TUCKER TESTIFIES BEFORE U.S. SENATE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

On February 25, 2004, National Center Executive Director, Debby Tucker, and seven others testified at a Personnel Subcommittee hearing of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee. Recently, dozens of service-women reported being sexually assaulted or raped by fellow soldiers, and Senate lawmakers convened to question the Pentagon's top personnel officials and other experts about sexual assault in the military.

According to military officials, in the past year and a half, there have been 112 reports of sexual misconduct in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. In addition, about two dozen women at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas reported being assaulted in 2002. In February, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered an inquiry into the sexual assaults in Iraq and Kuwait – specifically, how the armed services treats victims. The Army and Air Force have opened similar investigations.

Comments Tucker about the hearing, “I was impressed by the determination of the Senators who demanded compassion and support for victims with.

--- continued on p. 8

GROUNDBREAKING ADVOCATE TRAINING HELD IN MEXICO

In 2003, President Vicente Fox of Mexico announced the availability of new resources to address the issue of violence against women. As a result, a national network of Mexican family violence shelters -- known as Red Nacional de Refugios para Mujeres en Situacion de Violencia Familiar -- approached the National Center for assistance in expanding the country's knowledge on the subject.

In response, the National Center designed and presented a training for the group called “La Capacidad de Cambiar al Mundo: Erradicando la Violencia hacia las Mujeres” (“The Ability to Change the World: Eradicating Violence Against Women”), which was held in Cancún in November 2003. The training was geared toward program staff and Board members from the nine existing domestic violence shelters in Mexico and the 11 communities that hope to open programs soon.

After returning from the weeklong, train-the-trainer program, National Center Training Director Juliet Walters was enthused. “It was the most powerful and rewarding experience of my life to participate in this,” she said.

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APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault online for more information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Click on the SAAM logo at www.ncdsv.org for links to these agencies.
Mission
The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence designs, provides, and customizes training and consultation; influences policy; promotes collaboration; and enhances diversity with the goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

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NOTICE

Next 911 Training: Austin in April!

This past fall, the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) and the National Center conducted pilot trainings for 911 dispatchers and call-takers about domestic violence. The next Domestic Violence Training for Emergency Professionals will be held in Austin, TX, from April 29-30, 2004.

The 1½-day curriculum provides emergency workers with the knowledge and skills to respond properly to domestic violence calls and to assist responding officers by providing pertinent information. National Center Training Coordinator Jennifer Scott-Dewar presents the advocacy portions of the curriculum and trains with Scott Santoro, former Assistant Prosecutor in Everett, WA, and Officer Michael LaRiviere of the Salem, MA, police department. National Center staffers Scott-Dewar, Juliet Walters, Valinda Bolton, and Debby Tucker, along with NSA’s Brigitte Wittel, created the curriculum. The trainings are funded by the Office on Violence Against Women and have been held in Fredericksburg, VA (in September), in Brattleboro, VT (in November), and in Santa Ana, CA (in December).

Depending on the availability of funding, additional trainings may be scheduled for 2004 and 2005, and dates will be listed on our Web site as they are determined. For information on the class in Austin and on how to register -- and for information on other domestic violence and sexual assault law enforcement trainings -- visit www.ncdsv.org, and click on the law enforcement link in the bottom left corner of the home page.

Crawford v. Washington Guts Hearsay Evidence

Until now, judges typically allowed non-testimonial evidence (records of 911 calls, domestic violence incident reports, and the like) to stand in for a victim’s testimony. With the recent 9-0 Supreme Court decision, Crawford v. Washington, such practices — known as exceptions to the Hearsay Rule — may no longer be an option. The exceptions to the Hearsay Rule allowed prosecutors to go to trial without a victim’s testimony and build a case on the evidence available (similar to homicide cases). This practice is known as “evidence-based prosecution.” With the recent decision, prosecutors won’t be able to rely on the testimony of a law enforcement officer; they’ll have to produce a witness instead.

In Crawford v. Washington, Justice Antonin Scalia held that the Sixth Amendment’s guarantee of the right of an accused to “be confronted with the witnesses against him” should be more strictly enforced. As a result, statements made by witnesses (like domestic violence victims) who haven’t been subjected to cross-examination will no longer be admissible by a perpetrator’s prosecutor. The Crawford decision will put pressure on victims to testify in person; unfortunately, because of the multitude of victims who are afraid to testify, it will limit the number of cases that proceed through the courts, and as such, the number of perpetrators who are held accountable for their abuse.

