



working against violence toward women



a simple way to help victims of violence

On Make-a-Difference Day, Saturday, October 23, **tbt** ran a paper goods drive for the Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter Home for Women. Thanks to Pat's Foods in both Hancock and Calumet for letting us set up tables and collect toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, baby wipes, and all the other kinds of paper that are necessary for the day-to-day working of the shelter. Thanks also to everyone who donated: we collected 30 bagfuls of paper goods—as well as \$150 in donations.

In the photograph above, Jessica Auge, Amanda Rosenberger, Lindsay Williams, and Hannah Mongiat sit among some of the bags of goods we collected. Thanks to everyone who helped—Jessica, Amanda, Lindsay, Hannah (who organized the collection), Kristin Arola, Margot Hutchins, Jon Soper, and Anne Wysocki.



are you interested in hip, feminist approaches to engineering?

Natalie Jeremijenko, Ph.D. in design engineering, will speak on Tuesday, November 9, 7:30pm in the Kosza Center.

From releasing packs of Feral Robot Dogs that sniff out chemical contamination, to teaching Yale engineering students socially responsible design, from creating pollution-detecting Clear Skies Masks for bicycle riders, to co-authoring Biotech Hobbyist Magazine, Natalie Jeremijenko's work merges engineering, biology, and art to explore socio-political hot spots along the fault line where design meets information meets society.

from <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/001450.html>

see also http://www.yalealumnimagazine.com/issues/2004_03/jeremijenko.html

curious about the ladybug? See "The Great Ladybug Animation" at <http://>

It's funny how we try to bury painful memories...

anonymous

It's funny how we try to bury painful memories deep inside our minds to never be released. And how we come to believe that we can run away from the things that haunt us most, as if somehow fleeing from a situation makes it vanish into oblivion. Then suddenly years later it all comes flooding back in a wave of emotions you thought had seized.

I remember gasping for breathe as the weight of his body pressed me into the sofa. Greedy hands tearing at my skin, the stale stench of his breathe looming heavily over me. I remember the unimaginable pain of his penis forcing its way into me as I laid there lifeless in a silent abyss, silenced by the shocking realization of what was happening to me. The sickening feeling shooting through my body as he came into me. And then he left, walked out the door, leaving me naked and trembling, vomiting onto the floor without a voice to call for help. I was disgusted with myself, degraded to such an extent that I felt unworthy of existence.

I remember stumbling into the drug store, vacantly passing through the aisles in disbelief that I was searching for a pregnancy test. Quickly grabbing one from the masses out of sheer embarrassment, I waited in line with endless possibilities passing through my mind. I still vividly remember how belittled I felt by the glaring looks of utter disgust that the cashier gave me. I felt as if she was silently screaming at me "Teenage slut," "You Fucking, Filthy Whore."

I remember lying on the cold tile in the bathroom crying an endless amount of tears with the relief of discovering that I was not pregnant. And I remember being silenced from then on, not allowing a soul into my world of misery. Perhaps it's the feeling of completely lacking self-worth, of believing that somehow I deserved what happened. That I was young and naive, unsuspecting of such filthy acts of somebody I blindly trusted, somebody who I at the time regarded as my boyfriend.

I still remember every detail of that evening when I allow myself to. Recently, within the past hour, I came in contact with the man who raped me, that spawned this overflow of words I find before me. I feel nauseous and raked with fear by his presence in my world that for so long I have kept him from. But what I fear is not for myself, I have become a far stronger person than I ever believed. I fear for the women he encounters, the women he has encountered. I fear for every woman, for every man in fact, who unsuspectingly experiences what I have. I wonder and sincerely hope that he is a changed man raked with constant guilt... for I still feel plagued with silence, anonymous, regardless of the confession imprinted before you.

I was disgusted with myself, degraded to such an extent that I felt unworthy of existence.

Around the world

Crystal Buchanan

Rape, domestic violence, beatings—these are all acts of violence that we see against women in the United States. But our country is not the only one in which women are mistreated. In fact, as women in the U.S., we are well treated and protected compared to many third world countries.

