

No means no

Senior Sylvia Passantino begins the battle on violence against women

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The Pendulum

Elon's first hugely successful Rape Awareness Week was made possible by the newly formed campus group One in Three. Senior Sylvia Passantino helped found the group and spoke to *The Pendulum* about the organization and the recent events to raise campus consciousness on the subject of rape.

Pendulum: How did you come up with the idea for the One in Three organization?

Passantino: In a women's studies group in the fall with Professor Larson, we were discussing the fact that there is nothing on campus that deals with rape awareness.

Pendulum: How did you get it started?

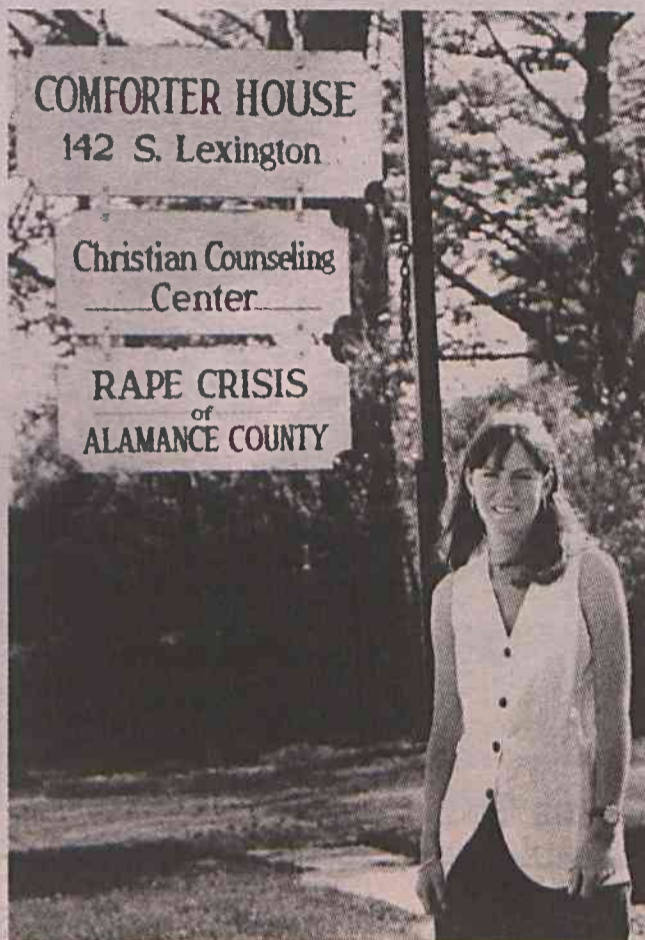
Passantino: I went to Rape Crisis and talked with the director, Brenda Gum, and we decided to set up a training session. Usually they have a 30-hour training program, and they do it every Tuesday and Thursday for two months.

We decided to do one and gear it towards the students, like a crash course, and do a Friday, Saturday, Sunday weekend for six hours a day for students. Students are better off to do something like that than every Tuesday and Thursday. Brenda worked with me, and we got together 22 students.

Pendulum: How difficult was it to actually get it started?

Passantino: It was very easy because I took Psychology and Women's Studies classes and went through Rape Crisis training.

Also, John Barnhill really helped me out. He made me excited about it and led me into all the directions I needed. Barbara Plumblee, who is a computer science professor, is the group's advisor and has been a lot of help with getting the group started. The professors also helped



Sylvia Passantino

with funding the organization because we have no money right now.

Pendulum: What does the group hope to accomplish?

Passantino: We're trying to get recognition from the school. I've written a constitution, but it hasn't been corrected yet. It's almost ready to go, and we are trying to

get SGA funding.

Another goal we have is to make Rape Awareness Week and the Take Back the Night march annual events. We are also trying to do role plays with sororities and fraternities and maybe Residence Hall Association.

Pendulum: How are you planning to continue with the group next year?

Passantino: I'm graduating, but we had training for new members this past Sunday. We decided to condense the training to six hours because a lot of the training we did was counseling. We teach members empathy towards victims. We also want to teach new members how to do role plays.

Pendulum: Does the group work with Rape Crisis?

Passantino: Yes, we do. We do all of our counseling through Rape Crisis.

Pendulum: Does the group have weekly meetings?

Passantino: Yes, we try. During the month before Rape Awareness week, we tried to have weekly meetings and sometimes more than that. We've spent most of our time preparing for Rape Awareness Week. Since the group is new, we haven't had other meetings, but we are trying to continue with the weekly meetings.

Pendulum: How did you get the idea for the Take Back the Night march?

Passantino: I got the idea from Duke University. Brenda Gum and I went to talk with the Duke University Rape Awareness group. We got ideas for role plays, and they invited us up there for their march. Ten of us went and participated. It was incredible.

Pendulum: How did you feel about the march here?

Passantino: I thought it was incredible. It was completely successful. We expected about 300 people and had almost 600 show up.

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