

▶ "The Splendor in the Box," through April 12 at McKissick Museum.  
 ▶ "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 7:30 p.m. April 8-9, Koger Center.

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## Sexual assault survivors speak out

features editor JENNIFER STANLEY

Victims of violence and sexual assault will take a step toward breaking their silence Tuesday through Thursday when T-shirts from USC's Clothesline Project are on display on Greene Street.

About 70 people participated in the project.

The project, which is a national event, uses t-shirts as a way for men and women to tell their stories and create something out of their pain, said Stacy Race, a sexual assault advocate and volunteer.

The project is designed for survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, ostracism because of sexual orientation and incest to paint shirts. T-shirts are also created in memory of someone who died violently.

"Diversity is what makes it so special," Race said.

Race also stressed the "very personal, individualized" nature of the project. She said each participant is in a different part of their survival.

The atmosphere of the T-shirt painting sessions was supportive, Race said.

"We typically saw groups of people already aware of each other's traumas

Support was reliant on others in the group.

"The hardest thing is to admit to yourself that you're assaulted. (Painting) a T-shirt with others is very difficult, of course," she said.

While one participant might be ready to start speaking publicly about his or her experience, another might just be taking ownership of the experience.

One participant said her goal was to create something eye catching.

"(I designed it to) scream out for people to look at it in terms of their life," she said. "If I make them think about being a survivor of sexual assault, then I truly painted it for a reason."

The woman who many say helps to give a name and face to date rape will speak at USC at 8:30 p.m. Monday in the Business School's Belk Auditorium.

Katie Koestner, a Public Policy and Women's Studies graduate of the College of William and Mary, will present a program about sexual assault and harassment that includes a question and answer period.

She will discuss her journey from victim to survivor, intertwining her story with that of other survivors from

across the nation. She stresses communication, responsibility in the use of drugs and alcohol, and respect for self and for peers.

Koestner, 26, has told audiences in 46 states about her experience and survival of a sexual assault by a fellow student at William and Mary. Since then, she has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, NBC Nightly News and other national news shows and publications.

And in 1993, she finished a docudrama called "No Visible Bruises: The Katie Koestner Story" with HBO. The RHA channel will show the docudrama Wednesday and Thursday.

Koestner is a Virginia State trained and certified peer educator and sexual assault counselor. She also influenced Congress to pass the Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights in 1992.

Her goal is to reach as many students as possible while she is still young enough for them to relate to her as a peer, a press release says. She plans to attend law school and start a firm that specializes in expanding the legal rights of sexual assault victims.

### GETTING HELP

- ▶ Rape Crisis Network 771-RAPE (7273) or 252-8393
- ▶ USC Sexual Assault Services 777-7619
- ▶ Cayce Police 794-0456
- ▶ Columbia Police 252-2911
- ▶ USC Police 777-55282
- ▶ West Columbia Police 794-0721

### CRISIS INTERVENTION

- ▶ AIDS Hotline 1-800-322-AIDS (2437) or 1-800-942-3425
- ▶ Helpline of the Midlands 790-4357
- ▶ S.C. Program Assistance Line 734-2050
- ▶ State Office of Victim Assistance 737-8120 or 1-800-521-6576

### MEDICAL SERVICES

- ▶ Baptist Medical Center Emergency Room 771-5050
- ▶ Richland Memorial Hospital 434-6111, Emergency Room 765-7561, Ambulatory Care Center 434-4100
- ▶ Teen Health Scene 699-1299

### LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- ▶ Dial 911 for an emergency

### SOLICITER'S OFFICES

- ▶ Lexington County 359-8352
- ▶ Richland County 748-4785

### STATS

- ▶ One out of every four women will be the survivor of a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault by the end of their college career.
- ▶ According to research, as many as one-third of high school and college students experience violence in an intimate or dating relationship.
- ▶ An average of 36 sexual assault/relationship violence cases have been reported anonymously each year to Sexual Assault Services since 1993. source: USC Sexual Assault Services

## Letting their voices be heard

**I just finished watching the TV network's mini-drama series depicting a girl who just got raped and finally put the guy in jail. I glance over at the top story of the hour—some public drunk, jaywalking vietnam vet who proclaimed that he shouldn't be imprisoned, despite repeat offenses by murders and rapists.**

**Murders and rapists? Are these the people who occupy our concrete cells of introspective reform? This was the message I always got, until it happened. Until the police,**

