



# *The Women's Center Newsletter*

*November 2007*

## **The Women's Center is hiring for Spring 08!**

We are looking for a Program Coordinator, Publicist and Librarian!

Work on campus in a fun, active, and educational environment!

Applications will be available in the Women's Center starting on November 1.

Stop by the WC to pick one up!

Applications are due by November 23.

You must have a 2.5 GPA to apply.

### **SAVE DARFUR One person can help change the world** By Rachael Nagy

Many people have heard the words "Save Darfur" and "Stop the genocide in Darfur," but that is usually all they know about the entire situation. Darfur is an area in largest country in Africa called Sudan. Darfur is about the size of Texas and lies in western Sudan and borders Libya, Chad and the Central African Republic. There are about 6 million people who inhabit Darfur, and they are among the poorest in Africa.

The situation in Darfur was not always like it is now. Genocide wasn't always present in this part of the world. This conflict in Darfur began in 2003 after lots of poverty and oppression, two rebel groups - the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) - mounted an insurgency against the central government. The government in Sudan has not been much help in resolving the genocide that is occurring in this region. The Sudanese Military has been painting their aircrafts white as to confuse the people of Darfur.

The UN humanitarian aircrafts are also white. It is directly

against international humanitarian law for the Sudanese government to make their aircrafts the same color as the UN crafts. Because of this, Darfuris never know whether it is UN or their own government coming for them. Usually it is the latter, and it ends in bombing and death. This scorched-earth campaign by the Sudanese government against Darfuri civilians has, through direct violence, disease, and starvation, already claimed as many as 400,000 lives.

The genocide has spilled over into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic. About 2.3 million Darfuris have fled their homes and communities and now reside in a network of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Darfur, with over 200,000 more living in refugee camps in Chad. These defenseless people are almost entirely dependant on the UN and other humanitarian forces to aid them with basic human needs, such as water, food, shelter, and health care. There are still about one million people of Darfur who are living in their villages in the region. Every day is a threat of violence, murder, rape, and torture, not to mention starvation and disease. The UN has approved a United Nations peacekeeping force, that is suppose to go in and aid these people and hopefully stop or bring a relief of these awful events that have been taking place. However, it has not been put into swing yet. The force has been approved by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1769. Until they get in there, all these people have is the very understaffed, spread-thin African peace keeping force. They are currently doing what they can, but they do not have the means or the people, just 7,400 troops and personnel, to do a job that takes at least triple that to save these people and this region.

Darfur has become the only incident declared a genocide while it was still taking place. George Bush has acknowledged this, and says we will not put up with such events. However, we are doing little as a government to stop it. More is going on through small groups and grassroots organizations.

That is an official site that the SAVE DARFUR organization set up to educate and get people involved. There is also a Save Darfur Club that meets on campus. They are having an event that starts Friday the 9th of November at 7pm and continues through the next morning at 7am. It is called "Change for Change" - the concept is to raise what money they can and mostly to raise awarness for Darfur so as many people as possible get involved. Please help make a difference!

Information from [http://action.savedarfur.org/campaign/savedarfur\\_google](http://action.savedarfur.org/campaign/savedarfur_google)

# Women's Center Events

## NOVEMBER 2007

Wednesday, November 7

Female Friendly Funk

Pavilion @ 7 pm

Enjoy music with a conscience and learn how to support pro-feminist, gay affirmative, anti-racist bands and musicians.

Date TBA

The Joy of Money with Robyn Gardner

York Room @ 12 pm - 2 pm

An exclusive program that will change your relationship with money and wealth. This financial empowerment program is designed especially for women. You will develop a healthy relationship with money and learn how to create wealth from the inside out. Discover the secrets for increasing your net worth. Let go of old beliefs and learn new ways of thinking. Take positive action steps that will move you forward. Get Results! You will EARN MORE, KEEP MORE and INVEST MORE!

Monday, November 12

Poetry Monday: C. Dale Young

J. Lee's @ 1 pm

C. Dale Young practices medicine full-time, serves as Poetry Editor of the New England Review, and teaches in the Warren Wilson College MFA Program. He is the author of *The Day Underneath the Day* and *The Second Person*. Facilitator: Prof. James Hoch, AIS

### Latino Heritage Month

The College celebrates Latino Heritage Month in November. To serve on the planning committee for Latino Heritage Month, please contact Cherrymae Aromas, Acting Assistant Director of Student Activities for the Women's Center and Diversity Education Programs at [caromas@ramapo.edu](mailto:caromas@ramapo.edu) or x7136.



Thursday, November 1

El Dia de Los Muertos

2nd floor Student Center

In honor of the Mexican celebration, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, we would like to invite you to participate in a more than 500 year old Aztec tradition of creating altars commemorating our beloved departed ones. Ofrendas or altars include photos of our loved ones, their favorite foods as well as traditional ones such as pan de muertos sweet bread associated with this day, chocolate, as the Aztecs venerated it, and sugary candies in the shape of skulls. We have all lost someone in our lives or know someone who has. This is an opportunity to remember special people in a creative, positive and meaningful way. Please feel free to participate at any level you like, you may simply listen to the talk, include your own personal items and photos in the altar or just help with the altar installation and have some creative input. Rest assured that your personal items will be watched over during the day and you can retrieve them at 4:00 pm that afternoon.

