



NO! NEWS

Alabama Coalition
Against Rape

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The 'SANE' Approach: Nurses Trained in Examining Rape Victims Make For Kinder, Gentler Healthcare Experience

By **KEN L. SPEAR**

In Alabama, at least four girls and women were sexually assaulted each day in 2005, and those numbers only represent the 1,515 who were brave enough to report it to police.

And slightly over half of the survivors submitted to a medical exam, received special attention from a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) and bypassed the glaring lights of the emergency room. SANEs aren't yet at all of ACAR's 15 member crisis centers.

Recognized by the American Nursing Association, the SANEs are a subspecialty unit to forensic nursing. While going through the necessary medical treatment, evidence gathering and questioning by police, the survivors are cared for in a softly-lit room much like a cozy home.

A team of medical personnel – including the SANE, a registered nurse trained to collect evidence – perform their tasks while they also pay close attention to the emotional needs of the survivor.

It's a kinder, gentler approach in

a crisis center or a hidden away hospital room. It is one that is stark in contrast to some three decades ago, when the first rape crisis centers sprang up in the wake of the "Break the Silence" movement.

In the past, such cases were difficult to handle for the regular ER doctor and staff. Many lacked experience or were not trained in forensic evidence collection. Victims would enter ER lobbies, having to wait hours on end and not being able to go to the restrooms for the risk of losing evidence.

As it is, rape examinations are time consuming.

"SANEs are on the scene not because hospitals are incapable, but it takes 2 to 6 hours for the exam, depending on the degree of the assault and the emotional state of the victim," explains Cheryl Hardley, a 32-year nursing veteran who became a SANE in 2005. "You can't rush in and do an exam."

This is the real CSI at work in the form of specially trained nurses, like Hardley, who've gone



through an extra 100 hours of classroom work and clinical training to become SANEs.

Literally, a victim is a crime scene. SANEs screen, treat and refer for testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and meticulously collect evidence that might otherwise be lost if the survivor waited. Also, SANEs are legally qualified to testify in court.

"It has always appealed to me how they could take one little thing and build a case around it," Hardley says. "Rape is one of the most horrific crimes that can be perpetrated on anyone. I have the opportunity to work in both perspectives."

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ACAR reaches out to potential donors to fulfill mission

ACAR's services include:

- Training for allied professionals through workshops and conferences
- Education of the public about sexual assault through prevention programs, website, quarterly newsletter and other materials
- Advocacy for sexual assault survivors with statewide agencies and in the formation of public policy
- Support for sexual assault program staff through training, technical assistance, and our resource library of books, videos and training materials
- Networking with other statewide agencies that address issues of violence against women
- Providing information, technical assistance, and resources to anyone seeking to learn more about the prevalence and prevention of sexual violence.

From the editor's desk ...

It's Time for Real Men to Take a Stand

I have only been on the job for a matter of a few days, and it has become increasingly clear: Men have to become leaders in this movement to end violence against women.

To be honest, it is our responsibility. For too long, we've been bystanders in a real and literal sense. Sadly, silence is affirming.

Domestic violence, rape and sexual assault are the most devastating public health problems.

There is no other illness, disease or problem that claim as many victims.

So, as a husband, father, son and former journalist, it's hard to fathom why there is such a delay in calling men to action — real men.

However, I'm pleased to see a shift in paradigm in some parts of our nation. Brothers of all hues are taking a bold stand by getting the necessary training to

be change agents for this cause.

It makes sense. Such programs, studies show, create a safe environment for men to discuss and challenge each other with respect to information and attitudes about men's violence.

First, we have to acknowledge how sexism, male dominance and male privilege lay the foundation for all forms of violence against women.

Men, we can do this.

Texas strip bars may face state fees

Bills propose cover, registration charges to aid sex assault programs

By **EMILY RAMSHAW**

The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN – As state leaders aim to toughen penalties for Texas' sex offenders, victims' rights groups and some lawmakers say they've got a different approach: charging a flat fee at strip clubs to raise money for sexual assault prevention, counseling and treatment.

Two bills – one being crafted by Rep. Ellen Cohen, D-Houston, the other by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas – would force patrons at topless bars to pay a \$5 cover charge, which proponents say would raise about \$40 million a year. Mr. West's legislation would go a step further, requiring all sexually-oriented businesses to pay an annual \$5,000 registration fee.

The proposals are in stark contrast to the series of "Jessica's Laws" under consideration in the Capitol. Such measures would punish child sex offenders with 25-year minimum sentences and repeat offenders with the death penalty.

