

PURPLE RIBBON NEWS

Empowering Victims to Live Violence Free



Issue 9

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Domestic Violence and Celebrities

Celebrities have a powerful influence on our culture. We admire famous actors, athletes, musicians and other public figures. What does it mean, then, when they fail as role models, when they batter their partners, and we as a culture continue to admire them and pay to see them perform? What does it mean when a company continues to use a known batterer as its celebrity spokesperson? When a violent actor is written about and cast as a heartthrob? When a singer beats his girlfriend, and his next love song reaches number one on the charts? When we continue to view our celebrities as sexy or heroic even after they are known to be violent to their partners, we condone their be-

havior and perpetuate domestic violence by helping to create an environment in which violence is viewed as acceptable. Celebrities, and the media that publicize and employ them, must be held accountable. It is up to us, as consumers of entertainment, to make sure that this happens.

DV exists because we let it exist

It can be stopped, and we can all work toward that goal by rejecting violence wherever we see it... in our friends, our co-workers, our families, and in ourselves.

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Meet Our New Advocate

Dena Rudio



Greetings!! My name is Dena and I have recently taken a Victim/Witness Advocate position with the Domestic Abuse Program. Some of you may recognize me from my days as the receptionist at HRDC. I really enjoyed working as the receptionist but when the Advocate position became available I decided that helping victims of domestic violence was something I needed to do.

Although I have lived in Havre for the last 11 years,

I am originally from Whitefish. My 15 year old daughter and I share a house with my mother and sister and her two children. I attended MSU-Northern and graduated with an Elementary Education degree which I used for 5 years at Box Elder.

The reason for leaving my teaching career was be-

cause I was looking for a new adventure, and here I am. I've always admired the wonderful work my department co-workers have done and now that I'm part of it I realize that they do way more than you would think.

I look forward to working with them to help victims of domestic violence.

Check us out on the website: www.hrdc4.havre.mt.us

Click on Domestic Abuse program link

To view our newsletter, click view DAP Newsletter

Roxanne Ross
Program Director

Margaret Hencz
Victim/Witness
Advocate

Carly Nottingham
Child & Family
Advocate

Jane McFarlane
Volunteer Coordinator

Dena Rudio
Victim/Witness
Advocate

Celebrity Hall of Fame/Shame.....continued from page 1

And we should reject it when we see it in public figures, as well.

Find out who's been speaking up and using their voices to make a difference... and who's been acting out and should be held responsible. Here are a few examples:

Celebrity Hall of Shame

Ike Turner- "Today, he is making a comeback with his fiancée, Jeanette who tours with him "I don't hit this girl here. But I have said to her, 'you do that again, I'm getting in your ass.' And then she never forgets. But with Tina, you can't talk, that was the only way. There may have been another way but I was too busy trying to pay bills, I had 26 people depending on me for a living." (Quote from September 27th, 1993 issue of Jet Magazine)

Tracy Lawrence-In 1998, country music singer Tracy Lawrence was convicted of abusing his estranged wife, who accused Lawrence of hitting her and making death threats after his Sept. 12, 1997 concert. Lawrence, known for his hits "Time Marches On," "Sticks and Stones," and "Any Fool Can See," acknowledged he slapped her but denied punching her.

Mykelti Williamson-Actor Mykelti Williamson, who starred as the shrimp-farmer Bubba in the movie *Forest Gump*, was arrested in 1998 for allegedly stalking his ex-wife and stabbing her friend. Williamson also appeared in *Waiting to Exhale* and *Con Air*.

Mike Tyson-During an interview that aired on the Fox News Channel in May 2003, former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson denied that he raped Desiree Washington in 1991, but stated, "now I really do want to rape her." Tyson was convicted of raping Washington in 1992 and sentenced to six years in prison. He served three years before being released on parole.

Lou Rawls-In January 2003, singer Lou Rawls was arrested in Albuquerque and charged with misdemeanor battery for assaulting his companion, Nina Inman. According to a police report, Rawls grabbed Inman's hair and threw her to the floor during an argument, reports the Albuquerque Journal. Rawls was released on bond.

Joe Frazier-In February 2004, the former heavyweight boxing champion was arrested and charged with simple assault and reckless endangerment for

assaulting his girlfriend, Sherri Gibson, in their Philadelphia house. Gibson and Frazier have a 12-year-old son, who was present during the assault and tried to protect his mother by threatening Frazier with a baseball bat, reported the Philadelphia Daily News.

Tanya Harding-In March 2000, Former Olympic figure skater Tanya Harding pleaded not guilty to charges that she hit her boyfriend, Darren Silver, in the face with a hubcap and her fists. Harding told officers that she hit Silver in an effort to protect herself, but police say witnesses do not support her statement.

Richard Hatch-Survivor I winner Richard Hatch was found guilty in September 2001, of domestic assault. Hatch was sentenced to one year of probation for an August incident in which he allegedly shoved his ex-boyfriend, Glenn Boyanowski, down a flight of stairs.

Celebrity Hall of Fame

Gillian Anderson, Kathy Bates, Melissa Etheridge and Debra Messing-During the week of April 29, 2002, celebrity guests on Hollywood Squares raised money for the Feminist Majority's Campaign for Afghan Woman and Girls.

