

Coalition Commentary

Quarterly Newsletter of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

A history worth celebrating

By Sean Black

ICASA Communications Coordinator

A can of pop, a cup of soup and a couch. Those were the perks, if you want to call them that. It's all ICASA could offer. It's all the founding mothers needed.

"We didn't dress up. We lived in raggedy jeans," Dickelle Fonda said. "We used to live on cups of soup and whatever people brought, but the thing is we never really noticed. It didn't occur to us. That was secondary to what we were doing. We were fed by our passion and commitment to this issue."

Upon that passionate foundation sits ICASA, 25 years older — bigger with better food and sleeping arrangements — but still committed to ending sexual violence.

"I see it as an evolution. It's like a rosebud. You have a bud and it starts to open and as it opens it gets bigger and bigger until it comes to fruition," said JoAnn Pisel, Director of Call For Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit in Belleville. "I don't think anybody saw it as it is now. It's a gradual growth that just continues to happen."

ICASA was founded in the spring of 1977 by nine community rape crisis centers. They didn't call it ICASA. This group was going to war for women's right to be safe — so the name was ICWAR (Illinois Coalition of Women Against Rape). By the second meeting, there were 13 centers present, providing support and information for each other.

"What I remember is people going to share information and manuals to other people so we wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel," said Bonnie Buckley, who began attending meetings in 1979 as the volunteer director of the Charleston center.

That the meetings took place was a testament to the women's dedication. There wasn't any travel reimbursement. There weren't any meals. There were church basements, bagels and good discussion.

"We had an awful time getting to the meetings because there was no money," said Nancy Carlson, who attended her first ICASA meeting in 1979. "We met in a lot of church basements. They had room and they were cheap, like nothing cheap."

Accommodations notwithstanding, there was an empowerment that only those meetings could bring.

"I remember the early meetings prior to anybody getting any money and being amazed that there were other things going on in other places," said Barbara Engel, who worked with ICASA beginning in 1978. "I remember being excited and sort of startled that there were other people doing this work. Whatever little success got magnified because we were all struggling. It made us feel committed to social change."

The coalition's early meetings also helped lay the groundwork for ICASA's *continued on page 3*

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Deborah Wiatt, a founding mother of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, had a substantial impact on the coalition's early years. "I saw her as the heart and soul and spirit of ICASA," Bonnie Buckley said. Deborah Wiatt passed away in 2001.

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Never forget the past

The history of ICASA is inseparable from the survivors who speak out about the sexual abuse in their lives; the workers who are dedicated to advocacy, healing and prevention; the women and men who collect evidence, investigate, prosecute and deliberate; and the friends who understand that sexual assault is a violent crime of power and domination in a society that suffers from inequality. While ICASA wishes it could achieve its own non-existence, we cannot yet stop our work. Until sexual assault



Polly Poskin

is eliminated, ICASA will continue to challenge institutions, issues, policies and practices that perpetuate sexism, racism, classism and heterosexism. Never forget that.

Until the early 1970s, amazingly little had been done to understand the crime of rape, the impact it had on victims or what was needed to help survivors and punish perpetrators. Centuries of rape — by family, friend, stranger. Centuries of oppression. Centuries of pain. Centuries of silence. Never forget that.

The great social and political movements of the 1960s propelled women to re-define their relationships within and outside of their families. Prior to this time, women had told their secrets and revealed their pain only to a best friend or trusted family member or maybe to no one. Then, with the rise of feminism, women began to whisper these heart-wrenching stories to new acquaintances in consciousness-raising groups. Women trusted other women with their greatest fears and their fragile hopes for a better life. This transformation of secrecy and pain to openness and courage turned personal grief and horror into political action. Never forget that.

From there, women both created and embraced rape crisis hotlines, volunteer counseling, Take Back The Night rallies,

Never lose sight of the courage, strength and stamina of a woman who survives rape. She knows, as much as anybody, about the cruelty and rage and destructiveness of humankind. Never lose sight of her heroic nature when she chooses to tell her story.

debates with public officials and a new approach to healing from the terrorism of inequality. Women reported so many sexual violations to the police that the FBI started counting the reports. Never forget that.

For so long, women's torture and pain had gone unacknowledged. Women's screams were ignored by whole communities. Some victims lived out lives in quiet desperation, others were trapped in mental institutions, and more than a few victims turned to self-medication in the form of alcohol and drugs. Women suffered alone and in silence. Never forget that.

Never lose sight of the courage, strength and stamina of a woman who survives rape. She knows, as much as anybody, about the cruelty and rage and destructiveness of humankind. Never lose sight of her heroic nature when she chooses to tell her story. When she chooses to speak out, she gives hope that stigmas can be overcome and myths dispelled. And when she speaks, we learn that rape is forever her reference point. Never forget that.

Rape crisis workers carry the message of rape victims. They print fact sheets, write plays, develop curriculum, educate students and repeat over and over that rape is about inequality, vulnerability

and opportunity. Rape, they remind us, is not about what you wear or where you are or how you behave. Never forget that.

Rape crisis workers listen without judgment to her story. They extend trust. They keep her story confidential. They answer calls 24 hours a day. They go to the emergency room in the middle of the night. They cry when she is not looking. Rape crisis workers build bridges with law enforcement to encourage investigations and keep victims engaged in a long, grueling and sometimes futile process. Rape crisis workers study the law to hold their own with prosecutors who have the power to reject a rape report, reduce charges or not file charges. Rape crisis workers collaborate with probation officers who must keep track of released sex offenders who stalk their victims. Rape crisis workers make fruitless efforts to dialogue with judges who declare "impartiality" as the reason for their silence. Rape crisis workers will not be silenced. Never forget that.

The number of people who have been raped is unbearable to comprehend. The number of people touched — whether directly or indirectly — by sexual violence is numbing. In comparison, the number of people responding to rape is miniscule. Volunteer and staff rape crisis workers and the hospital personnel, law enforcement officers, crime lab technicians, prosecutors, judges, probation officers and supporters of anti-rape work dedicated to the healing and safety of sexual assault victims need far more time and money to slam the door shut on rape. Rape is the most under-reported crime in America. Never forget that.

Until rape ends, the work of the anti-rape movement must go on. The work will end when we say no to power and domination and control by some over others. The work will end when society says no to rapists — when a rapist can no longer get away with it. Until that happens we will keep working. Never forget that.

What Is ICASA?

The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a not-for-profit corporation of 29 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 is two-fold: To end sexual assault violence and to alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims. To accomplish these goals, ICASA advocates for public policy that prevents sexual violence and guarantees sensitivity to victims. ICASA uses the power of public education to change societal attitudes about the causes and consequences of sexual violence. ICASA assists with healing from the trauma of sexual violence through the creation and support of community programs that provide advocacy, counseling and education.

Submissions

Do you have something to contribute to *Coalition Commentary*? The editor welcomes submissions, and reserves the right to edit all submissions. *Coalition Commentary* is a quarterly publication of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA).

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ICASA est. 1977

What the group wanted was a strong coalition that would serve as a pass-through agency, subcontracting the funds it received to local member centers. The group also decided to split the money virtually evenly among centers in an attempt to fill all geographic areas with services.

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governance structure. As in those first meetings, each ICASA member center is represented by one person on the Governing Body and the group uses a consensus decision-making process. Consensus decision-making was the brainchild of founding mother Deborah Wiatt. It prompts discussion on issues and provides each member with an equal voice.

"It's not just somebody setting a policy. It's that we got a voice," Buckley said.

Wiatt, who passed away in 2001, was one of ICASA's original founders and her impact on the organization's early years is substantial.

"I saw her as the heart and soul and spirit of ICASA," Buckley said.

