

These are not groups that have intentionally excluded people of color. In fact, many times they have developed recruitment plans to get more people of color involved in their group. However, when people of color join the group, they are essentially asked to fit into the existing culture. Many leave after a frustrating period of trying to be heard.

After years of trying, the Club cannot figure out why they do not have more people of color in their group, they begin to blame people of color for not being interested in the group's important issue or work, or they just give up. They do not understand that without analyzing and changing the organizational culture, norms, and power relations, they will always be an All White Club. While they are good people, they have no analysis of racism or of power and no accountability to people of color or communities of color.

*From the Dismantling Racism Project  
[www.dismantlingracism.org](http://www.dismantlingracism.org)*

## White Supremacy

By joan olson

WHITE SUPREMACY – two words that flood our minds with images of armed, white men in hooded robes, swastikas painted on sacred buildings, crosses burning. Two words that have become synonymous with bigoted, intentionally hateful gangs like the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nation, Posse Comitas, Church of the Creator, Christian Identity and various militia groups.

Associating WHITE SUPREMACY with ONLY these organized, avowed hate groups by the media, the government, the education system and generations of U.S. Americans, have made comprehending any other meaning for those two words nearly impossible. To fully grasp and understand the reality of racism in U.S. America, we must stop our knee-jerk reaction to the two words and cultivate a more realistic comprehension of the concept of WHITE SUPREMACY.

WHITE SUPREMACY is: the standards, norms and values of White Europeans and more recently White North Americans which are considered the right and justified norms, and which have been installed and institutionalized in U.S. culture. These are the same norms and values that each U.S. American child has been instructed to follow and accept as right and justified.

Observing U.S. cultural and social norms is one way to clarify the meaning of WHITE SUPREMACY. Below are some examples of U.S. culture and institutions displaying WHITE SUPREMIST values.

1. Classical music is a White European music form.

2. From the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes for Health and Mental Health (NIH and NIMH), to other medical research centers, the vast majority of medical models are white (and also male).

3. Tonal sounds, chords, etc. in "western" music are "on key", while those of some other cultures are "dissonant".

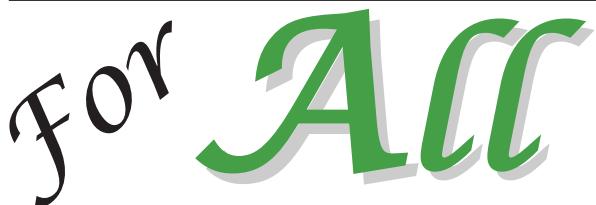
4. Blonde hair, blue eyes, narrow hips and lips have become the global standard of attractiveness and beauty.

5. The literature, two and three dimensional art plus other artistic creations, science, and the inventions of White Europeans are held as the global standards for artistry, creativity, scientific merit and value. For example: The "Great Books" are authored by White Europeans (almost exclusively men.)

6. Ethnic Studies (meaning African, Latino/a, Asian or Native American studies) are interesting, intriguing and can help to "round out" one's education, but are not seen as central to understanding global history or the "progress" of civilization.

7. "Black issues", "Korean issues", "Native issues", etc. are seen only as topics limited to those populations, not topics related to all people in society. In addition, the opinions of People of

**White** continued on page 13



*"There is a way to look at the past.  
Don't hide from it. It will not catch  
you - if you don't repeat it."*

*Pearl Bailey*

## White

*continued from page 12*

Color on any topics outside "Black (or other communities of color) issues" are not solicited and rarely perceived as valuable.

8. "Real" civilization began with the ancient Greek and Roman cultures.

9. The valuing of the present individual over the collective community, over consideration of ancestors or even over future generations, is the proper and rightful human value. The "rugged individual" is the "American Way", and this value system is more highly developed than other cultural value systems.

10. The valuing of human life above other life forms of the planet is moral and justified. The loss of connection to the earth, its cycles and its creatures is seen as a sign of human progress by male supremacist culture. A prime value is progress today, (i.e. more construction, taming more wilderness, expanding mining of natural resources, more "mega-farms" and fewer "inefficient" family farms, using more and more chemicals to increase this year's crops, expansion of "high tech" and trivialization of "low tech" or earth-friendly technologies) with little consideration for future generations and the cumulative impact on the earth.