Victims' rights advocates and prosecutors have spoken out against parts of the laws, saying they'll have the unintended consequence of further endangering child victims and making convictions harder to reach.

Opponents in the nightclub and adult bookstore industries say that it's unfair to charge their patrons for a problem that isn't theirs – and that lawmakers are clearly insinuating that there's a link between adult entertainment and sexual assault.

"You can't safely make that assumption," said Thanasi Mantas, the president of Silver City in Dallas. He said that he wouldn't oppose a tax that applies to all types of clubs but that targeted fees are just another way for the state to try to prevent sexually oriented businesses from making money.

Ms. Cohen, who has been the president and chief executive of the Houston Area Women's Center for close to two decades, said neither she nor victims' rights groups are suggesting that people who go to strip clubs or adult-video stores walk out and commit sex crimes.

"But I do know that money is being made as a result of women being objectified," she said.

Legislative push

"Jessica's Laws" originated in Florida and have been embraced in several other states. They're named for Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old who

was abducted, raped and murdered by a registered sex offender in 2005.

Victims' rights groups will be at the Capitol today to push for more cautious consideration of Jessica's Laws and to lobby for the adult entertainment fee, which is similar to one Gov. Rick Perry endorsed in 2004 to raise funds for schools. Lawmakers rejected the fee, which would have brought in an estimated \$35 million to \$45 million a year based on club attendance.

But legislators endorsing the adult entertainment fee now say they've got a far better shot. Connecting a cover charge at topless clubs to the treatment of sexual assault victims is a much easier sell than connecting it to education, which struck some lawmakers as unseemly.

And while \$12 million a year – the portion of the revenue lawmakers hope to use for sexual assault services – wouldn't go far in solving the state's school funding crunch, they say, it could make all the difference in the world to victims of sex crimes.

"When you think about raising funds from sexually oriented businesses for education, it's a knee-jerk reaction, a 'Whoa,'" Ms. Cohen said. "When you talk about providing services for sexual assault programs, it seems like an apples-to-apples thing."

Ms. Cohen's bill, which has been endorsed by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the Texas Council on Family Violence, would require club operators to collect the \$5 cover charge at the door of all Texas strip clubs, returning it to the state like they do with sales tax revenue. The revenue estimate is taken from previous figures generated by the comptroller's and governor's offices, and money raised annually beyond the \$12 million for sexual assault services could be spent however the Legislature decides.

Mr. West's bill – prompted by a new adult megastore going up near his office in the Red Bird area – would up the ante, setting a \$5,000 annual registration fee for all types of sexually oriented businesses and forcing them to notify elected officials at least 60 days before their arrival. He said he's also considering a provision to add a tax on items sold or rented in adult book and video stores.

Other states have considered similar fundraising efforts. In 2004, Utah passed a bill requiring sexually oriented businesses to pay a 10 percent tax on admission and food and



beverage sales, money that goes to a fund to treat sex offenders. Missouri lawmakers weighed a 20 percent sales tax and a \$5 admission fee at strip clubs in 2005, but the measure failed.

Though there are no concrete reports of how many strip clubs exist in Texas, 152 sexually oriented businesses are registered with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Dallas has long been considered to have a wealth of strip clubs, including many on the expensive end of the spectrum.

"The fact is, we need to find additional sources of revenue, and this is one of several places we can look," Mr. West said.

Businesses' complaints

A \$5,000 registration fee "is unfair," said Michael Rodriguez, who operates a condom store in Dallas. But "I'm sure [store owners] have the money to pay for it."

And cover charges won't keep patrons away; many clubs already charge \$20 cover fees. Industry representatives say it's unfair, though, to target strip clubs, and they see an ulterior motive.

"To say there's a link between sexual assault and gentlemen's clubs is ludicrous," said Angelina Spencer, the executive director for the Association of Club Executives. "These taxes are a ruse to burden the club owner because somebody finds the business morally reprehensible."

But Annette Burrhus-Clay, executive director of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, said the adult entertainment fee shouldn't be seen as punishment. The group isn't trying to link strip club patrons to rapists, she said; the point is simply to provide a new source of revenue.

"What we do know is that you have a lot of young women working at strip clubs, and they are disproportionately represented in sex crimes," she said. "It's not any more closely linked than using a sporting goods tax to support public parks."

Staff writer Amy Rosen contributed to this report.

Rape Culture

Victimology Class Conducts Simulation

By Kate Arthur

When Sammi heard a classmate talking about her behind her back, it gave her chills. And she felt sick when he leaned over and whispered in her ear, "Are you ready for a man again?"

