



Monthly Visions

Sexual Assault: *Prevent Sexual Violence...in our communities*
Awareness Month

Adapted from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, <http://www.nvrc.org/saam>

In the late 1970s, women in England began organizing protests against violence against women with Take Back the Night marches (TBNM). Participants of these marches aimed to reclaim the streets at night where many women encountered sexualized violence. By 1978, these activities developed into a movement and expanded to the United States. The first Take Back the Night events in the U.S. were held in San Francisco and New York City. In the 1990s, many sexual assault advocates began coordinating activities throughout the month of April to raise awareness about sexual violence. Finally, in April 2001, the first Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was observed nationally. Recognizing SAAM each year emphasizes sexual violence as a major public health problem and reinforces the need for prevention efforts.

The purpose of SAAM is to increase public awareness and understanding about sexual violence. It is an effort to increase support for survivors and families of rape and sexual assault, as well as for agencies providing crisis intervention and prevention services. In addition, through these intensive activities during the month, SAAM aims to encourage the public to take action to address sexual violence.

This year, the focus of the 2007 SAAM campaign is *Prevent Sexual Violence...in our communities*. Preventing sexual violence is everyone's responsibility and it requires everyone working together in innovative ways.

You, too, can make a difference whether by wearing a teal ribbon (teal is the official color representing sexual violence), or by participating in local events throughout the month of April. Please refer to page 3 for local events calendar.



Youth Theater Program 2007

When: June 20-29 10-5pm daily, (excluding weekends)

Where: Philippine American Community Center of Michigan

FREE OF CHARGE!

New Visions is a community-university partnership whose mission is to inspire and support sustainable community action for ending violence against women in Asian communities of Southeast Michigan. Affiliated with the University of Michigan School of Social Work, we work with local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies achieve one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

We are looking for youth who:

- Are between the ages of 16 and 19
- Live in one of the following four counties: Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw or Wayne
- Are of Asian/Asian American Heritage
- Submit an application by May 18, 2007
- Will obtain parental/guardian consent if under age of 18
- For more information, please contact Neel Pandya, 734.615.2123 or nvytp2007@umich.edu



CAT Updates:

New Visions is always looking for individuals or organizations to work with in ending violence against women in Asian communities in Southeast Michigan. If you would like to learn more about our organization, our activities, or how to get involved, please contact Eun Joo Lee (eunj@umich.edu, 734.615.2106) or Neel Pandya (pandyan@umich.edu, 734.615.2123).

- **AA CAT:** On April 19, 2007, AA CAT will debut their new sketch, *A Doctor's Appointment*, for the United Asian American Medical Students Association.
- **OE CAT:** Sikh community assessment will be on April 21, 2007. Please contact Eun Joo Lee at eunj@umich.edu for details.
- **Youth Theater Program (YTP) Planning Committee:** We need individuals to help us plan for the Youth Theater Program. Please contact Neel Pandya at pandyan@umich.edu to learn more.

A Reflection: Asian/Pacific Islander American High School Conference 2007

Tam Nguyen, New Visions volunteer

On March 24th, 2007, the University of Michigan United Asian American Organization held their annual Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) High School Conference 2007. Each year, over 200 high school students participate in the day-long event of "learning, empowerment, and action." The conference consists of A/PIA issue workshops, small group discussions, guest speakers, and performances.

This year, the Acts and Activism Community Action Team (AACAT) facilitated a workshop on "Theater and Social Change," performing the sketch *A Night Out* which features a high school girl in dating violence situation and how her three friends react to it. The workshop involved interactive theater, in which audience members asked the actors questions as they stayed in character.

As an actor, I was somewhat disheartened by the low turnout. However, I was inspired by the questions that these youth fired off during the interactive theater portion of the workshop. The students were incredibly engaged in the discussion and posed numerous questions to the characters in order to uncover and better understand the true story behind what happened. The sketch seemed to make them think critically about domestic violence, what they would do if they were in the situation, and what they thought the cast members should have done. For me, as an actor, this experience reaffirmed my belief that theater and art are highly effective means to engage youth in experiential learning and inspire them to action within their own communities in order to affect broader social change. Youth organizing moves folks to think critically and analytically about issues that are pertinent to their communities. Youth bring into the organizing space a unique and necessary energy that can move communities towards social action and social change.

Cross-Sections, April 12, 2007, 8:30pm, University of Michigan Residential Auditorium, East Quad

Fazeela Siddiqui, UM School of Social Work student

On Thursday, April 12, 2007, Ann Arbor Wordworks, a highly lauded and award winning troupe, will perform together for the last time before they all graduate. Ann Arbor Wordworks is a troupe of young writers dedicated to the art of performance poetry. The troupe consists of some of the finest poets to emerge from the collegiate poetry slam at the University of Michigan. They are led by Jeff Kass, Ann Arbor Public School poet-in-residence and the Creative Writing Director at the Neutral Zone. Wordworks believes in the transformative powers of language, music and storytelling and hopes to inspire young people everywhere.



The show, *Cross-Sections*, is sponsored by the University of Michigan (UM) School of Social Work and Wordworks. Admission is free. Dr. Rich Tolman, Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan, and his research assistant, Fazeela Siddiqui, have been working with the poets to develop a setlist based on masculinity and gender violence. After the show, there will be a question and answer (Q & A) session that will be used to discuss some of the difficult themes and issues that were brought up in the show. *Cross-Sections* will be videotaped and eventually used as part of a DVD package on violence prevention that will be distributed widely. The DVD will feature performances as well as the Q & A session, which will be used as a tutorial as to how to process difficult emotions and questions.

Spoken word poetry is an avenue that can be used to discuss issues that are too raw or hard to broach through other forms of education. The combination of arts and social justice education has proved to be extremely innovative and effective in the past. The UM School of Social Work and Ann Arbor Wordworks are extremely excited about this partnership and look forward to seeing everyone at this event!

Ann Arbor			
April 12, 8:30pm	UM Residential College Auditorium, East Quad	Cross-Sections	Spoken word poetry about masculinity and gender violence
April 13, 7pm	UM Diag	Take Back the Night March	Rally, March, and Speak-out
April 13, 7-9pm	UM Duderstadt Gallery	rREVOLUTION: Making Art for Change	Art exhibition with community artistic commentary on the issues of sexism, gender, sexual violence, and empowerment.
April 26, 11:30-1:30pm	SafeHouse Center	Brown Bag Training: Walking the Walk	Interactive training to gain understanding of a variety of experiences survivors' face when interacting with family, friends, the court, police, and other systems.
Every Friday in April		Teal T-Shirt Fridays	Wear teal t-shirts to create awareness about sexual violence.
HAVEN (Oakland County)			
April 20, 7pm	Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland County	Take Back the Night	Rally, march and speak-out
April 21, 6pm	Rivercrest Banquet Center in Rochester	Wine Tasting event for SAAM	Survivor art display
Turning Point, Inc. (Macomb County)			
April 26, 6-9pm	Roseville Recreation Center	Take Back the Night	Rally, march, speak-out, candlelight vigil
Lifetime TV			
April 23, 9pm et/pt	Lifetime TV	A Life Interrupted, starring Lea Thompson and Anthony Lemke	Inspired a true story, Debbie Smith, a rape survivor, works to write a new law to convict rapists.

New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities



Every two and a half minutes, a women is sexually assaulted in the United States.

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