



# UNITE!

The Trinity College Women's Center  
Newsletter  
Winter, 2003



## Letter From the Director

A diverse mix of twenty students, faculty and administrators gathered recently for a "mini-retreat" to assess the status of the Women's Center, review the mission, and set goals for the future. Given the evolvement of the campus and the "times" since the Women's Centers' 1977 inception, we knew it was time to make some changes. Here's our new Mission Statement:

*"The Women's Center is a place of advocacy, support, and welcome for all members of the greater Trinity community. Through educational, social, and cultural programming, it seeks to promote women's self-determination and empowerment; awareness of women's rights and issues; redress of gender inequities; understanding among women of different economic classes, cultural backgrounds, and sexual orientations; and the creation of a campus environment conducive to respectful interaction between women and men."*

We also discussed ways to remove the stigma/stereotype of the Women's Center as a place for only "white radical feminists," and increase its visibility and accessibility to the TC community. Soon you'll start noticing: a new poster campaign advertising the Women's Centers'

services and activities; a leadership development program for female students; a less "institutional" looking lounge; a new program for first-year females; more outreach to men and students from diverse backgrounds; expanded training for all students in sexual assault prevention; programs which help foster healthy interactions between male and female students, and more.

If you have ideas or want to be involved in these new changes, please call Laura Lockwood at x2408. Unity builds community!

### Tracey Gold: on "Growing Pains" and *Room to Grow*:

#### *An Appetite for Life*

By: Nicole Riendeau &  
Jillian Rutman

Her message on life comes out loud and clear. And for the first time, she is telling it herself. Tracey Gold, who many people recognize from her seven years on the ABC hit "Growing Pains" and from her many TV movies including "For the Love of Nancy," "Shoot the Moon," and "Roots," has begun speaking out about her long struggle with anorexia. Tracey's moving and well-attended talk on "Love Your Body Day," October 15, was an event co-sponsored by the Women's Center and the Health Center. In her lecture she delved into both the details of her personal battle, and her general views and advice on the disease itself.

Although Tracey was the first young actress to bear the brutal brunt of the media glare for the physical manifestations of her illness, she is joined by a long list of women who have similarly suffered. While it is tempting to blame the media for the exacerbation of Tracey's struggle, and while it is probable that Hollywood magnified the pressure, Tracey recognized that the pressures of Hollywood were not the only factors in her developing the problem; she claimed that she would probably have developed the illness even if she wasn't in "Growing Pains."

Tracey's obsession with her weight began in 1989, when the writers of "Growing Pains" began to include an abundance of what Tracey called "Carol Seaver fat jokes." Although the writers denied any connection between the jokes about her TV character, and Tracey's own personal weight, she nonetheless became suspicious. It was no longer a

- Tracey Gold
- "Union" -Student Poem
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question when her father (also her agent) received a phone call saying that Tracey needed to lose weight.

As she began to lose weight, she became hyperaware of the compliments she was receiving. The accolades for her slimmer figure spurred her to adopt even stricter diets. It came to a point, she said, when the phrase, "you're too skinny," was taken as a compliment. Tracey now recognizes this time to be when her dieting turned to an obsession, and her obsession to anorexia.

Trying to be "the perfect girl" was another factor in Tracey's illness. She had always known herself to be a 'people-pleaser,' and as long as things were going well in her family and career, she never cared to what degree she put herself in danger. She was always willing to sacrifice whatever it took to please her director, her TV viewers, and of course, her family. She felt like she never had an opinion about anything—even her own appearance and health. Part of recovery, she says, was accepting that it was okay to disagree. As hard as it was for Tracey to develop an identity for herself that was not her family's, her producers', or her fans' ideal, she had to recognize that in her case, anorexia was a problem that involved and affected everyone around her. Among those affected was her fiancé, who, working hard to help her, told her that he wouldn't marry her until she was well enough to willingly take a bite of her own wedding cake. When he told her this, Tracey was far from that point: "he might as well have asked me to eat a rat."

As the saying goes, "things get worse before they get better." For twenty-three year old Tracey,

getting worse meant hitting rock bottom. She woke up one August night in her bedroom with her heart racing, wondering if she was going to live until morning. She stumbled to the bathroom, and stared in the mirror at the horrifying physical reality that she had so long denied. She leaned there, desperately praying, "just let me live through this night." She realized in those long moments that if she made it through that night she was going to have to get better; she did not want to die from self-starvation. She knew that the three most important things in her life were slipping away: her career, her relationship with her sister, and her relationship with her fiancé (now her husband). Her new resolution was "I'm getting better." She realized that she had no choice: you can't live with anorexia; you can *exist*, but you can't *live*.