This is a significant reversal of the practices that have been used over the past 20 years in prosecuting domestic violence cases. For a copy of the decision, visit the National Center site at www.ncdsv.org. (Click on Resources, then on Publications, then on Legal.)

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Free Training Opportunity:
Telecast Panel Examines Homicide Case

Looking for an unusual and excellent training tool that’s FREE? Well, look no further! “Domestic Violence: A Homicide Case Study” is a videotaped telecast about the life and death of a young domestic violence victim in New York City. (Original air date was September 23, 2003.) Executive Director Deborah Tucker appears in the videotaped telecast on a panel of experts discussing the case from the perspectives of a prosecutor, an investigator, and a victim’s advocate. The case was handled by the Kings County District Attorney’s office in Brooklyn, NY, and the video includes reenacted scenes of the investigation and events leading up to the crime. The telecast aimed to give investigators and prosecutors insight into the dynamics of domestic violence and how to case-build in such crimes.

Other panelists included Keith Ikeda, Chief of Police, Basalt, CO, and Elisa Paisner, Deputy District Attorney, Kings County District Attorney’s Office, Brooklyn, NY. The telecast was broadcast on Law Enforcement Training Network (LETN, a private television network based in Arizona with thousands of law enforcement subscribers) in November and December 2003.

This project was sponsored by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, in Glynco, GA, which is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and was funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. To order your free video, go to www.ncdsv.org and look for the law enforcement link in the lower left corner.

Tucker in Times Square!

National Center Executive Director Deborah Tucker had her name flashed high above Times Square this past July. Tucker was saluted with a week in lights by Lifetime Television and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) for her work to stop violence against women. Tucker’s name appeared on a large marquee in Times Square from July 18 through July 24 (see photo, left). Also honored was the chairman of the NNEDV Fund, Fernando LaGuarda.

Thank you, Lifetime and NNEDV, for your commitment to ending violence against women!

Lifetime Television’s Times Square Project “brings together nonprofit organizations, corporations, and hundreds of advocates willing to speak up against violence against women.” Every week from April 2003 through April 2004, Lifetime saluted a woman, a man, and a nonprofit organization who work on this issue by displaying their names on signs and tickers at the famous spot. The project was organized by Lifetime and New York City’s Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, in partnership with NASDAQ and singer Michael Bolton.

Thank you, Lifetime Television, for your long-standing and significant commitment to ending violence against women! For more information, visit www.lifetimetv.com/community/olc/violence and look for the menu on the right.
Law Enforcement Report: Stalking and the Criminal Justice System

By Andy R. Klein, Ph.D.

By the end of last century, every state and the District of Columbia had passed anti-stalking laws. With the passage of a federal anti-stalking law in 1996, every American is now covered.

The need for such laws is clear, particularly to protect victims of domestic violence, who are stalked the most. According to the Justice Department, 80 percent of the women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are assaulted by him; 31 percent are sexually attacked. And most women killed by an intimate partner were stalked by him first.

The National Violence Against Women survey conducted in 1995 found that 8.1 percent of female respondents and 2.2 percent of male respondents were stalked at some time in their lifetimes. Based on census figures, that amounts to one in 12 women 18 or older, or 8.2 million, and one in 45 men, or two million.

So why is hardly anyone arrested for stalking?

Take New Jersey as an example. According to its 2001 state crime report, 26,551 suspects were arrested for domestic violence, including 23 for domestic homicides. (Arrests were not made in the other 17 domestic homicides that year.) Most of the arrests - 18,674 - were for assault. That same year, only 91 suspects were arrested for stalking.

And New Jersey is not exceptional. Take Kansas: In 2001, there were 22,845 domestic violence violations reported. Most - 11,271 - were for battery. That same year there were only 53 stalking violations reported.

Among states that provide such data, only Florida reported a substantial number of stalking arrests, 188, in 2002. That may seem like a lot compared to other states, but that is out of 66,188 domestic violence arrests that year. Forty-three percent of the Florida stalking cases involved spouses, 26 percent cohabitants, and the remainder "family members" and "others."

"One in 12 women and one in 45 men [is stalked during their lifetime]. So why is hardly anyone arrested for stalking?"

"It promises to get worse as stalkers enthusiastically embrace new technologies to cyberstalk their victims - like the stalker in Wisconsin who used a GPS hidden under the hood of his ex-girlfriend's car to track her movements."

