



LAKESHORE ALLIANCE AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Spring, 2010
visit our website at
www.laadsv.org
E-mail: info@laadsv.org

Digital Hazards and Technology Traps

by Judge Jon Van Allsburg

The last fifteen years have seen a revolution in the way we communicate and obtain information. The printed word, television and radio are now "old school" technologies. We have access to tens of millions of data sources, and can search them in seconds. Hundreds of millions of us are now linked socially into vast networks (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) in which we collectively share billions of relevant and irrelevant pieces of our lives. The new technologies of the information age are amazing and useful, but carry potential dangers as well.

In a recent court hearing, a young woman requested a personal protection order (PPO) against her boyfriend's ex-wife, who had called her home and then appeared at her door angrily demanding to talk to her ex. The girlfriend suspected that the ex-wife had improperly obtained her personal information and had followed them – how else did she know where she lived, or that the boyfriend was there?

The truth, as it came out in court, was that the girlfriend's personal information had been obtained from her own MySpace page – she had not used any privacy controls to limit public access. She and her boyfriend had not been followed, either. The ex-wife had simply looked up her ex-husband's cell phone on the internet, and went to the location shown on the map!

Apparently, neither the husband nor the girlfriend were aware – though the ex-wife certainly was – that the GPS-capability of a cell phone, available by default only to 911 services, can be easily re-set to permit anyone to track it on-line. (The PPO was not granted, but both parties were advised that as neither wanted any further contact from the other, any new unconsented contacts could justify a PPO).

This story is another reminder of the importance of managing on-line activity carefully. Remember that whatever goes on-line, stays on-line. Websites like the popular Internet Wayback Machine catalog everything ever posted on the internet, and store it in searchable form forever. So pay attention to your privacy settings, and take responsibility for what you post; or as Mom might have said, "Don't post anything on the internet that you wouldn't want to see on the front page of the newspaper."

The same caution applies to our devices as well. If you leave your cell phone where someone else can access it, it can be quickly configured to track you on the internet.

As useful as our tools of technology are, they should be handled with care.

The Hon. Jon Van Allsburg is a circuit court judge assigned to the Family Division of the 20th Circuit Court in Ottawa County, Michigan, and is an Executive Committee member of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (LAADSV).

Mission Statement

To prevent and reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence. To promote safety for victims and families and to hold abusers and perpetrators accountable.

This will be accomplished through coordinated community response, program development, community education, and collaborative activities.

These efforts are to be monitored through continual communication, research, and evaluation.

Join LAADSV

Any individual or agency may join LAADSV. Members benefit from training, agency collaboration, and domestic and sexual violence information. Annual membership dues are \$40. For more information on becoming a member or attending our trainings please contact Jo Ann Wassenaar at wassenaar@gvsu.edu or 616-331-2748. Membership applications are available online at www.laadsv.org.

Meeting Schedule

In 2010, LAADSV meets at 7:30 a.m. at Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive in Holland on the third Tuesday of every other month:

May 18
July 20
September 21
November 16

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles, agency news, upcoming events, and campus awareness activities to the LAADSV E-Newsletter to share with the community.

Email: LesleyC@aplaceforwomen.org

April is
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month



Teens Preventing Dating Violence

The DELTA Project's *Teens Preventing Dating Violence (TPDV)*

group promoted Sexual Assault Awareness Month by promoting their pledge campaign and participating in educational activities. In February, the TPDV group presented skits and an educational dating violence presentation to parents and fellow Upward Bound students at Hope College. The TPDV students promoted the DELTA Project display table at the 2010 GVSU Rock Against Rape event. In March, the TPDV students presented to the Upward Bound Advisory Committee on the work they are doing to promote healthy and respectful relationships. And to kick off the month of April, the TPDV group asked their peers to make a pledge for non-violence, collecting handprints and signatures for a wall collage. This summer, more Upward Bound students will have an opportunity to participate in a five-week Teens Prevention Dating Violence elective course offered during the TRiO Upward Bound Summer Session. Look for Teens Preventing Dating Violence on Facebook and check out the DELTA Project website for more information on dating violence and prevention efforts at <http://delta.aplaceforwomen.org>.



Baltazar Nuñez, Raul Solis, Cristian Panuco, & Abimael Bramasco R.

Michigan Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Prevention Plan

The statewide prevention plan is now available. LAADSV members participated in conducting a local community resource assessment and contributed to the development of the statewide prevention plan. Our local prevention plan is in development. Share the Michigan prevention plan brochure with your colleagues and friends.