The 24-year-old lesbian had been raped by two men who told her they were going to make her straight.

"It made me sick to my stomach," said LeAnn Nolan of Pontiac, who was only playing the part of Sammi during Walking the Walk, a sexual violence awareness exercise led by the YWCA's Stepping Stones staff.

It never crossed the Illinois State University student's mind that a woman would have to see her rapist again. "I always thought it would be some creep jumping out of the bushes, not a classmate," she said.

Eighty percent of the time, it's someone you know, said Vickie Smith, director of the Stepping Stones sexual assault program.

Every time Nolan felt uncomfortable during the role-playing, she was supposed to peel off a sticker bandage. As she sorted through the rape kit, she started sticking them on her sweatshirt.

"Most of what I felt was fear," she said.

Criminal justice major Christopher Long of Danvers felt a rising anger and frustration when playing the role of a supportive friend for a 21-year-old college student raped on the way home from a bar.

"Sadly, I wasn't surprised by any of it," he said.

Stepping Stones has supported more than 375 survivors since it got under way nearly five years ago at the YWCA of McLean County in Bloomington.

Initially, Smith expected a lot of Monday morning calls from women assaulted over the weekend. Instead, the majority of calls were from women victimized years ago.

"They thought they'd bury it and just go on

with their lives and five, 10, 15 years later, they're reaching out for help," she said.

A "rape culture"

Among countries that keep statistics, the United States has the highest incidence of sexual abuse, with 100,000 reported cases each year; only one out of seven assaults is reported to police.

One out of four women and one out of eight men will be sexually abused.

Smith attributes those high numbers to a "rape culture," a view she admits is controversial but one she defends.

In a rape culture, violence against women is common and the victim is often blamed. Conviction rates are low.

And in a society that tolerates such abuse, there's usually an abundance of images of sex and violence. Also, men and women are not treated equally.

"Victim blaming is probably the No. 1 thing we face," she said. "One hundred percent of the time, the victim feels guilty, like she did something wrong. I blame a lot of that on our society. We want our women to be attractive and sexy but when a woman wears a short skirt and is sexually assaulted, it's like, what did she expect?"

Sexual assault is about power and control, she said, not fashion or behavior.

Only one in 20 rapists is arrested, and conviction rates are low. That's because they're looking for physical evidence of trauma, Smith said, and that doesn't exist in 70 percent of the cases because women are so fearful they often don't fight back.

When Smith trains volunteers, she circulates magazine ads that demonstrate how common images are of sex and violence.

One shows a woman who looks like a prom date struggling to break free of a man's grasp around her neck.

"A lot of these ads are optical illusions. We send out the message that violence is a part of sex and that if a woman fights back, it doesn't

necessarily mean she doesn't want it."

One way to counter those messages is through education. Stepping Stones focuses its efforts on middle school and high school students but is reaching into elementary schools with messages on how to stay safe and say no.

When Smith talks to adults, she asks what makes them afraid. Men usually mention prison but women have a long list, along with details on what they do each day to keep themselves safe, from where they park to avoiding vanity license plates.

"There's so many times women feel at risk," she said.

Until women enjoy full legal, economic and social equality, they'll be an easy target for violence, she added. "The men are supposed to be strong and in control. When society sends these kinds of messages, you're not going to have an equal relationship."

Kate Arthur is a writer for The Pantograph.

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones provides free and confidential support to survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones, whether the assault was recent or years ago. Other program provisions include in-person support at local hospitals and police stations; counseling and support groups; assistance in requesting a Civil No Contact Order; education programs for schools and community groups; and 40-hour training for volunteers. Call (309) 662-0461 for more information.

New evidence on date rape prompts call for drugs ban

Government experts warn that drug-assisted assaults are now a significant problem

By ALAN TRAVIS/The Guardian

UNITED KINGDOM – Ministers are to consider banning two new "date rape" drugs, amid warnings from experts that the true scale of sexual assaults assisted by drugs may be greater than official figures suggest.

In a report, the government's drug advisers say substance use in rapes and sexual assaults is now a significant problem. Research concluded illicit drugs were a factor one in three assaults. Experts say that while alcohol is probably the most common "weapon", the fact that victims in drug cases are even less likely to go the police means the true picture is unclear.

The Home Office's advisory council on the misuse of drugs calls for the restriction of two substances which it says are being imported into Britain in increasing amounts from America, where they are illegal.