—continued on p. 10
The following three resources are highly recommended for people who are currently being stalked. They describe how to take measures to increase safety while maintaining your emotional health and functioning as normally as possible. The last resource (the video) is for law enforcement.

"Safety for Stalking Victims: How to Save Your Privacy, Your Sanity, and Your Life"
Lyn Bates (2001)
This book provides the most comprehensive collection of safety alternatives available, including how to protect personal information and information on self-defense. It includes all the best-tested and most-recommended advice, including a balanced discussion of restraining orders. It is arranged in an orderly way that is easy to understand. It is available for about $18 at online bookstores. It should be widely available in libraries – if it is not available in yours, recommend it!

"Stalking: A Handbook for Victims"
Emily Spence-Diehl (1999)
This is a small volume that is highly thought of by advocates and others. As small as it is, it includes two features not included in "Safety for Stalking Victims" – sample stalking log pages and a discussion of how to select a counselor if you feel you need help with the emotional effects of being stalked. It is available at online bookstores for about $8.

"The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence"
Gavin de Becker (1997)
This book explains the theories of the author, who is an expert on predicting and managing violence; on the nature and usefulness of real fear; and how to avoid constant worry and anxiety. Although he includes non-stalking situations and examples that are relevant to all women, the whole book is relevant to stalking and to developing appropriate safety responses to stalking situations. He includes chapters on domestic violence and date stalking. This book, because of its mass audience, is available at online bookstores for about $8.

“Stalking: Real Fear, Real Crime” (video)
This new, 18-minute training video is being distributed by the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) to organizations doing training work on stalking. Erin Brockovich (of the movie "Erin Brockovich" and Lifetime TV) narrates the video. Peggy Kline’s family discusses how she was stalked by Patrick Kennedy, a former boyfriend, and how she tried repeatedly to get help from the criminal justice system, but was ultimately murdered by Kennedy. Her story is vividly presented, and includes a 911 call made by Kline just before she was killed. Mark Wynn, a noted law enforcement trainer on domestic violence and stalking, clearly presents methods for law enforcement response to stalking cases. Susan Herman, the executive director of NCVC, presents facts on the prevalence and danger of stalking.

The Stalking Resource Center (a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime) and the Battered Women’s Justice Project will host Intimate Partner Stalking: Keeping Victims Safe and Holding Offenders Accountable, a conference for Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grantees. The conference will take place in San Antonio, TX, from May 17th until May 19th, and registration is free for OVW grantees.

For more information and to register, visit www.ncvc.org/src or call 202.467.8704.
In October of 2003, the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence turned five years old! In the agency’s last five years, staff members have worked in every state in the U.S., except one: Massachusetts. The team has also worked internationally -- in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Japan, and South Korea. The work has included conferences (on subjects ranging from law enforcement, to services for women, to expert witnesses), trainings, technical assistance site visits, strategic planning, consulting, facilitation and logistical support for meetings, and networking and planning events.

“When Sarah [Buel] and I met to form Tucker, Buel, and Associates,” comments Executive Director Deborah Tucker, “we talked about how training and consulting were desperately needed and we had the idea that we might at some point establish a nonprofit agency. It was very important to both of us to look at domestic violence and sexual assault and especially at the intersection of these two problems. We knew that when we made the transition to a nonprofit, we wanted to focus on all forms of violence against women.” Comments Board Member and University of Texas at Austin law professor Buel, “There seemed to be a gap – there wasn’t anyone providing, from a grassroots perspective, the kind of guidance that we thought we could help people with. Also, we were very, very interested in technical assistance; people told us they needed more than a conference or lecture. They wanted brainstorming that was specific to their community.”

In May of 1998, the agency’s articles of incorporation were approved by the Texas Secretary of State’s Office; founding board members included Rhonda Gerson, as chair; Sarah Buel, as vice-chair; Toby Myers, as secretary; and Gail Parr, as treasurer. Says Buel, “It was such a gift to be able to work with people we liked and whose work is incredible.”

In October of 1998, the agency opened its doors after receiving grants from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Texas Department of Human Services. “From the very beginning,” Tucker remembers, “[then Associate Director] Pat Cole and I knew that this was going to be a huge risk – we didn’t know if what we wanted to do would be agreed upon by the universe. We found our first tiny office the summer before we opened. We looked deep into each other’s eyes and came up with $500 each for the security deposit. We knew that if we signed the lease and we failed, we’d owe the landlord $6000 and we’d be unemployed. Luckily, the universe came through.” Buel notes, “We were blown away by how supportive activists around the country were when we were starting out.” In December of 1998, the longstanding partnership with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center began, and in early 1999, a fruitful partnership began with the National Sheriffs’ Association.