11. Speaking in turn, one at a time, in a controlled, less emotional fashion is more rational and therefore, more appropriate in all situations.

12. Majority rules is the best process for collective decision-making.

**When we are better able to identify and acknowledge the embedded influence of WHITE SUPREMACY on our institutions and other aspects of U.S. culture, the better equipped we will be to dismantle racism.**

13. The importance of being on time to the next meeting or next interaction, justifies interrupting the current interaction before coming to closure.

14. Zestful, colorful dress and/or manner are not professional, adult or acceptable in many situations.

15. In a white supremacist society White People and White institutions are empowered to make decisions that impact the daily life and death of People of Color. These include, but are not limited to: housing, education, work, pay for work, value of work, credit, sex and sexuality, reproductive choices, institutional access, health and safety.

The above are a few demonstrations of institutionalized and culturally transmitted WHITE SUPREMACY. White U.S. American perspectives and opinions regarding: government, the planet's population and population control, the environment, art, education,

justice, violence, health care, family, parenting and child care, birth, death and dying, youth and old age, sexuality, relationships with other humans and other species, social structures, decision-making, individual vs. collective responsibilities – are the norms for U.S. social structures, thinking and practices in the United States. As the influence of U.S. American culture expands beyond our national borders, these same norms are often imposed on other peoples of the globe.

When we are better able to identify and acknowledge the embedded influence of WHITE SUPREMACY on our institutions and other aspects of U.S. culture, the better equipped we will be to dismantle racism.

*1997 joan olsson*

*I want to thank bell hooks for her thinking, writing and speaking on this subject. Her work has broadened my understanding of the concept and installation of white supremacy in U.S. culture.*

# 2007 Legislative Highlights

## Several bills impact sexual assault victims

In 2007, the Illinois General Assembly expanded protections and healthcare for sexual assault victims, criminalized luring and solicitous behavior used by sex offenders to attract children, increased penalties for sex offenders and further restricted the conduct of convicted sex offenders.



### **LYN M. SCHOLLETT**

A comprehensive legislative review of all new Illinois laws related to sexual assault is available at [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org). For questions about legislation or legal issues, contact ICASA at 217-753-4117.

### **NEW OFFENSES**

#### **HB 1979 Creates Offense of Luring a Minor**

Rep. Munson (R-43); Sen. Millner (R-28)

Provides that it is illegal for a person who is 18 years of age or older to contact or communicate electronically (telephone, Internet or text messaging): with a person who is under the age of 15; with the purpose of luring, or attempting to lure, that person away from his or her home or current location; and the offender is a stranger to the minor's parents or legal guardian.

Offense levels vary depending on the age of the offender, age of the victim, and prior convictions.

**P.A. 95-625      Eff. 6/1/08**

#### **SB 697 Creates Offense of Aggravated Child Pornography**

Sen. Wilhelmi (D-43); Rep. Golar (D-6)

Creates the offense of aggravated child pornography for those who possess, manufacture or distribute child pornography involving children under the age of 13.

Requires persons convicted of child exploitation offenses to register their Internet Protocol (IP) addresses as part of the information provided to the sex offender registry and law enforcement.

Requires that offenders on parole or mandatory supervised release must consent to law enforcement searches of their computers and other electronic devices.

Establishes the Illinois Cyber-Crime Location Database (ICLD) and authorizes the Attorney General and law enforcement to collect, store and use IP addresses to investigate and prosecute child pornographers

**P.A. 95-579      Eff. 8/31/07**

### **CRIMINAL LAW**

#### **HB 6 Amends Offense of Stalking**

Rep. Nekritz (D-57); Sen. Wilhelmi (D-43)

Adds, in the definition of "surveillance" in the stalking statute, placing an electronic tracking device on the person stalked or the person's property.

**P.A. 95-33      Eff. 1/1/08**

#### **HB 2858 Adds Internet Communication to Offense of Indecent Solicitation of a Child**

Rep. Cross (R-84); Sen. Wilhelmi (D-43)

Provides that a person who is age 17 or over commits the offense of

indecent solicitation of a child if the person knowingly discusses an act of sexual conduct or sexual penetration with a child, or with a person whom he or she believes to be a child, by means of the Internet with the intent of committing a sex crime against the child. Provides that it is not a defense that the person did not solicit the child to perform sexual conduct or sexual penetration with the person. Class 4 felony.

