

## **TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR GIVES ANTI-VIOLENCE ADDRESS BY WANDA FLOWERS PEACOCK, PHILADELPHIA**

Philadelphia Region's Youth Division kicked off its anti-violence campaign Aug. 7 with a seminar featuring a Temple University professor who provided attendees with some eye-opening statistics and insights.

During the seminar, guest speaker Dr. J. Christopher Bernat, who specializes in the field of cultural anthropology, noted that the United States is one of the most violent cultures in the world. But, he explained, that many in the U.S. mistakenly believe that the most prevalent form of violence in the nation is racial, when, in fact, it's gender based. Gender-based violence, he said, does not only involve individuals, but also America's institutions.

To illustrate his point, Dr. Bernat discussed the treatment of rape victims in the U.S. Rape victims, he said, are treated violently by the police departments who investigate the crimes as well as by medical personnel who examine them following the crime. Their bodies are treated like evidence in a most inhumane manner.

In response to a question from the audience, the professor said that the U.S. must create a greater balance of power between the sexes and races. Women and non-whites who gain positions of power, he said, must express their feminine side and not maintain patriarchal attitudes.

Dr. Bernat also described several cultural justifications for violence, including the protection of resources and matters of honor. Cultures, he explained, routinely reward their members with honors for engaging in acceptable forms of violence.

Roughly 80 people attended the seminar, which also included an educational presentation on the value-creation theory of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and a panel discussion by individuals who experienced violence personally or who worked with either the victims or perpetrators of violence.

Before leaving the seminar, participants signed a personal pledge to fight against violence.

Title: Temple University Professor Gives Anti-Violence Address  
Subject: World Tribune 12/03/99 n.3271 p.16 WT991203p16 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 08/07/99  
Author: Wanda Flowers Peacock  
Keywords: 08/07/99 Address Anti-Violence Flowers Forums Gives Over Panels Peacock Pennsylvania Philadelphia Professor Seminars Temple University Victory Violence Wanda Youth