

North Shore Visions

A publication of the Department of Women's Studies, University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus

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A Letter from the Editor

The University is once again full of life. The seasons are in transition. For me, no one seems more vivacious than the people in the Women's Studies department. I sense a fervor about life when I enter a classroom full of women's studies students. I love learning from and growing with these intelligent people. The universe was working for me when I was called to do this newsletter. It has been challenging and exciting, but best of all, I get to touch each one of you through this newsletter. I hope you find my changes to be as exciting and interesting as they were to make. This newsletter reaches so many, that I have tried to include a cornucopia of opportunities and columns that would be relevant to all. My blood pulses with excitement at the opportunities for women that are reflected in the hundreds of pamphlets I've received. Yet, women still remain subjugated by the powers that be. If current students are any indication of the future, the sky is the limit for all of us. Thank you and enjoy the newsletter- Maren Hansen, mhansen2@d.umn.edu

Twin Cities Campus Celebrates 25 Years!

The Department of Women's Studies at the Twin Cities campus is celebrating their 25th anniversary. It is one of the oldest women's studies departments in the country presently advancing into a department offering not only a major and minor in Women's Studies, but in 1998, a Ph.D. in Feminist Studies, as well.

At the beginning of October, I had the opportunity to attend a lecture by **Vandana Shiva**, a world renowned author and lecturer on Ecofeminism and ecology. Her lecture was titled "The Sacred Cow and the Mad Cow: Metaphors of Ecofeminism and Technofeminism." Not only did Shiva deconstruct the formation of the mechanical and sacred cow, she also discussed feminism and how its subversive activities are being sacrificed, perhaps too soon.

She and many other lecturers will be at the Twin Cities campus this fall. For more information, contact the Department of Women's Studies at (612) 624-6006.

From the Department Head

This year Women's Studies at UMD is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a Department offering its own major. Watch for the 1998 WS International Women's History Month Calendar, now already in the making, for the highlights of this celebration.

Meanwhile, for the next issue of *North Shore Visions* (Early Winter Quarter), we would love to hear from our WS graduates, former faculty, and staff. Tell us what you are doing and, if possible, send us a picture. If you have ideas as to how you would like the celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Women's Studies Department to take shape, please do send us your input. We want this to be your celebration as much as ours!

Lastly, thanks to that wonderful team of women that gives the WS Department its special signature: They are: **Njoki Kamau**, Assistant Prof. of WS; **Dianna Hunter**, Instructor of WS and Comp; **Sue Brockopp**, executive secretary; **Maren Hansen**, WS intern and editor of *North Shore Visions*; **Deb Schmidt** and **Annie Eckber**, our "work studies", and special thanks to **Bud McClure** for helping out with this issue of *North Shore Visions*.

In feminist struggle and celebration,
Tineke Ritmeester

New Women's Studies Faculty

Two new faculty joined the Women's Studies department this fall, **Njoki Kamau** and **Dianna Hunter**.

Njoki Kamau is teaching full time in Women's Studies, her research focuses on women in higher education, women



in politics in Africa, and especially issues affecting women of color in the United States.

The courses she will teach include: Women and the Educational System, Women in Different World Cultures, and Women and Higher Education.

Njoki was born and raised in Kenya, received her Bachelor of Education from Nairobi University in 1981 and first taught at a prestigious boys school, **Thika High School**, forty kilometers from Nairobi. There she taught philosophy, religious studies, literature and English.

Njoki's next teaching assignment was at **Joy Town Secondary School** for the Physically Handicapped. Her goal was to eradicate in the school the pervasive attitude that disabled meant immobility. She taught drama to encourage the vision and the dream the students had for themselves. "We need to

(Continued on page 2)

Awakenings

"As a Women's Studies major, one of the realizations that I have come to, especially when looking at all the women in authority at this university, is that it's power that corrupts not gender." -- C.R.

(Continued from page 1)

enable, not disable." Njoki stated.

Based on her experience at Joy Town, she went on to obtain her Masters in Education from Kenyatta University. Her thesis was on experiences of physically handicapped persons and job placement.

Feminism and Women's Studies became a stronger interest for her when she was given a faculty position at Kenyatta University teaching educational foundations. Only three members of the 38 person teaching team were women. These women, in addition to her grandmother and her aunt, helped inspire her Ph.D. work at the University of Toronto. Njoki's thesis focused on women and education in Kenya.

After receiving her Ph.D., she taught part-time in the Women's Studies department at the U of T for three years and then came to Duluth. While she has only been here for such a short time.

Dianna Hunter joined the faculty this fall. She has a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Composition.

She grew up in North Dakota, got her undergraduate degree in History and Journalism from Macalester College. She attended college at the beginning of the second wave of



the women's movement. During this time, she and her colleagues created the college's first Women's Studies course titled "Is Anatomy Destiny?" Hunter asserts that through the liberating and freeing affects of Feminist theory, she was able to come out to herself as a lesbian and then to others.