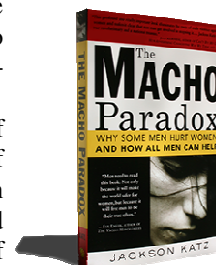
Prevention Plan: <http://www.mcadsv.org/resources/prevention/files/ExecutivePreventionReport.pdf>

Brochure: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/2660096/Brochure%20Final2.docx>

In his book, *The Macho Paradox, Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*, Jackson Katz makes the case that violence against women is a men's issue. Katz takes the reader deep inside male culture to examine why so many men physically and sexually abuse women and children, including those closest to them. Read more at: http://www.jacksonkatz.com/rio_declaration.html

THE DECLARATION

“What unites us is our strong outrage at the inequality that still plagues the lives of women and girls, and the self-destructive demands we put on boys and men. But even more so, what brings us together here is a powerful sense of hope, expectation, and possibility for we have seen the capacity of men and boys to change, to care, to cherish, to love passionately, and to work for justice for all. We are outraged by the pandemic of violence women face at the hands of some men, by the relegation of women to second class status, and the continued domination by men of our economies, of our politics, of our social and cultural institutions, in far too many of our homes. We also know that among women there are those who fare even worse because of their social class, their religion, their language, their physical differences, their ancestry, their sexual orientation, or simply where they live.



There are deep costs to boys and men from the ways our societies have defined men's power and raised boys to be men. Boys deny their humanity in search of an armor-plated masculinity. Young men and boys are sacrificed as cannon fodder in war for those men of political, economic, and religious power who demand conquest and domination at any cost. Many men cause terrible harm to themselves because they deny their own needs for physical and mental care or lack services when they are in need.”

~ Jackson Katz

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Center for Women in Transition invites you to wear a teal ribbon in support of raising public awareness about sexual crimes, educating communities on how to prevent sexual violence, and acknowledging survivors of sexual assault. During the month of April please consider wearing a teal ribbon in support of the cause. Wearing a teal ribbon shows others that you believe *we can end sexual violence!*

- *Become familiar with the facts*
- *Speak up when you observe injustice*
- *Be supportive to all sexual violence survivors and advocate for their rights*
- *Wear a teal ribbon*



“Strike Out Domestic & Sexual Violence” Bowling Tournament 2010

LAADSV hosted the “Strike Out Domestic & Sexual Violence” Bowling Tournament at Century Lanes in Holland on February 4. With the support of many community partners and generous donors, LAADSV raised over \$4,000 to support DELTA Project primary prevention programs. Twenty-eight bowlers participated in the charity tournament.

Thanks to the tremendous support of the community, DELTA has served over 6,700 middle school and high school students across seven school districts through the Healthy Relationships curriculum since 2006. DELTA is committed to working with schools, parents, faith communities, and service providers to prevent dating violence and promote respectful relationships.

For more information please contact Lesley Coghill, DELTA Project Coordinator at Center for Women in Transition at LesleyC@aplaceforwomen.org.

Exhibit Shines Light on Abuse

A new exhibit, “Shadows: Bringing Abuse into the Light,” has opened in the Lievensse Gallery at the Holland Area Arts Council and will run through April 30.

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, The Holland Area Arts Council and the Center for Women in Transition are presenting the exhibit, a photographic essay by Paula Stark.

A victim of child abuse herself, Stark’s essay has much in common with the story, experience and feelings of others. She uses symbolism and images to tell the story. She used objects of children's clothing and toys as symbols of childhood and portrays adults through suggestion such as the use of men’s articles of clothing. The abusers are portrayed by shape and form instead of specific features.

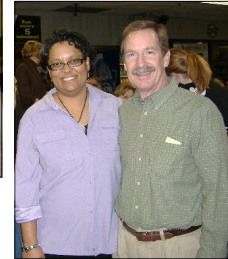
The arts council believes that the function of art is not only to portray the beauty of life, but also to shed light on challenging social issues and provoke dialogue. The arts council warns the photographs may be disturbing to some. Information about the Center for Women in Transition is available in the arts council board room adjacent to the exhibit.

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Thank You To Our Tournament Participants!



Susan DeJong, Leslie Flowerday, Jo Ann Wassenaar, and Von Cook



Charisse Mitchell & Jon Van Allsburg



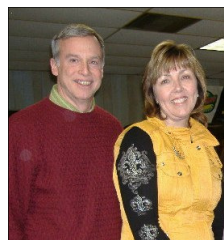
Abimael Bramasco R., Rocio Moreno, Ashley Mongar and Courtney Chapman - Teens Preventing Dating Violence



Josh and Anna White & Beth and Joe Larsen



Karen Grissen, Darcy Komejan, Stephanie Wilcox, and Britney Hines



David and Lori Rhem



(Back row) Lesley and Ryan Coghill, Ashley Mongar, (Front Row) Courtney Chapman, Rocio Moreno, and Abimael Bramasco R.