

Working Against Violence Everywhere

# wave-

VOLUME: 02

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## SERVICE AREAS

Bolivar County  
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 Leflore County  
 Sunflower County  
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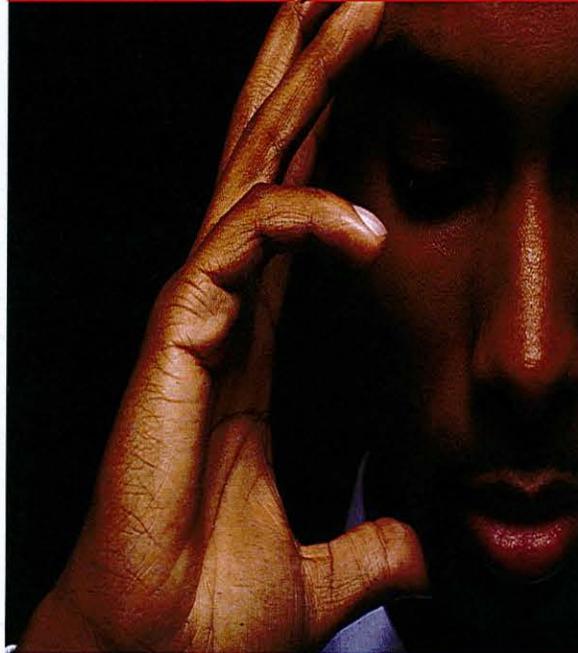


The **WAVELENGTH** newsletter is designed to provide readers with information about events and activities to help them learn more about preventing interpersonal violence. It also provides valuable information related to youth who are effected by interpersonal vio-

As a response to the rising number of male victims of dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, this issue of **WAVELENGTH** will feature articles referencing statistics, myths, facts and resources regarding male victims. ~~~

## MEN AND BOYS ARE VICTIMS TOO...

**In the U.S., over 10% of all victims are males!**



**Men and boys are also victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and rape.** According to the U.S. Department of Justice, *2003 National Crime Victimization Survey, in the U.S., over 10% of all victims are male.* The overwhelming emotions that come with surviving a sexual assault can lead to emotional withdrawal. It can be difficult for men to seek help for fear of how others will judge them. Responses from friends and family can be damaging or unsupportive.

If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, ***it's not your fault. You are not alone.*** Help is available 24/7 through Our House Hotline 1-888-884-LQVE (56883) ~~~



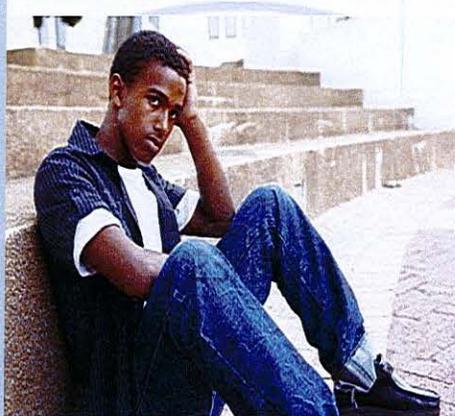
### IN THIS ISSUE: FOCUS ON MALE VICTIMS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

- Myths and Facts / pages 2-3
- Male Victims of Sexual Assault / page
- WAVE Designs / page 7
- Calendar — Don't miss these special events / page 8

# ask the experts

**Q** : Are men victims of dating violence?

**A** : When most people think of domestic violence, they picture a man battering or abusing a woman. Statistically this is true. But if you think men can't be the victims of domestic violence, either from a woman, or from another man, you'd be very wrong.



**DATING VIOLENCE IS NEVER O.K.**

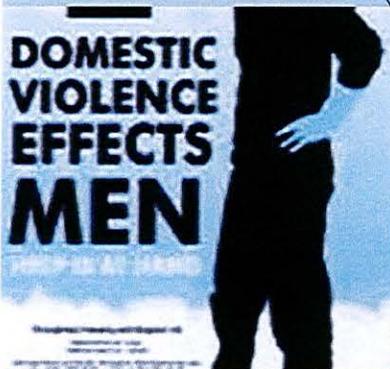


*By ShayLa Anderson and Bobby Sims, Jr.*

## resilience corner

Bouncing back; elasticity; empowered to recover; return to normal state; overcome; to triumph!

