

North Shore Vision

October 26, 1999

UMD Department of Women's Studies

Volume 9, Issue 3

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome back everyone! We're off to an exciting and thriving beginning. Much is new in Women's Studies this year. To begin with, we finally have space! Our new departmental offices are in Humanities 475 and 473, and they will soon be remodeled to meet our new needs. We also have our own secretary, Barb Lowe, who will be a wonderful addition to our department. Catherine Chu, our new Women's Studies office worker, has already created a work of art with our new bulletin board. Please stop by and introduce yourselves.

We have two new faculty this year -- Judy Trolander, who will be with us from History for two years, and myself, Beth Bartlett, who will be heading the department for the next three years. We are glad for the enduring presence and energies of Njoki Kamau, Dianna Hunter, Susana Pelayo-Woodward, and Ann Richtman. Tineke Ritmeester is on sabbatical this year, and is very missed, though we wish her well in this replenishing year.

The Women's Studies Association has already met several times this semester. They are a small group, but committed and energetic, and seeking new members.

The Women's Studies Advisory Board is in a process of change as we seek to clearly define its role and membership. We are in the process of drawing up by-laws, and will soon be sending out a call for new members from the campus and Twin Ports communities, as well as seeking a chair.

The Women's Studies Curriculum Task Force has been working on revising the Women's Studies major, and we are in the process of developing several new courses.

On a personal note...I'd like to say that my joining Women's Studies has been wonderful for me. I really enjoy working with such a committed, creative, and cooperative group of people. The move has really energized me. And I must admit, I love the fact that my office has a view of the lake and that music occasionally wafts up from music department. When I made the switch, I had to decide to move my tenure "home." I do indeed now feel that I am "home."

Beth Bartlett

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Positions & Opportunities Available

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

The Women's Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz seeks applications for a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor, specializing in Feminist Critical Race Studies.

For more information contact the Women's Studies Department at H475.

DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM OHIO UNIVERSITY

The Women's Studies Program at Ohio University invites applications for a full time director to begin September 2000. The position will be tenured and is open at the professorial rank for a nine-month contract, with summers off for research.

For more information contact Alden Waitt, Interim Director at waitt@ohio.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS – FEMINIST THEORY

Feminist Theory is a new international interdisciplinary journal being published by SAGE Publications in April 2000. The journal is being launched to provide a forum for critical analysis and constructive debate within feminist theory.

If you are interested in submitting a manuscript contact:

Rosemary Hennessy, Feminist Theory
Department of English, The University at Albany, SUNY
Albany, NY 12222, USA
Telephone: (518)442-4088
Fax (518)442-4599
Email hennessy@cnsvox.albany.edu

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

For information on opportunities in Duluth, call Mary at (218) 722-0833.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINIC ASSISTANT INTERNSHIP POSTING

For information contact Planned Parenthood Clinic Manager in Duluth at (218) 722-0833.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JONI SEAGLER, Ph.D.
(Associate Professor & Chair of
Geography, University of
Vermont)

When: November 8
Where: Campus Center 120
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Topic: Speaking on 'Thinking
About Environmental
Problems: What's
Gender Got to Do With
it?'

Dr. Seager has published widely
on connections between
gender, sexual & environ-
mental issues.

For more info. contact Larry
Knopp, Geography Dept. 726-
6246.

CHRISTINA BALDWIN
WRITING & LIVING THE SACRED
MYTH OF OUR LIFE

When: November 12-14
Where: Singing Wolf Center
Times: Fri, 7 p.m. - Sun, 3 p.m.

A weekend that will free up your
life as you transform your own
stories into myth!

For info call (414)248-9110
Fax (414) 249-9830
Email hanahawk@genevaonline.com
Website www.singingwolf.com

STEPHEN
SCHLESINGER
CONCERNING
INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES

When: November 8
Where: Alworth
Institute at Kirby
Center (UMD)
Time: Noon
Topic: "The UN and
Humanitarian
Intervention"
(also UN history, Latin
America & US Policy)

For more info. contact
Mary VanEvera 724-
0133.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT GROUP

When: Wednesday Nights
Topic: Young Women up to
age 21 who have been
in abusive relationships.
All groups are free and
confidential.
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Lifehouse, 31 W 1st St.

