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**March 20, 2006**

**RAMAPO COLLEGE HOSTS A DAY OF EDUCATION ABOUT RAPE AND RECOVERY FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**

(Mahwah) - "Understanding Rape Culture: Awareness, Education, Action," a day-long teach-in, will be held in Friends Hall (SC-219) Tuesday, April 18, 2006 on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will be held in honor of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and features two panel discussions highlighting aspects of sexual subordination and violence, a screening of the documentary *Killing Us Softly* by Jean Kilborne and a special one-man show performance, *Voices of Men*, by Ben Zeman, a representative from the National Organization for Men Against Sexism. Following the teach-in there will be an evening event sponsored by the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center featuring art and poetry produced by sexual assault survivors.

The schedule of events for April 18 will be:

**10 -11:15 a.m. - "Sexual Assault Perspectives,"** a panel discussion on the history of rape in the United States, sexual assault on college campuses and sexual assault in the gay community. Speakers: Mandy Restivo, director of the Women's Center at Ramapo College; Dr. Ellen Ross, professor of history and women's studies at the College; Christine Picerello, director of the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center; and Will Mazur, gay peer services coordinator there.

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**11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. – Screening, *Killing Us Softly* (Jean Kilborne, 2000)**

A discussion will be led by Ann Charles, president of Zeta Phi Beta; Mandy Restivo, director of the Women’s Center; and Traci Vicaroc, a communications arts major at the College.

**12:45 - 1:45 p.m. - Lunch and discussion, “Focusing the Lens: Can Ramapo be a Rape Free Zone?”**

A discussion will be led by Mandy Restivo, director of the Women’s Center.

**2 - 3:15 p.m. - “Myths and Facts of Sexual Violence,”** a discussion that will provide factual information and dispel false notions concerning sexual violence, moderated by staff from the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center.

**3:30 - 4:45 p.m. - *Voices of Men*,** a one-man show that uses humor and celebrity male voice impersonations to bring the topic of sexual violence to audiences in a way that minimizes male defensiveness and promotes prevention techniques. The performance will feature Ben Zeman, a representative from the National Organization of Men Against Sexism.

**7 - 9:30 p.m. - “Survivor Art and Poetry”** will feature artwork by rape survivors and poems from individuals struggling with and conquering the effects of abuse. Sponsored by the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center.

This project is supported by a grant awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. This program is sponsored by the Ramapo College Office of Student Affairs Platinum Series, the Women’s Center and Feminists United. Additional sponsors include the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center. For more information, please contact Mandy Restivo, 201.684.7136.

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