Tracey has come a long way. Her career is still blossoming, and her relationships with her family and her husband are stronger than ever. She has two beautiful boys, Sage and Bailey, and a third on the way. Her battle is not over, but the progress of her recovery is remarkable. Part of this recovery process is traveling to colleges like Trinity to tell her story, and to share her message with young women. She says that it became important to her to be "a strong woman that people listened to, and not the girl people pitied because she was sick." In her message to Trinity students she said, "You can't live by the scale, because when you die, no one is going to care how much you weighed. It's what you did with your life and who you touched that will matter."

Tracey's speech was moving, and her advice practical. To find out more about Tracey's personal struggle, and her recovery process, you can get a copy of her autobiography, *Room to Grow*, at

Gallows Hill or you can borrow it from the Women's Center library.

After Tracey's speech, there were a number of questions on all of our minds. Among these was: just how big of an issue is eating disorders on Trinity's campus? Here are some interesting statistics from a study done on Trinity's campus in 2000:

About one third of both men and women acknowledged that they had binged at some point in the past year. Of these individuals, "about one in six women and one in fifteen men acknowledge inducing vomit to get rid of food."

From these statistics, it becomes clear that eating disorders are a problem on our campus. The next question that arises is how aware are individuals of the fact that they have a disease? It is interesting that while a third of women have been told by a friend that they have an eating disorder, only 4-7% of junior and senior women believe that they suffer from any such illness. Are these people worried about their disease? Statistics show that only one third of male bingers worry about their bingeing habits; four out of five women with bingeing problems are concerned about it.

In 1996, 58% of students said that eating disorders were a very significant problem on Trinity's campus; in 2000, 78% of students were concerned with the problem of eating disorders. The survey showed that eating disorders may be more of a problem at Trinity than they are at some other college campuses. What exactly does this mean? Does it imply that more students at Trinity have eating disorders, or that awareness on campus has gone up in the past four years? Learn what you can do about eating disorders on campus (next page).

### Are you concerned about your own or friend's eating habits?

There are four types of eating disorders: anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, compulsive overeating and compulsive over exercising. If you and others have observed behaviors in your friend, roommate or relative that are suggestive of an eating disorder, you're in a position to help.

- Make a plan to approach the person in a private place where there is no immediate stress.
- Present in a caring but straightforward way what you have observed and what your concerns are. Tell her/him you are worried and want to help.
- Give the person time to talk and encourage them to verbalize feelings. Listen carefully; accept what is said with an open mind.
- Do not argue about whether there is or is not a problem. You can say, "I hear what you are saying and I hope you're right, but I am still very worried about what I've seen and heard."
- Provide information about resources for help. The Women's Center has booklets written by students about eating disorders. Counseling resources on campus are: Counseling Center (x2415), Health Center

(x2018), Nutritionist (x2018), Women's Center (x2408).

- If you are concerned that the eating disorder is severe, enlist the help of the Counseling, Health or Women's Center or the Dean of Students (x2156).
- If the person denies the problem, or becomes defensive, understand that this is often part of the illness. You may feel helpless and frustrated. Let them know that you are there for them should they want to talk, and will keep checking in with them.
- You can only do the best you can. If you need support, seek assistance from the Counseling Center.
- Off-campus resources:
  - o Eating Disorders Hotline: 800-931-2237
  - o Overeaters Anonymous [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org)

**RIBS (Redefining Ideal Beauty Standards)** is a student-led group which takes action to prevent eating disorders, and raises awareness about disordered eating and body image issues on campus. RIBS meets weekly, Mondays, 5:30pm, Women's Center Lounge. All are welcome!

**Want to take action against advertisers? Want to learn 10 ways to empower yourself?** Check out this website today! [www.about-face.org/](http://www.about-face.org/).  
**\* Be good to your body - it's the only one you have!!!**

## Union

By: Margaret Pritchard, '04

I meet you at the train, notebook  
stashed in my bag like handcuffs or  
red lace,  
flirting on the platform,  
words dropping like kisses, wine  
licked in tantalising drops,  
mouth and hands ink-stained.

There is subtext.