**P.A. 95-143      Eff. 1/1/08**

#### **SB 75 Creates Sentencing Option of Probation for Offense of Prostitution**

Sen. Collins (D-16); Molaro (D-21)

Allows judges to offer a one-time sentencing option of 24 months' probation with rehabilitation for first-time felony prostitution offenders. The court may require that the person fulfill certain requirements, including: participate with a social service agency, pay a fine and costs, work or pursue a course of study or vocational training, undergo medical or psychiatric treatment, or stay drug-free.

**P.A. 95-255      Eff. 8/17/07**

#### **SB 1397 Increases Penalties/Restrictions for Sex Crimes Against Children**

Sen. Harmon (D-39); Rep. Graham (D-78)

Requires sex offenders to notify law enforcement within 72 hours (previously 5 days) of a change in address, employment or school.

Adds conviction for aggravated child pornography to the list of crimes for which child sex offenders are restricted from residing, loitering, or being present within 500 feet of a school, park, or other facility providing services to children under 18 years of age.

**Legislative continued on page 16**

# THUMBS UP ... THUMBS DOWN



*A summary of legal decisions in Illinois*

## Clinton County

On Sept. 11, Judge James Roberts found Justin Beal not guilty by a directed verdict on one count of predatory criminal sexual assault and one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. In not letting the case go to the jury, Roberts said "As much as it pains me, the evidence in this case is wholly lacking and insufficient." Beal was charged with abusing children his mother was babysitting.

Assistant State's Attorney Henry Bergmann prosecuted the case.

## Iroquois County

Judge Gordon Lustfeldt reduced bond set for Donald Webb, who was arrested for predatory criminal sexual assault, from \$250,000 to \$8,000.

Assistant State's Attorney Bill Donahue vehemently argued against the reduction in bail. Judge Scott Swaim set the original bail amount.

## Lee County

On July 29, Judge John Payne sentenced Christopher Letcher to 160 years in prison after he was found guilty of eight counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault of a child. The 36-year-old Letcher must serve 85% of the sentence. Letcher maintained during the trial that the girl, now nine, had initiated the sexual conduct. Letcher had a long criminal history including domestic battery and false imprisonment. State's Attorney Paul Whitcombe prosecuted the case.

## Lee County

On Sept. 26, Jeff Hubbell pled guilty to two counts of predatory sexual assault and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. It is the longest sentence ever imposed in Lee County for a sexual assault case. The 52-year-old Hubbell pled guilty to assaulting 5- and 12-year-old girls. State's Attorney Paul Whitcombe prosecuted the case. Whitcombe dropped 13 other felony and misdemeanor charges against Hubbell in exchange for him pleading guilty. Hubbell is suspected of molesting 13 other children as well. The State's Attorney's office will continue to investigate Hubbell.

## Lee County

On Sept. 28, Judge Ron Jacobson sentenced Rodney Biagioni to 40 years in prison for sexually assaulting a girl 10 or younger. Biagioni, 58, must serve at least 34 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole. Biagioni admitted to abusing the girl more than 100 times throughout several years. State's Attorney Paul Whitcombe prosecuted the case.

## Morgan County

Judge Richard Mitchell sentenced Kirk Willingham to 14 years in prison after he pled guilty to sexually abusing three girls who baby-sat his children. The sentence was twice as many years in prison as recommended by Morgan County State's Attorney Chris Reif, who recommended six years. Willingham pled guilty to two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and one count of felony criminal sexual assault.

## Sangamon County

On Nov. 28, Judge Leslie Graves sentenced Gregory McGee to 34 years in prison after he pled guilty to one count of predatory criminal sexual assault and one count of attempted predatory criminal sexual abuse. McGee had sexual contact with four pre-teen girls.

## Sangamon County

On Oct. 24, Judge Steven Nardulli found Ronald Ladley not guilty of sexual abuse. Ladley and his victim both testified that he groped the victim's breast without her consent when she was interviewing for a job with him. Judge Nardulli found Ladley not guilty because of the "very real difference" men and women interpret actions of this nature. Nardulli ruled that Ladley's actions were misconduct but was not sexual abuse because of a communication misinterpretation of what the victim wanted by Ladley.

