

# The Women's Word

WOMEN'S CENTER  
● ● ● ● ● ● LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

...For Women's Voices to Be Heard

Volume 5, Issue 1  
February 2007

## The Vagina Monologues

### Back for Your Pleasure

By Alex Milspaw '07

It is my pleasure to bring to you Lehigh's **seventh** annual benefit production of Eve Ensler's world-renowned play *The Vagina Monologues* along with VDAY's 2007 theme, *Reclaiming Peace*. As a senior, I am now producing this amazing production at Lehigh for the second time. In fall 2005 I also had the privilege of bringing this movement to Brisbane, Australia where it had never been seen before. Each and every time I take part in this phenomenal movement I am tremendously empowered and inspired by the amazing women I work with. I am truly blessed to hold this role once again this year, and to make a difference on my campus, in my community and around the world. I hold this play deep within my heart as I will for the rest of my life.

Helping to prevent sexual violence and heal the numerous survivors on my campus and in my community has been the outline of my college career. Producing *The Vagina Monologues* on campus and in Australia has only encouraged me to continue the work I do. It was through this production that I heard more stories of terror, anger, violence and hatred toward women and children than I had ever come close to imagining. At the same time, I observed and recognized how many people I was able to reach through the use of such expressive art and theatre production. I am overwhelmed when I watch the exponential growth of interest and enthusiasm for spreading knowledge and ending violence against women through the use of this outlet of education and awareness. Time and time again I am reminded how powerful the expressive arts can truly be, especially when trying to communicate such a delicate topic.

Cont'd on p. 4

**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
Vagina Monologues preview!  
Drunk Sex or Date Rape?  
Dr. Wangari Maathai  
Calendar of events



Feb. 23, 7 p.m. ; 24, 4 p.m. ; 25, 2 p.m. in Lamberton

### Vagina Monologues 2007 Cast

Bonnie Belvin, Alyssa Cadue, Hilary Chadwick, Chris Diggs, Maura Douglas, Helena Gleboki, Sarah Griesbach, Rachel Flood, Shelly Harris, Karen Hicks, Amanda Kessler, Gemma Kite, Anna Ingoglia, Michelle Issadore, Eve LaPier, Ciara Lowry, Emily Marshall, Cathy Maryon, Alexandra Milspaw, Xochitl Mota, Danielle Palencar, Esther Pesciotta, Christine Procaro, Lauren Propst, Gwen Purdom, Nayla Raad, Erika Roach, Erin Schwartz, Kyleigh Sobell, Kathryn Susman, Laura Szymanski, Allison Toth, Megan Turner, Katherine Wegert, Silagh White, Zoe Zachariades

## Meet the Staff

**Kristin Handler**  
Director

**Heather Sterner**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Michelle Issadore,**  
Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator

**Kim Altieri** '07—Gender and Violence Group

**Leigh Dugan** '07—*Origyns* editor, Body Empowerment Alliance (BEA)

**Marisa Enrico** '07--Body Empowerment Alliance co-coordinator, Break the Silence

**Alisha Gonzales** '09—Body Empowerment Alliance, Student Athlete Mentors project

**Nina Granberry** '08--Women of Color Alliance co-coordinator

**Marjan Maghbouleh** '08—*Women's Word* editor, Gender and Violence Group co-coordinator

**Alex Milspaw** '07--*The Vagina Monologues*, Break the Silence

**Stephanie Palmieri** '07—*Women's Word* editor, *Origyns* editor, Student Athlete Mentors project

**Elisa Pennetti** '10—Body Empowerment Alliance

**Rachel Sansanelli** '07-- Body Empowerment Alliance co-coordinator

**Nayla Raad** '07—Break the Silence

**Liz Roth** '08—Women of Color Alliance co-coordinator

**Casey Ryan** '09—Gender & Violence Group co-coordinator

**Hailey Witt** '07— Publicity coordinator, *Women's Word* editor, Body Empowerment Alliance

# WAS IT DRUNK SEX OR DATE RAPE?

## Brett Sokolow asks Lehigh

By Marjan Maghbouleh '08

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Lehigh students became the jury in a case with blurred lines of **responsibility, intoxication and consent** – a case seen all too often on college campuses.

Nearly 400 students, staff and faculty attended **Brett Sokolow's** "Drunk Sex or Date Rape?" presentation. The interactive program serves to educate students about the facts of sexual assault, as well as how to reduce the risk.

Sokolow, who has presented his program on 1300 college campuses, provided the audience with information – not judgments – about what happened on the night in question.

"I don't think it's my job to tell you what to think," he said. "I'm just giving the facts."

Sokolow told the true story of two students, renamed Todd and Amy, who experienced the dangerous but frequent mix of alcohol and sex.

"We all know on college campuses, sexual assault happens to too many. And too often, alcohol is involved," Sokolow said.

After providing the audience with facts about the case, Sokolow invited students to ask any clarifying questions.

In this time, Sokolow addressed the legal jargon and implications of the case. He stressed the importance of defining sexual assault, consent and incapacitation.

"Two incapacitated people can't have sex. It's pretty impossible. One had to have been just drunk," he said.

