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Voices Raised, Issue 05

University of Dayton. Women's Center

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*"I can do no
great things,
only small
things with
great love."*

*Mother Teresa
of Calcutta*

Our Common Ground

Brian McNaught Returns to Speak at UD

Brian McNaught has known he was different for as long as he could remember, but he could have never imagined how those differences would shape his life and where he would be today.

Those differences he struggled with in his early years have now taken him across the globe and to over 200 colleges and universities as an educator on gay issues. They've made him a best-selling author of three books and the country's leading diversity consultant on gay issues.

McNaught has spoken at Harvard, MIT and UCLA, and now it's time for him to return to the University of Dayton once again.

"I look forward to coming back to the UD campus," says McNaught, recalling his 2000 and 2001 visits.

"When I come back, I'll be sharing a personal perspective on what it means to be gay, and how those who don't want to make the

lives of gay people more difficult can reach out with more supportive language and behaviors."

This will be the focus of McNaught's talk, *Gay and Straight: Our Common Ground*, when he comes to UD on October 12, 2004.

What he hopes students and the public will take away with them "is that ignorance is the enemy," says McNaught. "Ignorance is the parent of fear, and fear is the parent of hatred. My experience is that when people are given the opportunity to understand the experience of being gay they end up far more supportive in their attitudes

and behaviors."

And that's just what McNaught plans to do during his visit—help people understand the

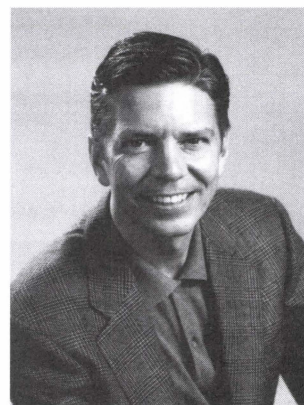
experience.

McNaught says that college campuses often face heterosexism, "a value system that enshrines heterosexual feelings as God or nature's only intention for human beings." This is the system

he is trying to combat with his lectures, workshops, books, and videos.

"When a person makes such an assumption, he or she makes it impossible for the gay person to feel safe and valued," says McNaught.

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Team works to stop discrimination

When we think of the word "community", we think of a group of people that protect one another and ensure that everyone feels safe and secure. A campus community is no different.

UD is striving to create a diverse community where no one feels confined to a lower standard.

In making sure this happens, the Biased-Related Incidents Team (BRIT) was created to ensure a consistent, comprehensive, and fair response to hate crimes and biased related incidents on campus.

"Our goal has been to propose a policy and set of

procedures that faculty, staff, and students not only perceive as fair, but also, provide opportunities for nurturing interpersonal growth, tolerance, and respect for our differences," says Ronald Katsuyama, who chaired the committee in charge of writing the draft policy.

"Biased-related incidents are not crimes, but acts of discrimination," Katsuyama says "it represents a hatred... it's direct to a person because of who they are."

BRIT also has a website specifically to obtain information and respond to biased-related incidents

within the UD campus community.

If someone believes they have been a victim of a biased-related incident, they can report it on the website rather than going directly to police. If a report is filed on the website, the UD Police Department and BRIT chair will be notified through an e-mail message.

Within 24 hours, the BRIT chair will convene a Response Group, which reviews the UDPD report and/or web-based report

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Mentoring program ready for year two

Following the success of a pilot mentoring program held during 2003-04, the Women's Center is re-launching the program for the 2004-05 academic year.

This program, coordinated and supported by the Women's Center, is designed to involve women faculty and staff in a formal mentor-mentee relationships. It matches appropriate mentors - either women or men - with women mentees.

Training for both mentors and mentees is provided through the Women's Center throughout the program. The initial training session, required of all participants, was held on Thursday, October 7th.

Along with this initial

training session, additional meetings will be scheduled about once a month for the group as a whole.

Other time requirements for meetings are left to the discretion of the individual mentor-mentee pairs.

The initial training session was conducted in-part by the UD Counseling Center and by Richard Walsh, Director of the Center of Leadership and Executive Development.

