

## Unity will conquer the night

After "Take Back The Night," I returned to my dorm and attempted to describe the intensity of the event to a friend, but it was a struggle. I have heard others describe it as moving or amazing, and certainly what was shared was just that, but anyone who was there last Thursday night knows that there is not really a word to accurately explain what was felt in that room.

In my futile attempt to try to relate the power of what had gone on; I was asked, by a male, "Were there any men there?" I am sure that my anger with such a question was obvious. The night had been indescribable and empowering and now I was hit with somebody questioning whether or not any men had attended this "chick event" — as he put it.

What kind of question is that anyway? Yes, there were men

there. I am frustrated that anyone would believe anything differently. What is more, the men at "Take Back The Night" were not passive. They talked and shared their experiences in addition to providing support for the other people who attended.

The whole episode reminded me of another support group for

eating disorders related issues not too long ago. There were many women at this group, but

only one male. Sure, he may have felt a little out of place, but he was there, learning about a women's issue, and I know that a lot of us really appreciated that a male had taken the time and energy to educate himself about something that has affected so many women.

If you are a male, it is one thing to say that you support women's issues, but it is another thing to actually educate and involve yourself by attending events such as "Take Back The Night." If it is intimidating to be in an all female group (as I have heard before), bring a few friends. The women who are at gatherings such as these appreciate and respect those men who are involving themselves much more than most people realize. What is frustrating is that there are so few men involved.

However, it almost seems warped to me that men involved in women's issues are so readily appreciated. They are simply doing what they ought to do. The world is fifty-four percent women. This means that roughly one half of the interactions in a man's life will be with women. I would think that it would be in any man's best interest to somewhat educate himself about women's issues, and to attend such events as "Take Back The Night."

Through educating ourselves in

issues that relate to others, whether  
it is in gender, race, class, or sexuality,  
it seems we can begin to bridge the gap  
that is created by a lack of understanding.  
But, I imagine, if you attended, this is not  
something that you need to hear. You already  
know.

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