That Other Violence Against Women: Rape

by the Coalition Chair, Patricia Occhiuzzo Giggans

For those of us working at rape crisis centers it has been frustrating to experience the neglect of sexual assault as a serious issue by funders, policy makers, the public and the media. Since O.J. Simpson was charged and tried for the murder of his ex-wife and her friend, domestic violence has been in the forefront of the public’s conscience as never before. Being America’s ugly family secret, it has garnered the attention it certainly deserves. However, rape and sexual assault has been relegated and referred to as that “other violence against women.”

Both domestic violence and sexual assault have a stranglehold on women and girls. Unfortunately, we live in an era in which it is difficult to focus on more than one issue at a time, and even more unfortunate the sensational and the celebrity take precedence over any issue. Rape crisis center workers along with their counterparts in domestic violence shelters and programs know of the enormous toll that violence against women in all of its debilitating forms takes on a daily basis.

The invisibility of sexual assault is not new. Since victims can be so easily re-victimized and stigmatized they often don’t tell, don’t report and with a few exceptions—don’t go “public” with their stories. What is new is the distinct compartmentalizing of sexual and domestic violence. Historically and philosophically the movements are intertwined. The domestic violence movement patterned much of its beginnings after the organizing the anti-rape movement had done in the very early seventies. Rape survivors helped create and shape the rape crisis movement just as battered women helped create and shape the domestic violence movement. Both movements grew and developed the essential expertise of the specific issues unique to each. Both movements are steeped in women’s rights, empowerment and self-determination. The pioneers of both movements were in complete agreement when they named sexism and its manifestations of rape and battering as the focus of vital efforts.

Many centers in California and across the country serve victims/survivors of both rape and domestic violence. Some centers do so based upon a philosophical stand, or because of history, others such as those in rural areas—because of community needs compounded with a lack of resources in the area. Across the nation, we can find some state coalitions that have a dual focus of sexual and domestic violence. The benefits of unifying the “two movements” are many. Political organizing, community education, education of teens and children, prevention work, etc. is facilitated by networking, sharing and promoting the work together.

Law enforcement, politicians, therapists, legal and “corrections” systems are being challenged to view violence—and, especially, their own responses to it—as linked. This creates both positive and negative tensions. More and more, rape crisis centers and battered women’s shelters are required to coordinate responses, create collaborations, etc. with these different entities. What we need to do more of is work collaboratively with each other.

By now we have all heard something of the Violence Against Women Crime Act. It is historical for several reasons. It includes both domestic violence and sexual assault as designated gender-based violence. Each state is required to submit a plan to the federal government to qualify for funding. In California, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning formed a committee of 32 people from various disciplines including rape crisis, domestic violence, law enforcement, district attorneys, etc. to come up with a plan for the STOP Program (the first part of the VAWA funding). These meetings provided

continued on next page...
That Other Violence Against Women Continued...

a unique opportunity to come together and discuss future planning to improve law enforcement and prosecution for violence against women. This was probably the first time that this has happened on the statewide level. VAWA required it; what a concept! I was fortunate to be involved in the planning that stressed the importance for all entities to work in a cross-disciplinary fashion. Cross communication and cross training needs were named as vital. We all agreed that these were areas of need for both qualitative and quantitative improvement. We all learned new things as experts in rape, battering and other fields came together and acknowledged our need to work collaboratively.

More of this has to happen: working within specific arenas and simultaneously learning about other arenas. As the domestic violence and the rape crisis movements work more closely together--locally, nationally and globally--there will never have to be an "other" when it comes to any form of violence against women.

We must resist the tendency to allow a specific kind of violence against women to become the current fad: domestic violence is in one year, rape is in for the next. Women and girls cannot be free to live healthy, productive and satisfying lives until the actuality and the threat of rape and battering are diminished. Violence against women cannot be eliminated by isolating one and ignoring the other. Rape and domestic violence have common roots in sexism and power and control. How do we utilize these commonalities to synergize our efforts? Let's ask that question of ourselves. Let's ask that question of the leadership in the various coalitions in our state.

Rape is not the "other" violence against women and neither is domestic violence. They both hurt, control, limit and destroy lives. Organizing social change to stop it is still the most important way to eradicate them. We need stronger alliances and allies to make it happen.

CalCASA Annual Meeting & Conference will be held January 26th 1996, 10:00-5:00. The location is still To Be Announced.