This year participants have been given the option to participate in the "Noble Purpose" course, also coordinated by Walsh.

For more information about the program, please contact Tarika Daftary, the mentoring program coordinator for the UD Women's Center at daftartz@notes.udayton.edu or at extension x95334.

• Tarika Daftary
Mentoring Program Coordinator

The Women's Center has movies?

Yes, the Resource Center has videos as well as books for borrowing! A few good titles:

Hope, Help, and Healing (Office for Victims of Crime)

The Pill (PBS Home Video)

On Being Gay (Brian McNaught)

For a complete listing of Resource Center materials, visit the Resources page at womenscenter.udayton.edu.

What's Going On?

Expanding the Conversation

by Dr. Sheila Hassell Hughes
Womens Studies Program Director

Yes! Women's Studies has a new major! Thanks to the heroic efforts of the Women's Studies Committee and the tireless assistance of Sarah Gallo, we were able to get our proposal for a new major and a change to the minor approved last April.

Four new courses – WST 150: Introduction to Women's Studies; WST 310: Feminist Theory and Methods; WST 390: Service Learning in Women's Studies; and WST 490: Senior Seminar in Women's Studies – form the cornerstone of the program.

The remaining 24 credit hours are to be drawn from existing courses from other departments already approved for the minor.

Majors choose from these disciplinary courses to fulfill a range of area requirements and must also fulfill 3 credit hours with a global and/or multicultural perspective.

We have designed the program so as to facilitate double-majoring, and we anticipate it will also lead to the development of a variety of new disciplinary and interdisciplinary courses across the curriculum in the next few years. WST 150 will be offered for the first time in January.

As if we weren't busy enough this summer gearing up for the new major, we decided to move as well! After conversations with the Women's Center Advisory Board, the Women's Studies Committee concluded that a move to the Center made good sense for the Program.

In mid-August we moved to Alumni Hall 208—a suite

of two offices embedded within the Women's Center.

We are thrilled with our new digs, which bring us more space, adjoining offices, a more central and visible presence on campus, ease of access to Women's Center meeting rooms, and a physical proximity to Lisa Rismiller and Pattie Waugh, hence facilitating our growing collaboration.

We are grateful to Lisa and Pattie for warmly welcoming us into their neighborhood! Sarah also deserves special thanks for her work on the move. Please drop by the new office to chat or check out our resources.

As you can see, it promises to be an exciting academic year in Women's Studies. My semester as Acting Director was a great transition (and something of a trial by fire!) and, in my new position as Director, I am looking forward to building on the initiatives we established last Spring... and on the past 26 years of Women's Studies work on this campus.

I am delighted to have inherited such a strong and vibrant program and owe a debt of thanks to all my predecessors—and especially to outgoing Director Betty Youngkin for her service to the Program over the years.

In my application for this position, I characterized my vision for Women's Studies at UD as "expanding the conversation." Whatever your own history or current degree of involvement with the Program, I hope you'll consider joining in some aspect of our conversation this year!

Women's Center Profiles

Research earns student accolades

President of the International Club. Sophomore Excellence Award. Outstanding Senior Award in Mathematics. Stander Symposium Research Award. Academic Excellence Award from the Society of Women Engineers.

These are just a few of the honors Gayatri Gunda has received during her career at the University of Dayton.

Gayatri was born in India and lived there until her family moved to Oman when she was 10 years old.

At fifteen, she and her family moved to the United States for more economic opportunities, and she came to the University of Dayton as an undergraduate in 2000.

In 2003, Gayatri won an award from the Cordell W. Hull International Fellows Fund for her research in

Madrid, Spain. For this research project, Gayatri traveled to Madrid to compare the United States' middle school mathematics education to Spain's.

Toward the end of her junior year, Gayatri began working on a research project with Dr. Aparna Higgins in the Math department.

This research was in the area of Pebbling, and was part of her Berry's Scholar Thesis. Pebbling is a new area in mathematics only around since the 1980's, so it has not yet gained much recognition.