The group's first state efforts at making social change reality came in working with the Illinois House Rape Study Committee. The committee and the coalition combined to formulate the Rape Shield Act, which was enacted into law in 1978. The law prevented a victim's past sexual activities from being relevant at trial. It was the first mark in blazing a lengthy legislative trail.

The early organizers also worked on a national level, helping found the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault in 1979. ICASA would go on to host a pair of national NCASA conferences prior to the organization's disbanding.

The move from group sharing to group movement began in earnest in 1980 with Elvera Anselmo leading the charge. In 1980, Anselmo became director of Rape Information and Counseling Service based in Springfield. She brought a pragmatic feminist view honed in the domestic violence movement.

"I was looking at starting and creating

concrete tangible products to move the coalition forward," Anselmo said. "...In 1980 things were really changing, money was becoming available. I felt and others felt that we needed to show people our ability to create and do what we did really well, and also that we could incorporate a lot of things, not by radical feminism but by other means. ...To be radical feminists and be able to help a few victims was wonderful, but we needed a bigger impact."

The decision to solicit funds was influenced by a successful grant application in 1980 by Springfield's Rape Information and Counseling Service. It was only \$10,000, but it was a start.

"It was a very big step to decide to leave grassroots funding and to step into bureaucracy," said Judith Corvin-Blackburn, who helped write the first grant proposal while serving as coordinator of RICS from 1978-80. "There was a lot of trepidation there, but in the same time if we wanted to anchor victim services and education we had to do that. It was a matter of practicality. ...Just to expand services and keep services, it made sense."

In search of money, ICWAR applied for the Federal Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant that was being designated through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"I remember going to talk to IDPH and thinking how was ICWAR going to get money," Anselmo said. "Once again it was because of the work of all those centers. ...The fact of the matter was that we provided services to crime victims that no one else did."

The facts delivered a grant of \$148,889 in 1982.

"That seemed like such a goldmine," Engel said.

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Where are they now?

Catching up with some of ICASA's founding mothers.

Bonnie Buckley

- **Came on board:** 1979
- **Then:** Volunteer Director of rape crisis center in Charleston
- **Now:** Director of Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service, Charleston
- **Parting thought:** "One of the things I want to see go on is that people remember and keep in touch with the grassroots of where it started. That's where the spirit lies."

JoAnn Pisel

- **Came on board:** 1982
- **Then:** Executive Director of Call for Help in Belleville
- **Now:** Executive Director of Call for Help in Belleville
- **Parting thought:** "I saw ICASA as on a mission and I think a large part of that mission at that time has been accomplished."

Judith Corvin-Blackburn

- **Came on board:** 1978
- **Then:** Coordinator of Rape Information and Counseling Service in Springfield
- **Now:** Therapist in private practice
- **Parting thought:** "It was great fun. It was wonderful to be passionate on that beginning level."



Judith Corvin-Blackburn

Nancy Carlson

- **Came on board:** 1979
- **Then:** Volunteer Coordinator of West Suburban YWCA in DuPage County
- **Now:** Policy Advisor on Violence Against Women for the Illinois Attorney General's Office
- **Parting thought:** "ICASA women have certainly demonstrated that they can work through tough decisions and still remain loyal to each other."

Dickelle Fonda

- **Came on board:** 1980
- **Then:** Clinical Director of the Metropolitan YWCA of Chicago
- **Now:** Private therapist
- **Parting thought:** "Those of you that are new to this work or younger than us have no idea the conditions we worked in. We did what we had to do."



Dickelle Fonda

Barbara Engel

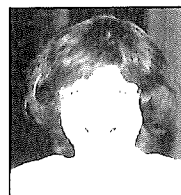
- **Came on board:** 1978
- **Then:** Director of Women's Services, Loop Center YWCA
- **Now:** Victim rights advocate, including being a board member of the Illinois Criminal Justice and Information Authority
- **Parting thought:** "I feel incredibly grateful to have been involved in that early stage. It is what I care about most in life — ending violence."



Barbara Engel

Elvera Anselmo

- **Came on board:** 1980
- **Then:** Director of Rape Information and Counseling Service in Springfield
- **Now:** Director of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, Phoenix, AZ
- **Parting thought:** "The one thing that is wonderful about ICASA is there is room for everyone."



Elvera Anselmo

A history worth celebrating

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It was difficult to get the gold into the bank. The group had opened a checking account in 1980, but it never topped more than a couple hundred dollars. When Anselmo brought in the big money check, the bank double-checked her.

"They made me go with one of the managers to look to see if it was for real," Anselmo said. "They were totally shocked that this little group was able to come into this windfall."

The money enabled ICASA to hire Polly Poskin as its Executive Director. She's been there ever since. The bulk of the new money was allocated to 12 rape crisis centers; four centers later in the same year received smaller one-time training grants.

"People were really happy but we knew by taking (money) it was going to change," Anselmo said.

What the group wanted was a strong coalition that would serve as a pass-through agency, subcontracting the funds it received to local member centers. The group also decided to split the money virtually evenly among centers in an attempt to fill all geographic areas with services.

"I feel very strongly that money talks. Whoever holds the purse strings has a fair amount of power," Engel said. "It was important to make sure the coalition held the power. The only way to make sure that the feminist perspective remains is that the coalition held the money. I thought if you let some other agency or bureaucracy pick the best programs, whoever was easiest on the courts and police, whoever was the least threatening, would get the money. That's not what we wanted."

The plan was modeled after one utilized by the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

"We imitated that model, and we had the big support and expertise given by Shirley Randolph of the Department of Public Health who thought we knew best how to serve victims of sexual assault," Poskin said. "It works. It was one of those decisions that when it was made, you knew that if you had the right people in the field, it couldn't fail. The people closest to the victims knew best what they

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needed. As long as state government respected that, then we couldn't fail."

It also didn't fail because of the willingness of coalition members to share with each other and welcome others to the table. A year after first receiving money, ICASA accepted four new members. The old members had to cut their own money to give to the new members.

"It was difficult because it meant taking money out of your own budget," Anselmo said. "That was a pivotal year."

The system of mutual respect and commitment has worked well enough to push ICASA's budget to almost \$15 million and make it one of the largest and strongest coalitions in the country.

"That is a figure I couldn't even fantasize about," Fonda said. "It was a fantasy to think about five million. That wasn't wishful thinking, that was fantasy thinking."

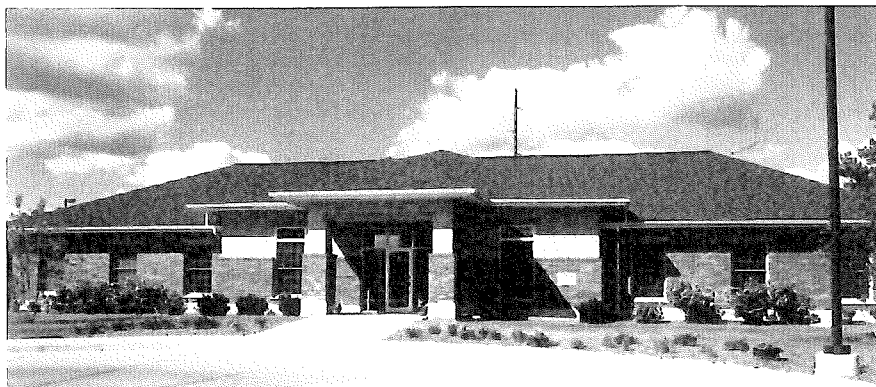
The support of state and federal funds has been a key to ICASA's survival and growth. And while money brought its own set of problems, it has been more than offset by the benefits.

"Money never comes without complications. Money never comes without some loss of control. ICASA and the centers had to accept that," Carlson said. "We'd be back there if we hadn't said yes to the money. We could not have survived through the lean years. Now, you could never run a meaningful amount of services on what we had then. That not only saved us, but propelled us forward."