Known as GBL and 1,4-B, they are sold legally in this country as industrial solvents and cleaners, but when ingested have a similar effect to the known date rape drug GHB, banned here in 2003. The advisory council says low doses are associated with increased libido, euphoria, suggestibility, passivity, and amnesia - rendering victims vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity.

Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine are the commonly used drugs. Rohypnol, also called 'roofies,' is a strong tranquilizer that is illegal in the U.S. GHB, or Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate, is a clear liquid anesthetic. It is also known as 'G,' 'Grievous Bodily Harm,' and 'Easy Lay.' Ketamine is also a liquid animal anesthetic commonly called 'Special K,' 'Vitamin K,' or 'Bump.'

Sir Michael Rawlins, its chairman, said drug-facilitated sexual assault was a particularly severe offence which wrecked people's lives: "It is a significant but under-reported problem. Most drugs used in drug-facilitated sexual assault are already controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, but we are concerned that two drugs

are not currently controlled and will consider whether they should be classified. We will advise the Home Office by the end of the year."

It is believed that Home Office ministers will act on any recommendation to impose a ban.

Professor Rawlins said the problem had become so severe that young people should now be officially advised to avoid going alone to clubs, pubs or parties. The experts also want clubbers to be warned not to leave their drinks unattended, even to the point of keeping hold of them when they go to the toilet, to avoid the drink being "spiked".

The council also urges ministers to re-examine at the law on drug-facilitated sexual assaults to take in "opportunistic" attacks as well as those pre-planned.

The belief that reporting rates for such attacks are lower than the already poor reporting rates by victims of serious sexual assault generally undermines studies last year which concluded the media had overblown "date rape drugs".

The Forensic Science Service found that 46% of 1,014 alleged drug-facilitated sexual assaults between 2000 and 2002 were actually down to alcohol. Illicit drugs were detected in 34% of cases, mostly cannabis or cocaine. GHB, banned in 2003, was used in only two cases in the sample. A Home Office police study found similar results.

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that, even if victims do report the attack, they may leave it longer than the 12 hours during which drugs such as GHB can reliably be detected in urine or blood.

The warning comes as it is revealed that government funding for the £62m-a-year young people's drug and alcohol prevention and treatment programme is being cut by 10%. Martin Barnes, chief executive of the charity DrugScope, said the impact would be disastrous.

What are the symptoms of being drugged:

- Suddenly and unexpectedly becoming drowsy
- Feeling very agitated, jittery, or nervous for no known reason
- Experiencing hallucination (seeing or hearing things that aren't there)
- Suddenly getting sick or vomiting after having a drink
- Memory loss for several hours
- Walking and not remembering what happened hours earlier

Experts say that while alcohol is probably the most common 'weapon,' the fact that victims in drug cases are even less likely to go to the police means the true picture is unclear.



10 Things Men Can Do To Stop Sexual Violence



A Call to Men Inc., or ACT Men, is an organization addressing men's violence against women and the eradication of sexism while maintaining a strong coalition with women's organizations already doing this important work .

1. Acknowledge and understand how sexism, male dominance and male privilege lay the foundation for all forms of violence against women.
2. Examine and challenge our individual sexism and the role that we play in supporting men who are abusive.
3. Recognize and stop colluding with other men by getting out of our socially defined roles, and take a stance to end violence against women.
4. Remember that our silence is affirming. When we choose not to speak out against men's violence, we are supporting it.
5. Educate and re-educate our sons and other young men about our responsibility in ending men's violence against women.
6. "Break out of the man box"- Challenge traditional images of manhood that stop us from actively taking a stand to end violence against women.
7. Accept and own our responsibility that violence against women will not end until men become part of the solution to end it. We must take an active role in creating a cultural and social shift that no longer tolerates violence against women.
8. Stop supporting the notion that men's violence against women can end by providing treatment for individual men. Mental illness, lack of anger management skills, chemical dependency, stress, etc... are only excuses for men's behavior. Violence against women is rooted in the historic oppression of women and the outgrowth of the socialization of men.
9. Take responsibility for creating appropriate and effective ways to develop systems to educate and hold men accountable.
10. Create systems of accountability to women in your community. Violence against women will end only when we take direction from those who understand it most, women.

7,000 in 2007

Executive Director Envisions 3-Year Plan 'We have good ideas, but not the money' – Kimberly Love, executive director of the Alabama Coalition Against Rape

By **KEN L. SPEAR**



Kimberly Love is well aware that the level of compassion outpaces the financial backing to fund programs and services for victims of rape and sexual assault.