Featuring: Media Advocacy Training with Lori Dorfman, Legislative Agenda, VAWA update, CalCASA business

CalCASA Board Members

Patricia Giggans, Chair
LACAAW
(213) 462-1281

Rebecca Rolfe, Co-Chair
SFWAR
(415) 861-2024

Mary Brashears, Treasurer/Far North
Chico Rape Crisis Center
(916) 891-1331

Jeanne Berry Reeder, Secretary
Mid Coastal
Mid Peninsula YWCA-RCC
(415) 494-0993

Sharon Rose Chavez, Central Coast
North County RCC
(805) 736-8535

Lee Ann Eager, Valley
Rape Crisis Counseling Fresno
(209) 497-2900

Sharon Shelton, South
YWCA - L.A. Compton
(310) 763-9995

Alva Moreno, South
Sexual Assault Program of Avance
(213) 526-5819

Reina Beverly, WOC - North
Solano County RCC
(707) 422-7345

Jennifer Beeman, Low North
U.C. Davis Rape Prevention
(916) 752-3299

Newsletter Editor
Sandra Henriquez
LACAAW(213) 462-1281
Contributors: Patti Giggans, Leah Aldridge, Helene Rosenbluth, Stephanie Townsend
Creating Peace...A Call to Action
by Leah Aldridge
CalCASAs Women of Color Caucus - South

Creating Peace...A Call to Action was a rewarding and successful conference co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney, the Violence Prevention Coalition of Los Angeles County, and CalCASAs. The Conference was attended by more than 650 people from all over the country. Under the direction of Tony Borbon from the Violence Prevention Coalition of Los Angeles, a conference team of over 190 presenters, moderators, security, and/or staff executed duties with skill and professionalism unparalleled by other conferences.

In general, this conference was larger than the VPC Conference held in 1993 and the Color of Violence Conference, also in 1993. Workshops and plenary discussions dealt with innovative prevention and intervention programs on a wide range of topics from school based curriculum to community and family programs, to legislation on handguns. Local, regional, state and national programs and agendas were presented. Discussions on violence in the media not only focused on necessary action against negative programming, but on curriculum training to increase media literacy and advocacy.

A wide variety of youth were represented as attendants or presenters. It was exciting to see so many youth from all over involved in anti-violence efforts. Many of the youth who spoke had first-hand knowledge of street violence and participated on panels with mature attitudes and demonstrated several successful youth programs and activities that are making a difference in their lives.

CalCASAs was well represented among others working in the violence intervention and prevention fields. A huge thanks goes out to:
- Rebecca Rolfe, who found herself a presenter in her designated workshop — not a moderator — when the original presenter called late the day before to cancel;
- Jeanne Berry, who did an excellent job of moderating a media panel for a less than hospitable audience;
- Reina Beverly, Lee Ann Eager, Alva Moreno, and Sharon Shelton for masterfully moderating their individual workshops.

All of the women who were part of the conference team for CalCASAs were wonderful representatives for the Coalition. They did an excellent job of elevating the name and status of the Coalition to a national level.
State of the State: Sexual Assault Trends in California as viewed by Rape Crisis Centers

By Patricia Occhiuzzo Giggans
Chair, CalCASA

An ongoing compilation of trends regarding sexual assault issues as reported by rape crisis centers through their regional meetings and discussions from their experiences working with rape survivors in their local intervention and prevention programs. This is not an exhaustive list nor is it all inclusive.

1. Younger Victims: Counseling younger and younger victims of sexual assault. Teens/Adolescents are very affected by forced and coercive sex along committed by acquaintances, gang members, strangers, dates, and boyfriends. More relationship rape; rape within the cycle of violence of a battering dynamic. Rape signals domestic violence/power and control within the relationship. More reporting to police by teens and also there seems to be more non-reporting by teens. In general, more young girls are asking for help.

2. Increased Violence: More violence along with the sexual violence. Increased threats. Threat of weapons and use or showing of weapons. Stalking by former boyfriends/husbands and also by strangers.

3. Multiple Problems: Rape survivors present themselves about sexual assault issue but have multiple layers of social problems; drinking, drugs, homelessness, gang complications, runaways, mental problems, severe poverty. Makes it difficult to focus only on the rape, rape trauma syndrome, legal or medical aspects. The increased stress on social service systems and collapsed or reduced county services puts more stress on rape crisis centers to become major referral & resource centers. Requires tremendous creativity on the part of RCC’s and their clients. There is a breaking down of the safety net and lonely, distraught people call rape crisis centers looking for all kinds of help unrelated to sexual assault services.

4. Fear: Immigrants and newcomers are hesitant to seek help or use the system to get help even in emergency situations because of the increased immigrant bashing and the fear of being vulnerable as an outsider.Requiring a lot more assurances by outreach workers that help for sexual assault healing is available. This fear also continues to impact underserved populations.

5. Complaints About Law Enforcement: There seems to be an increase in complaints about law enforcement regarding rape cases; all the way from disappointment from a survivor to not having their case filed to inappropriate behavior on the part of some officers. There is concern that we have reached the top of the curve for improvement in investigation of cases and the sensitive treatment of rape victims. There is hope that this is not true but that through more and better training the concerns, well-being and the issues of rape survivors will be well served by law enforcement and prosecutors. Community concerns and faith in the police continue to be a problem in some areas of the state.

6. Medical: Still problems in many parts of the state with waits at hospital emergency rooms not only by the rape victim but by police officers. A SART model with active planning, participation and implementation by rape crisis advocates could help this situation in some areas.