After graduation, she immersed herself in the back to the land movement by living on Rising Moon's women's commune in northern Minnesota. Although this was short-lived, it instilled in her a love of agriculture that she was able to apply when she got a job in Aitkin county as a cow tester. Her work primarily involved traveling to dairy farms, taking samples of milk and reporting the information back to

the county for herd management purposes.

In 1981 she started her own dairy farm. Five years later, she had to sell her cows during what became known as the farm crisis when many small farmers were forced out of business. Her love for agriculture didn't end here. Many dairy farmers were left struggling to survive, and were unaware of their rights. She started working with the Farmer's Advocacy program that was funded by the state.

In 1992 when conditions for farmers hadn't improved she left the program to attend Iowa State University. While there, she received her Masters in English with an emphasis in creative writing. After completing her degree, she accepted faculty positions at both Simpson College in Iowa and at Iowa State University.

Dianna's career brought her to Duluth in 1995 where she taught Composition. She has a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Composition. She'll be teaching Women and Love, a special topics course offered spring quarter.

These women will undoubtedly, from their diverse experiences of women's issues, add a rich perspective to the department.



Norplant Survivors Wanted

Hi! My name is Naomi Klanderud and I am a student seeking a support group for women to meet monthly who have been victimized by the birth control product Norplant. I received the implantation nearly six years ago. I had the devise removed because of vast side effects four years ago. Although it is meant to be a five year birth control product, I could no longer tolerate the complications. To my dismay, I still suffer from the Norplant devise (consistent migraines, nausea, arm numbness, ruptured cyst, and more). If you or someone you know has been a victim of Norplant or any other birth control device, please get a hold of me. My email address is nklander and my address is P.O. Box 3223 Duluth, MN 55803. Thank You!

It's A Good Thing an ode to Promise Keepers by Kim Chicago

Follow me, I will lead
I'll be in charge of your every need
You be the woman, I'll be the man
and we'll not be confused by some
gender flar.

Promise Keepers, jeepers weepers
Promise Keepers, little peepers?

For my promises to you,
there's just one thing I want to do,
Blindly trust my every whim,
for you know it comes from Him.

Promise Keepers, jeepers weepers
Promise Keepers, little peepers?

Be my Martha Stewart and do it all
and wait upon my beck and call
Be my angel, my honey bee
give up your life and follow me

Promise Keepers, jeepers weepers
Promise Keepers, little peepers?

Sircus Sex

by Mary Cohen

"When Night is Falling" tells the story of two women falling in love. The problem is, one of these women does not want to be a lesbian. Her name is Camille, and her other major problem is her fiancé, a man who happens to teach at the Christian school where Camille also teaches. The background for the rich, fairy tale quality of this film is the classical fight between good and evil. On the good side is Petra, the stunning member of a traveling group of performance artists known as the "Sircus of Sorts." Petra is daring and aggressive, coming on to Camille like a freight train, and never giving up in her pursuit of Camille's affections. Petra spends her life in the bohemian, accepting atmosphere of her circus comrades, knowing full well that their company is the safest place for her.

Weighing in on the side of the bad is Camille's fiancé and the Church and its rigid insistence that Camille act "appropriately." Camille is caught between conflicting emotions: on one hand she feels loyal to her fiancé and her reli-

gious teachings, and doesn't want the label 'lesbian' pinned on her. On the other hand, she is overwhelmingly attracted to Petra, and thoroughly enjoys pushing the limits a little.

The film is a wonderful story about two archetypal characters — one a blushing initiate to the world of losing herself in her desires and feelings, rather than focusing solely on the shouldn'ts and shoulds of life as a 'good Christian woman'; the other a vivacious, exotic warrior of the wild side, who is looking for love and permanency this time around. And the love scenes!! Whoa, girl, my contacts were fogging up! The eroticism itself is worth seeing the film whenever you get the chance. But, if you don't watch it for the steamy love scenes, do watch it for a good love story about star-crossed lovers who go through life and death to be together. Tineke Ritmeester will be showing this film and/or *Entrepreneur* directed by Diana Kurys in 1982 at the Aurora Lesbian Center on November 14 at 7pm.

Mary is a senior studying Philosophy and Women's Studies.