Moving forward began early. The coalition's first push was for the passage of the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Act. Poskin and Engel teamed with Julie Hamos, Tina Tchen and Linda Miller to become fixtures at the capitol throughout the early months of 1983.

"We became the fearsome five," Poskin said. "We had the good graces and support of the Cook County State's Attorney's office (which was then under the direction of Richard M. Daley) and that was key. We were just undaunted. ...It was one of those times in the universe of a convergence of the right people, high energy and good timing."

That convergence still didn't make it easy. The action was non-stop and sleep limited.



The places

ICASA's administrative office has had four locations in Springfield since 1982.

1. 1011 N. 6th St.

Three-story house shared with Rape Information and Counseling Service on the second floor and Energy Systems in the basement.

2. 527 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 100

"We were uptown then. We had at least four rooms."

3. 123 S. Seventh St., Suite 500

Office located above a flower shop.

4. 100 N. 16th St.

New office built for ICASA on property donated by city of Springfield.

"By May or June we had to call each other up in the morning, not to see what we were going to wear, but to keep us going," Poskin said.

The fight wasn't only at the legislature. The coalition itself struggled with the exclusion of the marital rape statute in the law. Members of the coalition debated long and vigorously about the exclusion with members walking out of the meeting at times. Eventually, the group came together to support the act without most of the marital rape provision and the act became law.

"I remember there were times where some sort of crisis was happening and Governing Body would hash it out and the center staff were so committed to ICASA as a whole," Buckley said. "I'm just really proud of it. It's grown to something tremendous."

The accomplishments continued in 1983-84 as legislation was passed making statements from victims to rape crisis personnel confidential. That victory was followed by the Illinois Violent Crime

Victims Assistance Act, which provided money for counseling and advocacy.

"You felt you were right on the edge all the time," Engel said. "We felt like little warrior women. We were taking on a huge male-dominated system that didn't want to hear from us."

The changes didn't stop at the capitol.

The coalition knew educating the public about the effects of rape and the new laws was a key facet to helping end sexual assault. In 1984, ICASA spearheaded the Implementation Project, an endeavor focused on educating the public about sexual assault. The key feature was a 24-minute film, showcasing television star Betty Thomas of "Hill Street Blues," highlighting the reality of sexual violence and key provisions in the new state law. It was the first of several educational campaigns the coalition introduced, culminating in the award-winning "Real Men Don't Rape" effort during 1997-98.

With their feet firmly established at the capitol and as a public educator, coalition

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ICASA's place in time

- **1977:** Illinois Coalition of Women Against Rape (ICWAR) is formed.
- **1982:** ICWAR receives first Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant allocation of \$148,889.
- **1983:** Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Act is signed into law, revising Illinois rape and incest statutes.
- **1983-84:** "Confidentiality of Statements Made to Rape Crisis Personnel" grants absolute privilege to sexual assault victims.
- **1984:** ICWAR changes its name to Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.
- **1985:** ICASA granted its first allocation of state General Revenue Funds.
- **1986:** ICASA receives its first allocation of federal VOCA funds from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.
- **1992:** Citizens vote "yes" for the Illinois Constitutional Amendment for Victims Rights.
- **1996:** ICASA first receives VAWA funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.
- **August 1997:** ICASA celebrates 20th anniversary with friends and colleagues.
- **1999:** ICASA moves into its newly-constructed administrative office building at 100 N. 16th Street in Springfield.
- **1999:** ICASA, with VAWA prevention funds, begins a two-year evaluation of its prevention education programs in Illinois schools.
- **October 2001:** ICASA and the Illinois Department of Human Services co-host a statewide sexual violence prevention conference.
- **July 2001:** ICASA forms the Training and Technical Assistance Institute.
- **May 2002:** ICASA co-hosts with the Centers for Disease Control the second national conference on sexual violence prevention.

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members began debating a name change. The idea of changing names began in 1982 and was completed in 1984. It was an emotionally-charged final discussion that was difficult, especially for the members that had been there near the beginning. In the end, ICWAR became the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

"That was a teary meeting," Carlson said. "That was an emotional process."

With its new name, ICASA continued to expand. In 1984, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) passed Congress, providing future funding for counseling services. The State moved into the game in 1985, giving ICASA its first allocation of General Revenue funds. In 1986, the VOCA funds arrived.

"The federal VOCA funds were the infusion that catapulted rape crisis centers," Poskin said. "It created the opportunity for paid advocates that could develop relationships with the police, prosecutors and the courts."

Ten years later, funding from the Violence Against Women's Act hit the budget line. This crucial piece of funding allowed ICASA centers to open satellite offices in underserved areas of the state.

It quite possibly could have been the golden age of ICASA's growth.

"I don't think we will see again the kind of growth we've seen in the past 15 years," ICASA Assistant Director Carol Corgan said. "I don't see the government creating brand new funding sources like that again."

ICASA celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1997 and soon after, in a remarkable contrast to its first office in a three-story

house, ICASA opened a 7,000-square-foot administrative building in 1999. It was an emotional moment for staff that had shared building space with everything from solar panel enthusiasts to a flower shop.

"What the building says is ICASA has a home, we have an identity, a place to keep the momentum going," Poskin said. "It gives us a place for ourselves and it gives us recognition that this is something that's here to stay. It means a lot to us to have this place."

ICASA hasn't stopped moving forward, continuing to battle for improved legislation for victims. It began a Training and Technical Assistance Institute and with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention co-hosted the second National Sexual Violence Prevention Conference during 2002. Oh, and there was that 25th anniversary thing.

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Now, along with continued funding questions, ICASA balances the potential conflict of professionalism vs. grassroots feminism. While others worry that the edge has been lost, Poskin knows that ICASA and its member centers continue to stand by the values that started ICASA.

"There's a passion for ending rape and helping rape victims. You can't do this work without it," Poskin said. "It might not be as demonstrative as it was in the late '70s and the early '80s. Part of that is because feminism is a mainstream principal in the work and the policy. It's just become integral to doing the work."

And doing the work is what ICASA does best.

The ICASA staff

1982

Polly Poskin, Executive Director

Today

Name, Title, Year Hired

Polly Poskin, Executive Director,
1982

Carol Corgan, Assistant Director,
1985

Sean Black, Communications
Coordinator, 2000

Yvonne Bronke, Office Coordinator,
1985

Susan Faupel, Training Institute
Director, 1995

Jane Fee, Fiscal Director, 1985

Leslie Hitchins, Fiscal Assistant,
2002

Suzanne Knox, Secretary, 2000

Karla Krueger, Subcontracts
Manager, 1996

Lisa Kunz, Secretary, 1992

Lyn Schollett, General Counsel,
1996

Kendra Seaton, Training Institute
Assistant, 2001

Denyse Snyder, Training Institute
Supervisor, 1995

Carrie Ward, Program Developer,
1996

Loretta Woulard, Receptionist/
Secretary, 1999

The Centers

1977

Arlington Heights, Northwest Action Against Rape
Bloomington, Rape Crisis Center of McLean County
Carbondale, Carbondale Rape Action Committee
Champaign, Champaign County Women Against Rape
Chicago, Rape Victim Advocates
Chicago, Chicago Women Against Rape
Fox Valley, Fox Valley Women Against Rape
Hyde Park, Rape Crisis Hyde Park
Park Forest, YW C.A.R.E.S.
Springfield, Rape Information and Counseling Service