Over the dinner table, my mind  
hungrily  
runs to yours, trysting secretly at  
our feet,  
pretending innocence.

Finally, we give in,  
Sighing against sleep, twisting  
together insistent  
verbs, demure nouns.

A bit of my hair falls onto your  
face, and  
we are hungry for adjectives.

### **Want Better Sex? Here's How...**

By: Nicole Riendeau &  
Jillian Rutman

"I call myself a sexpert, and my qualifications for this? I have great sex!" Maria Falzone, a comic who has been speaking at college campuses about sexual topics such as AIDS awareness, self-respect, safer sex, and date rape since 1996, opened her talk at Trinity with this statement. Although Falzone was hilarious and comfortably remodeled the idea of a "sex talk," ultimately her presentation was grounded with serious points. In her opening, she addressed the fact that while we live in a culture where the media and television push the message to "do it," no one tells us how. This was exactly what Maria set out to do—to explain how. She emphasized (with the aid of impersonations, students, and

condoms) five basic rules to promote healthier, safer, and just plain better sex.

#### **Know Yourself Mentally—**

Falzone believes that good sex "starts with fantasy." It begins with ideas and thoughts. She makes the point that most people are very narrow in what they will allow themselves to imagine. This prevents them from really understanding themselves sexually. Maria said, "If you don't know what you want for yourself, how can you expect someone else to know?"

#### **Know Yourself Physically—I**

think you all know where this one is going. That's right—masturbation. Falzone recommends Betty Dawson's book *Sex For One* for those of you who have any questions. Enough said.

#### **Steer Clear of Alcohol and Drugs—**

Besides the fact that alcohol is a depressant, and actually slows down your nervous system (so you don't feel as much), it also impairs your judgment. Falzone pointed out that most acquaintance rapes happen when one or both people are under the influence of alcohol. In addition to rape, alcohol and drug use during sex increase the likelihood of contracting an STD or becoming pregnant; you are less likely to be concerned with your own safety. Falzone encouraged people to stay safe, to avoid ruining good sex, and to not "play roulette with their lives."

#### **Communicate about Sex—**

Whether it's by talking in person or sending e-mails back and forth, keeping the lines of communication open is key to a healthy sexual relationship. It's important to tell your partner what, when, why, how, and how often you want sex. She stressed

the point that sex is about loving your body and feeling comfortable sharing your body with someone else.

#### **Learn About Condoms—**

Although oral contraceptives, Norplant, and depro-provera are all effective methods to prevent pregnancy, they don't protect against STDs. It is important that both women and men are knowledgeable about condoms. Falzone recommended that condoms be stored in a cool, dry place. She stressed the importance of checking the expiration date and in a very funny demonstration involving chap-stick and an inflated condom, demonstrated the dangers of using oil-based lubricants (condom + oil-based lubricant + friction = breakage). Not only did she educate us on the practical use of condoms, she also gave some interesting tips on flavors, lubricants, etc.

Falzone presented useful facts and succeeded in making the topic more comfortable. Her jokes and antics allowed the audience to relax and absorb the information in the context of entertainment. Her presentation felt more like a light hearted conversation, and less like a safe sex lecture.

#### **About Maria Falzone:**

Maria Falzone began her career in stand-up comedy 15 years ago. She has performed in many comedy clubs across the United States, and has had numerous TV appearances, including Showtime's 'Full Frontal Comedy' and NBC's 'Friday Night.' If you missed her performance, don't worry! The Women's Center has been a proud sponsor of her performance and message for the past three years, and plans

to bring her back again next year!

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### **From Rape Victim to Survivor: Lori Robinson's Healing Process**

By: Nicole Riendeau &

Jillian Rutman

#### **What is Sasai**

*What is this beautiful Sasai, a  
flower*

*Who is she this companion of my  
soul*

*She is blossoms of power that  
transcend strength*

*A strength full of spirit and purity  
But it appears that the spirit has  
been broken, blossoms wilted  
Watering her with my tears of love  
does not quench her*