Gayatri presented a paper of her findings at the Undergraduate Mathematics Day Conference, where people from all over the country come to present their research. It was

refereed, accepted, and published in an online publication. In honor of her research, Gayatri received the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Award in April 2004.

"I'm very grateful to the honors program for giving me this opportunity to do research. Without them I don't think I would have gotten any opportunities to do any research at all," Gayatri said.

Gayatri graduated from UD in August, 2004 as a Chemical Engineering and Math major. Now, in her first semester as a graduate student, she is taking business classes to prepare her for her future career in the field of dentistry. After graduation, she is hoping to one day open her own practice.

Gayatri has chosen to follow a career in dentistry because of direct interactions she will have with her patients. As much as she enjoys doing research, "there's not that personal satisfaction of helping someone directly."

So, her dad pushed her toward health sciences. Dentistry was appealing because it has many opportunities, including flexible hours that will allow Gayatri to fulfill her dream of someday becoming a mother.

In her free time, Gayatri loves to travel and cook international foods.

• Tricia Parman
Junior

Journalism & Sociology Major

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Allies more than just a "safe space"

You've probably noticed them around campus—little white and pink "Safe Space" signs adorning the doorways of offices, residence halls and classrooms at UD.

But these stickers designate much more than just that. "They stand for equality," says Juli Burnell, psychologist and counselor at the Counseling Center who works to increase awareness and understanding of issues raised by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies steering committee (LGBT+).

The LGBT+ committee

began twelve years ago after an openly gay student was threatened based on his sexuality.

"It became apparent that something needed to change in order to make the campus climate more accepting for people of all ethnicities and sexual orientations," Dr. Burnell says.

The committee members organized themselves, and began preparing floor programs in residence halls

to raise awareness and spread the ideal of an students.

However, the LGBT+ committee didn't stop with the residence halls, and soon began focusing on faculty as well. Faculty members were invited to contact the committee to obtain "Safe Space" signs for their offices to let others know that they were open to discussing lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender issues.

Allies faculty members also participate in brown bag

lunch presentations, which discuss ways to offer support through listening, maintaining confidentiality and staying nonjudgmental.

In 2000, the LGBT+ invited Brian McNaught to speak to the UD community. Greatly influenced by his presence on campus, a group of straight and gay students worked to form a Student Allies group.

This student organization, comprised of both gay and straight students, aims at creating an open and safe campus environment

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**SAFE
SPACE**

This sign is a reflection of my support for the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual community.
It is important that ALL people have a place where they feel comfortable expressing who they are... this is one of those places!

Health & Wellness

What I wish I would have known...

Ask the Doc

Mary Buchwalder, M.D.

How risky is getting pierced?

I was thinking of getting my navel or something else pierced. Is there any risk in doing this?

Cara

Piercing has certainly gotten very popular, with all varieties of body parts involved. Any time you break the skin, there is a chance for infection. And when you leave a foreign body (something not part of your own body, like an earring or dumbbell) in place this increases the chances that germs can get into the wound and start an infection. If you're really careful to clean your hands whenever you touch

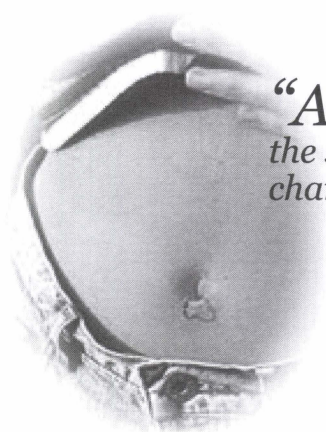
the new piercing, and do the required cleaning of the area every day, the chance of infection is fairly low. And early infections usually respond well to treatment.

One area that I wouldn't recommend piercing is the cartilage of the ear. This is the middle and upper parts of the ear that are firm like cardboard. This area has a very poor blood supply, and even a mild infection here can cause death of the cartilage, leaving a really deformed upper ear. Multiple piercings in the soft fleshy lower part of the earlobe are fine, but you're safest to stick to an ear cuff if you want to adorn your upper ear.