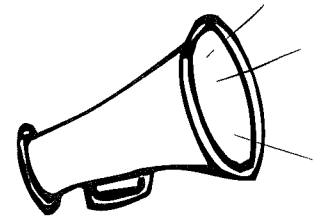
Today

Arlington Heights, Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
Aurora, Mutual Ground, Inc.
Belleville, Call for Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit
Carbondale, Rape Crisis Services of the Women's Center, Inc.
Charleston/Mattoon, Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services
Chicago, Community Counseling Centers of Chicago/Quetzal Center
Chicago, Women's Services, Harris YWCA
Chicago, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Loop Women's Services
Chicago, Rape Victim Advocates
Chicago Heights, South Suburban YWCA
Danville, YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services
Decatur, Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center
Elgin, Community Crisis Center, Inc.
Galena, Riverview Center, Inc., Sexual Assault Prevention & Intervention Services
Glen Ellyn, YWCA, DuPage District
Gurnee, Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault
Joliet, Sexual Assault Service Center, Guardian Angel Home
Kankakee, Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault
Macomb, Western IL Regional Council/Community Action Agency, Victim Services
Peoria, The Center for the Prevention of Abuse – InnerStrength
Quad Cities, Rape/Sexual Assault Counseling Program, Family Resources, Inc.
Quincy, Quanada Sexual Assault Program
Rockford, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc.
Springfield, Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
Sterling, YWCA of the Sauk Valley
Streator, ADV & SAS
Summit, The Pillars Community Services
Urbana, A Woman's Fund, Inc., Rape Crisis Services
Vandalia, Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies

Program Development Grantees

Bloomington, Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Services
Chicago, Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Princeton, Freedom House, Inc.
Woodstock, Turning Point, Inc.

Sound Off



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

Beer commercial hits new low

It should never be Miller Time. At least not after watching the beer company's recent advertisement.

The ad begins with two women and their cleavage discussing whether the beer is less filling or tastes great. The debate turns into a fight where the women tear off each other's clothes while thrashing around a fountain. It then proceeds to show that the commercial was a fantasy of two guys sitting at a bar.

Unfortunately, it doesn't end there. It goes back to the fighting women, this time in a mud trough, and ends with one asking the other to "make out."

It's simply degrading. A company shouldn't turn 3/4ths of a commercial about its product into a display of scantily-clad women fighting. Beer manufacturers need to show respect for women.

Nutrigrain leaves bad taste

Nutrigrain is healthy for you. It's a product directed toward people wanting to stay healthy. But its current advertisement highlighting the health benefits doesn't benefit women. It shows a woman that chooses not to eat a Nutrigrain bar leaving the restaurant with a pair of large cinnamon buns attached to her backside. A product catering to women shouldn't attack women's self esteem. Nutrigrain should be able to extol the virtues of its product without attacking women. If it can't do that, who wants to eat the product.

Unfaithful to victims of rape

The movie "Unfaithful" was a hit in 2002 and is now a top rental on the video/DVD circuit. It's a big budget movie with Richard Gere and Diane Lane (and a guy with a bad French accent). It was well reviewed and accepted. It also perpetuates the damaging stereotype that when a woman says "no" to sexual advances she really means "yes."

Lane's character, Constance, has an affair but her first and last encounters with her boyfriend begin with Constance repeatedly saying she didn't want to have sex only to be "talked" into it by an ever-persistent lover. She gives in and is happy about it afterwards. This is a bad example for men and it demeans women's ability to make judgments. This is not a real life scenario, but many believe it is. Hopefully, the fact that the lover is killed at the end will be the lasting impression rather than the "rape" scenes.

Prime time doesn't fit bill

The six major television networks didn't deliver for women in 2002, according to an annual report released by the National Organization for Women.

NOW said the networks catered to an "adolescent boy's fantasy world." The networks employed 134 more men than women in recurring primetime roles, and the majority of the female characters were young, thin and white. There were only four Asian-American females with substantial roles on network television.

Only five shows earned A+ grades from NOW. The shows were "Judging Amy" on CBS, "Girlfriends" on UPN, "ER" on NBC, and the subsequently cancelled "Providence" from NBC and "The Ellen Show" on CBS.

ESPN gets it right

Kudos to ESPN for highlighting the women's basketball game between Duke University and the University of Connecticut in late January. The game between the unbeaten top-ranked women's teams received substantial pre- and post-game coverage. In a time when the network allocates the vast majority of its air time to men's college basketball, it was a pleasant surprise to see this game receive the attention it deserved.

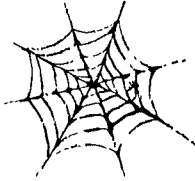
Press doesn't play fair with Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi's ascension to the Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives was historic. Pelosi, a representative from California, became the first woman to hold the position as top Democrat in the House. That is historic, but the press wouldn't let it go after it should have become a footnote.

Pelosi is often referred to by the press as a mother of five, which she certainly is, but when was the last time the press referred to how many children Dick Armev or Trent Lott fathered? She has also been called a "den mother" in articles. By focusing on gender or her mothering skills, the press is diminishing her political experience and the important position she holds in government.

A history lesson on the Internet

Women's history is alive and well on the Internet. There are numerous sites that dedicate themselves to telling the stories of the multitude of distinguished women who have left indelible impressions upon the world. The group includes:



Around The Web

- National Women's History Project: www.nwhp.org

Forum for women's history information, resources, activities and programming ideas with a particular emphasis on teaching women's history.

- About – Women's History: www.womenshistory.about.com

Links to history of women and other sources of historical information.

- Women in History – Profiles: www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/figures.htm

Biographies of prominent women in U.S. history. Site is sponsored by Women in History, a group that focuses on historical re-enactments.

- National Women's Hall of Fame: www.greatwomen.org

Biographies of famous American women and a synopsis of the women's movement. Visitors can also nominate a woman for the Wall of Fame.

- American Women's history: A Research Guide: www.frank.mtsu.edu/~kmidlet/history/women.htm

Guide to resources on the Internet. Includes list of exhibits, publications and events on women's history.

- H-Women Discussion Network: www.h-net.msu.edu/~women

Site provides discussion threads on historical women. Also provides bibliographies of resources.

- Distinguished Women: www.distinguishedwomen.com

Index of women who have contributed to culture and society. Includes photos.

Report shows holes in filter software

The filters are blocking the good stuff, too.

Internet anti-pornography filters are blocking visitors from reaching several useful sites, according to a recent study by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The report, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says the programs tend to block references to sex and sex-related terms like "safe sex," "condoms," "abortion," "gay" and "lesbian."

The research showed that filters set at the most restrictive level, at which most libraries and schools are set, blocks nearly 25% of health sites. At the lowest level only 1.5% of health sites are blocked. Filters block between 87% to 91% of pornography sites.

The report studied six different types of filters. The researchers searched for information on 24 health topics, including breast cancer and birth control, and also for pornographic terms. The tests were performed at each of the three settings. At the least restrictive setting, only pornography is supposed to be blocked; an intermediate setting also bars sites with nudity and references to illicit drugs. The most restrictive setting is expected to block sites across a wide variety of categories.

The report can be accessed online at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v288n22/toc.html>.

The issue of filters in libraries will be heard by the United States Supreme Court in arguments proposed by the government in defense of the Children's Internet Protection Act, a federal law that requires schools and libraries to use filters or lose technology money. A lower court declared the law unconstitutional as it applies to libraries.

- Women in History: www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/womensstudies.hist.htm

Resource directory includes letters from famous women.

- Quotes by Women: www.usu.edu/womenstu.quotes.html

Site dedicated to quotes by famous

women. Includes sayings from Alice Walker, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt.

- Famous Feminist Quotes: www.unc.edu/courses/edsp267/quotes.html

Another site dedicated to the words of women.

