



From top to bottom, left to right: Women's Center worker Melissa Ballard leads the march to 8th Avenue and Oak Street; Students and community members rally against sexual assault; Women's Center Director Erin O'Brien speaks in the EMU Amphitheater; Anja Brahmmer from Breaking Free demonstrates self-defense moves.

NICOLE BARKER
PHOTOGRAPHER

Night: March recognized groups of victims

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Wellness Advocacy Team explained the importance of informed consent and demonstrated how to give and receive it. After the demonstration, representatives from Sexual Assault Support Services defined a "safe space" in both Spanish and English.

Using a bilingual presentation, SASS representatives gave a multi-dimensional definition of the idea of a safe space, which included receiving an excellent education to provide more opportunities in life; providing a place where people can make choices about their sexuality without living in fear of rejection, violence and intolerance; and valuing the diversity of animals, plants

and humans of all types. Representatives explained how sexual violence particularly affects the Latino community and mentioned SASS's resources for Spanish speakers.

Several speakers discussed how sexual violence affects a specific group of people. Women of color, lesbians, queers, gays, transgendered and gender-variant people all have experienced sexual violence but have not necessarily had access to assault survivor resources that are sensitive to their identities and experiences, several event speakers said.

The Radical Cheerleaders led the crowd in chants such as, "I drank ale. I drank stout. That is not

consent." Performers wore brightly colored costumes and amused the crowd with their renditions of popular cheers.

After the rally in the amphitheater, hundreds of people marched to the corner of East 8th Avenue and Oak Street. The march was divided into three sections: the first for self-identified women, the second for transgendered and gender-variant people and the third for allies.

"The march has a loyalty to women but recognizes women are not the only victims of sexual assault," Genther said. "We want women to have a safe space where they can feel comfortable but make allies feel included."

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