Dr. B

"Any time you break the skin, there is a chance for infection."

Dr. B



When asked why they made the decision to attend UD, so many students report the supportive atmosphere and friendly community environment. With over 95% of students living on campus, UD is our neighborhood, our home, our family.

These sentiments make UD an amazing university, but they often leave us with a false sense of security as well. Even the best of communities are subject to crime, and ours is no exception.

UD Public Safety bulletins have warned recently of several occurrences of public indecency and of students being harassed. What do all of these incidents have in common? The victims were women.

We've all heard one statistic or another, such as the fact that 1.3 women are raped every minute in the United States, or that one in every four college women has been the victim of some sexual assault.

The goal is not to instill fear, but to make people—and especially women—aware of the dangers that

they face. Being aware and prepared for any danger is the biggest key to avoiding becoming a victim.

According to many statistics, freshman women during their first semesters are the individuals most vulnerable to crime on college campuses. Many freshman women and other new students here at UD simply aren't aware of the dangers they face and don't know what they can do to protect themselves.

We all know that our beloved Ghetto is far from the crime-filled streets of New York or Los Angeles, but keeping safe is important no matter where you are.

To see what other women on campus do to keep safe, we asked what they themselves wished they had known about Ghetto safety coming to UD...

Make sure you and your roommates or housemates lock the doors when you leave, so you don't have to worry about coming home to an unlocked house.

*Karen Keating
Senior*

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When I go for a walk or run in the evening, I never go by myself. If I have to it's usually safer just to go to the PAC to workout. And when walking to my car at night, I always walk with my keys held out just as a precaution.

*Emily Kohrman
Senior*

As a freshman, people always told me to not get caught in "freshman herds", but I've found the opposite to be true for safety. Many of the campus safety bulletins apply to women who are walking by themselves very late or early in the morning. And if you choose to drink, make sure it's in a house where you trust the people. I've heard too many times of girls being "fair game" if they pass out in an unfamiliar house, and so many of these incidents go unreported.

*Brittany Sharnsky
Sophomore*

One good investment is a whistle for key chains. I purchased a pretty little green whistle at Walgreen's for 99-cents and it packs quite a punch. Anytime you get in a situation that is less than comfortable or safe, this can be an effective deterrent from any would-be aggressors. I've used mine more than once.

*Jen Collins
Senior*

I knew one of the girls from last year that was running and got attacked. My suggestion is to not go running early in the morning or late at night

UD Public Safety Suggests...

- The best defense is always to be aware of where you are. Walk with a purpose. Send a message that you are not a potential victim.

- We rationalize our fears and ignore instinctive warnings. Learn to trust your instincts.

- Be cautious when someone you don't know strikes up a conversation. They may be trying to distract you or gain your confidence to take advantage of you.

For more tips, visit the UD Public Safety Website at www.udayton.edu/~safety/.

without someone else. It never hurts to be cautious.
*Jen Campbell
Sophomore*

Never walk alone and don't walk through the alleys. If you have to, make sure someone knows that you are coming or leaving. We also have a Women's Self Defense class, which I didn't know about until I signed up for it.

*Beth Huss
Senior*

I've learned that it's important for women to walk around with their heads up, shoulders back and a look of confidence about them. I think females can be targeted more by males when they walk with their heads down.

*Abby Harper
Senior*

I would advise women to always take a friend to those random parties that everyone is invited to. Also never let a friend walk home from any of the Brown Street Bars alone. Cars pull up and it would be easy to grab someone and hit the highway before anyone

even noticed.

*Maria Stanzak
Senior*

You need someone with you at parties who makes you think twice before deciding to go home with a guy, or to really go anywhere with a guy for that matter. When you've been drinking, you can't really make that kind of decision.

*Rachel Olszewski
Junior*

Cover your drinks and get your own. Don't bring a purse—pockets are safer. Don't walk home alone. Carry Mace. Don't stare at the tennis shoes! Rapists tend to go for women doing something to distract them—cell phones, make-up, digging for keys. Pay attention to your surroundings!