**hospital workers and judges looked at me differently—like I deserved worse than I got. Where is that network detective that is supposed to help me put this danger to society into the concrete cell with his name on it?**

**Who sold me [the story that] as long as you could face the man who attacked you, he would automatically (or in the duration of three commercial segments) be jailed, and the world would be safer?**

**Then I discovered that I was being followed by a private investigator who flash-es some out-of-date badge and**

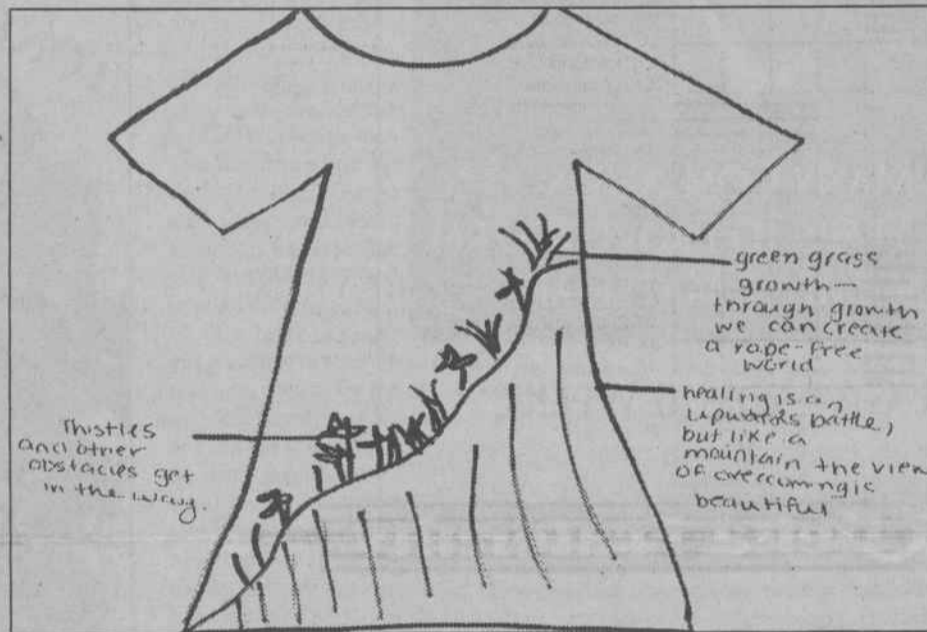
**asks people I know about me, like I'm some sort of criminal. No sir, you're not frightening me into dropping charges.**

**They tell me this is standard procedure, and it's going to have to be standard procedure until more women come through to endure 15 months to two years of systematic revictimization. Trials don't come immediately—neither does justice.**

**How many years do you think the rapist will get? Who is the defendant?**

—survivor, 21 years old

The Gamecock could have written a story about sexual assault and violence. But we decided to let the survivors speak for themselves.



### FACT and FICTION

source: Rape Crisis Network

**FICTION:** The primary motivation for rape is sexual.

**FACT:** The primary motivation for rape is to discharge feeling of anger, contempt, hostility, vulnerability and inadequacy. Sex is the means of discharging those feelings and asserting control, power and exploitation.

**FICTION:** Most rapes occur in dark alleys or outside in public places.

**FACT:** Very few rapes occur outdoors. Most occur in the victim's home, rapist's home or an automobile. Places of assault have ranged from victims' own home to public parks, cemeteries, beaches, shopping mall, public restrooms, churches, side streets and alleyways.

**FICTION:** Many reports of rape are later found to be false.

**FACT:** The FBI has stated that false claims of rape are no higher than that of other major crimes or two percent of reports to law enforcement agencies.

**FICTION:** Rape is encouraged and provoked by seductive dress and behavior.

**FACT:** Groth states "issues of provocation really are ridiculous when one realizes that the victims of rapist include males as well as females and occupy all age categories from infancy to old age" (Groth, "Men Who Rape").

**FICTION:** A weapon and the use of physical violence is necessary to commit a rape

**FACT:** While physical violence is usually threatened and might be used, victims might be terrorized or intimidated into submission by the rapist's mere presence. As do perpetrators of other violent crimes, rapists instill terror to ensure submission and convey threats verbally and nonverbally.

**FICTION:** Rape is not as traumatic for a prostitute as for virgins.

**FACT:** This myth rests on the assumption that rape is sexual in nature. In fact, the psychological significance of rape has to do with loss of power, control and personal invasion; these issues are just as relevant for the sexually experienced as for the inexperienced.