7. Reluctance to report/go through Criminal Justice System: There seems to be a lot of reluctance to report rape. Rape survivors seek support and counseling at RCC’s but are also reluctant to go through the system. Over all victims are not happy about what they’ve seen and heard about. This is a challenge for the system. It is also ironic that with all the new laws and stricter prison sentencing and all out effort to get the bad guys, women in general and rape survivors in particular are not eager to participate in the system neither do they feel safer.

These are challenges for Rape Crisis Movement as centers attempt to advocate on behalf of rape survivors, counsel, intervene at point of crisis and be the support person through the healing process. The role of Rape Crisis workers is not only as counselors and advocates, but as bridge people who help systems to work better. This requires cooperation, collaborations, training, cross-trainings and work in the social change policy arena. We continue to have our struggles laid out for us.
CalCASA Highlights

In each edition of the CalCASA Newsletter, we wish to highlight new programs or events at various California Rape Crisis Centers. If there are any new or innovative things going on at your RCC which you would like us to know about, please submit your written article to:

CalCASA Highlights, RCC News
6043 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90028

A WOMEN’S PLACE OF MERCED AND MARIPOSA COUNTIES

A Women’s Place (AWP) of Merced and Mariposa Counties is a small non-profit community-based agency that serves both victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In 1984, AWP was created by a merger of two previous agencies which served victims of domestic violence. At that time, the Board of Directors of AWP chose to expand that organization which was then faced with closure due to lack of funding. AWP took over the services for sexual assault victims at that time also. Thus, AWP expanded existing programs and brought these programs together under the auspices of a single agency in order to provide a full range of services and resources to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. There were three staff members at that time.

Today AWP has eight staff members and one intern. They have recently acquired housing at Castle Air Force Base at Atwater, CA due to the base closure. They expect to move in to their new space in October of 1995. The Air Force has graciously agreed to donate furniture, office equipment and computers to the agency. In April 1995, the District Attorney’s office proposed a link between the D.A.’s computer system and AWP’s system. This will enable A Women’s Place access to perpetrators records and court dates. A Women’s Place of Merced and Mariposa Counties is continually looking for ways to better serve victims of assault and do so in a caring manner.

WRITE TO CALCASA ABOUT INNOVATIONS AT YOUR CENTER!

SONOMA COUNTY WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

Sonoma County Women Against Rape, one of the oldest rape crisis centers in the country, is a diverse agency with many strengths. We attack the siege of violence against women and children on many fronts. For example, with prevention programs (CAP and TAP) in English and Spanish for children 3-18, Women Against Rape teaches practical and proven methods for assault avoidance, resistance and reporting. The TAP program uses a unique peer educator approach so teens are teaching teens in the classroom, a model that is expanding to schools throughout the country.

Our intervention efforts are around the clock, with hotline counselors and advocates just a phone call away. The focus on these efforts has increased the depth of services to assault survivors, increasing the agency’s expertise in dealing with the housing, employment, health, legal and child care issues of our clients. Sexual assault doesn’t occur in a vacuum and neither should the efforts combating it.

Community education is the third time in this fork prodding injustice. We work to train local law enforcement to provide sensitive, accurate, and accountable services to sexual assault victims. We work in coalition with other victims’ advocates to watchdog the district attorney’s office and track the handling of sexual assault and domestic violence cases. Innovative campaigns such as the “Equal Justice For Women And Children in Sonoma County” petition has sped changes to law enforcement agencies, now hiring more women and people of color, and served to mobilize the community and focus its power to create social change.
Politicians have known it for hundred of years, but Rush Limbaugh has recently made it popular: If the data are on your side, use them. If they aren’t, then sink to attacking the other side’s data, the researchers themselves, crime victims, and anything else you can find to confuse the issue. In a political atmosphere Susan Faludi terms the “backlash,” it is unfortunate that an enormous audience exists for people without expertise or data who mock and taunt the victims of violent crime.

The most prominent among these “people without data” is Neil Gilbert, who has turned from a distinguished-but-little-known career in social work policy to achieving his most fame ever in a new calling: attacking Mary Koss and other researchers of women’s victimization.

Gilbert has no background or expertise in the area, has never conducted a victimization survey, and has never revealed any knowledge of this complex field. Yet, at a time when crime discussion is dominated by calls for more prisons, more executions, canings, and “what about the victim?”, a market remains for belittling crime victims when they are women. As Susan Estrich has explained, this is done by claiming that only certain facts constitute “real rape.”

What are the surveys, the attacks on them, and the problems these attacks have caused?

The Rape Surveys

Initially based on the work of Mary Koss, there have now been dozens of rape surveys. Whether they have been done on representative or non representative samples, all have shown that an alarmingly large number of college women are sexually assaulted by male intimates, friends, and acquaintances.

For example, Mary Koss and her colleagues found that, from the age of 14, more than one quarter of their 3,187 female post secondary school respondents reported having been raped or been the victim of attempted rape. A similar sized group reported being sexually coerced or sexually touched against their will.

To show the stability of this measure, when roughly the same questions were asked of a national sample of 1,835 women in Canadian colleges and universities, Walter DeKeseredy and Katharine Kelly found that 45.1% reported having been sexually victimized by one or more male dating partners since leaving high school.