Sangamon County Assistant State's Attorney Sheryl Essenburg, who was the lead attorney on both Sangamon County cases listed above, should be applauded for her commitment to prosecution of crimes.

## Winnebago County

On Sept. 27, Judge Rosemary Collins sentenced Maurice Ford to 50 years in prison after he pled guilty to two counts of aggravated criminal sexual assaults from incidents in Feb. 2006. The guilty plea avoided having two separate trials that would have required both victims to testify in each trial. Tiffany Davis and Jessica Mavis prosecuted the case. Both victims in the case were in favor of the plea agreement.

## Legislative

continued from page 14

### SB 1397 also

Prohibits sexual predators and sex offenders who are on parole from possessing prescription erectile dysfunction drugs;

requires sexual predators to pay the costs (if able) of electronic home monitoring (formerly, availability of electronic monitoring was subject to General Assembly appropriation of funds);

increases maximum sentence for sexual exploitation of a child from a Class 1 felony to a Class X felony, with the maximum sentence of 60 years in prison;

increases maximum penalty for predatory criminal sexual assault of a child to 60 years in prison;

adds conviction for sexual exploitation of a child as an aggravating factor that increases the penalty for criminal sexual assault from a Class 1 felony to a Class X felony with a maximum sentence increasing to 60 years in prison;

prohibits jailed sex offenders from receiving good conduct credit unless they successfully participate in sex offender treatment; and

creates a task force to study the implementation, cost, placement, and effectiveness of transitional housing facilities for sex offenders released from facilities of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

P.A. 95-640      Eff. 6/1/08

## CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

### HB 9

#### Allows Addition of Pets as Protected Parties on Orders of Protection

Rep. Fritchey (D-11); Sen. Haine (D-56)

Provides that the court may, in an order of protection, grant the petitioner the exclusive care, custody, or control of any animal owned or kept by the petitioner, respondent, or a minor child.

The court may also order the respondent to stay away from the animal and forbid the respondent from taking, concealing, or harming the animal in any way.

P.A. 95-234      Eff. 1/1/08

## CRIME VICTIMS

### HB 421

#### Amendments to Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

Rep. Leitch (R-73); Sen. Koehler (D-46)

Requires all reports of abuse and neglect alleging the death, serious injury, torture, malnutrition, and sexual abuse against a child to be immediately reported by the Department of Children and Family Services to local law enforcement.

P.A. 95-57      Eff. 8/10/07

### HB 1462

#### Access to Civil Justice

Sen. Raoul (D-13); Rep. Gordon (D-75)

Provides that the time period for an adult victim of a sex crime to file a civil lawsuit does not run (is "estopped") during any time period in which the offender threatens, intimidates, manipulates or deceives the victim. This bill will only apply to cases arising on or after January 1, 2008, and to cases in which the statute of limitations has not expired.

P.A. 95-589      Eff. 1/1/08

### SB 31

#### Crime Victims Compensation

Sen. Millner (R-28); Rep. Coladipietro (R-45)

Amends the Crime Victims Compensation Act to allow more time for claimants to file an application for compensation. Currently, a claim must be filed within two years of the occurrence of a crime. Effective January 1, 2008, a crime victim may also file an application within one year after a criminal indictment of a person for an offense.

P.A. 95-250      Eff. 1/1/08

## SB 534

#### Amendments to Safe Homes Act

Sen. Raoul (D-13); Rep. Lindner (R-50)

Expands the coverage provided to domestic and sexual violence victims who live in rental housing. Provides that a domestic or sexual violence victim may now use the lock-change provision even if the abuser is a leaseholder, as long as the victim has a court order granting her or him exclusive possession of the premises. The amendments also require of landlords and tenants to make a good-faith effort to furnish a new set of keys to the other party within 48 hours of a lock change.

P.A. 95-378      Eff. 8/23/07

### SB 1467

#### Gender Discrimination

Sen. Harmon (D-39); Rep. Fritchey (D-11)

Amends the Civil Rights Act of 2003. Provides that gender (at present, race, color, or national origin) is a characteristic for which a person shall not be discriminated against by any unit of State, county or local government in Illinois.