*Cat Cameron
Junior*

• Ashley Neu
Women's Center
Communications

UD Women Conquer 3-Day

With beautiful weather and scenery all around, 2,000 survivors of breast cancer, current fighters of the disease and those who have lost love ones all gathered in Shakopee, Minnesota on September 10, 2004.

They were beginning a 3-day walk, which would prove to be both mentally and physically tiring, but rewarding at the same time.

UD's University Archivist, Kerrie Cross, and former UD employee, Sue Polanka, both participated.

"It was tough sharing and hearing stories of loved ones who have battled with the disease," Cross said. "And

physically, it was hard walking, roughly, 30 miles a day for 3 days; though, the scenery from the beginning to the end of the walk was breathtaking."

At the end of the nearly 30 miles a day, Cross said, the walkers would pitch tents and sleep outside overnight, until they were to begin their next round of walking come the following morning.

When the walk finally ended in St. Paul on Sept. 12, the walkers had raised \$5 million for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, to help find a cure for breast cancer.

• Betsy Simon
Junior
English Major

Voices Raised

The Women's Suffrage Movement in America

"Why is the right to vote so important? It provides a mechanism by which citizens may influence both who rules and what public policies they implement. When a group of people with a common concern votes... the group may alter both the campaign promises and the performance in office of those who are elected. The right to vote can thus be a powerful weapon for obtaining preferred policy outcomes."

from *Women and Political Participation*
co-authored by UD Professor David W. Ahern

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New York Suffrage March
May 6, 1912

"If woman would fulfill her traditional responsibility to her own children; if she would educate and protect from danger factory children who must find their recreation on the street; if she would bring the cultural forces to bear upon our materialistic civilization; and if she would do it all with the dignity and directness fitting one who carries on her immemorial duties, then she must bring herself to the use of the ballot - that latest implement for self-government."

Jane Addams
Why Women Should Vote, 1915



Women at the Ballot Box
New York, 1917



Women's Suffrage Headquarters
Upper Euclid Avenue, Cleveland



The First Picket Line
February, 1917

"Because it is fair and right that those who must obey the laws should have a voice in making them...and because it is the quietest, easiest, most dignified and least conspicuous way of influencing public affairs."

Alice Stone Blackwell
Why Should Women Vote?, 1897

"Ignorance is the enemy. Ignorance is the parent of fear, and fear is the parent of hatred."

Brian McNaught

BRIT challenges hate

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to make recommendations. One member of this group will contact the complainant to offer support and provide options for them.

Other ways to file a report are to contact the UDPD directly or go to

any of the following administrative offices: Dean of Students' office, Diverse Student Populations, Residential Programs, and the Office of the President.

It is important that students, faculty, and staff know about hate incidents that are happening.

Lynette Heard, chair of BRIT, says that we need to prevent hate by being proactive. "Right now everything is in the early

stages." She believes it is important to make sure the campus is educated.

Each person on campus should know what situations

to report and that every office, class, and club should establish standards. UD

"When injustice is seeping its way in...I can't help but be passionate."

Lynette Heard,
BRIT Chair

President, Dr. Daniel Curran, has a letter that will be released soon regarding the interim policy.

"When injustice is seeping its way in...I can't help but be passionate," says Heard. The UD campus is standing up against hate.

For more information, go the BRIT website at <http://stophate.udayton.edu>.

• Danielle Meinhardt
Sophomore
Journalism Major

McNaught speaks at UD

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As a Marianist university based upon values of inclusion, UD is becoming even more aware of these issues and taking action.

"I think that it's something of a hidden phenomenon on campus. There are also very sympathetic people to this issue certainly, but there's not comprehensive understanding that we need," says Dr. Daniel Curran, president of UD.

Bringing McNaught to campus is a step toward achieving this understanding. "He addresses these issues in a way appropriate for our Catholic institution", says Dr. Curran, "And he understands the values of Catholic teaching. He has a great sensitivity to those values, so I felt it was a tremendous opportunity to have him come to UD."