Visit us online at www.icasa.org

Website information includes:

NEWS

STATS & FACTS

CRISIS CENTER INFORMATION

LIBRARY MATERIALS

ICASA HISTORY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Be A Friend

Join The Friends of ICASA

Call 217/753-4117 for information

Carbondale Center Celebrates

South

Carbondale

They threw a pair of parties at the Women's Center in Carbondale. The center celebrated its 30th anniversary with a celebration Nov. 2, 2002 and held its third annual Taste of Chocolate fundraiser Feb. 7.

Several of the center's founding mothers attended the anniversary celebration. Joyce Webb was awarded the first volunteer award and in recognition of her service the "Joyce Webb Award" will be given annually to the center's outstanding volunteer.

The Taste of Chocolate fundraiser included a buffet of chocolate offerings, jazz music and a silent auction.



Sara Loftus, second from left, received an award from the St. Louis Rams Foundation for being a runner-up for the St. Louis Rams Volunteer Quarterback. Sara was honored for her work with Call For Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit in Belleville. As a runner-up, Sara received a trophy for her volunteer services and Call For Help, Inc. received a plaque in honor of Sara and \$3,500 for SAV-U.

Central

Charleston/Mattoon

Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services put "Joy" in the air and on the trees this holiday season. The center held its second annual holiday ornament fundraiser using the word "Joy." The ornaments were hand-cast by local artist Ernie Whitworth.

The center also held an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner at Fazoli's in Mattoon. Proceeds were donated to the center.

In November, Kathy Davis, Director of Children's Education, was the keynote speaker at a Teen Dating Violence Training held by the 5th Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council. Executive Director Bonnie Buckley was part of a panel discussion following the event.

Davis and Ben Stenson began education programs for employees and residents of Developmental Foundations, Inc., a company that provides care for people with developmental disabilities.

Decatur

The angels flew out the door and delivered a \$2,250 donation to Growing Strong. The Macon County Medical Society Alliance presented Growing Strong with the check from the proceeds of

selling angel ornaments for two days at local hospitals. Growing Strong split the proceeds with DOVE Domestic Violence Program. It is the fourth year the society has organized the ornament fundraiser.

Growing Strong and DOVE also collaborated on a Candle Lighting Ceremony on Oct. 24, 2002. The ceremony honors survivors and remembers victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Macomb

The 13th Annual Macomb Area Take Back the Night was a rousing success with an estimated 750 people in attendance. The event, which took place Oct. 17, 2002, was held in conjunction with WIRC/CAA Victim Services and Western Illinois University Women's Center. The march route was lined with more than 600 luminaries and traveled from Sherman Hall on campus to the gazebo in the downtown Macomb park.

Informational tables were set up from a variety of campus and community organizations. Western Illinois University

President Al Goldfarb and Macomb Mayor Tom Caper kicked off the evening by reading the proclamation which declared 10/17/02 as Take Back the Night. Sasha Walters from Rape Victim Advocates, an ICASA member center, was the featured speaker. She shared with the group her own personal story as a survivor, stressing the fact that we never know just who is a survivor, especially one who has never shared their experience with anyone. She asked the group to be sensitive to this issue saying, "Everyone has their own reason for not telling."

After the march, three survivors stepped forward and shared their personal experiences. The group included a Western Illinois University alum, a current Western Illinois student and a 15-year-old girl.

Approximately 12 volunteers recently completed the 40-Hour Domestic Violence and 40-Hour Sexual Assault training class. The class was made up of Western Illinois University students and community members.

Anniversary, Chocolate



The Clothesline Project and Peace Chain were featured at Belleville's Call For Help, Inc. Open House in September. The Peace Chain is a project that the center's educators do with teens at the Detention Center. Teens are given strips of paper to write their views and feelings about sexual assault and violence. Shown are Marlene Leathers (left), Program Assistant for SAV-U, and Pearl Campbell, Director, Call For Help/Sexual Assault Victim's Care Unit.

Quincy

Quanada will present "Women Who Shaped Our Lives" on Monday, March 17, at the Quincy Public Library. The event, co-sponsored by the Women's Issues Network, is a dramatic interpretation of significant women from the women's rights movement.

Quanada staff participated in an Agency Wide Carry-In on Dec. 17, 2002. The event brought together personnel from the different agencies that work within the same building. It is hoped the occasion will be a catalyst for collaborative projects. Quanada held a staff/volunteer mixer on Oct. 22, 2002. The project was created to facilitate further opportunities for volunteers and staff to work together.

Chicago

Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday, dear hotline. Happy birthday to you.

The Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline celebrated its fifth birthday on Jan. 20. The hotline serves as the hotline for all four Chicago ICASA member centers, encompassing the entire city of Chicago.

Metro YWCA

The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago will hold its sixth annual Sexual Assault Conference on May 16 at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza. For more information call 708/754-0486.

Quetzal Center

Jae Jin Pak's educational presentation hit home at Foreman High School in Chicago. Pak's presentation on sexual harassment sparked students to form the Quetzal Club. The club's goals are to create a space where those in need could seek out help, obtain sexual assault and domestic abuse resources and/or referrals, or just talk to their peers about issues such as teen dating violence. The club announced its establishment with an open house on Oct. 25, 2002 where student peer leaders were available to talk to the student body from the 4th to 11th class periods.

The club also organized and displayed the Clothesline Project. The clothesline, viewed by approximately 120 students and staff, included T-shirts from survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

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Counselor takes knowledge global

Merlyn Lawrence has gone global. Lawrence, Coordinator of Sexual Assault Counseling at the YWCA DuPage District in Glen Ellyn, recently returned from an exchange trip to Slovakia.

"It was a very moving experience for me, one I will never forget," Lawrence said.

Lawrence shared her expertise on issues of sexual assault, domestic violence and community organizing with university students and staff members from various social service agencies. Her primary objectives were to interface with three shelters in Slovakia and to speak to students.

The trip was sponsored by the city of Naperville to their Sister City of Nitra, Slovakia. The host for her trip was a domestic violence shelter in Nitra that serves abused women and children.

"I was so impressed by the sense of relations, their standing with the oppressed and the caring attitude of these people," Lawrence said. "I had a blessed time developing an ongoing collaborative relationship, exchanging information and resources while visiting Nitra."

During her week-long stay, Lawrence was able to distribute educational materials, resources and clinical materials.

In addition to her host shelter, Lawrence visited several other facilities in Slovakia that aid women with differing needs, including homelessness, pregnancy and domestic violence. One such shelter, a four-hour drive from Nitra, works not only with homeless women, but disabled and troubled youth as well.

Lawrence was able to speak to more than 250 university students

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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: 800/570-7284
 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: 773/506-8276
 Mujeres Latinas en Acción
 Business: 312/226-1544
 Women's Services
 Harris YWCA
 Business: 773/955-3100
 YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago
 Loop Women's Services
 Business: 312/372-6600
 Rape Victim Advocates
 Business: 312/663-6303

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

South Suburban YWCA
 Hotline: 708/748-5672
 Business: 708/754-0486

DANVILLE

YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis
 Services (SACS)
 Hotline: 217/443-5566
 Business: 217/446-1337

DECATUR

Growing Strong Sexual Assault
 Center
 Hotline: 217/428-0770
 Business: 217/428-0770

ELGIN

Community Crisis Center, Inc. (CCC)
 Hotline: 847/697-2380
 Business: 847/697-2380

GALENA

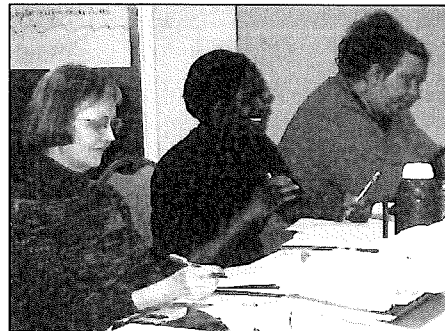
Riverview Center, Inc.
 Sexual Assault Prevention &
 Intervention Services
 Hotline: 888/707-8155
 Business: 815/777-8155

GLEN ELLYN

YWCA
 DuPage District
 Hotline: 630/971-3927
 Business: 630/790-6600



Staff of Rape Victim Advocates relax at the center's annual retreat.