Sokolow provided audience members with an example to explain consent.

You're walking down an alleyway drunk at night, Sokolow said, and you approach someone who pulls a gun out. Incapacitated, you dare the person to shoot you in the face. If the person does shoot you, are you responsible for that person's actions? No. Is the person still a murderer? Yes.

Sokolow also stressed the importance of intent versus knowledge.

Even if Todd did not intend to sexually assault Amy, did he have the knowledge to know she was incapacitated?



**Sokolow's program answered many questions about a scenario all too typical on college campuses.** Photos from [www.nchem.org](http://www.nchem.org)

If so, Sokolow said, Todd is guilty of sexual assault in the second degree.

The final verdict: 65 percent of the audience voted Todd guilty. Audience members spoke up about their votes, providing different reasons for their decisions.

Sokolow, who presented the same program to Lehigh students three years ago, said he was pleased to see this year's verdict was the complete opposite of last time.

"There's work being done here," he said.



**The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management provide information about sexual misconduct, campus safety, problem drinking, sexual harassment and a variety of other issues.**

## Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel

### Peace Prize Laureate, Speaks at Lehigh

By Hailey Witt, '07



On Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Wangari Maathai presented a lecture in Zoellner's Baker Hall as part of the Leaders of Practice Distinguished Lecture series through the College of Education. Dr. Maathai told the story

of her journey from a farm in Kenya to becoming the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree, followed by her work with the Greenbelt movement which led to her earning a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

Because she was attending college when the U.S. was emphasizing a spirit of aid and service for foreign countries, Dr. Maathai was able to go to the United States at Mount. St. Scholastica College in Kansas. She later received her Masters of Science from the University of Pittsburgh and went on to obtain a Doctorate through her studies in Germany and at the University of Nairobi. As the first female chair of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Nairobi, she was a leader in drawing attention to women's equality issues in education in the region.

It was evident during this time that Dr. Maathai had a strong desire to represent and help women. While researching issues African women are faced with in preparation for Global Conference on Women in the 1970s, she realized that the concerns of women lacking basic needs such as water, firewood, land and income were both of critical importance and related to her work on environmental issues. It was at this time that she began her work on the Greenbelt movement. Knowing that Kenya's forests were being cut down at an alarming rate and that women of Africa were directly affected by this problem, she enlisted their help to replant trees and created a system to compensate them for each tree that survived.

**The Greenbelt movement has developed into an effort teach people at all different levels of society about ways to reduce their impact**



**Dr. Maathai received her Nobel Peace Prize in Norway in 2004**

Though usually this was the job of men with diplomas, or "foresters," training women to plant and nurture the trees built confidence and instilled in them a sense of self reliance while at the same time restoring ecosystem stability in Kenya.

When asked to describe what the Greenbelt Movement has developed into, Dr. Maathai said that it has a variety of different purposes depending which issue one wishes to address; it is an initiative to reduce deforestation, a movement for women's liberation, and a way to address poverty and democratic rights in an increasingly oppressed political society.

In her final words, Dr. Maathai told a story about a hummingbird bringing water from a stream to stop a raging forest fire. When questioned about why it even bothered, the hummingbird replied, "I'm doing the best I can." The women involved in the Greenbelt movement are unable to save the entire rainforest on their own, but they can use their best efforts in conjunction with others to make a difference. In the same vein, Dr. Maathai appreciates the United States' attempts to solve environmental problems.

Although on a national level the policies for environmental protection may not be very progressive, Dr. Maathai believes the efforts taken on an individual level across the country are inspiring. Ideally she wanted the audience to take away from this lecture the idea that we, as individuals, may not be able to solve problems on our own, but it is imperative that we pay attention to the world around us and do our best to make it better.

**Continued from p. 1**

Each year VDAY creates a “spotlight” around a particular group of women who are experiencing violence and resisting it with courage and vision. The goal of the Spotlight is to focus worldwide media attention on the issue, and to raise funds and awareness to aid groups working on a solution. This year, VDAY’s Spotlight is on women in conflict zones – reclaiming peace in states of war. War exponentially increases crimes of violence against women and girls. In equal measure, we must celebrate the strength and resilience of women in rebuilding their communities and leading governments to peaceful solutions.

For women, not just during war, armed conflict means escalated military, sexual and domestic violence. It means lack of security as a displaced person or refugee, and vulnerability to sex traffickers and coerced prostitution even by the peacekeepers themselves. Given the 21st century’s escalating armed conflicts, impunity for wartime sexual violence cannot be tolerated. As patterns of wartime rape and sexual violence continue today in places such as Sudan, Congo and Iraq, it is paramount to expose and condemn these crimes through international media coverage, public outcry and efforts in our own communities.

**“We must celebrate the strength and resilience of women in rebuilding their communities and leading governments to peaceful solutions.”**

VDAY first took aim at wartime sexual violence with the [2002 Spotlight: Afghanistan Is Everywhere](#), followed by the [2005 Spotlight: Women of Iraq: Under Siege](#), and the [2006 Spotlight: The Global V-Day Campaign for Justice to 'Comfort Women.'](#) Our 2007 Spotlight will continue to ensure that wartime sexual violence remains in the media and public eye.

