

WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Week of No Violence challenges students

By JENNIFER CARMODY
Contributing writer

Pullman residents are uniting to join Americans in hundreds of communities nationwide to confront and address the epidemic of violence.

In the second annual YWCA Week Without Violence, October 6-12, several organizations, including the YWCA of WSU, the Alternative to Violence of the Palouse, the WSU Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Coalition for Women Students, the Women's Resource Center, the Sexual Information and Referral Center and the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association, will be sponsoring speakers, workshops and events throughout the week.

"This is the first time WSU has taken an active role in Week Without Violence," said Kristin Manum, event coordinator for the Clothesline Project, one of the week's activities.

Week Without Violence challenges Americans to live for one

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Men unite against violence

By LAURA SHIREMAN
The Daily Evergreen

The members of the latest group taking a stance against violence committed against women has an unusual characteristic — they're all men.

The White Ribbon Campaign, an effort geared toward men against violence against women, will take place in conjunction with the Week Without Violence and will issue free white ribbons for men against violence.

"The basic goal is to provoke thought and stimulate discussion," said Brent Nysoe, a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and an organizer of the campaign.

Sigma Chi is sponsoring the White Ribbon Campaign.

"We were looking for something to do about violence with women," he

said. "We were planning on doing it on our own but we found out about the Take Back the Night march."

Members of Sigma Chi will hand out ribbons in front of the CUB from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the same day of the Take Back the Night march. In addition to the ribbons, they will give out cards explaining the significance of the campaign.

"We give them the ribbons on Tuesday, but we're hoping they will wear them throughout the week," Nysoe said.

The White Ribbon Campaign began in Toronto, Canada in 1991 and now involves over 1,000 universities and high schools, said Charles Nies, who has worked with rape-prevention programs in the past and currently advises Sigma Chi Fraternity. At Toronto University in 1990, at a march similar to the Take Back the Night march, a man shot

14 women, he said.

"Since then, men wore white ribbons in a show of solidarity against violence against women," Nies said.

The usual day for the White Ribbon Campaign falls in November, but Sigma Chi chose to hold the event next week to coincide with the Week Without Violence, Nies said.

Women may wear the ribbons as well, but Nies said the campaign is "really geared toward men."

"They'll also be taking cash donations to give to a local women's shelter," he said.

Nysoe said he thought the ribbons had made a difference in his fraternity, especially by conveying the idea of the movement to freshmen.

"We can't tolerate violence against women anymore," he said.

Shirts used to breaking silence, give women voice

By JENNIFER CARMODY
Contributing writer

Every 45 seconds, a woman in the United States is sexually assaulted, adding up to more than 700,000 women each year, according to a 1995 American Medical Association study.

A coalition of organizations will be sponsoring a program known as the Clothesline Project on Glenn Terrell Mall Oct. 7 to 11 to call attention to violence against women. The theme of the event is "Break the Silence."

"Breaking the silence means giving the victims power to come forward and know that they aren't alone," event coordinator Kristin Manum said.

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness about the issues of rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse and other forms of domestic violence. A visual display of decorated shirts will be hung on a clothesline.

According to the Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault, the Clothesline Project has four main goals: to bear witness to the survivors as well as the victims of the war against women; to help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or are survivors of violence; to educate, document and raise society's awareness of the extent of the problem of violence against women and to provide a network of support, encouragement and information.

"It's about more than just rape. It's about domestic violence, too," Manum said. "It's

about men and women. It's about all races and all walks of life. Violence doesn't discriminate."

Shirt-decorating workshops will be held Oct. 7 in the CUB Auditorium following Gloria Anzaldúa's Week Without Violence keynote address, at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 8 in Butch's Den in the CUB, and Oct. 9 in CUB Rooms B11-15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Making a shirt can be part of a victim's healing process," Manum said.

Each shirt is decorated to represent a woman's personal experience and can be created by the survivor herself or by someone who cares about her.

Participants are encouraged to use a color code when making their shirts: white for women who have died as a result of violence; yellow or beige for women who have been battered or assaulted; red, pink or orange for women who have been raped, sexually assaulted or sexually harassed; blue or green for women survivors of incest or child sexual abuse and purple or lavender for women attacked because of their sexual orientation.

However, using the color code is not mandatory. Different colors or patterns may hold special significance to an individual.

Participants are also encouraged to include names, dates and memorabilia in an effort to reflect their personal experiences.

"Naming the violator is an important part of the healing process, but we can't display shirts with full names of the perpetrators for legal reasons," Manum said.

Instead, shirt makers may use first names

or initials.

"From the stats, every single one of us knows a handful of people who've been victims of some sort of violence at one point in their life," Manum said. "I hope this program will help raise awareness of some of these issues."