After his public lecture, McNaught will also be addressing senior administrators in a morning workshop the next day.

"When I work with the administrators, my goal will be to help them become more confident in their ability to address the many issues facing gay, lesbian, and bisexual students, faculty, and staff on the campus."

Despite the differences that have made McNaught an internationally-recognized educator, it is his sameness that allows him to relate so well to his audiences. When asked what his future plans are, he answers, "I want to continue focusing on my spiritual journey, write, and enjoy my time with my spouse."

• Ashley Neu
Women's Center
Communications

Allies change UD climate

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for all people. According to the Student Allies website, the organization's three goals are to "create an open and safe campus for individuals of all orientations, provide awareness and support on UD's campus, and communicate with groups in the Dayton area who share the same goals."

Dr. Burnell adds that in joining this organization, students are not pressured to share their orientation with others. "This organization is for common equality, where gay and straight students work side by side to create a

community where everyone is supported to reach their full potential."

The Student Allies organization meets weekly in the Women's Center to discuss such issues.

For more information about this organization or on becoming a member, contact faculty coordinator, Jolly Janson at 229-2229.

Or visit the websites www.studentallies.com and www.udayton.edu/~cc/glb/tablecontents.htm to learn more.

• Jen Locy
Senior
English and Art History Major

If you go...

Who: Brian McNaught

What: "Gay and Straight: Our Common Ground"

When: 7:30 PM, October 12, 2004

Where: KU Ballroom

Last Words...

"Consider the lilies of the field. Look at the fuzz on a baby's ear. Read in the backyard with the sun on your face. Learn to be happy. And think of life as a terminal illness because if you do you will live it with joy and passion as it ought to be lived. Get a real life, a full life, a professional life, yes, but another life, too, a life of love and laughs and a onnection to other human beings. Just keep your eyes and ears open. Here you could learn in the classroom. There the classroom is everywhere. The exam comes at the very end. Remember, no one ever said on his deathbed, 'I wish I had spent more time at the office.'"

Anna Quindlen,
Villanova Commencement



Women's Center

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Issue 5

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womenscenter.udayton.edu

From the Director's Desk

Which comes first, race or sex?

This was just one of many thought-provoking questions raised at a recent Cincinnati conference entitled, "Can We Talk? A National Diversity Forum." This event, sponsor Black Career Women's fifth, had a similar overriding objective as the previous four; "to explore the workplace relationships among black women, white women and other women of color and how these relationships might be improved to insure the career advancement of all women."

President's Office Executive Director Lynnette Heard organized a diverse – in many ways - contingent of UD women to attend *Can We Talk?* All those who attended agreed it was a unique and worthwhile experience, providing a rare opportunity to "walk in another woman's shoes."

Through a series of speakers, plenary sessions and small group discussions, approximately 250 women of all ages, ethnicities, faith traditions and personal and professional experiences heard about each other and shared of themselves.

This question of, "Which comes first, race or sex?" was just one of many raised. Participants were asked, when you get up in the morning, are you first and foremost a woman, or are you Black, White, Latina, Asian, etc.?

This question came up again when the UD contingent gathered recently to debrief our experiences at *Can We Talk?* Those present agreed

that answering this question for themselves brought revelation for some, simply more questions for others.

The one thing we all agreed on was that we wanted more opportunities to continue answering the questions raised by *Can We Talk?* We decided to form a reading group around the book, *Our Separate Ways: Black and White Women and the Struggle for Professional Identity*, and to begin asking ourselves and each other even more probing and perhaps painful questions, all with the goal of creating understanding, compassion, and respect for each other while building one small community of UD women.

It is our hope that this "experiment" might become another mechanism for improving the climate for diversity and inclusiveness at UD. If it is successful, we may try to expand it to include more UD women. Like ripples in a pond when a pebble is dropped, we're hoping *Can We Talk?* will create a disturbance – albeit a positive one – among UD women.

• Lisa Rismiller
Women's Center Director

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