

Working against sexual violence

After receiving the crime log from Public Safety last week about the two rapes that had occurred recently on campus, the Association of Lafayette Feminists (ALF) decided to hold a discussion tonight to address this issue and to brainstorm on ways that ALF and the campus as a whole can raise awareness.

Twenty members from the campus community, ALF members, and a representative from *The Express-Times* were in attendance talking about the resources the campus has for dealing with sexual assault crimes, including the Sexual Assault Counseling and Education (SACE) Coordinator

and how better to utilize them and what tools we could use to make services the college provides more useful for the campus community.

We spoke of having a subcommittee of ALF that would pertain specifically to body issues and violence against women, and organizing an awareness week early next semester with displays, articles, tables and charts in order to bring this topic to light, without having it feel like a lecture. Other issues addressed were how to raise these issues to the male students on campus without seeming confrontational and intimidating, perhaps by having other male students facilitating the discussion instead of female students. One of

the members of the campus group Played Out also presented the idea of doing their piece "Unspeakable Acts," consisting of skits and monologues, during or soon after freshman orientation.

All of these ideas are still tentative and ALF is hoping to get this committee started in order to help mediate discussion on violence against women and better educate the campus on this matter. The success of any of these efforts lies on how open the campus is to talking about these issues and how vocal the response of the campus community will be.

Stephanie M. Morillo and
Danielle Bero