*Sasai blossoms have fallen*

*Feeding her with my words of*

*wisdom does not nourish her*

*Only God's purist star, the sun,*

*untouched by man,*

*can shine on her and penetrate her  
soul*

*This will bring back her spirit*

*For her purity, like the sun's, has  
never been touched*

*Both star and Sasai protected by  
God*

*New buds are sprouting, and inner  
peace unfolds*

*What is this beautiful Sasai, she is  
God's flower*

*And my soul's companion*

This poem was written by a friend of Lori Robinson's to help her in her slow recovery from her brutal and traumatic rape. Lori Robinson opened her presentation on November 4<sup>th</sup> with this poem, and then spoke about her personal experience, and her book, *I Will Survive: An African American Woman's Guide to Healing*. The talk was sponsored by: the Women's Center, Trinity College Black Women's Organization (TCBWO), Multicultural Affairs Council (MAC), American Studies Department, Women, Gender and Sexuality Department, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Sexual

Assault Task Force (SATF), and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). It was attended by a number of students from all genders, and many different cultural groups. Her message, while focused on the experience of African-American women, provided information and hope to all who attended. She stressed that rape is not an issue of just one racial group, and that it is not just a "problem for women." The act, the effects, the recovery, and the prevention of this crime require participation across all boundaries.

Lori's personal story started on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1995. Lori remembers that day as being as normal as any other workday. She visited with a friend, and afterwards drove back to her apartment in Washington, D.C. She parked her car across the street from her apartment at around 10:00p.m. or 11:00p.m., and although she noticed two men standing on the sidewalk, she didn't give them much notice. It was only once the two men came up on the other side of her that she even thought to look up. She turned to say, "Hello," and was greeted by a gun pointed at her temple. She was taken up to her apartment, blindfolded, gagged with duct-tape, and raped by both men. She says that going through the healing process and, "changing from being a rape victim to a rape survivor," was the hardest thing she had ever done. Writing *I Will Survive*, was the second.

Lori's healing process involved extensive therapy, support from her family and friends, and writing her book. Lori said that choosing to write her "Guide for Healing," was partly to aid in her own recovery, and partly because there was no other resource out there that focused on the specific process for African-American women. She wrote to help

survivors (of all genders and races) and their loved ones move through the emotional healing process. She also encouraged them to get physical examinations, to become educated on how to navigate the justice system, and to triumph over the stigma attached to seeking therapy. While she stressed the benefits of seeking professional therapy, she also encouraged alternative methods (prayer and spirituality, yoga, acupuncture, reiki, and others).

Lori also spoke in depth about White-created myths of rape that pervade this country's psyche. Referring to the era in U.S. history of African-American slavery, she told how enslaved women, having no rights over their bodies, were routinely victimized. Justification for this brutality gave rise to the belief, as remarked upon by a senator from S.C., that there was "serious doubt (that) the crime of rape could be committed on a Negro." (LR, 224) She also confronted the stereotype that "men of color want to rape white women;" the truth is that statistically, 90% of rapists rape members of their own race.

Lori then switched gears, and in addition to giving suggestions (in her talk, and in her book) about how to heal from the traumatic experience of rape, she also gave steps that should be taken towards its prevention. She was careful to explain that by prevention she did not imply that any person should have to live in fear, or that any woman should have to avoid wearing revealing clothing, but that prevention means a large-scale overhauling of American cultural myths and expectations. She emphasized the importance of re-educating people in communities to plant the seeds of change, and donating to rape-crisis centers

and women's organizations that provide resources, counseling, and support for women who have been victimized. She left the audience with two important points to remember:

1) Sexual assault is NEVER the victim's fault. It is always the fault of the aggressor (male or female). Both men and women are responsible for their bodies and actions. Saying "She had him excited, he couldn't help it," belittles men, minimizes the enormity of the crime, and mis-places blame.

2) Sexual assault and abuse are issues requiring both education and communication. It is a matter of a whole community working together to achieve safety and wellness.

For more information on Lori's personal experience, the advice she offers, and background on the myths and stereotypes surrounding rape in the African-American Community and on college campuses, her book is available at Gallows Hill and the Women's Center library. For information on getting immediate assistance regarding rape or abuse on Trinity's campus, please call Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) members (see the last page for phone numbers).

#### FYI:

Did you know that according to the *Risky Behaviors Surveys* of the Trinity student body conducted in the Spring of 2000 and 2002:

- 35% of women who identified as "heavy drinkers" stated that they had been "taken advantage of sexually in the past year;" only 5% of women who abstain from drinking reported sexual assault and misconduct.
- 9% of men who identified as "heavy drinkers" reported

that they had "taken advantage of another sexually in the past year;" only 2% of men who abstained from drinking claimed to have been perpetrators of sexual misconduct. (OIRP)

**Directors' Note:** You don't need to get drunk to have fun! If you do drink, please drink responsibly. Keep an eye on your friends, your drink, trust your instincts & use common sense.

