

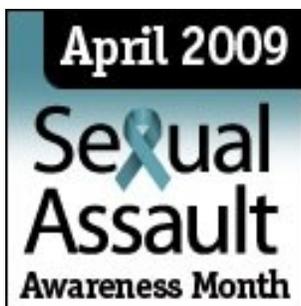
WOMEN'S STUDIES

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: A HUMAN ISSUE.



Holocaust Remembrance Day. Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Equal Pay Day. Earth Day. April is a month marking tragedies, the endurance of the human spirit, and possibilities for triumph. See how you can help women in Darfur through the solar cooker project by the Jewish World Watch, write your senators to demand fair pay, read why the term "feminazi" is so off base, learn how men are stopping violence against women, and learn why Dr. Haney so eloquently calls herself a feminist.

**Susan Logsdon-Conradsen,
Director of the WNS Program**



Friday afternoon, two students came into my office visibly upset. A professor had handed them a poster about sexual assault from the men's bathroom, which had been defaced. The poster around campus that says "No always means no." Except on this one, the "No" was crossed out, and it said "Imma rape you Bitch".

A threat? A joke? How humorous. Intimately violating another human being—a sister, daughter, mother, girlfriend, friend. So is it okay to make jokes about molesting small children? Gang raping 12 year olds? "Jokes" used to be made about lynching people. Hate humor is exactly that, hate.

And how did we get to the point that people talk about "raping" something as if it was a good thing? I.e., "man, I raped

that test." Using the word so casually or making "jokes" about it desensitizes people to the real tragedy and suffering caused by such a hateful act.

So often rape is framed as a woman's issue, and, yes, women do constantly structure their lives in big and small ways to try to minimize their chances of being a victim. As a mom of a beautiful 6 year old girl, the statistic that 2 out of 5 females will be a victim of physical/sexual violence breaks my heart, not only for her, but for *all* daughters. Because the majority of rapes are by someone the victim knows, we know deep down that despite the attempts to structure our lives under the threat of this violence there are no guarantees.

This month is sexual assault awareness month, often the focus is on what potential *victims*

should do to *prevent* the violent behavior of *someone* else. Do you see the problem? As Jackson Katz, an international leader in gender violence prevention asks, "isn't it about time we had a national conversation about the male causes of this violence?" Let's figure out what *all of us* can do to prevent the violence from happening in the first place. Men in greater numbers are joining the fight to stop this violence. Because isn't it really a human issue? Do you want your daughters to grow up in a world where they have to be leery of the men in their lives? Or in a place where they are exposed to messages about how they are "bitches" that one feels entitled to "joke" about raping? The reality is that the majority of us do not find rape a laughing matter.

-Susan Logsdon-Conradsen

SOCIAL JUSTICE: EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND

Locally

Men Stopping Violence

Join this social change organization dedicated to social justice work in the areas of race, class, gender, age, and sexual orientation - all critical to ending violence against women. www.menstoppingviolence.org/

The Sexual Assault Center of Northwest Georgia (SAC)

provides free and confidential support services for anyone who has been affected by sexual violence. Find out how you can help at www.sacnwg.org

Regionally

Girls, Women & Media Project is a nonprofit network working to increase awareness of how pop culture and media represent, effect, employ and serve girls and women. To learn more visit www.mediaandwomen.org/

The Fair Pay Campaign

Become an advocate for the Pay-check Fairness Act that will strengthen the Equal Pay Act to ensure that it will provide effective protection against sex-based pay discrimination. To learn more visit <http://nwlc.org/fairpay/>

Globally

Jewish World Watch

Solar Cooker Project. Learn how to help women in Darfur. to honor the promise made after the Holocaust that "Never Again" would we be silent in the face of genocide www.jewishworldwatch.org/refugeerelief/solarcookerproject.html

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women works to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms. To learn more visit www.catwinternational.org/

BERRY'S RESOURCES: Be sure to check the Memorial Library for a wide variety of DVDs which reveal the impact of media on gender, race, & sexuality. Some titles to look for include: *Dreamworlds: Desire, Sex & Power in Music Video, 1, 2, & 3*; *Game Over: Gender, Race & Violence in Video Games*; *Generation M: Misogyny in Media & Culture*; *Killing Us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women, 1, 2, & 3*; *The Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality & Relationships*; *Wrestling with Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering*; *Slim Hopes*; *Mickey Mouse Monopoly*; *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*; *Class Dismissed*; *Girls: Moving Beyond Myth*; *Playing Unfair*; *What a Girl Wants*.



I'm A Feminist Because... "We must intentionally and explicitly remember that our shared humanity is far greater than our differences.