Unknown- I dated a girl for a year and 1 month. When we first met, she was the best thing that ever happened to me. She always made me smile whenever I felt low. She kept me laughing. After 7 months she completely changed on me. She started to become controlling and her attitude was outrageous. She always called me out of my name. I loved her so much I tried to deal with it. It got to a point where I couldn't go out whenever I wanted to. She would get upset if I talked to other females. She wanted to control everything I did. I got fed up with it and I left her.



### Male Victims Of Domestic Violence Facts

- Male Victims come from all walks of life, social backgrounds and cultures.
- Male Victims suffer society's stigma for not protecting themselves
- Male Victims are victimized because they fail to conform to the Macho man stereotype
- Male Victims are perceived as wimps
- Male Victims are disbelieved because they are men

## MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT MYTHS AND FACTS

*By Aurelia Dillard and Kayla Patterson*

### MYTH #1 - BOYS AND MEN CAN'T BE VICTIMS.

We learn very early that males should be

able to protect themselves. In truth, boys are children - weaker and more vulnerable than their perpetrators - who cannot really fight back. Why? The perpetrator has generally greater size, strength, and knowledge. The perpetrators' power is exercised from a position of authority, using resources such as money or other bribes, or outright threats - whatever advantage can be taken to use a child for sexual purposes.

### MYTH #2 - IF A BOY EXPERIENCES SEXUAL AROUSAL OR ORGASM FROM ABUSE, THIS MEANS HE WAS A WILLING PARTICIPANT OR ENJOYED IT.

In reality, males can respond physically to stimulation (get an erection) even in traumatic or painful sexual situations. Therapists who work with sexual offenders know that one way a perpetrator can maintain secrecy is to label the child's sexual response as an indication of his willingness to participate. "You liked it, you wanted it," they'll say. Many survivors feel guilt and shame because they experienced physical arousal while being abused. Physical (and visual or auditory) stimulation is likely to happen in a sexual situation. It does not mean that the child wanted the experience or understood what it meant at the time.

**MYTH #3 - BOYS ABUSED BY MALES ARE OR WILL BECOME HOMOSEXUAL.**

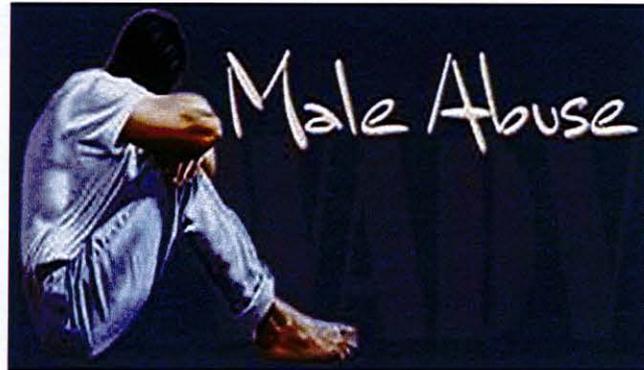
It is unlikely that someone can make another person a homosexual or heterosexual. Whether perpetrated by older males or females, boys' or girls' premature sexual experiences are damaging in many ways, including confusion about one's sexual identity and orientation. Many boys who have been abused by males erroneously believe that something about them sexually attracts males, and that this may mean they are homosexual... **Not true.** The pedophile's inability to develop a healthy adult sexual relationship is the problem - not the physical features of a sexually immature boy.

**MYTH #4 - IF THE PERPETRATOR IS FEMALE, THE BOY OR ADOLESCENT SHOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED INTO HETEROSEXUAL ACTIVITY.**

In reality, premature or coerced sex, whether by a mother, aunt, older sister, baby-sitter or other female in a position of power over a boy, causes confusion at best, and rage, depression or other problems in more negative circumstances. To be used as a sexual object by a more powerful person, male or female, is always abusive and often damaging.

