

===== STORY COUNTY, IOWA =====
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month
===== NEWS RELEASE =====

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2008

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RE: SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM)

Story County, Iowa –During April, ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support), Story County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), YWCA Ames-ISU and a number of Iowa State University departments and student organizations will be joining with people throughout the state and the nation to focus the public's attention on Sexual Assault. This is an opportunity to highlight the efforts of individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services while offering support to sexual assault survivors, victims and their families.

Sexual violence is a crime of epidemic proportions. It affects everyone. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (<http://www.rainn.org/>):

- Every 2 minutes someone is sexual assaulted in the US.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be sexually assaulted.
- In 2006, there were 272,350 victims of sexual assault.
- College age women are 4 times more likely to be sexually assaulted.
- 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.

During 2006, ACCESS, our local advocacy agency, assisted over 200 victims/survivors and their friends or family via crisis intervention and support services.

SAAM raises awareness of sexual violence through special events while highlighting sexual violence as a major public health issue and reinforces the need for prevention efforts. Local activities to raise awareness of sexual violence include:

SART Flag Display

Monday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., South of the Campanile

Friday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., South of Parks Library

The Story County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) will display flags representing everyone they have assisted.

These Hands Are Not For Hitting

Monday, April 7, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Central Campus during VEISHEA Campus Showcase

Tuesday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Central Campus during VEISHEA Campus Showcase

A visual support of non-violence by imprinting your hand on a large canvas, and signing the pledge form. Sponsored by SHAC and S2S.

Culture of Fear Roundtable Discussion

Tuesday, April 8, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00p.m., 3505 Iowa State Memorial Union

Dr. Diane Price-Herndl, Director of the Women's Studies Program will host a roundtable discussion about the Culture of Fear, which results in keeping girls and women afraid to move about freely. It has also served to keep people ignorant to the truths about sexual assault. If you don't know what sexual assault really is, you won't know if it happens to you.

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SAAM on Display

Monday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., MU Booth

Monday, April 14 – 18, MU Display Case

Find out all of the information, grab a teal ribbon, from our SAAM Committee members on Monday or read about how sexual assault impacts our community in the display case throughout the week. Sponsored by the YWCA Ames-ISU.

The Clothesline Project

Tuesday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Margaret Sloss Women's Center West Lawn (Rain Date: Thursday, April 17)

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of t-shirts addressing the issue of violence against women. T-shirts have been designed by survivors of violence and families/friends of victims of violence. The project focuses on providing healing for survivors of violence, educating the public about issues of violence, and encouraging individual action to prevent violence. Participants will have the opportunity to create a shirt of their own inside the Margaret Sloss House during the event.

Signmaking for Take Back the Night

Monday, April 21, 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., The Workspace (East Basement, MU)

Tuesday, April 22, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., The Workspace (East Basement, MU)

Individuals may create signs/banners to symbolize Take Back the Night including: "Join together/free our lives/we will not be victimized" or "Survivors unite/take back the night."

"I Have Hope"

Tuesday, April 22, 11:00a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Margaret Sloss Women's Center West Lawn

Primarily we will be addressing our U.S. Senators by signing a petition to be sent to them in regards to the funding of the U.S. Violence Against Women's Act; and advocating for more awareness of the systematic rape of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo by hosting a table for campus community members to educate themselves. Sponsored by Women's Studies Outrageous Acts.

Take Back the Night Rally & March

Tuesday, April 22, Rally beginning at 6:30 p.m., Iowa State Memorial Union West Terrace

March beginning at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Take Back the Night is an internationally recognized event with rich history, occurring worldwide since the 1970's. The annual Take Back the Night rally and march at Iowa State University is organized with the purpose of unifying women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families. You are invited to join us at the rally and march to take a stand against violence and make the night safe for everyone.

Open Mic: Rant, Rage & Reflect

Tuesday, April 22, at approximately 8:15 p.m. following the Take Back the Night March, The Maintenance Shop, MU

To celebrate taking back the night we are hosting an open mic event for the community to share stories, poems, and music. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, contact the Margaret Sloss Women's Center at 515/294-4154 between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, confidential help is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week at 29-ALERT (292-5378) Sexual Assault Support Services.

Events are co-sponsored and/or supported by Margaret Sloss Women's Center, Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), YWCA Ames-ISU, Story County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Women's Studies Program, Catt Center for Women and Politics, Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), The Office of Greek Affairs, Students 2 Students (S2S), Student Union Board, VEISHEA, Thielen Student Health Services, ISU Police Division, Ames Police Department, Government of the Student Body, The Maintenance Shop, and The Workspace.