Obviously, these findings and consistent similar findings from local surveys are very alarming. It became evident to many women’s groups that a burglary or robbery rate this high would turn a college campus upside down, but when the crime is the sexual victimization of women, people seem less concerned.

In a wave of new anti-rape programming on college campuses in the U.S. and Canada, these studies have been highly influential.

The Attacks on Koss

A few “new generation feminists” such as Katie Roiphe (author of the Morning After) and conservative activists such as Gilbert contend that the high rates of sexual assault published in refereed journals and scholarly books greatly exaggerate the case. To Gilbert, there is no serious problem of rape on college campuses, rather, there is a “phantom epidemic” produce by Koss.

In his strongest attack on Koss, published in a special issue on “fraud in research” in Sociology (March/April, 1994). Gilbert sets the tone with a discussion of advocates for the homeless and child kidnapping who virtually make up their numbers. Although he never quite says that Koss makes up her numbers, he slides easily from these people to discuss rape research.

Gilbert has taken aim mainly on the operational definitions and measures used by researchers, arguing that Koss and similar scientists are engaged in a political agenda to “impose new norms governing intimacy between the sexes.” They do this, Gilbert claims, by “definitional stretching,” artificially inflating the rates of sexual victimization by including within this definition behavior that does not coincide with “reasonable” women’s attitudes and experiences.

A particular focus is the Sexual Experiences Survey, the instrument used by Koss and many others to measure rape and other types of sexual abuse. Gilbert is specially critical of the items used to elicit data on rapes and attempted rapes that occur when women are intoxicated. In his opinion, “these are vaguely worded” questions that “require a mind reader” to detect whether positive responses to these questions coincide with a legal definition of rape.

Gilbert also criticizes the fact that the majority of women do not label themselves as rape victims and that some of these women do not immediately break off relationships with the men who raped them.

Thus, although many people have been disturbed by reports of large numbers of sexual assaults on college campuses, others are disturbed for opposite reasons. Any steps to deal with this problem will call for empowering women in some way or form, which is not a popular idea with many conservative people inside and outside the media and the government. A case example of this is the Canadian media’s negative—and sometimes hostile—reaction to the DeKeseredy and Kelly survey; although this heavily funded (Health Canada) survey is the best ever conducted in Canada, the researchers received hate mail and threatening phone calls.

Taking Sexual Assault Seriously

In one way, perhaps Gilbert is right. The differences between his views and those of virtually all rape researchers are epistemological: They deal with the boundaries of definitions. The problem is that Gilbert and conservative commentators want to roll back the clock to earlier definitions, where “real rape” consisted of a greasy guy, preferably of a different race from the victim, jumping out of the bushes and forcing himself violently on a modest woman. There are problems with this view.

First, the law is on the side of the rape researchers. The definition used by Koss and her colleagues are consistent with legal definitions used in most North American jurisdictions, and most specifically with Ohio’s (where Koss worked) legal definitions of rape.

Anyone who publishes in this field can explain how even top scholars are part of a culture that resists the idea that getting a woman drunk for the purpose of removing her ability to resist sexual intercourse is rape. It is seduction, they claim. It disempowers women by making them into weak victims, and anyway, women who drink too much are more to blame than the men who force sex on them. Fortunately, the law is—and has been for many decades—completely clear: Sexual intercourse with a woman whose ability to resist has been removed by virtue of intoxication is rape.

Worse, a large body of qualitative research from several countries shows that women have enormous fear of sexual violence, a fear that often leads them to restrict many of their activities. Moreover, people often believe these victimizations as minor, the Sexual Experiences Survey asks about just the events that many women find so threatening. In fact, with many studies
showing that women are threatened by behavior that isn’t even clear.

Data That Underestimate
Survey data generated by measures such as the Sexual Experience Survey do not greatly exaggerate the extent of sexual assault. On the contrary, they should be read as underestimates. It is well known they many abuse women and male offenders do not disclose incidents because of embarrassment, fear of reprisal, deception, memory error, the reluctance or inability to recall traumatic incidents, and the belief that sexual assaults are too trivial or inconsequential to mention.

Unlike most crimes where right and wrong are reasonably certain to many people, acquaintance rape is something that, as Sara Fenstermaker put it, “muddies the normative waters.” Women grow up in the same society as men, hearing the same messages, and are often just as confused. If you voluntarily go to a man’s room, get drunk, and are raped, who is to blame? The rapist? Or the woman? Most men and women say the woman, which is no doubt why few women report the crime. In fact, perhaps even to themselves, they may be raped, or sometimes do not break off the relationship immediately.

Deep cynics like Roiphe and Gilbert take the position that if rape were really widespread, they certainly would have heard about it. Because they haven’t, it can’t be happening.

Koss and most of those who have followed in her path found that more than 40% of sexually victimized women never told a single person of their experiences. Most of the rest told only a roommates or best friend. Not surprisingly, few victims make their way to clinics and belittles of women to tell their stories.