P.A. 95-541      Eff. 1/1/08

### SB 1618

#### SASETA Amendments

Sen. Schoenberg (D-9); Rep. Coulson (R-17)

Expands the range of healthcare providers (medical professionals, laboratories and pharmacies) eligible to be reimbursed through the Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program for follow-up healthcare provided to sexual assault survivors, allowing survivors to select a medical provider for care after the emergency department visit. Clarifies that medications, including HIV prophylaxis, are a reimbursable follow-up service. Ensures that services related to the sexual assault will be reimbursed by the Illinois Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment program if the survivor is not covered by insurance or Medicaid.

P.A. 95-432      Eff. 1/1/08

Legislative continued on page 17

**Legislation**

continued from page 16

**PREVENTION EDUCATION****HB 1330****Ensuring Success in School**

Rep. Yarbrough (D-7); Sen. Martinez (D-20)

Creates the Ensuring Success in School Task Force to develop policies, procedures, and protocols to be implemented by school districts. Requires in-service training for school personnel at least once every two years, on the needs of expectant or parenting students and students who are victims of domestic or sexual violence.

P.A. 95-558      Eff. 8/30/07

**SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT****HB 820****Carnival Owners to Conduct Background Checks on Carnival Ride Operators**

Rep. Reis (R-108); Sen. Hultgren (R-48)

Requires, in part, that carnival owners and operators check the criminal history records of each carnival worker who is age 17 or over before hiring him or her. A person who is a registered sex offender or has ever been convicted of rape, murder or certain sexual offenses cannot be hired as a carnival operator.

P.A. 95-32      Eff. 8/24/07 and 1/1/08 (background checks provision)

**HB 50****Child Sex Offenders May Not Use Internet to Contact Minors**

Rep. Meyer (R-48); Sen. Dillard (R-24)

Provides that condition of parole, mandatory supervised release, probation, or supervision for a child sex offender may include that the offender may not use the Internet to communicate with or contact a minor.

P.A. 95-464      Eff. 6/1/08

**SB 14****Sex Offender Registration to Include Internet Address Information**

Sen. Harmon (D-39); Rep. Cole (R-62)

Provides that when a sex offender registers with the appropriate law enforcement agency, he or she shall provide the law enforcement agency with all e-mail addresses, instant messaging identities, chat room identities, and other Internet communications identities that the sex offender uses or plans to use, all Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) registered or used by the sex offender, and all blogs and other Internet sites maintained by the sex offender or to which the sex offender has uploaded any content or posted any messages or information. Amends the Sex Offender Community Notification Law to provide for disclosure of such information to the public.

P.A. 95-229      Eff. 8/16/07

**SB 364****Sex Offender Notification Amendments**

Sen. Hultgren (R-48); Rep. Reboletti (R-46)

Amends the Sex Offender Community Notification Law and the Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act to include notification of libraries where the offender is required to register.

P.A. 95-278      Eff. 8/17/07

**HB 263****Registered Sex Offender Voting**

Rep. Osmond (R-61); Sen. Link (D-30)

Requires that child sex offenders vote by absentee ballot or by early voting when their polling place is in a school.

Provides that it is a Class 4 felony for a child sex offender to knowingly be present within 100 feet of a bus stop when one or more persons under the age of 18 are present at the site.

P.A. 95-440      Eff. 8/27/07

**HB 3382****Repeat Sex Offender Registration**

Rep. Verschoore (D-72); Sen. Wilhelm (D-43)

Provides that an offender who becomes subject to registration as a sex offender or child murderer/violent offender against youth, and who has previously been subject to registration under either Act (or similar registration requirements of another jurisdiction), is required to register for his or her natural life if not confined to prison, or if confined to prison or other institution or facility, for the period of natural life after parole, discharge, or release from the institution or facility.

P.A. 95-169      Eff. 8/14/07

**SB 121****Juvenile Sex Offender Registration**

Sen. Raoul (D-13); Rep. Brosnahan (D-36)

Eliminates requirement that a juvenile adjudicated delinquent for a sex offense will register as an adult upon turning 17. Instead, provides that all adjudicated juvenile sex offenders must register but may petition the court to remove themselves from the registry after 5 years (felony) or 2 years (misdemeanor) on the registry. Exempts cases transferred to adult court.