**FOR ANY MALE WHO HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED, BECOMING FREE OF THESE MYTHS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE RECOVERY PROCESS.**

Adapted from a presentation at the 5th International Conference on Incest and Related Problems, Biel, Switzerland, August 14, 1991.



**“MALE POINT OF VIEW”**

I've been standing alone in this dark corner for so long  
 Could this feeling inside my chest be so wrong  
 These thoughts have attacked my mind  
 Surrounded by people who aren't so kind  
 How could I ever be a real man  
 When I had chances to walk away but instead I ran  
 Forced to be alone because I saw no way out  
 Wondering is this what love is all about  
 But I'm constantly reminded of the things that cut deep  
 Mind wondering, thoughts,  
 why don't you get some sleep  
 Cuts and bruises left across my face  
 Suffering in my own skin with such little space  
 You people once took away my pride  
 I said I was fine but deep down I lied  
 This anger inside couldn't truly be mine  
 Couldn't get away I wrote little rhymes  
 Bittersweet but nothin seems so sweet  
 Caught up in a daze that stiffens my feet  
 Wondering if this could be the end of me  
 But the devil keeps trying to find the sin in me  
 I've been through the fire I've felt the pain  
 Stand UP,  
 because you can't let hard times make you insane  
 This crazy life can't always be  
 So I took back what belonged to me  
 I've been through too much to let it take my joy  
 The man inside erased the scared little boy  
 If You're afraid then stand up and be a man  
 I chose to be brave so I know that you can





The students pictured have been selected to develop a public awareness campaign to prevent interpersonal violence: domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in Bolivar, Humphreys, Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties. They will also assist Our House, Inc. with developing a support group curriculum for youth victims who are effected by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in the Mississippi Delta Area. These projects are sponsored by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Washington, D.C. ❧

WAVE youth council was developed to help Our House, Inc. accomplish two goals: 1) to increase public awareness about the resources and services available to African American youth, ages 10-24, to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in the Mississippi Delta; and 2) to address the needs of African American youth, ages 13-24, who have been effected by or are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. We are active in five counties: Bolivar, Humphreys, Washington,



Patricia Carver  
Belzoni, Humphreys Cty.  
Shayla Anderson  
Cleveland, Bolivar Cty.  
Bobby Sims, Jr.  
Hollandale, Washington Cty.



Jyra 'Neesha Davis  
Greenville, Washington Cty.



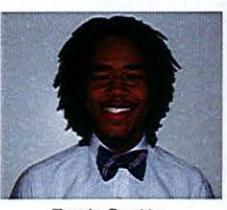
Marvin Parker, Jr.  
Greenville, Washington Cty.



Aurelia Dillard  
Hollandale, Washington Cty.



Kayla Patterson  
Hollandale, Washington Cty.



Trestin Gamble  
Itta Bena, Leflore Cty.



Kelvetta Robinson  
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Tiffany Newell  
Hollandale, Washington Cty.



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Belzoni, Humphreys Cty.