In 2001, the Center began training law enforcement officers on their response to sexual assault with the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement and Tucker began her three-year term as co-chair of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. “The Department of Defense work was a big surprise – I knew we’d be working as advocates trying to improve military responses and policies around domestic and sexual violence, but I never thought we’d have an opportunity to make a contribution to so many people – if all goes as planned, the recommendations of the Task Force should affect hundreds of thousands of military families,” says Tucker.

2001 was also a challenging year for the National Center. In August, our dear friend and founding
Associate Director, Pat Cole, passed away after a brief battle with cancer. Cole worked extensively in the poverty, welfare, and substance abuse arenas and was acutely aware of the multiple needs of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. She was committed to reaching women in nontraditional settings and in nontraditional ways. Reeling from this loss, we hosted the Creating Individualized Services for Women: Responding to Multiple Needs of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Mental Health Concerns, and Substance Abuse conference, from September 10-12. This event was Cole’s brainchild, and her passion was a driving force in its development.

On September 11, as the conference was unfolding, the tragedies in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania unfolded. Like others around the country, our solace consisted of staying close to one another, holding ourselves and each other together. The law enforcement conference we held in December of that year was a success, but we saw a dramatic decrease in participants as compared with previous years. Understandably, people didn’t want to be away from home or traveling. This sentiment, combined with the downturn in the economy and fewer dollars available for training, caused us to decide against hosting further conferences and prodded us in other directions.

The National Center began to explore new possibilities. “As time passed and the Center staff grew,” comments founding Board member Gerson, “requests for different services came in and we began to look at all the different things we could do. Debby is a visionary; if she sees something that needs to be done, she wants to do it.” At the end of 2002, the agency was awarded the TAPS (Technical Assistance Providers Support) grant by OVW to support the work of organizations all over the country, and in the spring of 2003, the agency dropped the word “training” from its name in order to better reflect its focus.

In addition to providing services, the National Center also maintains two significant information resources. The first is its library -- under the guidance of staff librarian Nancy

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A Herstory in Numbers

Upon celebrating our fifth birthday (October 1, 1998 through September 30, 2003), the National Center had accomplished the following ...

- Presented at 43 weeklong Domestic Violence Train-the-Trainer or COPS Domestic Violence law enforcement training programs with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- Presented at 37 two-day Domestic Violence: Intervention and Investigation law enforcement training programs with the National Sheriffs’ Association
- Presented at 5 sexual assault trainings for management-level officers (lieutenants, sheriffs, and chiefs of police) and investigators with the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement
- Conducted 31 technical assistance and problem-solving site visits to local communities
- Conducted 65 customized trainings on a wide variety of topics for diverse audiences for organizations nationwide
- Presented 43 trainings (primarily in Texas and national conferences) on welfare, poverty, and low-income issues and how these intersect with domestic violence
- Participated in 39 networking meetings with organizations across the country
- Participated in 33 planning meetings or peer review panels
- Consulted with 26 communities and organizations across the country on strategic planning and organizational development
- Sponsored 7 conferences of our own in Austin, Texas
- Attended 20 professional development trainings
- Provided logistical support for 32 meetings for the TAPS project
- Participated in 26 meetings, hearings, site visits, and trainings for the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. Executive Director Debby Tucker served for the life of the Task Force (three years) as the peer-appointed civilian Co-Chair. She and the National Center continue to support and work for the realization of the hundreds of recommendations made by Task Force experts.
Flanagan, the agency has built this resource to include over 4,300 catalogued items (and growing!). The library started with a few boxes, bags, and piles of materials collected by Tucker and Buel during their far-flung travels. As the activities of the organization expanded, Flanagan was hired to create a subject list and database for the collection. Flanagan uses the library collection and her research prowess to respond to several technical assistance requests each week from people around the U.S.

The second resource is the agency’s Web site (ncdsv.org), which was completely overhauled in 2003. Today, ncdsv.org is a far cry from the basic, volunteer-designed site the agency began with five years ago. The new site features clean graphic design and vibrant colors, and the content was redone; new sections were added for law enforcement training, publications, news of interest, a variety of links, news, resources, and more. Since the site is a resource for violence against women issues, it’s constantly updated with new and timely materials, reports, articles, and information. In May of last year, ncdsv.org had 53,000 visits; by the end of September of 2003, that number had risen to more than 84,000.