Only those who
will risk going
too far can possi-
bly find out how
far one can go.
-- T.S Eliot

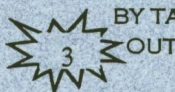
MY DRUM

BY VERGE HANCE

MAGGIE KUHN SAID, "SPEAK YOUR MIND, EVEN IF YOUR VOICE SHAKES." TOO OFTEN IN MY WOMEN'S STUDIES CLASSES ONLY THE VOICES OF A FEW STUDENTS ARE HEARD WHILE THE MAJORITY REMAIN SILENT. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT SOME VOICES SHOULD QUIET DOWN, BUT THAT THE OTHER VOICES SPEAK UP. I KNOW THAT EACH OF US FEELS PASSION, RAGE OR INSIGHT ABOUT SOMETHING WE ARE LEARNING. IT IS THERE OR WE WOULD NOT BE HERE. SO EACH OF US HAS TO BE COMMITTED TO SHARING. THIS MEANS THAT WE MUST CRITICALLY THINK ABOUT THE MATERIAL WE ARE LEARNING — QUESTION IT, DISAGREE WITH IT AND PUSH IT TO THE EXTREME AND BACK AGAIN. ONLY THEN WILL WE GET WHAT WE NEED FROM THE CLASSROOM. WE SHOULD CHALLENGE EACH OTHER!

SO, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY OF MEANING KEEP THE MINNESOTA POLITENESS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM DOOR. WE SHOULD NOT TIPTOE AROUND EACH OTHER ANY LONGER, WE SHOULD VOICE OUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS. WE SHOULD BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES AND OTHERS. IT'S OKAY TO DISAGREE! WE CAN RESPECT EACH OTHER'S OPINIONS WITHOUT AGREEING. WE SHOULD ALWAYS RESPECT EACH OTHER — IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM. WOMEN IN THIS WORLD ARE DESTROYED ENOUGH. WE DON'T NEED TO FUEL THE FIRE BY DESTROYING EACH OTHER. LET'S EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER, INTELLECTUALLY, SPIRITUALLY, POLITICALLY, SEXUALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SOCIALLY THROUGH HONESTY AND RESPECT.

I ALSO WANT TO CHALLENGE ALL OF US, STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO GIVE FEMINIST PRINCIPLES LIFE BY TAKING THEM OUT



OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE COMMUNITY. DANZY SENNA STATED IN HER ESSAY *TO BE REAL* THAT, "TO BE A FEMINIST IS TO BE ENGAGED ACTIVELY IN DISMANTLING ALL OPPRESSIVE RELATIONSHIPS." THIS IS THE FEMINISM IN WHICH I BELIEVE. ONE THAT THROUGH ACTION, WORKS TO CHANGE THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION IN WHICH WE LIVE.

I'LL DO MY PART! I'LL SHOW YOU MY PASSION, I'LL SHOW YOU MY RAGE, I'LL CHALLENGE YOU AND RESPECT YOU, I'LL SPEAK LOUDLY AND LISTEN INTENTLY, CAN YOU?

VERGE IS A RAGING FEMINIST STUDYING TEACHING ENGLISH AND WOMEN'S STUDIES.

Internships

Guidelines for receiving credit for a Women's Studies internship are available in the Women's Studies Department office ABAH 469 or call 726-6224.

***Women's Coalition** is looking for interns. Their next orientation will be winter quarter. Volunteering at the shelter provides great opportunities for skill building, lots of hand-on experience and personal growth. Volunteers may answer crisis calls, attend court hearings, provide emotional support and participate in education/support groups. Call Mary Ness for more info 728-6481.

***Planned Parenthood** has a structured training program for all interns who choose to work at the clinic. Several positions are offered: method choice counselor, medical assistant, exam room aid, and clerical. Call Toby Silanpa at 722-0833 for more info.

***PAVSA** (Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault) is seeking kind, sensitive caring people who can provide advocacy to victims of sexual assault and the community. Please be willing to make a one year commitment and attend 40 hours of training. Next training session will be in the spring, and volunteers are always needed. Call Monica Roth Day at 726-1442 for more info.

***The City of Duluth** is looking for college students to fill internships. Most work will be with the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. Call Karen Olesen at 723-3357 for more information.

***Aurora: A Northland Lesbian Center** offers interns a chance to learn about the operation of a small, grass-roots, social-change, non-profit center. Positions include providing info and referral, advocacy, fund-raising and grant-writing, anti-heterosexism training, etc. To apply, contact Laura Stolle at Aurora at 722-4903 or write to the Building for Women, 32 E. 1st St. #104, Duluth, MN 55802.

*For additional opportunities in internships, contact the Department of Women's Studies at UMD (218) 726-7953.

Scholarships, Workshops and Papers

***The New Jersey Project** is calling for contributions to the scholarship fund. For more info call 973-720-2296, fax 973-720-2974. Mail contributions to The New Jersey project, Rm. 110, Matelson Hall, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ 07470

***Morehead State University** is accepting proposals to present research conducted on women & politics & public policy for the Wilma E. Grote Symposium for the Advancement of Women. Send inquires and abstracts to Program Committee Chair, Marilyn Mote-Yale, Morehead State University, 201 Ginger Hall, Morehead, Kentucky 40351 or call 606-783-2354.

***Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship and MN Alumnae Society Scholarship.** You may apply if you are at least 28 yrs. old, admissible to be enrolled in a degree-granting program at any UofM campus, and are returning from at least a 5 yr. break in post-secondary education. for more info write to MN Women's Center, 212 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Mpls, MN 55455 or call 612-625-9837. Application is due Jan. 9, 1998.

***Chrysalis a Center for Women in Minneapolis** is offering many workshops and meetings in October and November, targeting women going through divorce. For specific dates and places call 612-871-2603v or 612-871-3652tty.

*WS students get to know other feminists in the **Feminist Majority Foundations Feminist Faculty and Student Networks.** Submit a brief description of yourself and your research interests

to <http://www.feminist.org/forms/stcenter.html>. For faculty and staff go to <http://www/feminist/org/forms/faccenter.html>.

***The Center for the Humanities at Oregon State U** expects to appoint up to four fellows with stipends of \$30,000. Deadline for application is 11-15-97. Call Peter Copek for more info at 541-737-2450.

***20th Anniversary Celebration Spirit of Houston Conference on Women** will be Nov. 20-23. registration forms and flyers can be sent by Mal Johnson, Conference Chair at 701-922-4468.

***Project SOAR** is offering workshops for The GETTING READY GROUP starting November 3 and December 1. The JOB FINDING LAB is starting November 4 and December 2. Contact Jeanine Buck with Project SOAR at (218) 722-3126 for more information.

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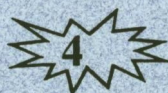
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Advertisements

For more information on advertising in North Shore Visions, contact Maren Hansen at (218) 724-2941 or (218) 726-6224.



Recommended Winter Readings

Crooked Little Heart by Anne Lamott. Turbulent adolescent of a 13-year old young woman juxtaposed against mother's black depression. Beautifully written.

Asylum by Patrick Busch. Gothic tale of madness, and desperate love. A morally complex perspective on how a woman chooses lust over being a wife and mother. A luscious read!

Girls by Frederick Busch. A mystery, set in upstate New York, about the disappearance of a 14-year old girl, and much more. Captivating!

Sex Crimes by Jenefer Shute. Harrowing novel of 38-year old Boston attorney Christine Chandler's involvement with a younger man and their descent into darkness. Out of Control!

The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. A stunning true story of a fishing boat caught in the storm of the century. Breathtaking!

Sea Change by Peter Nicholas. Peter's solo journey across the Atlantic ocean in a leaky wooden boat with only his estranged wife's diaries for companionship. Terrific!

A Brief History of Everything by Ken Wilbur. Title tells it all. An introduction to transpersonal philosopher's Ken Wilbur's ideas.

Keeping Quiet by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;...

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can
teach us
as when everything
seems dead in winter
and later proves to be
alive.

Now I'll count up to
twelve
and you keep quiet
and I will go.

New From Spinsters Ink

A Gift of the Emperor, by Therese Park, is a gut-wrenching fictional account of real-life atrocities inflicted upon thousands of Asian women during WWII.

Living at Night, by Mariana Romo-Carmona, draws us into the world of a young, working-class Puerto Rican lesbian searching for her own niche in the world.

Many other feminist fiction and non-fiction is available through the local publisher, Spinsters Ink. The books they publish are available from your local bookseller, or you may order directly from them: by mail, 32 E. First ST., #330, Duluth, MN 55802-2002, by fax 218-727-3119, or by phone 800-301-6860

COMING EVENTS

Soul shake down party winter quarter.
Look for announcement!



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A Warrior's Creed

I have no parents: I make the heavens and earth my parents.
I have no home: I make awareness my home.
I have no life or death: I make the tides of breathing my life
and death.
I have no divine power: I make honesty my divine power.
I have no means: I make understanding my means.
I have no magic secrets: I make character my magic secret.
I have no body: I make endurance my body.
I have no eyes: I make the flash of lightning my eyes.
I have no ears: I make sensibility my ears.
I have no limbs: I make promptness my limbs.
I have no strategy: I make "unshadowed by thought" my
strategy.
I have no designs: I make "seizing opportunity by the
forelock" my design.

I have no miracles: I make right-action my miracles.
I have no principles: I make adaptability to all circumstances
my principles.
I have no tactics: I make emptiness and fullness my tactics.
I have no talents: I make ready wit my talent.
I have no friends: I make my mind my friend.
I have no enemy: I make carelessness my enemy.
I have no armor: I make benevolence and righteousness my
armor.
I have no castle: I make immovable-mind my castle.
I have no sword: I make absence of self my sword.

Anonymous Samurai, fourteenth century

WOMEN'S STUDIES