The mistreatment of women lies low on the list of concerns in many developing countries. Due to this, many rapes, beatings, and cases of domestic violence go unreported. Even when these crimes are reported, they are brushed off by officials as insignificant. Examples of this are easy to find in countries where law is barely existent.

Since the fall of Baghdad, crimes in Iraq towards women have risen dramatically. Women have been kidnapped off the streets in broad daylight, beaten, raped, and later tossed to the side of the road. Also, women are being arrested because their male family members are wanted for violent acts, acts these women did not even know were committed. These are just two examples of women being mistreated in one country.

There is one kind of violence against women, although decreasing greatly, that is of great concern: Female genital mutation, a horrible crime we are not exposed to very often in the United States. In many cultures, women are circumcised so that it is so painful to have sexual intercourse that they will not do so unless they are trying to conceive. Often the operation is done before the girl is old enough to be tempted by sexual desire.

As if it is not enough that women's bodies are being defaced, these operations are often done in unsanitary conditions. It is not uncommon for multiple side effects to occur, such as infection and constant and extreme pain for many years following. Women have to deal with the consequences for the rest of their life, which is sometimes shortened due to complications, often for a decision that was not made by them.

There are some cases where women choose to have this procedure done, either for personal or religious reasons. These cases, however, are usually under more sanitary conditions and the women are more educated about their decision. Even these women would admit that the procedure is misused as a violent act in many parts of the world.

There are many people working to stop this horrendous crime against women and their bodies, but it still happens today. Female genital mutations, as well as crimes such as rape and domestic violence cause women all over the world fear for their safety. Just because they are women, women around the world deal with violent acts against them. If it has happened in the United States, it has more than likely happened somewhere else in the world as well. We are not alone in searching for a solution to this problem.

It is important to remember that the way people are treated in any society is often linked to the cultural traditions of that group. In some cultures, the role of women is viewed very differently than in the USA. It is important that we respect the fact that not everyone has to do things as we want to do them. However, in no culture should the mistreatment of women be acceptable.

For more information, see:

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/femgen/fgm1.htm>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en>

In the past—getting the vote...

Allison Thiel

Your foremothers fought for your right to vote. They forged the fight for our equality. Early suffragists petitioned and issued memorials to Congress in an effort to gain the right to vote. In the 1872 election suffragist Sojourner Truth demanded a ballot at a polling booth in Grand Rapids, MI, and was turned away. In New York, Susan B. Anthony registered and voted but was subsequently arrested for "knowingly, wrongfully and unlawfully vot[ing] for a representative to the Congress of the United States." Convicted by the state of New York she was ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

As the years progressed (it would take 72 from the birth of the women's rights movement at the first Seneca Falls Convention until women gained suffrage) the strategies and tactics of the suffragists changed. In 1913 Lucy Burns and Alice Paul formed the Congressional Union, later called the National Women's Party (NWP). They modeled the organization after Great Britain's militant suffragettes. This new party re-energized the cause and brought new ideas and strategies, primarily civil disobedience, to the forefront.

The day before Woodrow Wilson took office in 1913, the NWP organized a massive suffrage parade in Washington DC. The creed of the women was explicitly stated in the official program, "We march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society from which women are excluded."

Led by Inez Milholland, clad in white and riding a white horse, the procession had 26 floats, 10 bands, 6 golden chariots and divisions of between 6,000 to 10,000 marchers. After receiving virtually no fanfare upon his entrance into town, president-elect Woodrow Wilson allegedly asked where everyone was, the response was "On Pennsylvania Ave, watching the suffrage parade."

The marchers were attacked by the crowds of onlookers, mostly men in town for the inauguration. Even though they held the correct permits for the demonstration, the police did nothing to stop the men from tripping, shoving, jeering, and grabbing the marchers; the police actually joined in. *The Chicago Tribune* reported that the two ambulances "came and went constantly for six hours, always impeded and at times actually opposed, so that doctor and driver literally had to fight their way to give succor to the injured." More than 100 marchers were taken to the hospital. In an effort to restore order, Secretary of War Henry Stimson called out a troop of cavalry from Ft. Myer to control the crowd.