P.A. 95-658      Eff. 10/17/07

**HB 3512****Notice of Allegations of Sex Offenses Against School District Employees**

Rep. Brady (R-88); Sen. Haine (D-56)

Provides that when a criminal sex offense is committed or alleged to have been committed by a school district employee or any individual contractually employed by a school district, the individual's criminal history record shall be immediately provided by law enforcement to the superintendent of schools of the district.

P.A. 95-559      Eff. 6/1/08

## Bully

*continued from page 1*

everyone takes a role in identifying, reporting and following up on bullying and sexual harassment incidents.

"I really think it can make a big difference in the schools," said Mark Ferguson, former prevention educator with SAFE in Vandalia. "Our emphasis is to get all the staff on the same page so that all of the myths can be dispensed with and the kids can be treated the same."

The Pontiac school system, which underwent teacher and staff training last year and introduced the program into the classroom in January of 2007, has incorporated the curriculum into three elementary schools and takes advantage of the literature options as part of the language arts course in sixth grade.

"It's going extremely well. ... We're getting more and more teacher buy-in all the time. The best way to get buy-in is to get two or three teachers in each building to use it and like it and talk it up," Pontiac Grade School Superintendent Steve Graham said. "It's a process. It's not going to happen overnight."

Steering committees, including teachers, administrators, parents and others, are established at each school to help implement the project. The steering committee at Hiawatha Elementary School in Berwyn was instrumental in creating support for the project including holding kickoff rallies in 2006 and 2007 and a year-end rally in 2006.

"We've had tons of success with the steering committee," said Patti Murphy of Pillars in Hickory Hills that works with Hiawatha. "That's gone fantastic."

Change within families has made it crucial for schools to provide this type of lessons.

"Many of our kids come from broken

## CENTER INVOLVEMENT

List of ICASA centers participating in the bullying prevention project.

### ■ Belleville

Call for Help, Inc.

### ■ DeKalb

Safe Passage

### ■ Hickory Hills

Pillars Community Services

### ■ Joliet

Guardian Angel Community Services

### ■ Peoria

Center for Prevention of Abuse,  
Sexual Assault Services

### ■ Rockford

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling

### ■ Sterling

YWCA of the Sauk Valley

### ■ Springfield

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault

### ■ Streator

ADV & SAS

### ■ Vandalia

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies.

specialized curricula in bullying prevention whose ultimate outcome is to prevent sexual violence."

Poskin, Graham, Theresa Benham and two school staff from Pontiac presented a workshop about the project this November at the annual Illinois School Board Convention in Chicago. Graham and staff and Pearl Campbell of Call for Help, Inc., in Belleville also met with Sen. Lightford about funding for the project.

"We received great response at the convention," Poskin said. "It's obvious that schools want help to curb bullying. This is a win-win project that we hope will be expanded to more schools in future years."

Research surveys on students, teachers, school staff and parents have been conducted in the pilot project communities. ICASA has partnered with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence to conduct an evaluation of the research gathered by the project. The early research has already paid dividends at Hiawatha Elementary School. In response to students' answers to where and when bullying occurs, the school implemented new policies for playground and bathroom monitoring and changed the school's drop-off policy before school.

The expansion of the project has been discussed extensively in the pilot site communities.

"The problem isn't which schools want to do it, it's a matter of whether we can get to them all and get to them with time and enough resources to do it properly," Ferguson said.

And the longer the program is in the schools the greater success expected.

"As the program grows and the kids move on up, we will see improvement," Graham said.

Improvement for today, tomorrow and the future.

On the web  
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# Turning rape into a misdemeanor

Some prosecutors in this state are transforming rape from a felony into a misdemeanor. They are treating forced sex like the intimate equivalent of jaywalking, and sending a message to perpetrators and victims alike that rape — at least as it most frequently happens — is not the kind of crime that is worth real effort to punish or deter.