Ginny McIntosh (left), NeAngela Marshall and Tina Beltramo, YWCA DuPage, participate in the 40-Hour Training in December 2002 in Springfield.

Counselor takes knowledge

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studying psychology and social work at the University of Constantine, the Philosopher on issues of sexual assault and sexual abuse.

"These students were extremely interested in practical examples and applications of theory," Lawrence said. "My biggest obstacle was the language barrier, but fortunately, either the young people or the soldiers (doing Civil Service at the shelter) who escorted me throughout the trip were able to serve as translators."

Lawrence met with several ministers, government officials and professional clinicians in Slovakia, including the mayor of Nitra.

For more information about the Quetzal Center or Quetzal Club, please contact Jae Jin Pak, Prevention Specialist, at 773/506-2525.

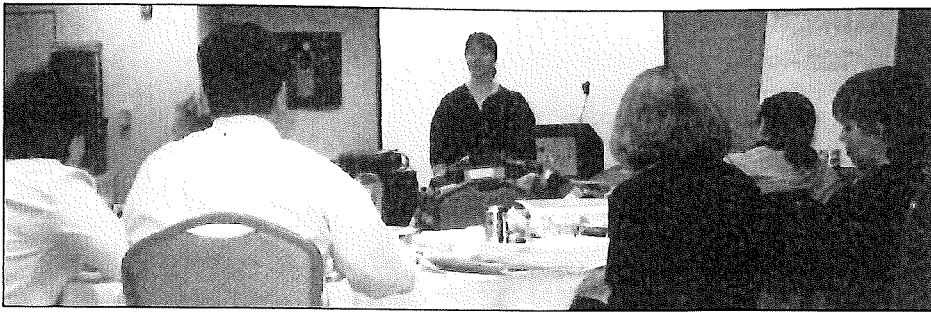
North

Aurora

Mutual Ground got some air time during the holidays. The center's annual Santa's Workshop was featured on Channel 5 Chicago News. The workshop is a seasonal event where Mutual Ground clients and their children can buy Christmas gifts using special coupons for money. Children and the mothers buy the donated gifts from separate rooms so that they can surprise each other on the holiday.

Joliet

The Guardian Angel Home is preparing for its fifth anniversary celebration in March. The center also began volunteer training on Jan. 11.



Ruth Ann Bertran, health education coordinator with Planned Parenthood in Springfield, presents at ICASA's 40-Hour Training in December 2002 in Springfield.



Members of the board of Community Counseling Centers of Chicago gather before a recent event.



Community Counseling Centers of Chicago staff, Yvette Arnoux (left), Marna Tovar and Jae Jin Pak.

GURNEE
 Lake County Council Against
 Sexual Assault (LaCASA)
 Hotline: 847/872-7799
 Business: 847/244-1187

JOLIET
 Sexual Assault Service Center
 Guardian Angel Home
 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

PEORIA
 The Center for the Prevention
 of Abuse — InnerStrength
 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: 309/793-7729

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: 815/673-1552

SUMMIT
 The Pillars Community Services
 Hotline: 708/482-9600
 Business: 708/458-6920

URBANA
 A Woman's Fund, Inc.
 Rape Crisis Services
 Hotline: 217/355-5203
 Business: 217/384-4462

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

WOODSTOCK
 Turning Point, Inc.
 Business: 815/338-8081

Serving and respecting needs of teen clients

What kind of rights and protections should sexually active and sexually abused teenagers have?

As a society, we feel comfortable empowering adults to make their own decisions about reproduction — when and whether to be sexually active, with whom, what kind of health care to seek as it relates to this activity, and, when sex happens by force, whether to report this crime to law enforcement agencies.



Lyn M. Schollett

For young children, we have criminalized sexual behavior and vested parents and guardians with extensive, but not absolute, authority surrounding any sexual contact and necessary health care related to that contact.

For teenagers, the law strikes a delicate and necessary balance of allowing teens to make health care decisions regarding their own sexual behavior, but mandating health care practitioners to report sexual activity perpetrated by someone responsible for caring for that teen.

Recently, a group that identifies itself as the "Committee to Protect Illinois Children" misstated these laws in an effort to punish organizations serving teens. The committee asked adult women to call health clinics and misrepresent that they were sexually active teens seeking health care services. Without the knowledge or consent of the health care providers — and thus in violation of the law — these conversations were taped. When clinic staff assured the teens that they could receive confidential health care at the clinic, the committee attempted to portray these conversations as evidence that such clinics were in violation of

their obligation to report child sexual abuse. The committee then urged prosecutors and county boards to take action against the clinics. The committee's letter deliberately misstates Illinois law, patently misrepresents healthcare providers' obligations to report sexual abuse, and is designed only to mislead public officials around Illinois.

In reality, the only people disregarding the law in Illinois are the members of the purported "committee" — who show no respect for the busy lives of competent health care workers and no deference to state laws that prohibit eavesdropping. This "committee" is in fact part of Life Dynamics, an anti-choice advocacy group opposed to the legally protected rights of teenagers to obtain reproductive health care. This is not an organization looking out for the comprehensive health care of teenagers.

In contrast, reproductive health clinics and rape crisis centers around Illinois are diligently following the law and honoring the balance of serving and respecting teen clients.

In Illinois, health care providers, rape crisis workers and others are required to report certain instances of abuse and neglect of minors, under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. 325 ILCS 5/1 *et seq.* (ANCRA). ANCRA requires these mandated reporters to report to the Department of Children and Family Services any abuse or neglect committed by a "parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent." 325 ILCS 5/3(a). In other words, only abuse committed by a caretaker for the child falls under Illinois' mandated reporting statute.

In fact, health care providers are also statutorily mandated to maintain the confidentiality of their patients, with the exception of reporting child sexual abuse

by a caretaker. 410 ILCS 50/3(d). Similarly, rape crisis center staff in Illinois are obligated to keep confidential any communications with teens, unless the communications disclose sexual abuse by a caretaker. 735 ILCS 5/8-802.1. Many, many teens who seek services at health clinics and rape crisis centers are **not** being sexually abused by a caretaker, and thus are entitled to the full legal privacy protections under the law. Although the criminal code does treat sexual activity between teens and between teens and young adults as a misdemeanor offense (see 720 ILCS 5/12-15(b) and (c)), health care and rape crisis center staff are not required to report this situation to any authority. In fact, staff at these agencies would be in direct violation of the law if they did contact DCFS or law enforcement about the treatment of these patients.

The law in Illinois has struck a critical balance in allowing sexually active teens to access confidential health care and rape crisis services while also requiring intervention in the lives of those adolescents suffering sexual abuse at the hands of someone charged with taking care of them. Staff at rape crisis centers and reproductive health care clinics strive daily to provide teenage clients with confidential health care and counseling services that are cornerstones to health and healing. These same staff understand the significant impact of sexual abuse, take their obligations under ANCRA seriously, and scrupulously comply with its mandates when appropriate. The public should not be misled by this "committee's" misstatements about the law. Rather, we should acknowledge and thank those staff who daily find the balance between confidentially serving the needs of this young population, and adhering to their legal obligations to report abuse.

Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down

A summary of important legal decisions in Illinois



DeKalb County

In November 2002, Judge Engel sentenced Todd Allgood to 55 years in prison after Allgood was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault and aggravated kidnapping of a Northern Illinois University student. Allgood committed the crimes in 2001 and was convicted in April 2002. First Assistant State's Attorney Clint Hull prosecuted Allgood.