Recent projects at the National Center include training 911 dispatchers and call-takers to better respond to domestic violence emergencies (see p. 2), and developing and presenting a groundbreaking one-week train-the-trainer program for anti-violence organizations in Mexico. The Mexico training addressed the needs of those starting or expanding shelters for victims of domestic and sexual violence in that country.

Providing customized trainings has also been an important component throughout the history of the agency (starting with Tucker, Buel and Associates). We have presented trainings for the past five years at the annual National College of District Attorneys domestic violence conference; delivered keynote speeches for state coalitions and local service providers; designed and coordinated multi-day conferences for state agencies; trained hundreds of TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) workers and supervisors across Texas; and presented day-long seminars and workshops on a wide array of topics. In addition, the National Center has consulted with numerous communities on their response to domestic violence. In 2000, Tucker facilitated a 10-month strategic planning effort for three agencies in Lincoln, NE: the Lincoln Family Violence Council, Friendship Home, and the Rape Crisis/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

The agency’s work has grown from an early focus on conferences and training to encompass much more! Is this where the agency expected to be in 2004? “It’s amazing that within five years, the five cents and the two employees have grown to an agency of 16 staff with an approximate budget of $1 million annually and a notable reputation nationally,” says Gerson. Myers agrees, saying, “I have very high expectations of Debby, so the incredible progress has been what I’ve expected!” And Buel sums up by saying that the progress has been “mind-boggling, incredible, a true testament to Debby’s skill and credibility and reputation throughout the country. I know of no other national program that’s been able to pull as much together in this period of time – one of Debby’s incredible skills is knowing how to pull the right people together and motivate them and make things happen.”

Senate Testimony, cont’d from page 1

Investigation and prosecution of offenders. They seemed to understand the greater challenges of in-theatre prevention and appropriate responses, while expecting the military services to meet them. As far as addressing sexual violence in the military is concerned, there is much to be gained by understanding our work on the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence.”

The others who testified with Tucker were: the Honorable David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; General George W. Casey, Jr., Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; Vice Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy; General William L. Nyland, Assistant Commandant, United States Marine Corps; General T. Michael Moseley, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; Christine Hansen, Executive Director, The Miles Foundation; Dr. Terri J. Rau, Head, Policy and Prevention Section, Counseling, Advocacy and Prevention Branch, Navy Personnel Command; and Dr. Susan H. Mather, Chief Officer, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Veterans Health Administration.

To read Tucker’s testimony, visit www.ncdsv.org and click on Resources, then on Publications, and then on Military.
Men in the Movement:
Rus Funk Activist, Author, and Educator

Rus Funk, MSW, Secretary of the National Center's Board and an educator and trainer for the Center for Women and Families in Louisville, KY, has been working to stop violence against women since 1983. He got his start in a college social work class that required volunteer work at a local agency. Funk chose the Hays County Women's Center, which works on both sexual assault and domestic violence in San Marcos, Texas. He ended up staying for over three years. Now, he's got a Masters degree in social work and over the years, he's provided therapeutic services to children, women, and men who have been victimized; developed interventions for men who abuse; and been involved in numerous anti-violence organizing efforts.

When asked to identify the most exciting thing he's achieved, Funk mentioned publishing his first book, "Stopping Rape: A Challenge for Men" (1993). But he lit up when relating a story about working with his first men's group, D.C. Men Against Rape (known today as Men Can Stop Rape and a group he co-founded). Funk remembered, "Probably the most meaningful thing we did was the construction of the women's memorial wall in 1989," a project to honor women who had been killed by their intimate partners. To underscore the parallel between this wall and D.C.'s Vietnam Memorial, D.C. Men Against Rape built their wall (a temporary installation) directly across from the famous spot. To determine the number of women killed by intimate partners in the length of time equal to the Vietnam War (17 years), the group used Department of Justice statistics. There were about as many victims on their wall as there are soldiers listed on the Vietnam memorial — in fact, there were a few hundred more.