The suffragists were undeterred by events such as this and continued their efforts. In 1917 they started picketing the White House. The picketers were often attacked, with the police either not present or turning a blind eye. *The Suffragist*, NWP's magazine, carried stories of the police encouraging the attacks of "hoodlums." An August issue there notes that Alice Paul was knocked down three times and that a sailor dragged her across the sidewalk while trying to tear off her suffrage sash as a souvenir.

Their permit to picket the White House was soon revoked; however the women would not be silenced and refused to stop picketing. This resulted in over 200 NWP members being arrested and imprisoned, on charges of "obstructing the highway." Most were taken to Occoquan work camp, headed by William Whittaker.

continued on back...

On November 15, 1917, a night referred to as the “Night of Terror” by Occoquan work camp suffragist prisoners, Whittaker decided to teach the suffragists a lesson and the guards acted on his orders.

One woman wrote later, “I was immediately seized by two heavy guards, dragged across the room, scattering chairs and furniture as I went... so fast that my feet could not touch the ground... to the punishment cells, where I was flung into a concrete cell with an iron-barred door.”

The oldest prisoner, Mary Nolan, aged 73, recalled, “I saw Dorothy Day brought in. The two men handling her were twisting her arms above her head. Then suddenly they lifted her up and banged her down over the arm of an iron bench—twice... and we heard one of them yell, ‘The damned suffrager!’”

Lucy Burns was handcuffed to the bars of her cell and beaten—then left there all night. Dora Lewis was thrown into her cell and in the process her head smashed against the iron bed, rendering her unconscious.

The women retaliated the only way they could, with a hunger strike. One described headaches, nausea, fever, dizziness, and swollen lips as a result of her hunger strike. Most reported hallucinations and fainting. The prison officials tried threats and temptation to get the women to eat. When the women finally lacked strength to resist, they were force-fed.

One woman said: “I was seized and laid on my back, where five people held me, [one] leaping upon my knees... Dr. Gannon then forced the tube through my lips and down my throat, I was gasping and suffocating from the agony of it. I didn’t know where to breathe from, and everything turned black...”

Another: “I know what that torture is. The horrible griping and gagging of swallowing six inches of stiff rubber tubing-[it] is not to be imagined. That over, there is the ordeal of waiting while the liquids are poured through-then the withdrawal of that tube! With streaming eyes and parched, burning throat, one wonders how the people of this nation already tasting blood and pain [World War I] can let this be done...”

The women managed to smuggle out accounts of the abuses. The NWP lawyers obtained a court hearing on November 24. Three days afterward, Occoquan released all suffragist prisoners without explanation.

The reports of violence against suffragists occurring, first at the parade in 1913, and then at the work camp in 1917, outraged the public and led many to become sympathetic to the cause. In 1919 the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, granting women the right to vote, and was sent to the states for ratification. Ironically, the amendment possessed the exact same wording as the Women Suffrage Amendment submitted to Congress in 1878. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified.

WE WON THE RIGHT TO VOTE—WASN’T THAT ENOUGH?

The story does not end here; the voice we were granted on August 26, 1920 only counts if we use it.

There is a saying that, “With great power comes great responsibility.” Your vote is power and you have the responsibility to make an informed choice. These women from the past struggled hard and fought to secure the right for your voice to be heard- not for you to act as a mouth-piece for others. DECIDE FOR YOURSELF!