Further investigation using DNA recovered from the assault in DeKalb connected Allgood with a pair of unsolved sexual assaults that took place in 1989 and 1990 in Mundelein. The victims from those attacks and the victim from the recent attack spoke at the sentencing hearing. Allgood will have to serve at least 46 years and nine months of his prison term.



Macon County

Kevon Banks will serve between 24-120 years in prison following his conviction by jury trial on two counts of predatory criminal sexual assault, two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, one count of criminal sexual assault and one count of home invasion for his attack on a 25-year-old woman and her four-year-old daughter. Macon County State's Attorney Scott Rueter handled the case. The jury rejected a plea for not guilty by reason of insanity.



Rock Island County

In September 2002, Judge James Terros found Mark Mulvaney Jr. guilty of three counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse of his daughter.

Mulvaney was sentenced to three years probation and six months in the county jail. Mulvaney also had to register as a sex offender, attend counseling sessions and a sex offenders group. Mulvaney is appealing the verdict and therefore hasn't registered as a sex offender until after the appeal is heard.



Sangamon County

Jack C. Parker was declared a sexually dangerous person and sentenced to prison for an indefinite period of time. The state asked for the declaration on the basis that Parker had exposed himself to two women. Assistant State's Attorney Sheryl Essenburg handled the petition for the state. Parker has pled guilty to sexual assault charges twice before.



Scott County, Iowa

On Oct. 10, 2002, a jury found Josias Towery not guilty of four counts of sexual assault. The 36-year-old Towery was accused of assaulting an 18-year-old college student following a party where the girl drank heavily. The victim testified at Towery's trial. The incident occurred in November 2001.



St. Clair County

In December, a grand jury indicted Vincent Spencer on 14 charges in connection with three home invasions and rapes. The incidents occurred on April 2 and 3, and Nov. 2, 2002. Spencer is accused of breaking into three women's houses and sexually assaulting them.

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News from the judicial front

California Court changes rule on rape

In January 2003, the California Supreme Court provided a boost for women's rights and what constitutes rape with its ruling that a woman can change her mind and say no in the middle of what began as consensual intercourse.

The 6-1 decision erased a lower court's ruling that classified such "postpenetration rapes" as assaults rather than rapes. The majority ruled that the reasoning in the lower court's ruling was "archaic and outmoded social convention." It also rejected the defense's theory that a man could not be expected to stop having sex immediately when consent was withdrawn.

The ruling stemmed from a 2000 encounter between a pair of teenagers.

Iowa basketball player gets probation

In December 2002, University of Iowa men's basketball player Pierre Pierce, a native of Westmont, IL, was placed on probation in a plea agreement after Pierce had been charged with sexual assault of a female athlete in November 2002.

The sophomore was charged with third degree sexual assault for an incident that took place Sept. 7. Pierce has been suspended from the basketball team and will sit out this season, but remains on athletic scholarship.

His presence on the team has
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Update on clergy abuse

Sex-abuse scandal forces Law to resign

The Law was laid down in Boston.

Cardinal Bernard Law, archbishop of the Boston Archdiocese, became the highest-ranking member of the Catholic Church in the United States to be forced to step down because of the sex abuse scandal that has ravaged the church for more than a year.

Law turned in his resignation to Pope John Paul II on Dec. 13, 2002. Since January 2002, Law had been under intense scrutiny for his handling of the sexual abuse scandal that has plagued the Boston Archdiocese. The archdiocese is facing hundreds of claims of sexual abuse by priests and is considering filing for bankruptcy. Among the priests Law is expected of shielding from prosecution are John Geoghan and Paul Shanley.

The cry for Law's resignation wasn't only coming from victims but from his parishioners. Fifty-eight priests under his command signed a petition calling for his resignation. The newly-established lay Catholic reform group, Voice of the Faithful, said he should resign.

Law's resignation came a day after the Massachusetts' attorney general said the diocese had engaged in an "elaborate scheme" to keep the scandal quiet.

Law issued an apology saying, "To all those who have suffered from my shortcomings and mistakes, I both apologize and from them beg forgiveness."

He will remain a cardinal in the church.

Connecticut

A group has been organized to oversee the creation of a defense fund for priest Roman Kramek who has been charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl in New Britain, CT.

Kramek is a visiting priest from Poland. He was counseling the girl, who was a victim of a previous rape. According to police reports, Kramek admitted assaulting the girl, saying it was part of the counseling.

The group, named Polish Brotherly Help, consists of members of the area's Polish

AROUND THE WORLD



"Honor killings" rise in Pakistan

Brutality against women in Pakistan rose in 2002 with a 25% increase in "honor killings" for behavior ranging from adultery to being raped to cooking poorly.

There were 461 victims of "honor killings" in 2002, up from 372 in 2001, according to a report released by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. It is expected that there were at least as many rapes as punishment for the "wrong" behavior during the same time frame. The statistics are limited because of little cooperation from several provinces.

More than 300 of the honor killings took place in the province of Sindh. In the Punjab province, 161 females were killed while only 27 killers were arrested. In Punjab, 67 women were killed by a brother, 49 by their husbands and the rest by other family members.

Mass rapes confirmed in Burma

In December 2002, the United States State Department confirmed that it has corroborating evidence that mass rapes of hundreds of girls and women were carried out by the Burmese Army in the central Shan province.

The Burmese government denies the allegations. The government has been attempting to quell an ethnic rebellion in the province for the past several years. The Shan Human Rights Foundation and Shan Women's Action Network reported that army members had raped at least 625 women and girls in an attempt to suppress those in the rebellion.

The U.S. has called for the United Nations to investigate the reports.

community. It hopes to raise \$50,000 needed to release Kramek on bail. Many members of the Sacred Heart Church where the assault occurred have come to Kramek's defense. Rev. Paul Wysocki called the victim "a tramp" and said Kramek "could have been put up to it."

Archbishop Daniel Cronin condemned Wysocki's comments.

Chicago

Two priests were removed from their duties because of allegations of sexual misconduct. Raymond F. Skriba, pastor of St. Joseph in Round Lake, was accused of sexual misconduct with minors almost 40 years ago. John A. Robinson, associate

pastor at Queen of the Rosary in Elk Grove Village, was accused of misconduct almost 30 years ago.

The removal was recommended by the Chicago Archdiocese's independent Fitness Review Board and accepted by Cardinal Francis George in December 2002.

Skriba is accused of abusing several girls during the 1960s. He has denied the charges.

Quad Cities

The Diocese of Davenport has placed Rev. Richard Poster on administrative leave pending a law enforcement investi-

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Early returns on Prevention Education Evaluation Project

By Paul Schewe, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago

ICASA and I began a collaboration on the Prevention Education Evaluation Project in 2000. Three of the primary goals of this project were to:

1. Develop a common set of outcome measures that could be used to assess the effectiveness of ICASA's 29 independent rape prevention programs;

2. Identify the best programs in the state for improving the attitudes, knowledge and behavioral intentions of male and female students, urban, suburban and rural students, and Caucasian, African American and Hispanic students, and;

3. Identify the content and characteristics of prevention programs that are most associated with success.

Other products of this project have included a description of existing rape prevention programs in Illinois, and a literature review of rape prevention outcome evaluations. The literature review was published in the book *Preventing Violence in Relationships: Interventions Across the Life Span* edited by Paul Schewe and published by APA in June 2002.

Outcome Measures

Educators from ICASA's 29 independent rape crisis centers assisted in the development of these measures. The educators created logic models of their programs and brainstormed to develop a list of potential outcomes of their interventions. Early on it became clear that the intended outcomes of prevention programming for male participants were different than the intended outcomes for female participants.

