

20 years of CARE Activities
(Cornell Advocates for Rape Education)
1984-2004

The mission of CARE (Cornell Advocates for Rape Education) is to work toward a community free of sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse, assault and violence. We support mutually respectful relationships. Our goals are:

1. To support, encourage and/or provide education for all. Educational efforts will promote:
 - community responsibility for the well-being of all it's members
 - violence-free relationships
 - self-education
 - collaboration with groups on and off campus
2. To monitor needs in the Cornell community. Efforts will focus on:
 - the study of individual, social and institutional dynamics and trends
 - the identification of resources
 - the review of policy and judicial procedures
 - environmental factors which contribute to the cultural, social, and political climate resulting in sexual violence
3. To advocate for institutional and social change through:
 - the development of just policies and procedures
 - the provision of supportive services

Administrative Initiatives

- Cornell President Frank Rhodes gave CARE status as an official advisory committee that would report to the Associate Vice President for Human Relations (1986)
- CARE established a budget and account in the Health Services to finance educational endeavors (1986)
- CARE established a job description for a Sexual Assault Education Coordinator and participated in the selection process
- Provided various fund raising endeavors: grant writing, solicitations of funding from various campus departments, sales from videotapes
- Produced and pilot tested a reporting system that could be used to identify incidents of sexual assault involving CU campus and/or students
- Worked to expand committee membership to include more men and people of color
- Established a multicultural sub-committee to address multi-cultural issues in rape prevention
- Members have taken leadership in promoting the need for a Victim Advocate position at Cornell
- Members meet with administrators as issues pertinent to the committee's work arise

Preparation and Distribution of Educational Materials

- "Stop Date Rape" college video, facilitators and theatre manual produced (1987)
- "I Know You Said No But I Thought You Meant Yes" high school video, facilitators and theatre manual produced (1989)
- "How To Help A Friend Who Has Been Raped or Sexually Assaulted" brochure published (1988)
- "What Men and Women Should Know About Sex and Seduction" brochure published (1991)
- "If You Have Been Sexually Assaulted" legal handout produced (1993)
- Assorted handouts (Legal Action After You Have Been Sexually Assaulted; Understanding the Law) produced (1987-present)
- Multilingual rape education brochures collected (1995-present)

Educational and Promotional Efforts

- "Sex at 7:00: How To Get What You Want But Not More Than You Bargained For", an interactive theater program offered on campus an average of 5 times each year between 1987 and 2000. The program was requested by other schools such as Wells College and the University of Rochester.
- Rape and sexual assault training for Cornell Police (1987-1998)
- Self-defense programs for students and staff
- Gender roles/sexual assault education was added to varsity athlete health education class (1991-1998)
- Rape education program for varsity football team annually (1990-1998)
- Acted in consultation with staff to develop a rape education program specifically for African-American students
- Co-sponsored Sexual Assault Awareness Week (1993, 1994)
- "Myth of the Month" advertisements placed in the Daily Sun (1989-1991)
- Articles in "Vital Signs", a health newsletter from University Health Services
- Letters to the Editor of the Cornell Daily Sun
- Rape prevention display ads in the Cornell Daily Sun (1990-present)
- Each fall a letter with brochure was sent to all new students (1989-1997). In 1998, the brochure was incorporated into the new student handbook, eliminating the need for a separate mailing.
- The inaugural exhibit of "Unheard Voices: An Exhibition of Castings and Oral Histories of People Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault" by artist Jason Dilley opens at Cornell in collaboration with Ithaca College and Ithaca human service agencies (1996)
- CARE members work collaboratively with the Cornell Democrats to bring Professor Anita Hill to campus for lecture and book signing (April, 1998)
- CARE sponsors co-sponsors V-Day, with the College Campaign production of "*The Vagina Monologues*", an Obie-award winning play which addresses violence against women. Fundraiser for local community agencies. (1999 to date).
- CARE webpage developed. <http://www.care.cornell.edu/> (1999)
- CARE sponsors two-day visit by performance artist Reanae McNeal who performed her play "Don't Speak My Mother's Name in Vain" about the history of sexual assault against African-American women (Feb 1999).
- CARE sponsors Unheard Voices a second time (April 17-27, 2000)
- CARE sponsors visit by Don McPherson, former pro-football player, to address men's violence against women (2000, 2004)
- CARE develops awareness campaign targeting men "You hold the key to stopping rape in your hands"(2002)
- CARE co-sponsors visit to campus by MADRE, an international women's human rights organization (2003, 2004)

Consultation

- Parents, campus administrators and other universities
- New York State Task Force on Rape
- International/National/local television (CBS Morning News, Face the Nation, Good Morning America, Lifetime Cable, Christian Broadcasting Network, Larry King Live, 20/20, Oprah, Grenada Television, London, England)
- Provides guidance on projects to student organization AARM (Action against Rape & Misogyny). Group disbands 1995.
- Additional national media exposure of CARE members in NY Times, Sports Illustrated, Money Magazine, Time Magazine, Athletic Management.

Evaluation

- Surveys conducted by the CARE Chair; results brought to committee to assist in planning educational programs
- Committee investigated the programming needs of people of color
- Alcohol/drug use survey provided information on alcohol/rape connection (1991)
- Evaluation of effectiveness of Sex at 7:00 and football program conducted (1992)

- Conferences
- Two statewide conferences offered to professionals on date rape (high school populations, 1987, and college, 1989)
- CARE members sponsored and presented during the 1st International Conference on Sexual Assault on Campus (1991). CARE members presented a program at the conference regularly over the years.
- Cornell's rape education model program was presented at various national conferences
- Over 250 presentations or lectures on sexual assault prevention have been presented by CARE members at other universities and conferences

Policy Issues

- Cornell Campus Code of Conduct revised to amend Title III and to include as a violation "to sexually harass, abuse or assault, or to rape another person" (1990)
- Provision added to Code to allow that complainant and defendant in sexual assault cases not need to testify while in the same room (1993)
- University Sexual Assault Policy developed in collaboration with Cornell Police, Judicial Administrator, Office of Equal Opportunity (1992-1994)
- CARE faculty took a leadership role initiating challenges to the faculty amendments to the University Sexual Harassment Policy that were inequitable (1998).
- CARE members draft revisions for the University Sexual Assault Policy to strengthen the policy language regarding substance abuse and its relationship to sexual offenses (2002)
- CARE supports the development of men's educational program for students accused of sexual misconduct or sexual assault through Judicial Administrator's office (2003 to date).