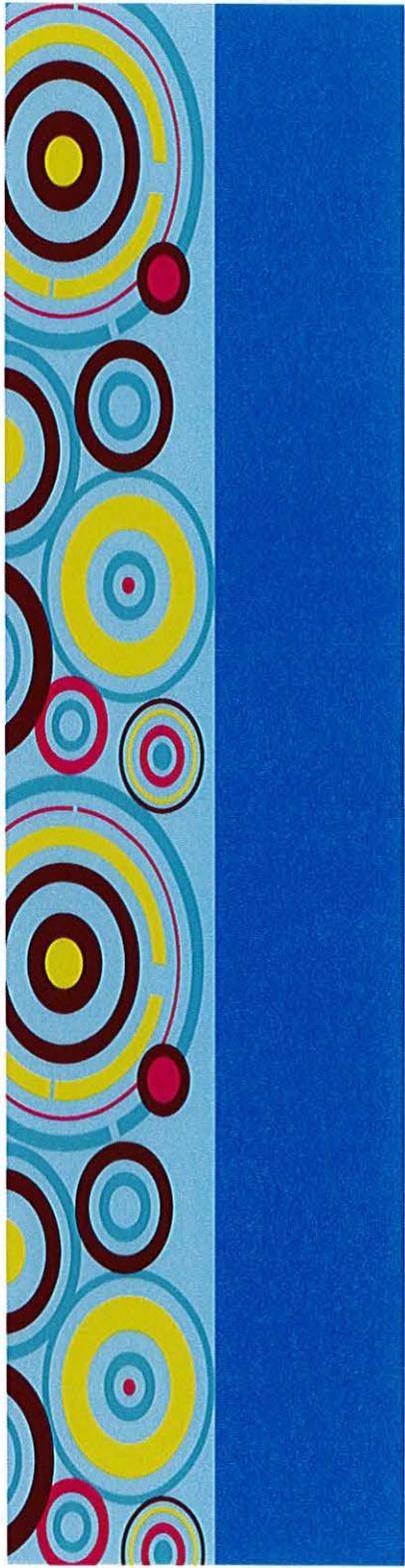
**MEET THE WAVE TEAM**



**WAVE ADVISORY TEAM**



Dr. Patricia A. Davenport  
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Felicia Thomas  
Healthy Relationship Director  
Our House, Inc.  
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Healthy Relationship Specialist  
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Star of the Morning  
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By  
Jyra'Neesha Davis

## male interpersonal violence statistics

- ⇒ 370,000 **men** are stalked annually in the United States.
- ⇒ 1 in 45 **men** will be stalked in their lifetime.
- ⇒ 30% of **male victims** are stalked by an intimate partner.

[www.aardvark.org/stalking/statistics.shtml](http://www.aardvark.org/stalking/statistics.shtml)

- ◇ 1 in 6 **boys** will be sexually assaulted by the age 18

Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault

- \* A **man** is severely assaulted by his wife/girlfriend every 14.6 seconds.
- \* Interestingly, about 30% of the **men** said they assaulted their partner in self-defense.

<http://www.safe4all.org/essays/2page.html>

# Know the flow

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

### FACTS:

- \* 1 in 4 girls will be sexually assaulted by the age 18
- \* 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the age 18
- \* 1 in 3 victims of sexual assault are under the age 12

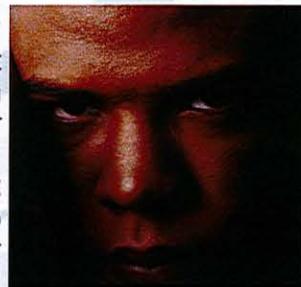
In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month **WAVE will host a Candle Light Vigil on April 21, 2012 at 2:00 at Our House, Inc. 1213 VFW Road.** The Theme of the program is "**A Light Unto My Path**". The program is free of charge and will include skits, songs, personal testimonies, cheers,

# M

By Marvin Parker

## MALE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

There is great societal denial of the fact that **men get sexually assaulted**. Chances are-- except for the occasional bad prison joke--most of us don't ever hear about the topic of **male sexual assault**. The need to deny the existence of **male sexual assault** is partly rooted in the mistaken belief that men are immune to being victimized, that they should be able to fight off any attacker if they are truly a "**real man**." A closely related belief is that men can't be forced into sex-- either they want it or they don't. These mistaken beliefs allow lots of men to feel safe and invulnerable, and to think of sexual assault as something that only happens to women. Unfortunately, these beliefs can also increase the pain that is felt by a male survivor of sexual assault. These beliefs leave the male survivor feeling isolated, ashamed, and "less of a man." No wonder so **few men** actually get help after being sexually assaulted. The fact is that only 5 to 20% of **all** victims of sexual assault actually report the crime-- the percentage for **male victims** is even lower. Feelings of shame, confusion and self-blame leave many men suffering in silence after being sexually assaulted.





