

UNC gathers to fight rising sexual violence

Joins national effort to reclaim 'night'

BY ROBBY MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Women made up the majority of the almost 100 attendees Wednesday night silently protesting sexual violence.

But a man was the center of attention.

The audience members gathered in a tight group in front of Wilson Library and held flickering candles around guest speaker, Christopher Kilmartin, to commemorate Take Back The Night — an international chain of rallies and marches that protest against sexual and domestic violence.

"Men's violence is the single most serious health problem for women," said Kilmartin, a psychology professor at the University of Mary Washington, stand-up comedian and playwright.

"There is this unconscious need by men ... to keep women in their place," he said.

Colored with witty humor and strings of expert psychological terminology, Kilmartin's message ultimately was stern in urging men to be proactive in stopping the violence.

"The main issue is about good guys being passive bystanders ... when other men are causing harm," Kilmartin said.

He addressed several notorious cases, including the Kobe Bryant trial and the recent rape allegations against members of Duke University's men's lacrosse team.

"There were probably nice men at that party who just didn't speak up," he said of the Duke party, at which an exotic dancer says she was raped.

Take Back the Night rallies and marches began in England, and first appeared stateside in 1978 in San Francisco as a protest against the fear that plagued women while they walked the street at night.

This is the ninth year that UNC has participated, said Chimi Boyd, interim director of the Carolina Women's Center.

"It's important to end silence around sexual violence," she said. "Anyone of the University should be able to walk anywhere and feel safe."

Among a slew of statistics Kilmartin listed after his presentation, he said the most astounding was the fact that about 50 percent of women's emergency room visits regard domestic violence.

"And only about 1 percent of sexual assault perpetrators ever spend a day in jail," he added.

Local domestic violence has been on the rise since 2003 for

reasons unknown to police.

The Chapel Hill Police Department saw 562 domestic disturbance calls in 2005 — a 6.8 percent increase from the year before.

Kilmartin warned against those domestic crimes that often go unnoticed or unreported.

"A stranger rape always makes the papers, but an acquaintance rape never does unless it's a celebrity," he said.

Wednesday's event was sponsored by Project Dinah, a campus women's advocacy group.

"This represents the need for women and men to step forward," said Allison Rose, chairwoman for the project. "It's about survivors having a voice and making sure they don't feel alone."

Following the speech, a silent march ensued. The participants started at Wilson Library, headed to Franklin Street and then returned to Hanes Hall, where the ceremony's final events were held.

Kilmartin said he is happy with the increasing number of men attending his lectures.

In addressing spousal abuse, he offered some advice.

"If you can't understand your wife, I recommend the much-overlooked method of listening to her."

Contact the News Editor at uodesk@unc.edu.

ROGERS ROAD

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included that Chapel Hill would determine how the Rogers Road area would be developed.

"It's an area that is perfectly positioned for some good planning attention right now," said Roger Waldon, former Chapel Hill planning director. Waldon, who helped develop much of the zoning determinations for the area, retired last year after 21 years with the town.

Because it's outside Chapel Hill limits, a portion of the region doesn't receive some needed amenities.

A resident of Rogers Road has become an annual fixture at municipal budget hearings.

"It's in the planning jurisdiction for the town of Chapel Hill but not

within the town limits, so there's no garbage pickup for example and no bus transportation," said Susan Levy, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Habitat has built two neighborhoods in the Rogers Road area — New Homestead Place and Rusch Hollow. In those areas, Habitat has helped extend sewer access.

"I think now that we have two communities that we've built there, we clearly feel a commitment to helping the neighborhood to the degree we can to work on common problems," Levy said, adding that the town and county should become more involved.

She cited other problems including wells which could be contaminated due to a nearby landfill.

But the blame for these prob-

lems cannot lie with current leadership, said Barry Jacobs, chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, who is running for re-election this year. "The Rogers Road community has historically been overburdened with landfill uses that were created long before any of the current elected officials came on the scene," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said there has been some planning in the past to bring amenities to the neighborhood, and new plans will continue to be made.

But Foy said the small area plan does not necessarily ensure change. "The plan is like any plan; it can be modified, or it can be ignored or it can be executed upon."

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HOUSING

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a number of renters.

Waldon, who now works as a consultant for the town helping to draft the districts, said in Northside, which falls under a conservation district, the ratio of bedrooms to bathrooms is used to limit renters.

Waldon explained that the districts are designed to prevent development from changing neighborhood flavors.

"There are a number of neighborhoods around town that have characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable to changing market pressures and demands," he said.

He cited specifically neighborhoods that are older, close to downtown or close to campus.

Districts are used to align covenant lot size rules and town zoning, prevent absentee landlords and avert tear-downs.

Tear-downs occur when developed property value increases dramatically. If prices spike enough, it becomes lucrative for developers to

buy a house, tear it down and erect a newer, often larger, home.

"Some people think that that's a fine idea; other people are worried," he said.

Waldon said the trend was just starting in Chapel Hill a year ago, but it is established elsewhere.