Love, the executive director for the Alabama Coalition Against Rape (ACAR), has thought long and hard about how to fiscally put into action a vision of performing the work needed to be done. Hence the "7,000 in 2007" initiative. ACAR is reaching out to at least 7,000 donors to each give \$25 this year to raise \$175,000 as part of a 3-year plan.

These donor-driven funds would support ACAR programs and services including:

- An on-line seminar for its 15 member crisis centers, health care practitioners and law enforcement professionals who respond to incidents of sexual violence.
- Scholarships for the national training and certification
- Retreat for prevention educators
- The installment of a quality resource library

"We want ACAR to be a national presence," Love says. "We have good ideas, but not the money. Alabama is historically poor."

This doesn't mean that ACAR will not continue to seek grant money, but those funds are restricted. With \$175,000 in unrestricted funding, ACAR can use the money when and where it's needed. For example, there's a growing need extend ACAR's outreach to rural communities to ensure that residents are receiving the counseling and education needed as well as to train state member program staffers on working with the ever-growing Latino community and the elderly population.

"These are two growing populations we have not served," the director adds. The latest figures show that the population of people over 85 has doubled in the past 10 years. "People are healthier and living longer," Love says. And then, she adds, there's the unthinkable reality: "Sexual violence can happen to the elderly. The risk is always great when there is a dependence on someone else."

As for the Hispanic population, there is the language barrier. That can also set the stage for violation. "Think about telling somebody about rape and they don't understand you."

Love is convinced that if everyone in the state of Alabama gave at least \$5, "just think of the amazing things we could do for the victims. We don't have a shortage in compassion, just the dollars. You can get burned out in trying to do this work on a shoestring."

Alabama Coalition Against Rape

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No means no!



On the Web:
www.acar.org

What is ACAR?

The Alabama Coalition Against Rape (ACAR) was founded in 1995. Comprised of 15 member rape crisis centers, ACAR conducts prevention activities and empowers centers to facilitate the humane, consistent and compassionate care of victims of sexual violence and their families.

These are accomplished through community awareness, standardizations of members services, education, research and advocacy activities. ACAR endeavors to continually improve the treatment of sexual violence survivors and to ultimately end sexual violence.

The 15 rape crisis centers serve all counties in Alabama except Choctaw, Conecuh, Covington and Monroe. These counties are served by the State Coalition (ACAR).

Rape Crisis Centers & the Counties Served

Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)

Crisis Line: (334) 213-1227
Office (334) 213-1277
Autauga, Butler, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery

Crisis Center Inc., Rape Response

Crisis Line: (205) 323-7273, (888) 323-7273
Office: (205) 323-7782
Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Walker

Daybreak Crisis Recovery Center

Crisis Line: (256) 231-0654
Office: (256) 237-6300
Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Dekalb, Etowah, Talladega, Randolph

Crisis Center of North Alabama

Crisis Line: (256) 716-1000, (800) 691-8426
Office: (256) 716-4052
Jackson, Limestone, Madison

SafeHouse

Crisis Line: (205) 664-4357,
Office: (205) 664-5930
Clay, Coosa, Shelby

House of Ruth, Inc.

Crisis Line: (334) 793-2232
Office: (334) 793-5214
Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike

Mental Health Association in Morgan County

Crisis Line: (256) 353-1160,
Office: (256) 353-1160
Lawrence, Morgan

Rape Counselors of East Alabama

Crisis Line: (334) 745-8634,
Office: (334) 741-0707
Chambers, Lee, Macon, Tallapoosa

Lifelines Family Counseling Center

Crisis Line: (334) 473-7273,
(800) 718-7274; Office:
(334) 431-5100
Clarke, Mobile, Washington

Shoals Crisis Center — Rape Response

Crisis Line: (256) 767-1100
Office: (256) 765-0025
Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion

Turning Point

Crisis Line: (205) 758-0808,
Office: (205) 758-0808
Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale,

Victim Services of Cullman, Inc.

Crisis Line: (256) 734-6120 / 734-6100
Office: (256) 775-2600
Cullman, Marshall, Winston

Lighthouse-Baldwin Co.

Crisis Line: (251) 947-4393
Office: (252) 947-6196
Baldwin, Escambia

Crisis Center of Russell County

Crisis Line: (334) 297-4401,
Office: (334) 297-4484
Russell

Sabra Sanctuary, Inc.

Crisis Line: (334) 874-8711,
Office: (334) 877-4645
Dallas, Perry, Wilcox

ACAR

National Sexual Assault Hotline **1-800-656-HOPE** (4673)