### Black Solidarity Week

November 5-November 9

Thursday, November 8

Black Solidarity Dinner Banquet

Alumni Lounges @ 5 pm

Simon Deng - Keynote

Speaker

Simon Aban Deng is a refugee from Sudan and a survivor of child slavery. A native of the Shiluk Kingdom in southern Sudan, Deng spent several years as a domestic slave in northern Sudan. Deng went on to work as a messenger in the Sudanese parliament and later became a national swimming champion. Today he is an American citizen, working as a lifeguard on Coney Island and leading the struggle to stop genocide in Sudan. He has addressed audiences across the nation. In May, 2005 he was invited to speak before the U.N. Human Rights. In March, 2006, Mr. Deng launched the Sudan Freedom Walk, trekking 300 miles from United Nations headquarters in New York City to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to call for



an end to slavery and genocide in Sudan. The walk culminated in a meeting at the White House with President Bush.

### World AIDS DAY



Wednesday-Friday,  
November 28 - November 30  
AIDS Quilt

Friends Hall @ 10 am - 7 pm  
Experience this visual tribute to those lost to HIV/AIDS. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Cherrymae Aromas at [caromas@ramapo.edu](mailto:caromas@ramapo.edu) or x7136. <http://www.aidsquilt.org>

Wednesday, November 28

AIDS Quilt Opening Speaker:

"Living and Loving in a World with AIDS" Elaine Pasqua

Friends Hall @ 1 pm

AIDS is a disease that is not going away. For the past several years the rate of new HIV infections in the United States has held steady at 40,000. Fifty percent of those cases are occurring in the 15 to 24 year old age group, and within that group, female heterosexual infection is rising at a dramatically disproportionate rate. "Living and Loving in a World With AIDS" is an eye-opening, interactive program for those who think it could not happen to them. A passionate and engaging storyteller, audiences are riveted as Elaine shares the struggles of losing two parents to AIDS and engages them on the realities of prevention. Elaine Pasqua is the president of Project Prevent, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide AIDS prevention education to students. She has been featured in USA Today, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Knight Ridder News Service and Time Warner Cable TV. Elaine has also been instrumental in organizing events for AIDS awareness programming for the James A Michener Art Museum involving national political figures. <http://www.elainepasqua.co>

# Events continued...

Thursday, November 29  
World AIDS Day Benefit Coffeehouse /  
Female Friendly Funk  
J. Lee's @ 7 pm  
Enjoy music with a conscience and  
support pro-feminist, gay affirmative,  
anti-racist bands and musicians. \$2  
donation for charity.



## The Women's Center Supports Female Athletes and YOU SHOULD TOO!

We've even made it easy for you!  
here is a schedule of games!  
**\*bold games are home!**

### Women's Field Hockey

Sunday, November 4  
At St. Joseph's (ME) - 11:00am

### Women's Basketball

Check out the Ramapo College  
Cheerleaders and Dance Team at  
home games!

**Friday, November 16**  
**Roadrunner Tip Off Tournament**  
**Ramapo vs. Russel Sage - 5:30pm**  
**Randolph vs. Lehman - 7:30pm**

**Saturday, November 17**  
**Roadrunner Tip Off Tournament**  
**Consolation Game - 1:00pm**  
**Championship Game - 3:00pm**

**Tuesday, November 20**  
**Ramapo vs. John Jay -5:30pm**

**Tuesday, November 27**  
**Ramapo vs. NY City Tech -**  
**5:30pm**

Thursday, November 29  
At Manhattanville - 7:00pm

### Women's Swim Team

Thursday, November 1  
At FDU Florham  
vs. FDU Florham and Montclair -  
5:00pm

Saturday, November 10  
At Rowan - 1:00pm

Friday-Sunday, November 30-  
December 2  
At ECAC Championships - TBA

For more information on Ramapo's  
sports teams, visit  
<http://ww2.ramapo.edu/athletics/>



### A Special Poem

"World on the Brink of Death"  
by Sarah Denson

Each day is a lifetime  
When a hero is born at dawn to a  
world on the brink of death;  
With her first breath of the world  
chokes on smog.  
The first noises she hears are shouts  
and screams.  
And with her eyes barely open she is  
blinded by bright neon lights.  
Evil comes in so many forms;  
But heroes are born to fight evil,  
So her first steps are brave.

Each day is a lifetime  
When a hero toddles in the city  
morning-  
Last night she lost her father in a  
bloody fight.  
He taught her to be caring, brave,  
That she could do anything she  
wished;  
And she almost succumbs to sad-  
ness-  
But heroes are strengthened by sad-  
ness.  
So she decides to fight back.

