

We're All Responsible to Stop Violence (Letter to Santa Cruz Sentinel 10/28/07)

Elaine Charkowski's Oct 9 letter on men's violence against women seems a bit over the top. Some men, including many known to me, are actually quite gentle respectful, protective and comradely in relation to the women in their lives, and to women in the world at large. Most long for their friendly company; and many turn to women to leadership and guidance. But Charkowski's main thrust is to demand that we men somehow take responsibility for putting an end to every sort of violence against women. Would that it were so simple. As human beings, we are all unquestionably responsible to help bring an end to that kind of violence- and to war, corruption, pollution and the many other systematic violations of universal human rights that we face as well, both at home and abroad. But in whose company, and by what means?