**Take Back the Night!**

Thirty-nine years ago, residents of Philadelphia began what would later be known internationally as “Take Back the Night,” a protest in response to frequent and devastating violence against women—including the murder of a female microbiologist who was walking alone at night.

Today, “Take Back the Night” is a global event; students on college campuses and in communities meet to challenge the unsafe society that young women are still being presented with. At Saint Mary’s College, “Take Back the Night” is an opportunity to make our own voices heard on both global and local issues of sexual assault and other violence against women.

**On April 9th, visit De La Salle’s Hagerty Lounge from 6pm to 8pm** in order to hear stories of survival, expressions of hope, and other student reflections that hit close to home in a country where one in four women will be the victim of assault by the time she graduates college.

During “Take Back the Night,” students will have a chance to express themselves through poetry, prose, speech, music, and more during both pre-planned and open microphone sessions.

The evening will also include a march across campus and a candlelight vigil. Participants are encouraged to carry pre-made signs with statements such as “We Won’t Stop Until the Violence Stops!”

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**Want to Get More Involved?**
The Women’s Resource Center is composed of an enthusiastic team of staff members, student volunteers, event facilitators, and Federal Work Study-paid students. If you’re interested in being a part of the team in the future, or have an idea for an event, let us know on Facebook, by phone, or by just stopping by between 9am and 4:30pm on weekdays!

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**The WRC has a new page on Facebook!**
Search “Saint Mary’s College Women’s Resource Center” and join over 130 people who have already ‘liked’ us!
Jeans: most of us wear them every day without giving it a second thought. Yet on April 9th, a visual display on campus will ask you to think about jeans as a symbol of global injustices against victims of sexual assault.

In 1992, an 18-year-old Italian woman was raped on the side of the road by her driving instructor. Though she won the initial case against her attacker, an appeal in Italian High Court overturned the instructor’s initial guilty verdict.

The argument used by the court was that, since the victim had been wearing tight jeans at the time of the encounter, the jeans would have been impossible for another person to take off without her help. Thus, the court concluded that the victim was a willing participant in the sex.

For fifteen years, the state of California has observed “Denim Day,” a time for students and community members to be made aware of this case and other injustices that have protected those who commit violence against women.

Join the WRC and Community Violence Solutions during lunch time in either Oliver Hall or Ferroggiaro Quad (depending on the weather) on April 9th to get a “Denim Day” button, decorate denim, and show solidarity with victims of sexual violence.

**Denim Day: A History**

**Rape Culture** is defined by Wikipedia as “a concept that links rape and sexual violence to the culture of society, and in which prevalent attitudes and practices normalize, excuse, tolerate, and even condone rape.” Examples include ‘victim blaming,’ an attitude that says, “she was asking for it” and puts guilt on victims for their choices, rather than on the rapists who commit the violent acts.

**LET’S TALK ABOUT IT: RAPE CULTURE**

“Rape culture” is a term that’s been used frequently in recent years. The Steubenville rape case and countless other media-spotlighted cases have led to social media outcries that reinforce and challenge ideas of rape culture.

So how do we define rape culture? How do we keep it from becoming a sensationalized trend word, and incorporate it into important discussions about sexual violence?

The WRC’s last official program of the school year is “Coffee and Conversation: Rape Culture.” On Wednesday, April 23rd, join us in the Delphine Lounge (Intercultural Center) to tackle this topic as a group over coffee. This will be a peer-led discussion, and everyone is welcome to join in the chat.
Quick Calendar

**Denim Day**
April 9th, 11:30-2:30pm
Ferraggiaro Quad

**Take Back the Night**
April 9th, 6:00-8:00pm
Hagerty Lounge

**Coffee and Conversation: Rape Culture**
April 23rd, 4:30-6:00pm
Delphine (IC)

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**2014 Wo/Men’s Conference: Yes We Did!**

By conference attendee and workshop leader Amber Butts

The 2014 Wo/Men’s Conference was a very empowering and creative event on various levels. The atmosphere at the conference was passionate, engaging, and electric. People from all over the Bay Area came to participate, listen and/or tell their stories. Business cards, telephone numbers, and emails were exchanged along with hugs, tears and really difficult conversations. The Conference started buzzing a good 30 minutes before it officially began with people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. It kicked off with an amazing playlist that included music by social justice and indigenous activists groups such as Las Cafeteras and A Tribe Called Red. The music went well with the theme of this year’s conference, “We Can Do It!” About 30 minutes into the conference there was a mini open mic session where individuals got to go on stage, perform poetry, and talk about their work within the community.

Of the various attendees in the room, perhaps one of the most impactful populations was the children. A young 6-7 year old girl named Samara attended the “Healing The World of Sexual Assault and Racism Through Poetry” workshop and shared a poem she wrote in Spanish. The poem emphasized the importance of communication, community, and connections. The conference embodied the same goals, offering up tools to maintain a healthy balance in our lives and the work we intend to do, discussing sexual assault, violence and retributive justice, opening up venues for individuals to share their lives and highlight the significance of visibility. Throughout each and every workshop, there was a current of unimaginable strength that allowed people to truly combat the injustices that they see and/or experience on a daily basis, all the while having a little fun and cultivating community with the people they met in the space. If I had to sum up the conference in two words, I’d say that it was a combination of “trust fall” exercises that called on the attendees to meaningfully rely on one another and believe in each other’s stories.

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**Breaking Down the Bystander Effect**

The final workshop of this year’s Upperclassmen Series on healthy decision-making will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 7:00pm in the WRC. This event will focus on bystander intervention and will use improv techniques to help students learn how to safely intervene in situations ranging from overhearing a rape joke, to talking to a friend in an unhealthy relationship, to interrupting a potential sexual assault. SMC’s own Student Coalition Against Rape (SCAR) will be partnering with former staff member and comedian Al Day to facilitate this workshop. The event is also co-sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center and RHA.

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**News Flash:**
Have you noticed the “CARE” stickers on bathroom mirrors around campus? Those are for the on-campus CARE Line, Campus Assault Resources and Empowerment. If you ever need to speak with someone confidentially about issues surrounding sexual or relationship violence, call the line at (925) 878-9207 and someone will answer to support you 24 hours, seven days a week.