Failure to remember historical inequity and exclusion dooms us to repeat our mistakes. Feminism is a vehicle for moving forward on a path towards equity and justice, while keeping fresh in our memories those who have not benefitted from these ideals."

-Dr. Michelle Haney

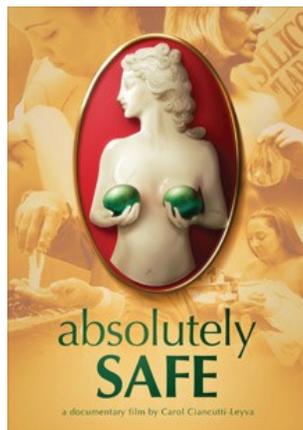


WNS End of the Year Celebration!!

May 1st, 2 pm

Krannert Faculty Lounge

Make ice cream sundaes and celebrate graduation!!



OP ED: THE "F" WORD

I have recently heard the term "feminazi" thrown about describing feminists. Sometimes it is in jest and sometimes it is used in all seriousness, either way the term is sad, ironic, and misleading. I want to simply say that feminists are quite the opposite of Nazis. The only battles fought by feminists are for equality. None of the feminists I know hate all men, however this is what feminazi implies. The many feminists that I know, as well as myself, care for men as EQUALS and respect their voices equally. I hope this Op-ed helps those who are tired of hearing this word thrown about explain to those who use it just how misleading and ironic "feminazi" is. And I hope that it can start many good conversations about feminism and what it is really about.

I find the term disheartening because it is grouping people who desire equality and fight for the rights of the disadvantaged in our society with people who murdered, believed in white supremacy, and destroyed families. Two things in my mind could not be

more opposite. Dale Spender, author of *For the Record: The Making & Meaning of Feminist Knowledge* said this:

"Feminism has fought no wars. It has killed no opponents. It has set up no concentration camps, starved no enemies, practiced no cruelties. Its battles have been for education, for the vote, for better working conditions... for safety on the streets... for child care, for social welfare... for rape crisis centers, women's refuges, reforms in the law."

This is so true and explains well the mistake it is to refer to feminists as feminazis.

Many feminists ended up in boot camps, or had to flee Germany because of the Nazis. This term also minimizes the pain and suffering of millions of people who were tortured and killed just for not being like the supremacists. It makes no sense to call someone who believes in equal rights a Nazi.

I had a friend who once used feminazi to describe all the feminists he knew. I decided to send him a respectful email about what I had learned regarding feminism with the quote by Dale Spender included. He sent me an email back saying he had researched for hours and found that the hateful and dogmatic voices he once thought represented feminism were few and not representative of the whole. Most of what he found he liked. He ended the email saying he considers himself a feminist.

I hope that as people begin to gain understanding about what feminism really is they will understand how unfortunate it is that feminazi has become so popular and quickly remove it from their vocabulary. Feminists want full humanity for all people: men, women, children, transgendered, gay and lesbian, black, white, red, and yellow. We want equality for all.

-Ashley Chapman

JOIN US FOR THE LAST EVENTS OF THIS YEAR!

April 6 - Film Screening: "DEMAND": 7 pm. View this explosive new documentary, featuring footage of the dark and hidden world of sex traffickers, pimps and buyers. Co-sponsored by Amnesty International. Place TBA.

April 17-18—Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) Waterfest IX: Friday 5-9 pm, Saturday 9 am-6 pm. There will be events such as the Oostanula River Race, canoe & kayak tug-o-war, an environmental fair, live music, and Snakes of Georgia Show at Ridge Ferry Park & the Oostanula River. Register now! Go to www.coosa.org or call (706)232-2724.

April 20— Film Screening: "Absolutely Safe": 6 pm, Evans Auditorium. A documentary presenting an open-minded approach to the controversy over breast implant safety. Aims to enlighten everyday women who find themselves in the tangled intersection of health, money, science and beauty. CE.

April 20-24th: Clothesline Project: a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt to be hung on a clothesline as testimony to the problem of violence against women. It will be displayed throughout Rome during April and around campus April 20-24th.

April 23rd: Speak Out Against Sexual Assault: 8 pm at the outdoor classroom behind the Science building. This will offer a safe space for acknowledgment and support for those affected by sexual assault. Students and community members will have a chance to share stories and give support.

April 28— Equal Pay Day: April symbolizes the month when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year; April 28th is how far into 2009 a woman must work to catch up to the wages men earned in 2008. Wear red to show that pay inequality still exists and that you believe in economic justice. Co-sponsored by EMPOWER.

Stay Tuned for information on a Self Defense Workshop with Shannon Bond in April...