The educators achieved consensus about common constructs targeted for change among the 29 sexual assault programs for male and female participants of their programs. The educators then worked in groups to develop questions that could be used to measure the

selected constructs. Multiple iterations of the questionnaires were reviewed by the prevention educators as well as national experts in sexual assault prevention (Alan Berkowitz, Mary Heppner, Kim Lonsway and Sarah Ullman) until consensus was achieved. The measures were then administered to a pilot sample of high school students and further revised based on feedback from students and from psychometric analysis of the pilot data. During the 2001-2002 school year, prevention educators administered the questionnaires to more than 3,000 student participants of their programs. Psychometric analysis of this data revealed adequate convergent validity, internal consistency and test-retest reliability for each of the measures.

The titles of the measures that were selected or developed for this project include:

For Females and Males:

The Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance scale (20 items; developed by Payne, Lonsway and Fitzgerald, 1999)

Healthy Relationships (a/k/a Relationships Myths; 6 items)

Recognizing Rape (4 items)

For Females Only:

Help Seeking Behavior (10 items)

Environmental Safety (4 items)

Personal Safety (8 items)

For Males Only:

Likelihood of Raping (3 items)

Attitudes/Activism/Accountability (19 items)

Best Practices

A variety of statistical analyses were performed in order to identify the content and characteristics of programs that are most associated with success. Below are some of the key findings to date that predict improvement on the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance (IRMA) scale for male and female students combined. Additional analyses will be run in order to identify

best practices for various sub-groups of students based on gender, race and geographic location and for various sub-types of programs (i.e., single versus multiple session programs).

Star Performers

Data collected during the 2001-2002 school year will be used to identify the most effective programs for various sub-groups of students based on gender, race and geographic location. During the upcoming years, those curriculums and prevention strategies will be shared through peer training and technical assistance for all ICASA centers.

Characteristics of Prevention Programs Associated with Success

- More sessions are better than fewer sessions.
- Shorter sessions are better than longer sessions.
- A male/female team of prevention educators produces the best overall results for both male and female students.
- Younger students change more than older students.

Content of Prevention Programs Associated with Success*

- Discussing how to help a friend who has been assaulted
- Explaining what to do if you are victimized
- Teaching about healthy relationships
- Targeting respect and self-esteem
- Discussing gender roles

Content of Prevention Programs Inversely Related to Change Scores on the IRMA**

- Statistics and sexual assault definitions
- Consent vs. coercion
- Negative consequences of committing rape
- Victim empathy

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C

Trends and Issues Forum

Conference sponsored by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Date: March 4-5, 2003

Place: Northfield Inn and Suites, Springfield, Illinois

Information: Kendra Seaton, 217/753-4117

A

Pave the Way: ICASA's 17th Annual Conference

The Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault will feature Gail Dines and Erin Thornley at its annual conference.

Date: March 19-20, 2003

Place: Indianapolis, Indiana

Information: www.incasa.org

L

Children Counselor Training

Conference sponsored by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Date: March 20-21, 2003

Place: Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois

Information: Kendra Seaton, 217/753-4117

E

Reaching Las Familias: Empowering Our Communities

Arte Sana will produce a two-day capacity-building institute for improving outreach with marginalized victims of gender-based violence.

Date: April 3-4, 2003

Place: Austin, Texas

Information: artesanando@yahoo.com

N

CSI: Sexual Assault

The Community Crisis Center in Elgin will play host to a conference on sexual assault at Elgin Community College.

Date: April 11, 2003

Place: Elgin, Illinois

Information: Rae Bramel at 847/697-2380

D

**International Conference on Domestic Violence,
Sexual Assault and Stalking**

Conference will highlight promising practices and emerging issues in domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Date: April 23-25, 2003

Place: San Diego, California

Information: www.mysati.com/2003_conference

A

R

Leadership Development/Management Training

Conference sponsored by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Date: May 16, 2003

Place: Hilton, Springfield, Illinois

Information: Kendra Seaton, 217/753-4117

Thumbs up and down

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St. Clair County

In January, Judge Jan V. Fiss sentenced DeMontrez Thomas to life in prison after Thomas pled guilty to strangling a three-year-old girl. As part of the plea bargain, eight counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, one count of kidnapping and one count of home invasion were dismissed. Thomas was accused of repeatedly raping the girl's mother before kidnapping them and killing the toddler.



Whiteside County

Jon Cameron was declared a sexually dangerous person and will remain in custody of law enforcement for an indefinite period of time. Judge Slavin presided over the proceedings. Gary Spencer handled the case for the State's Attorney's office.



Williamson County

In December 2002, a jury found Brian M. Taylor guilty of three counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault. Assistant State's Attorney Lisa Beatty prosecuted the case. Marion Police detective Jeff McCoskey handled the investigation of the case that took more than seven years to bring to conclusion.

News from judicial front

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sparked controversy at the university located in Iowa City. Several hundred people protested the decision prior to the Hawkeyes' opening home game of the season. Also, more than 3,000 people signed a petition seeking Pierce's removal from the school. A special committee is reviewing the school's handling of the case.

Harvard sued for its new sexual assault policy

A student has sued Harvard University over its new sexual assault policy that requires a victim to provide "sufficient corroborating evidence" of misconduct before the school's disciplinary board will investigate.

The new policy reverses the school's policy of automatically investigating any charge of "peer to peer" sexual assault among undergraduates. The new policy forces students to supply a written statement of the incident and a list of witnesses or evidence that the board will be able to obtain during the investigation.

The Coalition Against Rape, a student group, has blanketed the campus with posters blasting the new policy, and a member of the group has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The charge contends that the policy violates the federal Title IX statute banning gender discrimination.

Catholic Update

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gation for allegedly possessing child pornography.

Poster was serving as the director of liturgy for the diocese and associate publisher of the "Catholic Messenger." Poster has not been charged with a crime. Bishop William Franklin requested law enforcement investigate Poster after finding "questionable" material on a computer used by Poster.

Mexico

Rev. Salomon Palma will not be sanctioned despite the release of a video showing him having sex with his secretary. Ciudad Cuauhtemoc Bishop Juan Guillermo Lopez announced he would not sanction Palma because the incident took place three years ago.

The secretary has moved to the United States. Palma asked to be sent to a retreat for time of reflection and rehabilitation.

Be A Friend

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100 N. 16th St.
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Call 217/753-4117 for further information

Prevention Education

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- Avoidance of high-risk situations
- Warning signs of an abusive relationship
- Communication skills

Summary

This project was clearly the most ambitious outcome evaluation project ever attempted in the area of sexual assault prevention. Prior to this project, prevention programs were traditionally evalu-

ated using single intervention designs. By using a common set of outcome measures to evaluate the effectiveness of 29 prevention programs simultaneously, comparisons can easily be made between different intervention approaches. The results of this project will translate into improved programming for hundreds of thousands of students in Illinois in the upcoming years. The success of this project is owed largely to ICASA's prevention educators and their dedication to constantly

improving the effectiveness of their interventions.

Notes


*These results are extremely preliminary and should not yet be disseminated or cited. Follow-up analyses with sub-groups of students have produced results that vary greatly.

**Please, note, it is not necessarily expected that any of these content areas would be positively associated with change on the IRMA.



Lyn Schollett, fourth from left, General Counsel of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, was recently honored by the National Crime Victim Law Institute for her work on behalf of victims of sexual assault. Pictured with Schollett are from left: Douglas M. Beloof, Director, National Crime Victim Law Institute; Diane Stuart, Director of Office on Violence

Against Women; Gina S. McClard of the National Crime Victim Law Institute; Schollett; Wendy Murphy, an attorney from Massachusetts who also was honored; and John Gillis, Director of the Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice. Schollett has worked at ICASA since 1996.

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