Today, Funk notes several challenges to the anti-violence movement. One of these is "the growing professionalization of the movement." He elaborates, "Part of professionalization is the development of gender-neutral language and a real pressure to describe the issues" in these terms. Funk notes that although it happens that men are victimized and women abuse, and there is the need to address same-sex sexual assault and domestic violence, a clear analysis is necessary to achieve this. "Even when men are victimized," Funk points out, "the male victimizer uses the same words he'd use if the victim were female. It's still gendered violence, and that's a hard thing to get across if there's a pressure to portray the issue as gender neutral."

Another challenge Funk identifies, especially in the anti-rape movement, is the question of what to do with men -- as survivors, as allies, and as significant others. "What's the responsibility of anti-violence programs in dealing with offenders?" he asks. "Rape-crisis centers and domestic violence centers pretty much take a hands-off approach, but if we're not going to work directly with offenders," he continues -- and he doesn't assert that centers should, necessarily -- "we should monitor the programs that work with offenders and the work that is being done. After all, we are the experts on domestic violence and sexual assault."

In terms of men as perpetrators, Funk points out, there are lessons that can be learned from the addictions model. For example, he says, "What we do now as far as batterer intervention is only the mandated length of time. So let's assume that the batterer does the work involved in his program, takes responsibility for his violence, and learns what he needs to keep in mind, which admittedly is quite an assumption. What happens in four years, when he's about to put his wife or girlfriend through the wall? Where's the support or resources for him to keep from perpetrating the violence again?" There's no one to call, unlike in the addictions model (a 12-step program, for instance), in which addicts are encouraged to seek out a guide to the recovery process, someone who helps keep the recovering person on track (known as a "sponsor" in the 12-step model).

Funk expands on his ideas in his new book, "Reaching Men: Mobilizing Men to Address Gender-Based Violence," which should be released in October of this year. In addition, a few of his forthcoming chapters address the thorny issue of pornography: "Gay male pornography's 'actors': When 'fantasy' isn't" (co-written with Chris Kendall, to appear in "Prostituting, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress," edited by Melissa Farley); and "What Pornography Says About Me(n)? My Conversion to Anti-Pornography Activist" (to appear in "Not for Sale: Feminist Essays Against Pornography and Prostitution," edited by Christine Grussendorf and Rebecca Whisnant).

For more information on Funk, visit www.ncdsv.org. (Click on About NCDSV, and then on Board of Directors.) Also, see "What Men Can Do to End Violence Against Women," next page.
What Men Can Do to End Violence Against Women

There are several things that men can do to stop violence against women, both personally and publicly. Because violence doesn’t occur only as a result of a man’s personal decisions, but rather, is supported by the larger social context, it’s important to address both areas of one’s life.

Private efforts men can make
- Be respectful in your personal life
- Watch your words – don’t use sexist or degrading language
- Challenge yourself to stop using pornography
- Ask before you touch – go beyond “no means no” in sexual relations
- Challenge other men who use sexist language – your friends, colleagues, etc.
- Educate yourself about violence against women – by reading books, watching films, and online research

Public efforts men can make
- Donate to a local sexual assault or domestic violence program (You’ll receive newsletters, updates, and action alerts.)
- Organize a fund-raiser in which men are taking the lead in raising money
- Support good laws and challenge bad ones (Focus on your state – talk with your state domestic violence and sexual assault coalition about what help is needed, policy-wise.)
- Hold a public men’s event (For example, a men’s group in Tennessee several years ago organized a “Give Back the Night” event during the traditional “Take Back the Night.” Men provided childcare and presented educational seminars for other men.)

-- Rus Funk

Welcome Jenny and Jennifer ... Congrats Andrea and Juliet!

A warm welcome to Jennifer Scott-Dewar, our new Training Coordinator, who moved to Texas from Peoria, IL, where she was with the Center for Prevention of Abuse. Welcome also to Jenny Brown, our new TAPS Specialist, who comes to us from the National Domestic Violence Hotline here in Austin.

Congratulations to Andrea Twyman, who was promoted to a TAPS Meeting Coordinator position in October, and to Juliet Walters, who was promoted to Training Director in September.

We’re thrilled to have all four of these dynamic women on the National Center team!

What gives?

Despite the proliferation of stalking laws on the books, the criminal justice system has not yet begun to pay much attention to them. Victims are ignored or encouraged to get protective orders. Many stalkers are eventually arrested, but not for stalking. They are arrested for simpler, singular incident crimes like harassment, violations of protective orders, and other crimes the criminal justice system is more comfortable enforcing. And then they are quickly released because these crimes do not warrant much punishment.