Primary Sources


This article appeared in Violence Update, December 1994.

FOR THE STATE COALITION NEWSLETTER
NCASA Report:
by outgoing NCASA chair Stephanie Townsend

In addition to Texas, Region VI includes Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories...a big area!

As many of you are aware, this is a time of transition for NCASA. While challenging, it is also an exciting time. The work of the Transition Committee on developing a Strategic Plan to carry NCASA, a process for establishing a national office, and define fiscal goals. I encourage you all to obtain a copy of the Strategic Plan, read it, and send in your input. Your suggestions are both valued and vital.

In addition to the Strategic Plan, other NCASA activities continue to abound. The conference and annual meetings in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, provide excellent workshops for continued training and many opportunities to network with colleagues from across the country. Membership has significantly increased over the past year, public policy education continues, and the fiscal status of NCASA is on the upswing.

For those who are not currently members of NCASA, I hope that you will join! For those who are members, let’s keep up the good work! Your participation is what makes NCASA a dynamic coalition.

Two major goals for this year are to improve communication structures in the region and to increase regional cohesion. As a part of meeting those goals, I encourage you to contact the newly elected Regional Rep. Amy Mok from Texas (512) 445-1049 with your suggestions, concerns, questions, requests, etc.

1995 NCASA Conference A Success
This year's NCASA conference was held October 31 - November 1, 1995 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
In America, it's becomes the sound-bite lecture, the bumper-sticker sermon, the generic sexual advice offered to young girls everywhere. Just say no, they are told, just say no. It sounds like the easiest thing in the world.

But sometimes, if you back up and widen the lens, you can get a better look at that world. You can see just how easy it isn’t.

This is what happened in Beijing. The international community assembled for the women's conference finally agreed that a woman's human rights included her right to be free of sexual "coercion, discrimination, and violence."

In the most controversial provision to come out of the health committee for conference approval, the nations declared that equal sexual relationships between men and women required "mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility." For the very first time, they asserted that women across this world have the right to say no.

To imagine how radical this proposition is in parts of the globe, think about posting it on a tree in a village where wives are infected with AIDS because they cannot even say the word condom to a husband. Think about reading it at the wedding ceremony of a child bride. Think about telling it to a woman told by a boss how to keep her job.

Such ringing U.N. declarations don’t bring about swift cultural change. The millennium-old belief in "marital rights" can easily overwhelm the first tenuous idea of a newfangled "woman’s right." As Lori Heise, a health policy analyst just back from Beijing says, "The concept of consent has a different meaning in a culture where a woman has no choice but to concede."

Women do not always have the language to describe their own experiences, let alone the support to change them. When a researcher interviewed Iranian women who had been married as children, she heard the same wedding night stories of violence. But only the women who had subsequently moved to America used the word rape.

Still, the U.N. words are not just directed at the most traditional pockets of the world. A continuum of sexual coercion stretches across the globe, across time as well as space, evolving at different rates of speed out of the same traditions.

In America, the very definition of sexual coercion is still being debated. It’s not even 20 years since Oregon changed the common law that said a woman could not be raped by her husband. AIDS counselors tell us too how many American women feel powerless to protect themselves.

Today, we are more likely to believe that "if she said no, it's rape." But it is still easier to convict a stranger. The creation of new phrases like "date rape" describe a changing norm. But they also circumscribe the gray area, between consent and force, between "she asked for it" and "he said no."

In the workplace, sexual harassment laws are not even a generation old. The women who finally spoke out against Bob Packwood’s sexual misconduct implied a great deal about the changing boundaries. But their reticence and their fear of labeling his behavior as coercive, says something as well about how difficult this change is.

A gender gap exists in this country too. In last year’s "Sex in America" study, 22% of American women reported being forced to do something sexual while only 2.8% of the men said they had ever forced a woman.

There is a world of difference, literally, between places on this planet where females do not have the barest right to say no and America, where girls are being instructed to just say no. But there is a line from one place to another. There are teen-age mothers in this country—most of whom have been impregnated by men in their 20s—who do not feel strong enough, or supported enough, or hopeful enough to determine their own lives.

In China, the women of the world began to rewrite the sexual script. They asked what sexual relations would look like if women had the permission and felt the power to say yes and no.

They have made the intimate and complex connection between equality and sexuality. Just say no? There's no "just" about it.

Ellen Goodman is a syndicated columnist in Boston.
Greetings From China
A September 8, 1995 fax to CalCASA from Helene Rosenbluth
about her experience at the Women’s Conference in China

This is the last day of the NGO Forum, and in true Asian - monsoon custom it’s raining once again! Feelings here have run the gamut from severe frustration to exhilaration. The beginning days were a logistical nightmare, but eventually women’s determination won out. You really can’t stop the momentum of this global women’s movement. It’s truly bigger than anyone ever imagined.