Each day is a lifetime  
When a hero stands up at noon  
And shouts  
"I will save the earth!"  
She gains allies for her fight  
They challenge the world to change-  
To stop destruction and bloodshed  
She is scared of what will happen,  
But heroes face their fears-  
So she won't give up.

Each day is a lifetime  
When a hero saves a life at dusk,  
A little boy screams for help  
And the hero stands up to save him  
When no one else would  
It is only one life,  
But heroes know even one life makes  
a difference-  
So she doesn't get discouraged.

Each day is a life time  
When a hero sits to watch the moon  
rise  
In a world she never gave up on;  
And as she sighs at the sight of such  
beauty  
Death comes to claim his prize.  
But heroes know death is nothing to  
fear;  
She has done what she could in her  
lifetime-  
So her first steps are brave.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Edited and publicized by Elyse  
Jankowski and Samantha Smith



### World AIDS Day By Alana Bernstein

The purpose of World AIDS Day is to educate people on the risk of the AIDS virus, and ways to prevent contracting the virus. While certain people may think that the incidence of HIV/AIDS has decreased, it has not, and in fact, if we continue on the track that we are on, will continue to increase. World AIDS Day is the perfect time for people to become acquainted with the proper information on HIV/AIDS, and make sure that they are armed with the correct knowledge to protect themselves.

World AIDS Day was created in 1988 by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention, and is held every year on December 1st. From 1988 until 2004, UNAIDS (the United Nations' committee regarding AIDS) ran the campaign and created different themes for each year. In 2005, the organization of World AIDS Day was turned over to World AIDS Campaign, who has created a general theme of Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise to run through 2010, with sub-themes to run specifically for World AIDS Day each year. Themes for World AIDS Day have included Communication, Women and AIDS, Men Make a Difference, and Leadership.

Since its inception, World AIDS Day has become an official national event in the United States, and starting in 1995 and every year since, the President of the United States has made a proclamation on that day. Other nations have since followed suit.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as of 2005, the estimated number of people living with AIDS in the United States and dependant areas was 433,760. This number includes the 418,084 adults and teenagers and the 3,787 children under 13 years in the 50 states and District of Columbia. In that same year, the estimated number of deaths of people with AIDS in the United States and dependant areas was 17,011. Of that number, 16,316 people were adults and adolescents, and 7 were children under 13 years in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In regards to worldwide statistics, Until There's A Cure ([www.until.org](http://www.until.org)) states that over 22 million people have died from AIDS, and over 42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 74% of those infected are from sub-Saharan Africa. They also state that:

\*over 19 million women are living with HIV/AIDS

\*there are 14,000 new infections every day (95% in developing countries)

\*half of the 5 million new infections each year [are] occurring among people ages 15 to 24

\*the UN estimates that, [as of 2006], there are 14 million AIDS orphans and that by 2010 there will be 25 million."  
([www.until.org/statistics.shtml](http://www.until.org/statistics.shtml))

There are many events that take place on World AIDS Day on college campuses, at hospitals, and through different organizations. This year, Ramapo College will be going to Newark, New Jersey to assist the residents of Broadway House for Continuing Care, which is "New Jersey's only specialized HIV/AIDS nursing care facility designed to meet the post-acute needs of people living with AIDS."

([www.broadwayhouse.org](http://www.broadwayhouse.org))

### Broadway House Continues to Care by Alana Bernstein



Broadway House for Continuing Care, located in Newark, New Jersey, is the States only comprehensive nursing care facility specifically designed to care for patients with HIV/AIDS. They have been in existence since 1996, after a study conducted in 1987 by the New Jersey Department of Health "recognized that the traditional acute care-focused delivery system was not adequate to meet the myriad of needs of New Jersey's AIDS patients." ([www.broadwayhouse.org](http://www.broadwayhouse.org)) Due to this result, a group was formed in 1988 to figure out what the State could do to resolve this problem. While the group had recognized that the state needed a specialized-care home to care for patients with HIV/AIDS, it took eight years for Broadway House to come to fruition.

Broadway House is now a 78-bed long-term care facility, with medical and nursing care, social services, recreation, physical rehabilitation, nutritional counseling, substance abuse counseling, and pastoral care.

I have personally worked with Broadway House since 1999, and have seen what a wonderful organization they are. I have seen health professional-patient interaction, and how kind and knowledgeable the staff is with the patients. I have seen how the activities department works as hard as they can for their residents, coordinating outings, as well as helping to coordinate outside activities with other organizations.

This year, as part of my annual work with Broadway House, I will be running the Giving Tree for Broadway House. This tree will have tickets on it, stating the gender of a resident and their age. What the Women's Center is asking is for people to stop by the Women's Center any time during the month of November and the first week in December and take a ticket off of the Tree, purchase a gift of no more than \$20.00, and bring it to the Women's Center before the second week of December.

In addition to the Giving Tree, the Women's Center will be going to Broadway House on December 1st, World AIDS Day. While there, the volunteers will assist the residents in areas of socialization by tutoring, playing games, and making room visits to simply talk and spend quality time with the residents.