**FICTION:** Thought, training and planning, an individual can prevent sexual assault.

**FACT:** While individuals can reduce their risk of becoming a victim, sexual assault cannot be prevented.

**FICTION:** Most victims react hysterically to rape.

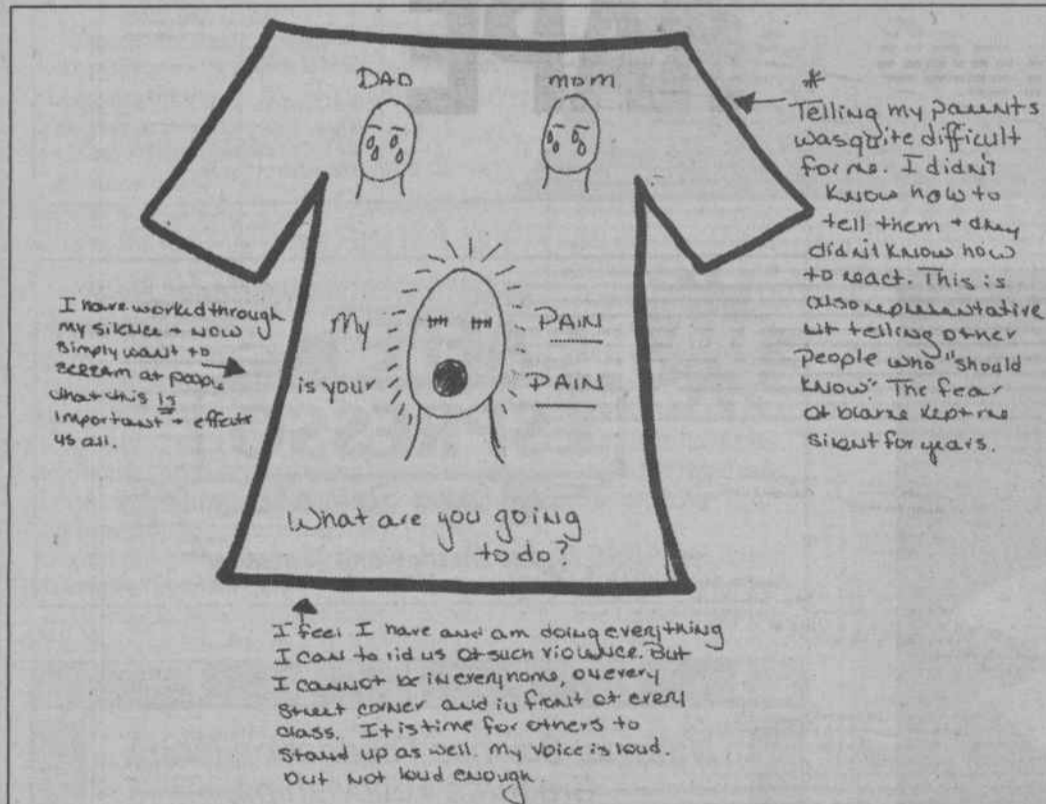
**FACT:** Victims might experience a wide range of emotions in the immediate hours following a rape including feelings of humiliation, degradation, embarrassment, anger, revenge, guilt or shame.

**FICTION:** Men cannot be raped.

**FACT:** According to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports of 1982, one of 10 males will be sexually assaulted by someone they know by the age of 13. Male sexual assault might take the form of fondling, sodomy and oral copulation.

**FICTION:** All males who sexually abuse children are homosexual.

**FACT:** According to D. Mann (1988), a greater number of heterosexual males abuse children than homosexual males.



**It was a co-worker** I fought off the summer before my senior year [of high school]. I had been warned (he had a history) and had even warned others of his strange glances and fondling hands. I was strong. He wouldn't get me. He wouldn't be working here if they really thought him a threat.

It was over. Others looked at me with concern as I ran, tear streaming, for my car.

He was fired. I was intimidated and pressed no further charges.

It is five years after my assault and just now do I truly see the effects. Trust is hard, especially when broken. More importantly, when it's the trust in yourself you question. With continual support and understanding, I am no longer fearful. I am angry that he got away, that they get away, that we are intimidated, that I am but one person. I see hope and move in that direction.

—survivor, 22 years old

### Representation of T-shirt colors

- pink: sexual assault
- yellow: domestic/relationship violence
- white: memory of someone who died violently
- purple: sexual orientation
- blue: incest

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