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~ Student Fiction ~

### **DOUBLE IMAGE 1999**

By: Margaret Pritchard, '04

8:15 a.m.

The doorbell rings. I open it; David stands on the sidewalk. Fifteen minutes late, as usual. He is a tall, slender man with long limbs and a narrow face that has several days' growth of beard on it. His hair is a mop- in some places, it sticks straight up. But he gives off the appearance of respectable dishevelment, a sort of intellectual togetherness and control over his surroundings. He wears a Cleveland Indians t-shirt, even though he's from New York, and khaki shorts.

He drives me to his house, where his wife, Katie, and son, Sean, are waiting. I politely greet Katie, while out of the corner of my eye, I am having a silent conversation with Sean.

8:30 a.m.

Katie and David have left for work. She is a medical student at Yale, he is an engineering student. Sean, barely four months old and currently a student of Piaget's first stage of development, is alone with me. He is fast asleep, a ball of baby flesh and fine hair, his butt sticking up, his face turned to one side.

It is the summer after my junior year of high school, and I am the babysitter. I am responsible - like his mother - for Sean's happiness, health, cleanliness, and, most dauntingly, safety. There are a few differences, however, between a babysitting job and parenthood - the most obvious of which is the issue of my hours. I am not the one woken up by Sean's three-o'clock a.m. fits of hunger, not the one to walk around the living room singing "Hush Little Baby" four times a night. I have made no sacrifices for him - I can still apply to college, go out on dates, or see a movie, without worrying about money, babysitters, or my responsibility to him. I am not the one who has to worry about paying for food, clothes, rent, electricity, the telephone, and the endless supply of blankets, bottles, and diapers that Sean requires.

There's nothing to do. I wander into the kitchen, over to the fridge, and dig around in there for a mini Butterfinger - Katie has told me to help myself to anything I want. I wander back into the living room, where Sean is still asleep, and which is covered in articles and books on Familial Melanoma or Cutaneous Dermatological Surgery, on top of which is a layer of brightly colored, plastic baby toys. There are teething rings, stuffed animals, balls in a million sizes and colors, mirrors, mobiles, toys with buttons that make different noises, and there are books and rattles of all sizes and colors.

It is lonely here. The outside world has nothing to do with me. I may be at work, I may be earning money, but emotionally speaking, I'm stuck home with the baby. I have no friends in the neighborhood, and I have no car.

9:00 a.m. to noon

When Sean wakes up, I decide to take him for a walk, so I

strap him into a carrier that fastens on my shoulders so that his body is flat against my stomach. His legs stick out of the bottom, smacking my thighs whenever I move. He's heavy for his age, over twenty pounds, a round, chubby thing with three dimples in each elbow. I lather him with sunscreen, check his diaper, pack a bag with toys, an extra diaper, and a bottle, plunk the fisherman's cap on his head, throw a treat to the dog, and leave the apartment.

Carrying a baby elevates you to celebrity status. Passers-by, every single one of them, feel encouraged, even obligated, to stop and stare, or at least to point and whisper. There are only so many times you can benevolently smile at a total stranger while wiggling your baby's arm in a simulated wave. It is both exhilarating and scary to carry Sean around. There is no reason to believe that anyone will think straight off that I am the babysitter. I am more than old enough to be the mother, and have often been told that I could pass for even older than that. Part of me wants to pass for Sean's mother, to slip into someone else's life, to play an elaborate game of pretend with other pedestrians, to pull the slowly growing affection I have for the boy into ownership. If I don't tell them I'm the babysitter, I can, at least for a moment, pretend I belong to him.

A woman in line at Dunkin' Donuts comments on how much he looks like me.

For a moment, I am freed from my middle-class guilt. I am no longer the daughter of a government bureaucrat, attending a prep school, secure in a promising future. I am a teenaged single mother, on the fringes, denied the privileges that the real me finds so embarrassing. It is liberating, fantastic freedom.

I am buying lunch when I hear a man behind me whisper, "how old do you think that girl is?"

A second man replies, "I don't know - fifteen maybe?"

So much for passing for over twenty. I toy with the idea of turning around and setting them straight - "I'm seventeen, but his mother's twenty-six" I imagine myself saying. But I've got too much pride. I don't want to cause a scene. Never mind that they have it all wrong. Never mind that I can simply hand Sean back to his mother at the end of the day and go back to my own life, that I will never see these people again. I am hurt by their assumption that my baby and his conception are their business.