**WAVE DESIGNS:** to the left: *Banners* (listing services)  
 Below: *Billboards* (yellow background) disseminated in 5 counties; *Cards* (disseminated throughout the community). We have also produced *Commercials* emphasizing the Warn signs of dating violence and sexual assault.



**“LOVE” Beyond Measure...IS NOT VIOLENT!**  
*Teens Speaking Out Against Dating Violence*

**“LOVE” Beyond Measure...IS NOT VIOLENT!**  
*Teens Speaking Out Against Dating Violence*



Call for more info!

Call for more info!

**1-888-884-LOVE (5683) 1-888-884-LOVE (5683)**



Does your partner pressure you to have sex, by saying, "If you loved me you would."



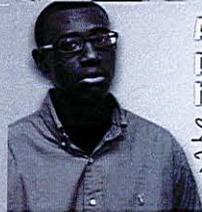
Does your partner make you feel afraid to express your own thoughts or feelings? Do they tell you what to wear? Where to go? Or who to hang out with?



Does your partner want your relationship to get serious too quickly? Do they refuse to take 'no' for an answer?



Does your partner have a history of violence and fighting? Do you worry how they'll react to what you say or do?



Are you ever afraid of your partner or do they break or hit things to intimidate you? Do they physically hurt you? Threaten to hurt you?



Have family or friends warned you about your partner? Have they told you they're worried about your safety?



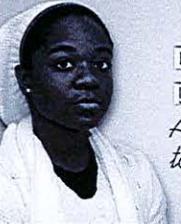
Does your partner treat their parents disrespectfully or dislike your family? Do they make you choose them over your friends?



Does your partner want you to be with them all the time? Are they constantly checking up on you?



Does your partner check your cell phone or email without your permission? Are they jealous of any attention you receive from others?



Do you worry about your partner's moods... And change your behavior to deal with them?



Does your partner abuse drugs or alcohol... And pressure you to take them, even though you don't want to?



Have there been dramatic changes since you started dating your partner? Do they ask you to skip school and activities, so you can 'be together more'?

## Know The Signs. Don't Be A Victim of Dating Violence

Teen dating violence and abuse is a pattern of destructive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner. While we define dating violence as a pattern, that doesn't mean the first instance of abuse is not dating violence. It just recognizes that dating violence usually involves a series of abusive behaviors over a course of time. While there are many warning signs of abuse, here are ten of the most common abusive behaviors:

- Checking your cell phone or email without permission
- Constantly putting you down
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive temper
- Isolating you from family or friends
- Making false accusations
- Mood swings
- Physically hurting you in any way
- Possessiveness
- Telling you what to do

If you or a loved one is in a violent relationship, call **OUR HOUSE...** we're here to help! **1-888-884-LOVE (5683)**

This PSA was produced by Our House, Inc., New Birth To Violence Free Living under 2010-VF-GX-K027, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



In February 2012 in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, WAVE hosted a "Love Beyond Measure... Is Not Violence Youth Rally. Nearly 150 people were in attendance. Skits were performed on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Poems, cheers, monologues, songs, mimes & cheers were also presented.



## Upcoming Calendar

### MARCH

- 24 W.A.V.E. Meeting
- 31 MIRACLES IN MARCH  
(Female Youth Summit)

### APRIL

- 5 Let's Talk About It Group Session
- 19 Mississippi Valley State University
- 19 Hinds Community College -  
Healthy Relationship Program
- 21 Sexual Assault Awareness Program
- 22-28 National Crime Victims Right's Week

### MAY

- 19 WAVE Meeting

### JUNE

- 6 Prayer Breakfast
- 7-8 Male Victims Of Sexual Assault &  
Domestic Violence Conference
- 24-26 21st Century Evaluation Conference
- TBA Youth Rally at George Lewis Estates



Pictures of WAVE's monthly meetings.

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