"That's a trend that a lot of communities all across this country are experiencing," he said, noting tear-downs in places such as Charlotte; Princeton, N.J.; and the suburbs of Chicago.

If all the conservation district applications except the one for Coker Hills, recently slowed by a neighborhood spat at a planning board meeting, were to pass, the campus would be ringed by such districts.

And while the applications do go through the planning board, board member and student Tom Jensen said the final step in the process is the most important.

"Ultimately all that matters is what the (Town Council) wants," he said.

And it's not just Chapel Hill that's been tackling the problem.

In 2002, Carrboro, which has a large renting population, passed ordinance changes designed to deal with similar problems after residents complained about a house on Pine Street.

The new rules make it tougher to expand buildings that do not follow current zoning regulations and have multiple dwelling units.

Mayor Pro Tem Joal Hall Broun said families with young children often don't like living next to rowdy college kids.

"When you're 18, 19, you don't have a lot of sense," she said.

But she said considering renters' rights and the needs of families is not a cut and dried proposition so much as a "balancing act."

Broun added that the Pine Street-prompted changes aren't necessarily where the aldermen will stop, and that districts like Chapel Hill's can't be ruled out.

"We don't have one, but I'm ... sure it could evolve to that."

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FESTIVAL

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we recognize bluegrass," he said.

"This will give us an opportunity to examine a time in the '30s and '40s when a very modern kind of music was being cultivated."

Located outside Asheville, Black Mountain College opened in 1933 to foster the arts and creative thinking.

During the college's 23-year history, a wealth of noteworthy material was created — particularly music under the school's influential music director, Heinrich Jalowitz.

Artists, such as the experimental music composer John Cage, were among the Americans who came to the college to hone their craft and, in effect, took inspiration from the Europeans there. In fact, Cage composed one of his most famous

works, "4'33," a composition of silence, while at Black Mountain.

Hiam noted that many North Carolinians do not know that such avant-garde music was being created in their own backyard.

The festival also will feature more traditional music, said music professor Severine Neff.

Folk singer Judith Rhodes, a native of Black Mountain and the sister of UNC music professor Terry Rhodes, will perform Saturday.

"We're showing how Black Mountain affected the world, but there are people who live in Black Mountain," Neff said, referring to other types of music in the area.

The festival begins today with a Memorial Hall performance by the Brentano String Quartet and mezzo-soprano Mary Nessinger. It runs through Sunday and features performances from UNC students

and professors, among others.

Sunday's performance at Hill Hall will feature Cage's "Theater Piece, No. 1."

Hiam said this performance is known in the musical world as a "happening," or a free form, multimedia performance.

"There's also a rumor that the happening will involve some live animals," he added jokingly.

Many of the performances are free, and those at Memorial Hall and some at Hill Hall are discounted for students. Weekend passes are also available.

More information can be obtained by calling the music department at 962-1093 or visiting music.unc.edu/calendars/blackmnt/.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

SPAT

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would be they'd redo they process," he said.

Deans said he isn't worried about which way Allred will lean.

"I'm confident that he will end up going with Mark because there are no other candidates," he said.

But Congress isn't likely to let up the pressure on Ihnat the second time around, Farley predicted.

"My vote would be incumbent upon hearing from the nominee a definitive statement that elections would no longer be a part of the nomination process," he said.

Ihnat says that he would not be

willing to rule out the elections process completely were he to become court chairman, but that he might be willing to compromise by not publicly releasing the results of the election.

The elections process has been honored even since its removal from the Instrument of Student Governance in 2003.

"I think the Honor Court's membership is the most knowledgeable

body on this campus in deciding who their leadership should be," Ihnat said, echoing the sentiments of other court members.

"It's been an interesting and eye-opening experience," he said, referring to the contentious confirmation process. "I really love the honor system."

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GONG SHOW

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Bites the Dust" whenever a contestant was gonged off the stage.

One audience member said she came not only for the event but also for the organization it benefits.

"First of all, it's a really good cause," said Cristina Garcia, a 2005 UNC graduate.

"I've seen CHiPs before, and I really like their shows," she said.

"I'm actually in an improv class right now. This is something that I just wanted to support and enjoy."

Despite the situation in Malawi, North said, the event could serve as a source of hope for the future.

"There is hope due to our spirit of compassion — not charity, but compassion."

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Thursday, March 30


Noon, Dey Hall Toy Lounge: "Body Beautiful": film and discussion. Explore issues of body image, beauty, sexuality and mother-daughter relationships. Lunch provided.

5 p.m., Dey Hall Toy Lounge: "Ain't I a Woman?" Discovering Commonalities: panel discussion to stimulate dialogue about creating and defining "women-only" spaces. Panelists include individuals who identify as women and have experienced varying levels of discomfort in "women-only" spaces. Dinner provided.

7 p.m., Sonja Haynes Stone Center Auditorium: "Body and Sold," a play about sexual-trafficking. Written by Deborah Lake Forston, and performed by the Tempest Company. "Body and Sold" explores the lives of eight young runaways who were lured into prostitution and escaped that abusive world to continue their educations and improve their lives. Discussion with cast after the performance.



carolina women's center



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