Millions of teenaged girls have babysitting jobs. Why does everyone assume I'm the mother? Why, if my experience is so ordinary, do I feel so responsible for Sean, so tender and grown-up? Why is this job slowly developing into a secret life for me - a life of feedings and naps, walks in the park and complicated pretend games with passers-by? I am getting paid to play pretend with a live doll, and I'm finding I'm in love with him. I am loving strongly and deeply, loving on borrowed time, and with a fierce possessiveness for what is not mine. I will go back to school, and meanwhile he will learn to crawl, to walk, to talk. He will develop his own personality, his own future, his own dreams. Will I be there to hear them? Will I be there to see him?

I want to come back. I want to see what happens to him. I want to see what color his eyes will turn out to be, how long he'll let his hair grow, what sort of clothes he'll want to wear. I want to hear what his voice will sound like once he's done working on it. Because I've been there and watched him work. I've seen him

struggle and triumph, I've heard him laugh and cry. I felt his first tooth push itself up from beneath his soft, tough gum, and I've heard him vocalize and form sounds. I've seen him sit up and fall over and push himself up and grin and laugh and sleep. I've comforted him and rocked him and fed him and changed him and learned about him and taught him and loved him. And I want to find out who he is. I want to be a part of his life, because no matter what happens from now on, he is a part of mine.

But I am so reluctant around David and Katie. Their claim is so much stronger than mine is. He is their flesh and blood, their tiny little miracle, their boy. I am so good at talking to Sean in nonsense, and in English he doesn't understand, but I cannot talk to Katie and David. Had they already been a part of my life before they became parents, I would not feel so strongly, but as my entire relationship with them is based around their child, I find I cannot reach out to them.

Afternoon, through 3:00p.m.

I want to watch TV. Sean wails. It is amazing how the soft roundness of baby flesh can turn wretched and hard so quickly when he cries. His nose wrinkles up, he opens his mouth, and he lets loose with a barrage of miserable noise. His back arches, his feet kick, his nose runs, tears coat his cheeks. I wipe his eyes with my hand, but that seems to enrage him even further. He is heavy, and pulling my hair. I set him down on the floor and offer him a teething ring, which he angrily rejects. I offer him his favorite toys, books to chew on, his pacifier.

"Why won't you go to sleep?! You're tired, anyone can see that! What do you want?"

Sighing, I hoist him onto my hip again, lugging him into the

bedroom to check his diaper.

I have tried to avoid the bedroom as much as possible. Though I am reminded every day of the reality of Katie and David's relationship, though I am paid to take care of the living proof of that relationship, they are still virtual strangers to me. It is intrusive enough, I feel, for me to spend hours every day in their house, playing with their child, eating their food, watching their TV, and reading their magazines, without my lounging around on their bed as well.

The diaper is clean, but Sean is not pacified; his little body is trembling with the exertion of his cries. I begin to worry that he will explode.

Sean's temper tantrum opens up the gulf of insecurity I have around him. What is wrong with me, I think to myself, that I cannot quiet this child? When his mother walks into the room, he explodes with the most rapturous, beatific wreaths of smiles and gales of laughter that one would think she was an angel.

I leave him on his back in his parents' bed, screaming and kicking, while I go into the kitchen to prepare a bottle for him. There is no use telling him to calm down and wait a minute, but I do it anyway. Bottle in hand, I scoop him up and fairly run to the rocking chair in the living room. There's a rerun of 'Frasier' on. I hold him in my arms in the nursing position, and give him the bottle. When the bottle is empty, I hold him upright against my chest to burp him. He screams, and I instantly shove the empty bottle back into his mouth. He quiets, and within seconds he is asleep, his soft, warm body curled against mine, limp in my arms. I cuddle him tenderly because I can't help it. His cheek is pressed against my chest, his fingers curled around my necklace.

We are still rocking, still wrapped in and around and with each other, when Katie and David return.

Katie takes Sean from me. I put my shoes back on, recap the major events of the day for Katie and David, and go outside.

