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DePaul students take part in SlutWalk



DePaul students unite behind a banner reading "DePaul Feminists Against Rape Culture" at SlutWalk Chicago on Saturday. (Jeremy Mikula photo for RedEye)

BY **JEREMY MIKULA**, DePaul reporter · Tuesday, June 7, 2011 9:00 a.m.

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If you were in the Loop Saturday afternoon and saw some scantily clad people holding signs with "slut" written on them, don't worry, it wasn't your imagination. It was SlutWalk Chicago.

SlutWalk Chicago is part of a more global outreach of marches and protests that aim to open dialogue about sexual assault and society's role in defining it and handling it. Additionally, SlutWalk wants to change continuing myths and stereotypes about who is sexually assaulted and why, according to [SlutWalk Chicago's](#) website.

About 40 DePaul students walked in the event as a group, meeting first outside DePaul's Student Center at 11 a.m. and taking the Red Line to Lake. Once outside the Thompson Center — the beginning point of the walk — the group of students held a long, pale blue sign that read "DePaul Feminists Against Rape Culture."

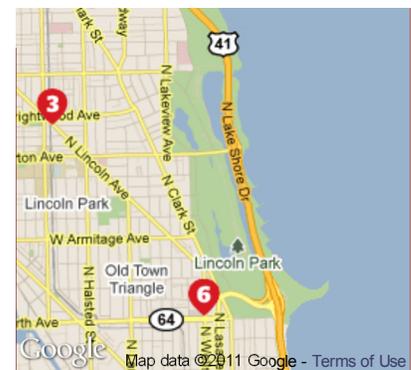
"We're taking part in this because we believe in rape culture and a culture that tells people not to be raped as opposed to telling the perpetrator not to rape," said Amanda Stefanski, 20, who helped gather DePaul students. "We're coming out in support of everyone moving throughout the world as they want to, dress as they want to, and do whatever they want without the threat of violence"

SlutWalk has its origins in Toronto, where a police representative told a group of students, "I've been told I'm not supposed to say this, however, women should avoid dressing like sluts in order to not be victimized."

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"The important thing should be blaming rapists and not victims," said DePaul student Maggie Clancy, 21. "We live in a culture that places blame on the victim of rape based on what they were wearing. I'm here to smash rape culture."

The walk began by gathering at Thompson Center from 11 a.m. At noon, the walk went east on Randolph, south on Michigan, west on Jackson, and finally north on Clark to the Daley Center Plaza, where everyone gathered to listen to speakers talk about sexual assault, gender, identity, and "rape culture."

Along the way, drivers enthusiastically beeped their horns as walkers shouted things such as, "Hey hey, ho ho, patriarchy has got to go," and "Wherever we wear, wherever we go, 'yes' means yes and 'no' means no." Participants also held signs with sayings such as "If I were asking for it, it wouldn't be rape," and "My body is not an invitation."

Speakers at the end of the rally included Jessica Skolnik, a victim of sexual abuse herself, Yasmin Nair of GenderJust, Laura Yes Yes who read a poem, Crash of Sex Workers Outreach Project, Caleb Probst of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Emily Robison of SHEER, Jamie Keiles, and comedian Beth Stelling, who did a stand-up routine to lighten the mood.

Related: SlutWalk photo gallery

Tags: DePaul, sexual violence, SlutWalk.

2

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