

Men fight to stop sex crimes

Supporters will wear white ribbons in an effort to raise awareness about how men can prevent sexual violence

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Many men on campus are joining the fight to stop sexual assault and sexual violence, and one of the largest forces behind this movement is the University Men's Center.

Counseling Center Psychologist Jon Davies, who helped found the Men's Center, said that men perpetrate more than 90 percent of sexual assaults.

"Men need to step up and take responsibility and help reduce the number of occurrences," Davies said. "When we don't speak up and speak out against (sexual assault and sexual violence), we let (the male abusers) speak for us. Those are the actions that speak the loudest."

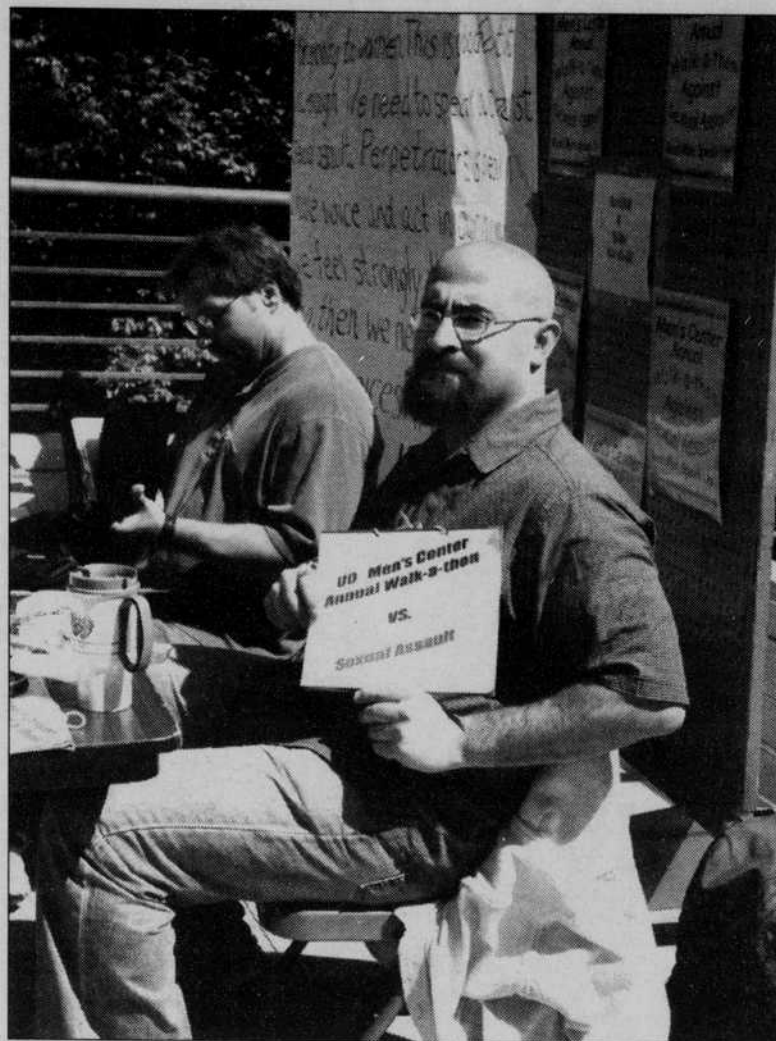
Many men are going to be showing their support for ending sexual violence by participating in the White Ribbon Campaign.

Wearing white ribbons is part of the Men's Center's goal of becoming more visible on campus, the center's director, Dave Miller, said, adding that the group has only been around for two years.

Davies said the idea for the group came out of several informal meetings between members of different campus organizations to discuss concerns of men's physical and mental health.

Davies said while more than 90 percent of conduct problems reported to the University are caused by men, the majority of people discussing problems with the University Counseling and Testing Center are female.

The group decided to conduct a survey with male students addressing their health concerns, barriers to



Carli Morgenstein Freelance Photographer

Counseling Center Psychologist Jon Davies (left) and Men's Center Director Dave Miller educate men on how they can prevent sexual violence Wednesday in front of the EMU.

health care and advice to improve accessibility for men. Davies said the group learned that men have many health concerns — including stress management, body image, depression and suicide — but they don't

usually seek help for their problems.

Davies attributes the problem to "the way they were socialized" and the idea that men should be independent. He

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