What I feel for this baby does not fit in with my friends' lifestyles. Couplehood at seventeen is in many ways, a social event. Children are not part of our consciousness. But I happened to fall in love with Sean. He is not mine, I am not bound to him, I am free to pursue the rest of my life, but along with binding comes the joy of ownership. I am not tied down to him, but that also means I cannot possess him, and he is a constant presence in my mind. And even that is something my friends cannot understand or comprehend. You just can't talk about feeding schedules on the way to the Friday night movies.

**Note:** This story has been cut from its original length. If you would like to see this piece in its original form, please feel free to contact the author.

# CARTOON CORNER



**Stone Soup** By Jan Eliot



**Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau





Reuters

On Nov. 5, 2003, George W. Bush signed into law a deceptive ban against a range of safe, common abortion procedures. It's hard for

many of us to imagine—but *Roe v. Wade* is indeed in danger of reversal. With Congress and the White House under conservative control, our rights have never been more at risk. Act now before the right wing sends us back to the days when countless women died from illegal abortions.

**March for Freedom of Choice! April 25, 2004, Washington D.C.**

To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004.

For the first time ever this pro-choice march is a collaborative effort - four leading national women's rights groups have come together to organize this momentous event. The Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Organization for Women and Planned Parenthood Federation of America are the principal organizers of the March for Freedom of Choice and have pooled efforts and resources to lay the groundwork. Other progressive organizations have signed on as co-sponsors - offering everything from member participation to help spreading the word and help defraying costs.

The march will begin at noon from the Lincoln Memorial, although participants may begin assembling as early as 10 a.m. After marching on Washington, a rally will be held from 1-4 p.m. on the National Mall. Special seating will be available for people with disabilities. The rally program will be signed for the hearing impaired. The route is wheelchair accessible and transportation will be provided for those who cannot negotiate the route.

Buses will be leaving the Hartford area midnight Saturday, and return Sunday night. Seats are \$50. To talk about fundraising ideas for the trip call Laura Lockwood at x2408. To reserve a seat call Tracy Reed at CT NARAL, (860) 524-1086. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible. To get involved with these issues on campus, watch for TWO (Trinity Women's Organization) meetings announced on the Trinity Exchange, or call x2408.

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### ***A Note to Our Readers:***

*We welcome your feedback and comments on the contents of this newsletter.  
Please send your message to: [Jillian.Rutman@trincoll.edu](mailto:Jillian.Rutman@trincoll.edu),  
[Nicole.Riendeau@trincoll.edu](mailto:Nicole.Riendeau@trincoll.edu), or [Laura.Lockwood@trincoll.edu](mailto:Laura.Lockwood@trincoll.edu).  
Thank you!*

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### **Women's Center Staff**

**Director:** Laura Lockwood, '95  
**Collective Voices:** Sarah Carter, '06  
**Anti-Violence Coordinator,** Ben Johnson, '04  
**RIBS Coordinator:** Erin Kinney, '05  
**Newsletter/FSR Editor:** Nicole Riendeau, '04  
**Newsletter/FSR Editor:** Jillian Rutman, '04

### **Volunteers**

**TWO (Trinity Women's Organization)**  
**Coordinator:** Rachel Gravel, '05  
**Anita Goodman, '07**  
**Yvonne Lee, IDP**  
**All the many wonderful students involved in**  
**SATF, RIBS, TWO, & Sexual Assault Peer Counseling!**

### **WC Coordinating Committee**

**Dean of Students** Fred Alford  
**Stefanie Chambers, Asst. Prof.**  
**Multicultural Affairs Council**  
**Chair** Alain Lopez, '04  
**John Mertens, Assoc. Prof.**  
**Margo Perkins, Assoc. Prof.**  
**Residential Fellow**  
**Angelica Ruiz-Betancourt**  
**Associate Athletic Director**  
**Robin Sheppard**  
**Dean of Multicultural Affairs**  
**Karla Spurlock-Evans**  
**Melanie Stein, Assoc. Prof.**  
**WC Staff & Volunteers**

The Women's Center is located on the second floor of Mather Hall, behind the Washington Room. To make an appointment with the Director, become a volunteer or use the Library/Lounge, please call Laura Lockwood at x2408. All students and members of the Trinity and Greater Hartford community are welcome! For upcoming events visit our website. Go to [www.trincoll.edu](http://www.trincoll.edu), then (beginning Spring semester) click on "Trinity A-Z," and go to "W" for Women's Center. You can also check out the Women's Center bulletin board, next to the Post Office, or just stop by the office!