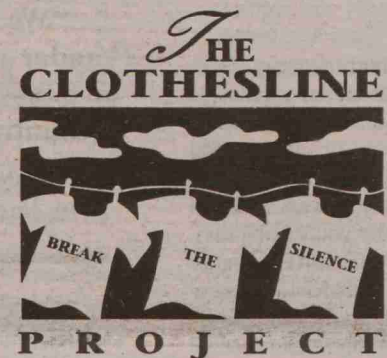
Sponsored by YWCA at WSU, GLBA, Coalition for Women Students, Men Only, Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse, SIRC, Women's Studies and the Women's Resource Center, this is the first year the Clothesline Project has been presented at WSU.

"We've gotten a lot of donations from the community," Manum said. "It's not like it's just a campus thing. It's a regional thing, a national thing."

Although the overall emphasis of the Clothesline Project focuses on violence against women, men are also encouraged to participate in the program, Manum said.

"We don't hear about it as often, but men can be the victims of violence, too, especially for their sexual orientations," she added.

Shirts will be on display at the Glenn Terrell Mall Oct. 9-11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Black out against violence

Pullman men and women will dress in black Oct. 10 to take a worldwide stand against violence.

"It's a symbol of our solidarity with victims of violence," Senior Kristin Manum said. "Every Thursday, people around the world are encouraged to wear black as a symbol of strength and courage."

According to a flyer issued by the GLBA, three to four million women are battered each year worldwide.

"We want to let victims know that we're fighting the fight with them, standing beside them along the way," Manum said.

Palestinian women in Israel/Palestine dress in black every Friday, demanding an end to the occupation.

"We're joining women around

the world," Manum added.

However, dressing in black is just one way to take a stand against violence.

Every Thursday, women march in silence in the Plaza DeMayo, Argentina, holding placards of loved ones who are missing and demanding that justice be done.

For more than 20 years, South African women have stood outside parliament wearing black in a vigil of opposition to the violence of apartheid.

People in Australia wear yellow, black and red ribbons with "Thursday in Black" buttons every Thursday as a sign of solidarity with Aboriginal women and as recognition of the rape and violence they suffered for over 200 years.

Women set to Take Back the Night with rally, march

By Stacey Burns
The Daily Evergreen

The glow of candles, inspiring words of victims and support for change will fill the Glenn Terrell Mall as part of a rally Tuesday night.

The rally, and the march that follows, comprise the seventh annual Take Back the Night event at WSU, a nationwide opportunity for victims and survivors of violence to come together.

Sponsored by the Coalition of Women Students, the evening begins at 6 p.m. with personal testimonies from students, staff and faculty members. Testimony from victims and survivors of violence typically offers an impassioned message to audience members, organizers said.

"(The testimonies) are usually so powerful and are emotional expressions of a commitment to demand change," said Frankie Harris, assistant director at the Women's Resource Center.

The theme this year, Students With Voices and Choices, will carry over from the speeches to the march, which begins at 6:35 p.m. Participants will work their way from Glenn Terrell Mall to Scott/Coman Hall, where refreshments and a debriefing await them.

The rally can be traumatic for some audience members, said Alison McLeod, past chair of the Coalition for Women Students. At her first march, a friend told McLeod she had been raped.

"It was a tidal wave of emotion," McLeod said.

Students and community members, traditionally women, will march and rally to reclaim the night.

"It is a march against fear," Frankie Harris said. "It is a gathering within a controlled space that is free from violence and intimidation."

During the evening, candles will be lit to sym-

bolize those who could not attend the march and victims of sexual assault. McLeod said, however, a candle typically means something different for everyone.

Take Back the Night activities began in 1978 when 2,000 protesters marched in the red light district of San Francisco, Calif. As a result, several pornography establishments in the area closed.

The original focus of the initiative was to correct the link between pornography and violence against women. In the 18 years since its inception, Take Back the Night has begun to focus on a broader spectrum of violence against women, including child abuse and date rape, Harris said.

"(The purpose) is to promote or raise the consciousness level of the campus community in regards to the rights of women to live in an environment that is free from violence," Harris said.

While Take Back the Night crowds are mostly women, Harris said men are encouraged to participate.

"We know we cannot do this alone," said Harris of promoting an environment free of violence and intimidation.

The all-gender march and rally at WSU contrasts with others across the state. Take Back the Night activities at Western Washington University are women-only, McLeod said.

"Rape affects everyone," McLeod said. "A lot of sexual assaults on campuses are similar to one another."

Once the candles are extinguished and Take Back the Night activities have concluded, organizers said the audience members take back their senses of self and control and reestablish self-love.