For more info. contact Sarah
or Mary at the Shelter, 728-
6481

WOMEN OF COLOR EDUCATION GROUP

When: October 26
Topic: Night out
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Washington Center,
310 N 1st Ave W,
Room 106

EDUCATION / SUPPORT GROUP

When: October 26
Topic: The Process of
Healing
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Washington
Center, 301 N 1st Ave
W, Room 118

Onsite childcare/transportation is provided. To
make arrangements, contact the Women's
Coalition before Tuesday- 4:00 p.m..

Hate Crime Vigil Statement

By Larry Knopp

In 1991, Kevin Dutcher of Superior, a 27 year old gay man, was stabbed to death by a man named Stuart Ellensan. At the time that he confessed to the crime, Ellensan told police "I want to kill this fag. My whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters. They spread AIDS." Remarkably, the response from the local media and political leaders was to deny that this was a hate crime. The editorial page editor of the Duluth News-Tribune explained the paper's refusal to editorialize against the crime, as a hate crime, on the grounds that the editors felt there was insufficient evidence to characterize it as such. And not a single elected or appointed official in either Superior or Duluth was willing to make a public statement denouncing the crime as a hate crime, even though many had done exactly that – and rightly so – following the vandalism and defacing of a local black church by anonymous racists just a few months earlier. Then, as if to add insult to injury, the Superior Evening Telegram began investigating Dutcher, the victim, and published an article suggesting that he may indeed have "spread AIDS" in the past. So he was effectively victimized again.

In 1995, during the Mayoral campaign here in Duluth, one of the candidates bragged publicly about having participated in the vigilante-style execution of a gay man while he was in the military. He declined to offer details, and the other candidates, the press and local and federal law-enforcement agencies largely dismissed this claim as a stunt. What message does that send to potential future victims and their families? Last year, as we all know, Matthew Shepard was

murdered in Wyoming by two men who also made clear that they were motivated by anti-gay hate. One of their girlfriend accomplices, as well as their lawyers and family members, even went so far as to suggest that this was understandable, due to the "humiliation" of an alleged sexual overture to one of them by Matthew. Then at Matt's funeral, the Rev. Fred Phelps appeared with placards proclaiming "God Hates Fags" and "Matthew Shepard Burns in Hell" (among others). Finally, the Wyoming State Legislature defeated proposed hate-crimes legislation just months later because it specifically recognized anti-gay bias as a form of hate. Evidently this was too much for the legislators of the "equality state", so Matt, too, was also effectively victimized again. When, just a few months prior to Matt's murder, the Rev. Fred Phelps came to Duluth to spread anti-gay venom here, the response from many of our local leaders was a self-congratulatory denouncement of "hate" in the abstract, but a simultaneous refusal to acknowledge that it was *anti-gay* hate that was being denounced. Not only did our Mayor, for example, refuse to recognize the organizers of this and last year's vigil for their efforts, for no other reason than that ULGBTGA includes the words "gay and lesbian" in its title, he also called out the fire department to remove all symbols of solidarity with gay and lesbian people, such as purple triangles and rainbow flags, from the Duluth Civic Center prior to Phelps arrival. They used fire hoses to do this. Evidently it's ok to oppose "hate" in general, but it's not ok to stand in solidarity with those targeted by it.

Vigil continue on page 7

WS SPRING 2000 CLASS SCHEDULE

FEMINIST INQUIRY

Professor: Kamau

Credits: 3

Time: 8:00-9:15 (TTH)

Description:

Major issues, concepts and questions addressed by feminist scholarship; context of feminist inquiry.

WOMEN IDENTIFIED CULTURES

Professor: Hunter

Credits: 3

Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m. (M)

Description:

Chronological survey introducing a relatively new body of knowledge in women's studies about lesbian cultures. Lesbian studies in literature, history, law, sociology, aesthetics, and philosophy; international perspectives.

WOMEN, RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Professor: Bartlett

Credits: 3

Time: 2:00-4:30 (W)

Description:

Religions and spirituality in relation to women. Historical and contemporary practices and beliefs.

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

Professors: Hunter,
Kamau

Credits: 3

Time: 10:15-11:05 (MWF)
10:00-11:15 (TTH)

Description:

Women's studies as an interdisciplinary field of study; changing role and status of women. International perspectives.

SEMINAR

Professor: Bartlett

Credits: 3

Time: 2:00-4:30 (T)

Description:

Major issues, concepts and questions addressed by feminist scholarship; context of feminist inquiry.

FEMINIST THEORY

Professor: Bartlett

Credits: 3

Time: 10:00-11:50 (TTH)

Description:

Historical and conceptual examination and analysis of central ideas and problems within several feminist theories.