Billy Crystal-In November 2003, actor and comedian Billy Crystal hosted a fund-raising dinner for the Safe at Home Foundation at the Battery Park Ritz Carlton Hotel in New York City. The foundation, which was started by New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre and his wife Ali, works to end family violence and address the impact that witnessing domestic violence has on children. Singer **Norah Jones** performed at the event, which raised \$1.2 million.

Calista Flockhart-In April, 2003, actress Calista Flockhart joined with the department store Barneys to host a fashion show to benefit the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center. Actresses **Lucy Liu, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos** and **Fran Drescher** were among those who attended the event, which raised \$120,000 for the center.

Stephen King-In March 1998, the author and his wife, Tabitha, donated \$50,000 to open a shelter for battered women and children in Bath, Maine. The donation from the prolific and very successful horror novelist made it possible for the shelter to open more quickly, local advocates said.

Gus Frerotte, Juwan Howard, and Rafael Palmeiro-In March 1998, Washington Redskin football star Gus Frerotte, Washington Wizard basketball star Juwan Howard, and Baltimore Oriole baseball star Rafael Palmeiro joined together to create a public service announcement (PSA) for the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. The PSA told men to "play fair" in the dating game and respect a woman's right to say no. It was aired on local stations.

Bill and Melinda Gates-In December 2000, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated \$4 million to the YWCA to help fund "Moving Women and Children Forward," an initiative at the YWCA of Seattle King County and Snohomish County that will provide support to battered women and their children. The initiative will pay for job training, housing and family services in the two counties.

Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and Stevie Wonder-Inspired by the O.J. Simpson trial, singer/songwriter Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds co-wrote the song "How Come, How Long" with Stevie Wonder. The song is about a woman killed by her lover. "I think it's an important song, and I think it's important for black men to sing about spousal abuse," Edmonds told USA Today. Lyrics for the song include: There was a girl I used to know She was oh so beautiful But she's not here anymore.... (S)he fell in love with the wrong kinda man He abused her love and treated her so bad.... How come, how long It's not right, it's so wrong Do we let it just go on Turn our backs and carry on Wake up, for it's too late Right now, we can't wait She won't have a second try Open up your hearts As well as your eyes She tried to give a cry for help She even blamed things on herself But no one came to her aid Nothing was wrong as far as we could tell That what we'd like to tell ourselves But no! It wasn't that way... (S) he paid with her life For loving that man So we cannot ignore, We must look for the signs And maybe next time we might save Somebody's life.

Chet Atkins, Linda Ronstadt, John Travolta, and Dwight Yoakam-In September 1996, Chet Atkins, Dwight Yoakam, John Travolta and Linda Ronstadt joined 116 singers, musicians and actors in including their handprints on the "Hands Are Not For Hitting" exhibit at the Nashville International Airport. The exhibit was sponsored by the Project to End Abuse through Counseling and Education (PEACE).

From Family Violence Prevention Fund

Study Finds Violence Threatens Health of Pregnant Women and Newborns

A new study demonstrates conclusively that physical abuse by husbands and boyfriends compromises a woman's health during pregnancy, her likelihood of carrying a child to term and the health of her newborn.

A Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) study, published in the July 2006 issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, finds that violence from male partners both in the year prior to and during a woman's pregnancy harms the health of women during pregnancy and the health of newborn children, and increases the risk of serious health complications during pregnancy. Abuse also increases a woman's risk of delivering prematurely and having a child who is born clinically underweight and in need of intensive care.

Led by Jay Silverman, PhD, Assistant Professor of Society, Human Development and Health at the HSPH, and Anita Raj, PhD, Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Boston University School of Public Health, researchers examined data on more than 118,000 women in 26 states who gave birth to live infants from 2000 to 2003. Information was gleaned from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, which gathers information from women around the time of pregnancy.

They found that women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy were 40 percent to 60 percent more likely than non-abused women to report high-blood pressure, vaginal bleeding, severe nausea, kidney or urinary tract infections and hospitalization during pregnancy.

Abused women also were 37 percent more likely to deliver preterm, and children of abused women were 17 percent more likely to be born underweight. Both of these conditions pose grave health risks to newborns. Children born to

abused mothers were more than 30 percent more likely than other children to require intensive care upon birth.

The study did not examine the impact of emotional abuse.

Silverman offered several possible explanations for the poor health outcomes. "It may be that stress resulting from abuse is having a negative impact on the reproductive endocrine system and leading to poor outcomes during pregnancy," he said. "Depression, known to result from abuse, has been shown to negatively affect fetal development. Sexual assault commonly co-occurs with physical violence from male partners and may lead to both greater risk of bleeding and urinary tract infections. Also, sexually transmitted infections are significantly more common among women abused by male partners, and such infections are known to compromise health during pregnancy and fetal development."

"We need to conduct far more research in this area to understand the mechanisms at work," Silverman added. "But regardless of the mechanisms, it is clear that abuse from husbands and boyfriends represents a serious risk to the health of women, their pregnancies, and their newborn children... As a society, we cannot afford to allow prevention of this grave threat to so many mothers and children to remain a low public health priority."

The HSPH study was supported by a grant from the Division of Reproductive Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Michele R. Decker, MPH, and Elizabeth Reed, MPH, both of the HSPH, co-authored the Journal article on the findings.

From Family Violence Prevention Fund

**HRDC IV DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

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Address Label



Guess What?????

*Pam's birthday is September 30
Wishing you a Happy Birthday !!!!*