References:

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http://iaia.essortment.com/womenssuffrage_rcfa.htm

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/suffrage-march.html>

http://www.thehistorynet.com/ah/blsuffragists_storm/index2.html

<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/>

A Model Rape Victim

Allison Thiel

Shalini came to pick me up in her Jeep. The knot in my stomach became a little tighter. Pulling into the Portage Hospital Emergency Room parking lot I was almost nauseated. We stepped uncertainly through the automatic doors. My flip-flopping stomach fell to my feet as we turned into the waiting area and were greeted by a male receptionist. Luckily I didn’t have to tell him. I momentarily panicked when he directed me to triage and Shalini to the chairs in the corner. I couldn’t go through this without her by my side. He then hesitantly relented at her insistence to accompany me through the daunting door marked ‘Triage.’

After waiting an agonizingly long few minutes, a nurse appeared. She took a seat at the shelf-like table I was seated next to and started asking me a series of questions. “Are you taking any medications? Do you have any allergies? Any illnesses or diseases?” Finally came the tough question, the one I was dreading, “Why are you here?” “I think I was raped,” I blurted out, the words seeming to shatter the still silence of the triage room.

Fortunately for me, I was a mock-victim, helping Dial Help and the area Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) test out their program. The fear and uncertainty I felt were quite real, however, and made me keenly aware of how little I knew about what should happen, were I, or a friend, ever to be raped. Of course I knew that rape is a crime and one needs to go to the hospital as soon as possible for some sort of examination. As to what this mystery exam consisted of however, and what happens afterward, I had no idea.

SART/SANE PROGRAM

SART is the standard of care for sexual assault victims. Here in Houghton we are fortunate enough to have the only program functioning in the Upper Peninsula. The SART/SANE Program works in cooperation with the Portage Health System and is facilitated by Dial Help. SART/SANE provides comprehensive and compassionate care to victims of sexual assault in Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga and Ontonagon counties. The team includes law enforcement, an advocate and a specially trained nurse referred to as SANE. Each member of the team plays a unique role in aiding the victim.

The advocate provides emotional support and short-term crisis intervention and advocacy for the individual and her or his family and friends. The advocate may accompany the individual to appointments with law enforcement, prosecution or medical personnel, and provide the victim with information and referrals for needed services.

The law enforcement officer ensures the victim’s safety, conducts the investigation, and prepares the crime report given to the prosecutor. The officer also takes the suspect into custody if there is sufficient evidence.

The SANE performs the medical examination and gathers evidence. She also provides follow up care information for the victim. The team treats male and female victims alike; however this article will focus on female victims since this is much more prevalent! The process itself is extremely similar for both male and female victims, but with some obvious changes due to anatomy.

Once the victim has presented herself at the hospital the triage nurse calls the on-call SANE, as well as the police department with jurisdiction of the location of the sexual assault. The SANE contacts Dial Help who then calls the advocate; all three ideally respond to the hospital within 1 hour or less of the initial call. Both the SANE and advocate are voluntary positions. SANEs are only compensated for their time if they perform an examination, consultation or partial exam. Both the SANE and the advocate have specialized training; the advocate receives about 8 hours of training, while the SANE position requires a week-long training session followed by 6 to 12 months of additional training.

Meanwhile, after giving all initial information (name, birth date, address, etc) the

victim is taken to a comfortable waiting area within the ER (Emergency Room). Once the SART team assembles, the SANE interviews the victim in the presence of the police officer and advocate. The SANE directs the questions and the police officer only asks questions for clarification. Through this interview the SANE gains an understanding of the nature of the assault and this enables her to know what types of injuries to look for. It also allows the police to gain initial information from which to start their investigation, giving them precious time to work with. Once the SANE completes the interview, the officer leaves and the examination begins.

The victim goes to an exam room and dons the fashionable hospital gown. An ER doctor will examine her; this is just for non-sexual injuries, such as bleeding, bruising, sprains, breaks, etc. Depending on the severity of the injuries, the doctor may treat her prior to the interview, as in the event of broken bones, or other serious injuries.