WOMEN & LAW

Professor: Richtman

Credits: 3

Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m. (T)

Description:

Ways women's lives and gender relationships are influenced by law and the judicial system; how the system can become more responsive to women's experience.

Summer in Costa Rica

Last summer, the UMD Women's Studies Department organized and led an exploratory visit to the Institute for Community Development and Communications by Women (ICDCW) in Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica. Seven UMD-affiliated women (faculty, staff, and one student) and two Duluth community members participated. They stayed in private rooms in the homes of local families, enjoying conversation and home-cooked meals, and learning about Costa Rican culture through shared information and experiences. They also traveled into the mountains to learn from talks and demonstrations by grassroots women affiliated with the ICDCW. *Quitirrisi* women and the *campesina* women of El Rodeo shared traditional foods and taught about medicinal plants, basketry, and their self-help community organizing that addresses concerns such as community health, domestic abuse, teen-age pregnancy, and lack of access to economic resources. The UMD women also learned from the Central American and Caribbean women who staff FIRE (Feminist Interactive Radio Endeavor) about current Central American women's issues, especially the far-reaching effects of international debt restructuring. Future exchanges are being planned, including a July 30–August 14, 2000, University College course in Ciudad Colón and a visit by the Quitirrisi basket weavers to Duluth.



Niñas of El Rodeo at soccer field.

Photo by Linda Helander.

For more information about the summer course, contact Dianna Hunter dhunter1@d.umn.edu. FIRE's homepage can be accessed in Spanish or English at www.fire.or.cr. Support for the exploratory visit was provided by the UMD Commission on Women, CLA, the Chancellor's Faculty Small Grants, CURA, and the Department of Women's Studies.

Vigil continued from page 4

The truth is that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Matt Shepards and Kevin Dutchers who are victims of violent hate crimes every year. Most of them we don't hear about. And that's not an accident. In part it may be because the crimes just aren't sensational enough to sell a newspaper or a tv report - a beating here, a rape there, it happens everyday. And not all the victims are as manifestly sympathetic as Matt Shepard - how many of us here who were around in 1991, for example, even remembered the case of Kevin Dutcher? I had to dig out old newspaper reports just to remember his name! But the main reason is the subtle messages sent to all of us, everyday, through subtle actions and inactions such as those of the media and the Mayor, that the life of a young gay man or lesbian woman, or a middle-aged black man, or feminist woman, or undocumented immigrant, or someone on welfare or in a wheelchair, is somehow less valuable than that of supposedly "normal" people.

Acts of hateful violence such as those perpetrated against Kevin Dutcher and Matt Shepard do not just spontaneously emerge. They are the very predictable, and preventable products of consistent action and inactions on the part of all of us, especially those to whom we look for "leadership". Stuart Ellanson, Russell

HEY, We'd Love to Hear From You!

Do you have suggestions, ideas, comments or information you'd like to see included in the next newsletter? Your thoughts are welcomed and can be brought to the WS Dept. (H 475). We look forward to hearing from you!

WOMEN STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD SOCIAL

The Women's Studies Advisory Board invites anyone who is currently on the Board, has previously been on the Board, is interested in being on the Board, or is simply interested in Women's Studies to a social on Monday, November 8, 1999, from 2:00-4:00 in the Garden Room in Kirby Student Center. Refreshments will be provided. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the community-at-large are all welcome!

MEET ME, CATHERINE CHU

(Women's Studies Student Office Worker)

Hi, you may already know me, met me or perhaps have seen me milling around the Women's Studies Department, whatever the case, let me introduce myself. My name is Catherine Chu and I am this years new WS office worker. YEAH!

Here's a little bit about me....

I grew up in Brainerd, MN and moved to Duluth my freshman year of college. This is my fourth year in Duluth and, if all goes according to planned, I should be graduating in the spring. I am an International Studies major and a Women's Studies and French minor. After graduation I am taking a year off of school, during which, I hope to decide what I would like to study in graduate school. Then it's back to the books!

This is my first year as the WS work studies, but I am thrilled to be a part of such a great department! Since I am new to the position this is the first newsletter that I have put together. If you have any advice or ideas, I would be happy to hear them. I can usually be found in H475 or H473 and also by email cchu@d.umn.edu

ANNOUNCEMENT:
WOMEN'S STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD
SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Women's Studies Advisory Board is seeking new members. The mission of the Advisory Board is to be advisory to the Women's Studies Department on policy, and support and advocate on issues related to Women's Studies. The Board will meet a minimum of twice a semester. Memberships are for the academic year, and may be renewed annually.