Many people bitched about all of the problems but in the long run it was the one on one connections that were incredible. I talked to women from Papau New Guineau who had craft fairs to raise the money to come to this conference, because the desire to network with other Indigenous women was so great for them. Women from Saire who did not go to Nairobi 10 years ago because they did not realize how it could benefit them, scraped and saved all year to send their delegation to China. They knew it would be a turning point for their daughters and they wanted to be a part of it.

The focus of the conference was a little more difficult to grasp. [Despite the] fact that logistics prohibited the attendees from ever meeting together as a whole, [women acted separately] with the determination to get things done on a grass roots level, all the time networking globally. Instead of having one or two she-roes, the energy was diffused creating individual champions form every region of the world. This was probably the most exciting thing to witness.

The women’s movement is clearly not a western phenomenon like the accusers charged in Mexico City in 1975. Compared to Nairobi the caliber of feminist & political consciousness was far superior. Instead of having a few really good presenters from a couple of countries, you had incredibly astute speakers at most workshops. The connections between sustainable development and education for women and girls, or the impact of heavy consumerism from the north on the south, or the role of poverty and violence against women was infused in so many discussions. There was no such thing as a single issue. The complexities and the connections were understood by many more women than ever.

It was very difficult to find out what was going on at the official conference from here. It is about an hour away by car, unless it’s raining (which has been every other day). But the snippits that I was able to hear proved to be incredibly positive. It seems that a lot of the world has been listening to what women have been saying over the past ten years. The speeches have been filled with very powerful statements. The question is how are they going to implement an changes. And this is where the NGO’s come in. They have committed themselves to hold these governments accountable for decisions that come out of here. Only time will tell. But if the energy and zeal of this crowd of over 30,000 is any barometer, I am incredibly optimistic.

My time here at the computer center is up. The Chinese are about to pull the plug and I can’t blame them. Everyone is quite exhausted. This computer center has been able to teach over 2,000 women all about E-mail: 40,000 messages have been sent from this site alone. Empowerment through E-mail is the future. As women we must embrace this new technology.

It’s great to know that you are all continuing to do your part in the day to day job of creating change. I want you to know you are not alone! Your sisters are here and there and in the most remote places imaginable doing their part as well. It is incredibly heartening.

In Sisterhood, Helene

Helene Rosenbluth of HMR Duplications recorded all of the sessions of the Color of Violence conference, and has done the same for a variety of other national and international conferences.
She can be reached (510) 482-8732
CalCAS A Tips

Guide to Volunteerism
The Changing Role of Volunteerism contains a number of helpful approaches to recruiting, managing and motivating volunteers. The report is available for $10 plus $3.50 postage and handling through the Publications Program, United Hospital Fund, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003; phone (212) 645-2500.

Free Guide to Evaluation
Nonprofits who wish to reassess their agencies and their missions may want to order a copy of Decide to Evaluate: Nine Questions to Ask Yourself. This free summary is available through the innovation Network, which provides a subsidized evaluation service for nonprofits. Contact the Innovation Network, 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 900 Washington, DC 20036; phone (202) 728-0727.

Free Report on Fund Raising
The National Society of Fund Raising Executives recently published a report on fund-raising costs and has made it available free to the public. The report aims to provide tools for consistent measurement of fund-raising methods.

Based on its findings, NSFRE suggests taking the following into account when evaluating fund-raising effectiveness:
1. Special events have lower returns than major gift programs.
2. New planned giving programs may have no return for the first few years.
3. Capital campaigns have higher returns than annual fund programs.
4. Donor acquisition mailings have lower returns than renewals.

For a free copy of the complete report, write NSFRE at 1101 King Street, Suite 700, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone (703) 684-8181. Source: nonprofit Times

Five Ways to Make the News
Take the Mystery Out of the Media, a new book by Lorraine B. Kingdon, outlines the following ways to keep your nonprofit in the spotlight.
1. Notify the press if you conduct new research.
2. Tell the media how the new information affects the people you serve or local issues.
2. Create a source book of experts within your nonprofit. Include expertise that doesn’t necessarily relate to your agency. Send your booklet to the media.
3. Co-sponsor a workshop with local media.
4. Send a copy of a particular interesting article from your newsletter to a local newspaper editor. You might inspire them to do an article on your industry.
5. If you or your staff member attend a national conference, write a press release that ties information covered to local issues. Include a quote from your executive director or staff member that illustrates local concerns.
Source: Communications Briefings

Video Guides to Fund Raising
The Nonprofit Resource Center has created a video to introduce nonprofits to the funding process. Introduction to Grant Funding will help staff, volunteers, board members and others understand who gives and gets grants. Topics covered include the following: where grants fit in the fund development plan. The four sources of grants: foundations, corporations, associations and government the key elements to consider in your search for a funder, and the formula for success: knowing your funder well.

The video was created by the Nonprofit Resource Center with help from the Junior League and several media professionals, and is narrated by a popular local newscaster.