SANE EXAM

Before the SANE exam commences, the victim is given a consent form to fill out. This form contains a checklist which is in the control of the victim to decide what she wants done. The checklist contains the following items:

- Sexual assault evidence kit
- Medical forensic examination form
- Emergency department medical records
- Medical lab results
- Urine &/or blood for toxicology
- Trace evidence samples
- Clothing
- Photographs

For an unknown event, i.e. suspicion of date rape drugs, the complete head to toe exam will be performed; this takes between 2 and 3 hours. During this time the SANE draws on ‘body maps,’ which are basic outlines of people, to show exact locations of the injuries sustained. Swabs of the inside of the victim’s mouth are taken for DNA sampling. The SANE combs the victim’s hair and pubic hair for evidence of the perpetrator’s DNA. The SANE will perform a complete vaginal exam, documenting injuries and taking samples as necessary. She will also take photographs of the injuries sustained. Access to these photos is limited only to the SANE that performed the examination. If police or the prosecutor wants to view them for investigative purposes, the SANE must be present and will provide explanations of the injuries to them.

When date rape drugs are suspected, a urine sample will be collected for testing; however date rape drugs usually stay in the body for only 6 to 12 hours, often making it

RESOURCES

Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter 337-5623
domestic violence shelter; 24-hour crisis line

Career Counseling 487-2313

Counseling Services 487-2538

Dial HELP 482-4357
Crisis intervention: a gentle, helpful voice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Employee Assistance Program 482-2299

Houghton Community Health Center 483-1860

Keweenaw Pride.....pride@mtu.edu
an MTU group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning Students, Staff, Faculty, Community Members, Friends, and Allies

hard to prove. A pregnancy test is automatically administered and a ‘morning after pill,’ which prevents fertilization, is recommended and administered with the victim’s consent. Antibiotics are also dispensed to prevent STDs; these have approximately a 72 hour effectiveness window (starting from the time of the assault). The SANE also makes sure the victim follows up with a doctor for AIDS/HIV testing 3 and 6 months down the road. After all the evidence has been collected the case, it is then handed over to law enforcement.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The police officer who responded will start the investigation after the interview at the hospital is complete. If the perpetrator is known and there is reason to believe that he will leave the area, the police will take him into custody. If not, the prosecutor will meet with the victim before charges are brought against the assailant. After the police have conducted their investigation, the case then lies in the hands of the prosecutor, who works with the victim and police officials to bring the case to justice. The hospital must report the case to the police; this choice does not lie with the victim. However, if the victim chooses not to cooperate, it is not likely that charges will be brought against the perpetrator.

SART ACTIVATION

The Sexual Assault Response Team may be activated in several ways; presentation of the victim at the Portage Health System ER is just one way. Other ways include calling Dial Help for assistance (482-4357 [HELP]), or 800-562-7622), contacting your local police department and requesting the service, or by calling 911. Be safe, protect and defend yourself from victimization and advocate for the right of all people to treat and be treated with respect and dignity. Remember there is help.

★ Special Thanks (& Pink Stars) to:

Mary Peters, SANE Supervisor

Josh Peters, Lake Linden Police

Doris McKilligan, Dial Help Advocate

Terry Sayatovich, Sexual Assault Services Coordinator, Dial Help

Denise Sosnoski, Victims Services Coordinator, Dial Help

Dr. Jim Neufeld, Emergency Medicine Portage Health System

Shalini Suryanarayana

Sources:

Dial Help, <http://dialhelp.org>

Mary Peters, SANE

Josh Peters, Lake Linden Police Officer

Doris McKilligan, Dial Help Advocate

WHAT IS tbt POLICY ?

The TechnoBabe Times is dedicated to the empowerment of women in all aspects of technology.

We want **tbt** to be a place where voices not usually heard or seen on campus or in the community can be seen & heard. We want to be a publication that encourages new and different voices. And so: we solicit thoughtful, reflective, critical writings (or drawings or mixed media pieces or poems or...) that offer us all positive views and smart actions...

If you have any ideas, questions or comments—or wish to advertise in **tbt**—please contact our staff at **tbt@mtu.edu**. You may also write the list to submit a piece of work or to become part of the **tbt** staff (all girls and boys interested in the cause are welcome!).

THANK YOU to the CCLI for help on this issue.

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