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### **\*\* BECOME A SAFE ZONE MEMBER! \*\***

The Safe Zone program at Trinity College has created a more welcoming environment for our lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender and questioning (lgbtq) community. Help end homophobia on campus! Watch the Trinity Exchange for the next Safe Zone training date, or check out the Safe Zone website: [www.trincoll.edu/prog/safezone/](http://www.trincoll.edu/prog/safezone/).

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### **\*\*DO YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LEGAL IN CT?\*\***

Love Makes a Family is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals whose mission is to expand CT's marriage laws to include same-sex couples. LMF has succeeded in recent years in passing a Co-Parent Adoption Bill, and a bill granting same-sex couples certain rights related to serious illness and death. Visit their website ([www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org)) to find out how you can get involved!

# **SART**

## **Sexual Assault Response Team**

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) provides assistance to survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence and stalking. Assistance may include counseling, advocacy, medical care, academic interventions and referrals. SART members will explain what options and resources are available, and assist you through whatever steps you decide to take. **When you tell a SART member about the incident, you do not have to use your name, nor the alleged perpetrators'. That is up to you.** We encourage you to formally report, using names, so the incident can be investigated and to prevent further crimes. But you don't have to. We would rather have you informally report the incident, without names, than not at all. We can't help you if you don't come forward.

### **Campus Resources**

#### **Campus Safety**

Campus Safety is responsible for all criminal investigations and apprehensions. Regardless of whether charges are filed, Campus Safety is available to answer your questions about the legal process and your legal options regarding an incident.

**Director: Charlie Morris , x2222**

**76 Vernon Street TCERT (TC Emergency Response Team): x2222**

#### **Student Peer Counselors**

These students have completed an extensive training program on sexual violence issues. They are available for support, and to talk through available options and resources.

**Sana: x3368, Ben: x2808, Will: x2804, Emily: x 4960, Jon: x3149**

#### **Dean of Students Office**

The Dean of Students office assists survivors with academic and personal concerns that arise after an assault. The staff is responsible for handling campus judicial cases when violations are reported. Counseling, support and referral services are also provided to students who need various kinds of academic or personal help resulting from an assault.

**Dean of Students: Fred Alford; Assistant Deans: Ann Reuman and Chris Card x 2156 , Hamlin/Cook**

#### **Women's Center**

The Women's Center provides advocacy, support, information and referrals to individuals who have, or think they have, experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence and stalking. The Center also works towards the prevention of violence against women and men through educational programming and the student group, the Sexual Assault Task Force. **Director: Laura Lockwood , x2408, Mather Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

### **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center provides a full range of counseling and psychological services including crisis intervention, ongoing counseling to survivors of sexual assault and dating violence, information and referrals as needed. The services are strictly confidential and free. **Counselors: Dr. Randy Lee, Dr. Carmen Santos, and Laura Reiter**  
**x2415 76 Vernon Street**

### **Health Center**

The Health Center provides medical assistance, support and referrals. STD and pregnancy testing, as well as condoms, are available.

**Director: Martha Burke, x 2018, Wheaton Hall, First Floor**

### **Office of Residential Life**

The Office of Residential Life (ORL) staff is knowledgeable about campus services and can help survivors get assistance. Staff can expedite the campus judicial process or changes in housing.

**Director: Amy Howard, x 2305, Hamlin/Cook**

### **Chaplain**

The Chaplain provides counseling, support and advocacy services for all students.

**Chaplain: Dan Heischman, x 2012, Chapel**

### **Office of Multicultural Affairs**

The Dean of Multicultural Affairs provides counseling, support and advocacy services for all students. **Dean: Karla Spurlock-Evans, x4251, Hamlin/Cook**

### **First Year Program**

The Director of First Year Program provides support all students, especially first year students.

**Director: Margaret Lindsey, x 5375, Jones**

### **Ferris Athletic Center**

The Associate Director of Ferris Athletic Center provides support for all students, especially athletes.

**Associate Director: Robin Sheppard, x2059, Ferris Athletic Center**

### **Off-Campus Resources**

#### **YWCA/ SACS (Sexual Assault Crisis Services)**

Hartford SACS provides immediate counseling/advocacy services to victims of all types of sexual abuse. The center operates a 24-hour hotline. Assistance is provided to both women and men. All services are free and confidential. **Hotline: 522-6666 Spanish**  
**Hotline: 1-888-568-8332; 135 Broad Street**

**Hartford Police: 911**