And it promises to get worse as stalkers enthusiastically embrace new technologies to cyberstalk their victims – like the stalker in Wisconsin who used a GPS to track her ex-girlfriend’s car while under the hood of his ex-girlfriend’s car to track her movements – leaving criminal justice officials farther behind.

While no other segment of the criminal justice system has made further strides than police in responding to domestic violence, when it comes to stalking, police and everyone else are still at the baby-step phase.

Perhaps Lifetime Television’s airing of the Peggy Kline story on Erin Brockovich’s show Final Justice this winter will help focus attention on stalking. Kline was murdered a year ago by her ex-boyfriend after repeatedly seeking help from law enforcement. Lifetime is also producing a 15-minute training video called “Stalking: Real Fear, Real Crime,” which will be available free for all police departments.

Andy R. Klein, Ph.D., is a domestic violence consultant and author. He is the former chief probation officer of the Quincy District Court of Massachusetts.

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Because a cohesive anti-violence movement is relatively new in Mexico, *Red Nacional* leaders Lydia Cacho Ribeiro, head of *Centro Integral de Atención a la Mujer y Sus Hijos*, in Cancún, and Alicia Leal Puerto, head of *Alternativas Pacíficas*, in Monterrey, were interested in learning from the social movements of the United States. They approached the National Center because of our expertise, our experience in the domestic violence and women’s movements, and our longstanding relationship with Aixa Alvarado of * Alternativas Pacíficas*.

Leal and Cacho were especially interested in the unintended trends that emerge in movements, like the anti-violence movement’s growth in the different directions of domestic violence and sexual assault. To maximize the efficacy of their anti-violence work, the National Center recommended that *Red Nacional* combine these two issues in their approach to the work, and the training was developed with that in mind.

“For me,” Leal commented recently, “the training meant a great opportunity to share with and learn from amazing and wise women. More important than the information gained was the wonderful opportunity to find co-conspirators who shared their life histories and dreams, illuminating my own path. I believe that democracy is possible only when each of us wields our inner loving power to transform the world, our home. Since we all live together in this home, there are no boundaries to keep us from creating a loving and peaceful world.”

Around the time of the training, a huge case broke in Mexico involving a man who’d been holding several children captive as part of a prostitution ring. Since one of the training participants was working as an advocate with the child victims, this case was extremely emotional for the group.

Domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and sexual violence were the main topics of the training’s curriculum. Same-sex battering was also addressed, and was an “a-ha” concept for many participants, who were hearing about it for the first time. Since part of the train-the-trainer focus consists of starting new local programs, planning, fund-raising, and organizational philosophy components were also part of the curriculum.

National Center staffers who worked on designing the course included Walters, Jennifer Scott-Dewar, Valinda Bolton, Nancy Flanakin, Terri Hudson, Kyre Osborn, and Debby Tucker. Trainers included Cacho, Leal, Tucker, Walters, Patricia Castillo (Director of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative in San Antonio), and Yolanda Matos (of Mercy Medical Center, in Nampa, ID).

Already, the training has been replicated by Cancún attendees with great success. In addition, attendees are finding the information and skills-building useful and supportive in their daily work in Mexico. The National Center hopes to continue its partnership with *Red Nacional* to address other domestic and sexual violence issues in Mexico.
Law Enforcement Work Continues

In October of 2003, Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) announced a two-year renewal grant of $800,000 for the National Center to train law enforcement. The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) of the U.S. Department of Justice renewed the Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Project grant allowing the National Center to continue training with the Federal Enforcement Training Center, the National Sheriffs’ Association, and the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement.

Through these partnerships, the National Center educates officers nationwide to enhance their response to domestic violence and sexual assault cases. In addition, the National Center is newly training 911 emergency dispatchers and call takers on how they can complement law enforcement’s response to these calls. (See p. 2.) Visit www.ncdsv.org for more information. (Click on NCDSV in the News.)

National Women’s History Month Honoree
One of Our Own!

Sarah Buel, JD, National Center cofounder and longtime Board member, was recently named by the National Women’s History Project as one of eight honorees for 2004’s National Women’s History Month! According to the Project, “the 2004 theme, ‘Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility,’ celebrates the hope and sense of possibility that comes to our lives from the inspirational work of women.” Congratulations, Sarah! For more information, visit www.nwhp.org.

At right: The 2004 National Women’s History Month poster features Buel (far left) and seven other honorees.