The Board is seeking members from UMD faculty, staff, and students, as well as the community-at-large. Members must have a demonstrated commitment to the mission of the Board, feminist principles, and to regular attendance at meetings. All faculty teaching WS-approved courses (to be determined under the new major requirements) in any given academic year are automatically members of the Board.

For further information on the Board, please contact any of the currently active Board members: Linda Belote (Soc-Anth), Pat Farrell (Geography), Kathryn Fuller (Library), Sheryl Grana (Soc-Anth), Sharon Kemp (Soc-Anth), Larry Knopp (Geography), Joyce Kramer (Social Work), Bud McClure (Psychology), and Susana Pelayo-Woodward (Hispanic/Latino/Chicana Student Services); or any of the Women's Studies faculty: Beth Bartlett, Dianna Hunter, Njoki Kamau, Tineke Ritmeester, and Judy Trolander. The Board also invites you to get to know us better at our SOCIAL: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2-4, IN THE GARDEN ROOM IN KIRBY STUDENT CENTER.

Anyone interested in joining the Board should contact Beth Bartlett by email, phone, or regular
...continue next column

...continue seeking new members

mail by Wednesday, November 10. The current Board will then invite those it wishes to join the Board.

To contact Beth Bartlett:
email: bbartlet@d.umn.edu
phone: 726-8284
mail: Women's Studies Department
475 Humanities
University of Minnesota-Duluth
Duluth, MN 55812

MEET BARB LOWE
(Women's Studies Secretary)

Have you had the pleasure of meeting Barb, yet? If not, here is a quick brief on Barb, but remember, don't be shy, meet her for yourself. Barb is stationed in H475. Come visit!

Barb is the new secretary in the Women's Studies Department. Originally from Duluth, she is now back 'home'! A single mother of a 2 1/2 year old boy (Alexander), Barb finds that most of her spare time is spent with her son.

Prior to becoming the new WS secretary, she worked at the Twin Cities campus for 16-years in various departments. Two years ago, Barb and Alexander moved to Duluth and Barb worked at the Duluth Clinic.

Barb states, "I am excited to be back in the university environment and am looking forward to working in the Women's Studies Department."

We, too, are excited to have Barb in the Women's Studies Department and if you have not already done so, stop on by H475 and introduce yourself! You'll be glad you did!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEVENTH ANNUAL NIGHT WALK FOR CAMPUS SAFETY

When: Thursday, October 28, 1999
Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Nightwalk is for us to walk together, covering all outside (and several inside) areas of the campus. We will meet inside Kirby Student Center, near the Information Desk, at 6 p.m. It is encouraged that you wear clothing appropriate for walking outside, and bring a flashlight (just in case).

Following the walk, we ask that each participant complete a recommendation sheet listing any areas of possible safety improvement that are noticed while on the walk. These sheets will be made available that evening and will be collected following the walk. They may also be sent to Finance and Operations (500 DadB) by Monday, November 1, 1999. These recommendations will be used by Finance and Operations and the UMD Safety, Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee to make plans for campus improvements.

We hope that many of you will be available to join us. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Greg Fox at 726-7101 or Eddie Kalombo at 726-7178.

"DIA DE LOS MUETOS / DAY OF THE DEATH" (Exhibition Display)

When: through November 3
Where: Tweed Museum

The Day of the Dead is a tradition, which dates back to the Aztec civilization. The Aztecs believed that the soul of the dead returns home to the world of the living.

FILM: "THE DOUBLE LIFE OF ERNESTO GOMEZ GOMEZ"

When: November 8
Time: noon
Where: Kirby 355-57

This moving, magical, yet informative documentary follows 15-year-old Ernesto during the year he leaves his adopted family in Mexico to come live in the USA and get to know his birth mother, Dylcia Pagan. She is a Puerto Rican patriot serving 55 years in an U.S. prison for trying to gain Puerto Rico's independence from the U.S. It is a journey of self-discovery for both mother and son, a true story of adoption, immigration, colonialism, racism, and love, set on the history of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S.

••NOTICE••

If you are receiving 'North Shore Visions' and would like to be removed from the mailing list, contact Barb Lowe, Women's Studies Secretary, by phone 726-7953 or by email WS@d.umn.edu

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