As any rape crisis advocate can tell you, the rarest forms of rape do tend to inspire a great deal of prosecutorial ire and effort. When women — especially white women — are violently attacked by strangers, state's attorneys' offices are reliably incensed, and they mount impressive efforts to investigate and prosecute the offenders. This is good, as no rape should go un-prosecuted, and no survivor should go un-championed. But just as victims of "stranger rape" deserve effective and compassionate advocacy, so too do girls and women who are raped in more typical ways — which is to say by men they know.

More than 30 years of scientific research demonstrates irrefutably that rapists are mostly men who are known to the girls and women they assault. The evidence is also compelling that while rape causes significant and lasting damage, its injuries are rarely bloody and often not even visible to the naked eye. Most of us may still envision a rapist as a stranger who breaks into homes and uses weaponry and extreme violence, but this image is the product of fiction more than fact. What survivors know, and what they have been telling us for decades now, is that rapists resemble nice and trustworthy men in almost every way — except for their refusal to take no for an answer.

What has also become impossible to deny is that forced sex is no less awful for a survivor when the man forcing it is someone she once had a crush on ... or shared a drink with ... or dated ... or just trusted enough to be alone with. In a way that may defy conventional wisdom, but it is congruent with common sense, it is just as (and for some people *more*) devastating to be brutally and intimately violated by a person who you thought was



## THE FINAL WORD

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trustworthy than by a stranger. As a friend of mine put it: would you rather develop a terror that all the men you knew and found attractive were going to rape you, or develop a terror of every man you didn't know?

Fortunately, and thanks to the tireless work of survivors and their allies in the anti-rape community, the laws in this state have followed the knowledge and the realities of rape: men who are married to, dating, or known to, their victims are not exempt from laws prohibiting rape. Nor is there a requirement that a woman's allegation of rape be "corroborated" by any particular kind of witness or evidence. Under the law, sex accomplished by force, without the consent of the victim, is felonious criminal sex. And according to the law, the testimony of a survivor — even when disputed by the defendant — is sufficient to establish the commission of a felony level sex crime.

Sadly, certain state's attorneys seem not to have gotten the message that forced sex is equally bad — and equally criminal — when it is engaged in by men who are known to their victims. A sexist professor I had in law school literally screamed at one of my classmates, "You've got to admit it would be much worse to be raped by a stranger than by a husband!" Like him, too many state's attorneys in Illinois appear to be more deeply offended by men who force sex on strangers, than by those who force sex on girls and women they know. As much as we might want to remain on good and complimentary terms with our prosecutorial allies, there is simply no other explanation for — nor ever any excuse for — prosecuting men for "misdemeanor battery" when the underlying charge involves accomplishing

sexual penetration by force and without the consent of the victim.

The survivors I've spoken with whose rapists were charged with misdemeanor battery (I'm sure I haven't spoken with all such women) had several things in common: They all knew the perpetrator before the rape. They all cooperated with the prosecution. They repeatedly made clear their desire to see the crime against them treated as a felony. None of them believed it made any sense to charge their rape as a misdemeanor.

They are right, of course. It makes no sense to charge rape as a misdemeanor battery. In criminal court, charging a defendant with a misdemeanor instead of a felony doesn't make things easier for the prosecution. The burden of proof, beyond a reasonable doubt, is the same in misdemeanor battery as it is in a felony. And in both cases, the prosecution has to prove that the victim did not consent. A conviction depends on convincing the judge or the jury that sexual penetration was accomplished by force, without the consent of the victim. In Illinois, forced sexual penetration is not a misdemeanor — it is a felony sex crime.

It may be that certain state's attorneys charge 'acquaintance' or 'date' rapists with misdemeanor battery instead of felony sex crimes because — like my former professor — they just don't think it is so bad to be raped in that way. Maybe they see how 'normal' typical rapists look and just balk at calling them rapists. Whatever the reason, charging forced sexual penetration as misdemeanor battery sends the message that rape — as it is most commonly accomplished — is just not that big a deal. And that is a message that is contrary to the law and contrary to the lived experiences of survivors. That message also undermines the work of state's attorneys who would never charge rape as a misdemeanor. That is a message that we cannot afford to send.

Kaethe Morris Hoffer is a feminist lawyer from Evanston.



Riverview Center, Inc. of Galena has launched a new social marketing campaign featuring billboards and other material. The above billboard is one of two slogans that will appear in the area for the next year.



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