This year’s VWEEK included fabulous lectures and discussions that would lead up to the Vagina Monologues performances.

On February 15 Barbara Simmons and Jeannine Vannais presented, *Is Peace Possible? An Encounter with the Dalai Lama and the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers*. February 16 was our huge fundraising event entitled, *Take a Stand Against Violence*



**Buy your tickets from the Women’s Center today!**

*Against Women*. On Monday February 19 there was a brown bag lunch in the Women’s Center with women and counselors from Turning Point to share stories and experiences with domestic and sexual violence in our community. Tuesday’s festivities brought Lehigh Valley’s best OBGYN, Dr. Larry Glazerman, to talk to us about the health and risks of violence against women, as well as answer any questions we brought to him.

Our huge fundraising spectacular, *Take A Stand Against Violence Against Women*, was six-hour stand-a-thon event that took place in Lamberton’s Great Hall.

During the evening, participants enjoyed arts and crafts, special games, amazing entertainment and for the first time ever, the *Lehigh Monologues*.

*The Lehigh Monologues* was an amazing event brought to you by male and female Lehigh students performing their own

written works of song, story, poetry, prose and interpretive dance. Entertainment for the evening also included Lehigh’s all-female a cappella group, *Echoes*, the co-ed a cappella group, *Melismatics*, and the Lehigh Step Team.

*The Vagina Monologues* performances will take place in Lamberton’s Great Hall on Friday, Feb. 23, Saturday, Feb. 24 and Sunday, Feb. 25, with a meet-and-greet with the cast to follow Sunday’s performance.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults and \$25 for Vagina Loving Patrons (VLPs). VLP tickets include a special gift and comfortable seating.

Tickets may be purchased at the Women’s Center using cash or check.. Contribute to a worldwide movement to end violence against women!

## FEBRUARY

February 23-25

A benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues*  
Benefactors: Turning Point and YWCA

Pre-show performances by the Lehigh Valley Drumming Circle and our own all-female a cappella group, The Echoes!

Times: Feb. 23 at 7p.m., Feb. 24 at 7p.m., Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. (Sunday show includes cast meet and greet after performance)

Location: Lamberton Hall

Tickets: \$5 students, \$10 adults, \$25 VLP\*

\*Vagina Loving Patron tickets include special gift and comfy seating!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW at the Women's Center, UC 207

Get them before they're gone!

February 20

"Trial by Church: A Church's Discipline, a Minister's Integrity"

A talk and discussion with Reverend Beth Stroud

Time: 4:10pm

Location: Maginnes 102

## MARCH

Women's History Month

March 20

"Black and White in Miniature: Gender, Race, and Portraiture in the Early American Republic"

Catherine Kelly, Associate Professor, Department of History; University of Oklahoma

Time: 4pm

Location: TBA

March 20

The Heart and Soul of Sex: Sexuality and Spirituality in Women's Lives

A lecture by Gina Ogden, Ph.D.

Time: 7pm

Location: Sinclair Auditorium

March 21

"Queer(ed) Poems"

An evening with Lenelle Moise, Haitian-American poet, playwright, and performance activist.

Time: 7pm

Location: Packard 101

March 26-30

**Healthy Body Image Week:**  
**"Be Comfortable in Your Genes!"**

In the next issue of  
**The Women's  
Word...**

A sneak peek at Healthy Body  
Image Week, March 25 to 31

The HERstory of Women's His-  
tory Month

A preview of Sexual Assault  
Awareness Month in April

Are you interested in  
women's issues, journalism, design,  
or do you just want to have fun?

Get involved with  
**The Women's Word.**

Contact: Hailey Witt, [hmw2@lehigh.edu](mailto:hmw2@lehigh.edu)

Marjan Maghbouleh, [mam204@lehigh.edu](mailto:mam204@lehigh.edu)

# February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	19	20	21	22	23 VAGINA MONOLOGUES	24 VAGINA MONOLOGUES
25 VAGINA MONOLOGUES	26	27	28			

# March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Grad Lunch 12 p.m.	2	3
4 S	5 P	6 R	7 I	8 N	9 G	10 B
11 R	12 E	13 A	14 K	15	16	17
18	19	20 Gina Ogden Catherine Kelly	21 Lenelle Moise	22	23	24
25 H	26 E	27 Grad Lunch 12 p.m.	28 B	29 O	30 D	

## Contact Info

### Mailing Address:

Women's Center  
Room C207, University Center  
29 Trembley Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18015-3064

Hours: M-F, 11am-6pm

Main Number: 610-758-6484

Director: 610-758-5647

Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator:  
610-758-5808

Fax: 610-758-6960

Email: [inwnc@lehigh.edu](mailto:inwnc@lehigh.edu)

<http://www.lehigh.edu/womenscenter>

Editors of *The Women's Word* :

Stephanie Palmieri [sjp3@lehigh.edu](mailto:sjp3@lehigh.edu)

Hailey Witt [hmw2@lehigh.edu](mailto:hmw2@lehigh.edu)