Introduction to Grant Funding is about 12 1/2 minutes long, and costs $29 plus $5 shipping and handling.
Tips Continued

Send checks or money orders to: Nonprofit Resource Center, 828 I. St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

Report: Boards Lack Fund Raising Skills
In a recent survey of 1200 nonprofit organizations, respondents attributed the major problems of their agencies to their board’s inability to raise money. The survey, conducted by the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, found only 60 percent of board members made a personal contribution to their organizations last year. Approximately 240 of the nonprofits surveyed identified their board members’ primary weakness as their lack of involvement and commitment, which is apt to impair an organization’s fund-raising ability.
To order send $14.00 to:
A Snapshot of America’s Nonprofit Boards,
NCNB, 2000 L Street, Suite 510 Washington DC, 20036-4907 (202) 452-6262

Free Publications on Child Abuse
The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect information has published four free manuals available to the public. The manuals, Protecting Children in Substance-Abusing Families; Substitute Care Providers: Helping Abused and Neglected Children; Supervising Child Protective Services Caseworkers; and Treatment for Abused and Neglected Children: Infancy to Age 18, are designed as resource materials for those who deal with child abuse issues.
For more information, call (800) FYI 3366 or write NCCANI at P.O. Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013-1182.

New Angles on Old Mailers
Don’t be afraid to try something new when conducting a fund-raising campaign. Put a teaser on the outside of envelope; write a new telemarketing script, or use a new mailing list. Even minor changes could dramatically improve your results.

Source: Communications Briefing, CAN ALERT

What Are The Real Numbers?

New Survey Hikes Estimate of Rapes in U.S.

Retyped from the Los Angeles Times, September 1995
From Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The government more than doubled its estimate Wednesday of rapes or attempted rapes each year—to 310,000. But actual assaults aren’t up; rather, after years of controversy, the government’s biggest crime survey finally asked a direct question about rape.

In the first major report on data from the newly designed survey the Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that there are 500,000 sexual assaults on women annually, including 170,000 rapes and 140,000 attempted rapes.

Previously, the bureau had estimated that there were 133,000 total rapes and attempted rapes a year. It had no data on the other sexual assaults. The most recent FBI figures show that only 104,800 rapes and attempted rapes were reported to police in 1993.

“When you ask directly, you get more information. That doesn’t mean this level of rapes didn’t exist before,” said Justice Department statistician Ronet Bachman, co-author of the new report. “We have no indication of an actual increase in rapes. This is just better reporting...through changes in our interviews and asking direct questions.”

The new research was hailed by women’s groups who long have argued that rape is underreported because its victims are stigmatized. The data comes from the government’s National Crime Victimization Survey, which annually interviews 100,000 Americans age 12 or older.
RAPE STATISTICS
Compiled by The Los Angeles Commission On Assaults Against Women

• In the United States 1.3 adult women are forcibly raped each minute. That translates to 78 women per hour or 1,871 women raped per day. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Eighty-four percent of rape survivors surveyed were less than 25-years-old. (Twenty-nine percent of those surveyed were less than 11-years-old; nearly one-third (32%) were between 11 and 17-years-old; slightly more than one in five rapes (22%) occurred between the ages of 18 and 24.) (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Seventy-five percent of women surveyed were raped by an acquaintance. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Non stranger rape usually occurred in the victim’s home (48%) or in or near a friend’s home. (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ126826, 1991)

• Almost half (49%) of women surveyed described being fearful of serious injury or death during the rape. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Rapists and their victims were likely to be of the same race. In rapes with one offender, about 7 of every 10 white victims were raped by a white offender and about 8 out of every 10 black victims were raped by a black offender. In rapes with two or more offenders, victims and offender were of the same race 49% of the time for white victims and 72% of the time for black victims (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ-126826, 1991)

• Thirty-nine percent of women surveyed reported that they were raped more than once. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• The National Women’s Study (1992) findings show that 84% of rape survivors did not report their rape to the police.

• Rapes committed by strangers were more likely to be reported to the police than rapes by non strangers. (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ - 126826, 1991)

• One third of rapes include oral or anal penetration in addition to vaginal contact. (Archives of Family Medicine, Sep. 1, 1992)

• Sexually transmitted diseases have been estimated to occur as a result of rape in 3.6% to 30% of victims. (Archives of Family Medicine, Sept. 1, 1992)
Estadísticas del Asalto Sexual

compilado por La Comision de Los Angeles En Contra De los Asaltos A Las Mujeres

• En los Estados Unidos, el 1.3 de mujeres adultas son violadas cada minuto. Eso significa que 78 mujeres por hora o 1.871 mujeres son violadas por día. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Woman’s Study, 1992)

• El ochenta y cuatro por ciento (84%) de sobrevivientes de abuso sexual interrogadas, tenían menos de 25 años. (Veinte y nueve por ciento tenían menos de 11 años y cerca de una tercera parte (32%) tenían entre 11 y 17 años; poco más de una en cada cinco violaciones (22%) ocurrieron entre los 18 y 24.) (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study 1992)

• Setenta y Cinco por ciento (75%) de mujeres interrogadas fueron abusadas sexualmente por un conocido. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Violaciones por desconocidos usualmente ocurren en la casa de la víctima (48%) o en la casa o cerca de la casa de una amiga. (U.S. Dep. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ126826, 1991)

