

## Around Campus

- Oct 29**  
**Honors Mystery Dinner**  
**M. Soccer v. Limestone**  
 3:00 PM, Soccer Field  
**Volleyball v. Wingate**  
 7:00 PM, LYCC
- Oct 30**  
**Fall Ball**  
**YOTS Film Festival**  
*The Day the Earth Stood Still*  
 111 Comm Studies Hall
- Oct 31**  
**Football v. Tusculum**  
 1:00 PM @ Tusculum  
**W. Soccer v. F-M**  
 2:00 PM, Soccer Field
- Nov 3**  
**Distinguished Artist Series**  
 St. Louis Brass Quintet  
 8:00 PM, Hamrick Hall
- Nov 5**  
**Fine Arts Recital**  
 9:25 AM, Hamrick Hall
- Nov 6**  
**Volleyball v. Citadel**  
 7:00 PM, LYCC
- Nov. 7**  
**VIP Day**  
**Football v. Presbyterian**  
 1:30 PM, Spangler Stadium
- Nov 12**  
**Distinguished Artist Series**  
 electro acoustic music  
 8:00 PM, Hamrick  
**YOTS Film Festival**  
 Bob Roberts  
 111 Comm Studies Hall
- Nov 14**  
**Football v. Mars Hill**  
 1:30 PM, Spangler Stadium
- Nov 19**  
**Fine Arts Recital,**  
 9:25 AM, Dover Chapel
- Nov 24**  
**GWU Symphonic Band**  
 8:00 PM, Dover Theatre
- Dec 2**  
**YOTS Film Festival**  
*An Angel At My Table*  
 111 Comm Studies Hall
- Dec 3**  
**Festival of Lights**  
**GWU Choirs**  
 7:00 PM Dover Theatre
- Dec 7**  
**University Orchestra**  
 8:00 PM Dover Theatre
- Dec 10**  
**Fine Arts Recital**  
 9:25 AM Hamrick
- Jan 13-14, 1999**  
**Grease auditions**

# Koestner tells of date rape

Mary Jones  
 Pilot Staff

***"I decided that I was going to be brave," said Katie Koestner, who a year after being raped by a fellow student at the College of William and Mary, began to tell her story. She said that it is important for her to speak on the 29th of every year, the day she was raped, even though it's hard. "It's the best way to cope," she said.***

When nationally known date rape awareness speaker Katie Koestner spoke at Dimensions Tuesday, Sept. 29, the room was silent. No books swished. There was no murmuring. There was only occasional laughter when she made a funny comment. She spoke the whole hour and when she finished, the room burst into applause and a standing ovation.

On the third weekend of her freshman year at the College of William and Mary University, Koestner was raped by a fellow student in her room after a date. She told the crowd at Dimensions what she remembers of the night—his comments, her thoughts, her actions, even the color of the carpet and the walls.

She says, "I liked him." He was a popular guy on campus and she felt lucky to date him. But, after saying no over 12 times, her rapist.

She says "When I was 18, date rape

didn't exist." Her case divided her campus. Her own roommate didn't believe her and on the day her rapist was convicted, a neighbor in her dorm went out on a date with him.

Her parents do not support her in her work. She says "I am up here alone." If she stopped speaking, she says her parents would talk to her. That's how much it means for her to speak, she says. "I want to see a world free of rape."

She emphasized that if one man would stand up and say that rape was wrong, he would make a greater impact than she could ever make. She said, "If you are a man sitting in this room and don't like rape, what will you do to stop it?" She challenged men to stand up and to not even laugh at rape jokes.

"It takes a strong man to stand in the face of your peers. Be angry now. Take a stand now."

She told the girls that she would not tell them what to wear and what to do. "The best defense is your own self-confidence. Decide what to take and what not to take."

Koestner said that she hears an average of 10 stories of rape at each school, no matter what the size or type. She said that since being on campus since Monday night, she had already heard four stories.

She said that one in four women are raped or sexually assaulted. She said that all that takes is a mother, a sister, a girlfriend, and a daughter. She said not to think that it will happen to someone else. She said that kind of thinking scares her. "It could happen to you."

Rachel Nutting said, "I was surprised by the statistic that one in four women are raped or sexual assaulted. I didn't realize that it was that prevalent. It was a good reality check for me. I thought - never in this perfect Christian world."

Amanda Keene said, "I think that her coming and talking was something that unified the campus. Her story was something everybody could relate to at some level. the compassion for her really unit-

ed everybody."

Matthew Miller said, "I think she did a good job. She made good points and came down to everyone's level. I liked the way she presented the one in four statistic."

There were different reactions to Koestner's story. She acknowledged that some people would say that she was naive to ask a man she had only known for a couple weeks back to her room to dance to romantic music. She said that she knows that many people would say that they would not have made the same choices that she did. She stressed that she was very naive when she was 18.

Some people were more skeptical. Franklin Tallah said, "Some of my friends

***"The best defense is your own self-confidence. Decide what to take and what not to take."***

didn't want to hear it. They thought it was male-bashing. I have two sisters and I wouldn't wish anything like that to happen to them. At the same time you have to be logical. I'm interested in

knowing what the guy was feeling. I don't agree with the guy at all. I wouldn't be able to stand anyone doing that to my sisters. I don't think she was wrong."

"I heard a lot of people say she was naive. She was too trusting, but, you don't know how you're going to react unless you were there," said Natalie Morgan.

Katie Ragsdale concluded, "Just because she might have been naive about the whole thing doesn't matter. If she was standing naked in front of him and said no, it's still wrong. No means no."

Doug Searcy had heard Koestner speak at Davidson last year and said that he "was pleased with her ability to connect with people and provide her experience in a very real way so people could understand the issue of date rape."

He said, "specifically for Gardner-Webb, date rape is something we don't talk about and the more we realize its an issue for us, the more we can do to educate ourselves and hopefully resolve the issue."

He said he "hopes the impact is long-term. We are effected today because of our recognition of how important the discussion of this is. I hope we begin to take steps personally and as a community so that we can help people going through this or prevent it for others and make it not as much an issue in the future."

Individual pockets of people are affected by this whether its happened to a friend or someone in a family. Hopefully this has helped them to deal with it. Others may have never heard of this or don't think it happens that much. The awareness stems conversations that multiply even when she's [Koestner] not here."

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## Challenging date rape

Katie Koestner started to speak a year after her rape. Since then, Katie Koestner appeared on the June 3, 1991 cover of TIME magazine. She worked with HBO in 1991 to make the Lifestories Docudrama entitled, "No Visible Bruises: The Katie Koestner Story." She graduated from the college of William and Mary in 1994 Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

She has since presented her program to hundreds of thousands of students at over 500 colleges, high schools, and military institutions in nearly 50 states. She has appeared on television shows including the Oprah Winfrey Show, Geraldo, NBC Nightly News, Larry King Live, and Entertainment Tonight.

Articles about her story have appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and hundreds of other newspapers and publications. She has been the keynote speaker at several international and national conferences on sexual assault.