• Casi la mitad (49%) de mujeres interrogadas describieron tener temor a ser seriamente lastimadas o asesinadas durante la violación. (National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in America, National Women’s Study, 1992)

• Los violadores y sus víctimas usualmente son de la misma raza. (En violaciones con un agresor, cada 7 de 10 víctimas de raza blanca fueron abusadas por un violador de raza blanca y cada 8 de 10 víctimas de raza negra fueron abusadas por un agresor de raza negra. En violaciones con 2 o más agresores víctimas y agresores eran de la misma raza 49% del tiempo por víctimas de raza blanca y 72% del tiempo por víctimas de raza negra. (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ-126826,1990)

• El Estudio Nacional de las Mujeres (1992) informa que el 84% de sobrevivientes de violación no lo reportaron a la policía.

• Las violaciones cometidas por extraños fueron más reportadas a la policía que las de personas conocidas. (U.S. Dep. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violent Crime, NCJ-126826,1991)

• Una tercera parte de las violaciones incluyen penetración oral o anal en adición de contacto vaginal (Archives of Family Medicine, Sept. 1, 1992)

• Enfermedades sexuales transmitidas han sido estimadas que ocurren como resultado de una violación en 3.6% a un 30% de las víctimas. (Archives of Family Medicine, Sept. 1, 1992)
CALIFORNIA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT  
(CAL-CASA)  
1995 Membership Invoice

Organization________________________________________________________
Contact Person_____________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________

Telephone_________________________________________ (business)

Type of Member:

_______________________________________________________________ Sexual Assault Crisis Center
_______________________________________________________________ Sexual Assault Prevention
_______________________________________________________________ Sexual Assault Research Center
_______________________________________________________________ Other

Category I (Voting Member) 

Budget  
Total agency budget up to $100,000. $100,000.  
" $100,001 to $250,000. $250. "  
" $250,001 and over $500. "  

Membership Dues

Category II (Non-Voting Members) 

Individual $45.00
Agency/Corporation $95.00

Amount Enclosed $________________________ Date:________________________
Signature______________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Cal-CASA)

Mail checks to:

Jeanne Reeder, Secretary
Mid-Peninsula YWCA Rape Crisis Center
4161 Alma St.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
415-494-0993
1995 CalCASA Board Workplan

1. Maintain communication with membership through regional and caucus support through minutes, newsletters, legislative alerts, and other mailings.

2. Encourage and support maximum regional and caucus participation. Support local and regional issues and centers when appropriate.

3. Maintain board cohesion through teamwork, responsibility, follow through, accountability and good communication among board members.

4. Research, organize and implement a diversified fundraising plan to create the funding essential to establish a funded state office as endorsed by the membership at the September 1994 annual meeting. (This includes, but is not limited to: individual membership; organizational dues; foundations; telemarketing; state and federal funding).

5. Enhance the Coalition through budget expansion, program development, increased and diversified membership, member and public relations, and media response and recognition.

6. Continue to develop and strengthen legislative connections; reorganize the legislative committee; monitor and respond to legislation affecting funding issues as well as the intervention and prevention of sexual assault on a state-wide basis.

7. Maintain liaison with OCJP and SAC (State Advisory Committee).

8. To support and advocate full funding for rape crisis centers.

CalCASA Workplan continued...

9. To co-sponsor and support the violence prevention conference “Creating Peace” which includes a color of violence track.

10. To monitor the development of the Violence Against Women crime act (VAWA).

RAINN
RAPE
ABUSE & INCEST
NATIONAL NETWORK

URGENT ALERT

We have some good news for you. Beginning soon, NBC will be airing national ads promoting RAINN’s hotline number (1-800-656-HOPE).

NBC has decided to include RAINN in its “The More You Know” campaign for this television season. Two ads will rotate. One features Jennifer Aniston, star of Friends. The other star is Gloria Reuben, who beginning this season has a feature role on ER. As you probably know, there are two of the top-rated shows on television today.

According to NBC, these ads will mark the first time the network has publicized the issue of sexual assault. I hope you are as pleased as we are, that NBC is offering such extensive support for our cause.

Ads began airing around October 1. The ads will mostly air during prime time, but may occasionally air during daytime hours as well.

Because these ads, each time they are, will reach literally millions nationwide, you will likely receive a significant influx of calls. We know that your center exists for just this purpose and you won’t be upset by the extra calls. Nevertheless, we recognize the extra burden this will place on you. If there is anything we can do to lessen the burden, please let us know. (NBC does not yet have a schedule of when the ads will appear, as soon as they do, we’ll get you a copy.)

One last note about future promotion. NBC also has agreed to air a RAINN public service ad at the conclusion of She Fought Alone, a Monday Night Movie about date rape that will air in November. The ad will feature the movie’s star, Tiffani-Amber Theissen of Fox’s Beverly Hills 90210. We’ll let you know soon as an air date is set.

Thanks as always for being part of RAINN. If there is ever anything we can do to help, please give us a call at 202/544-1034.