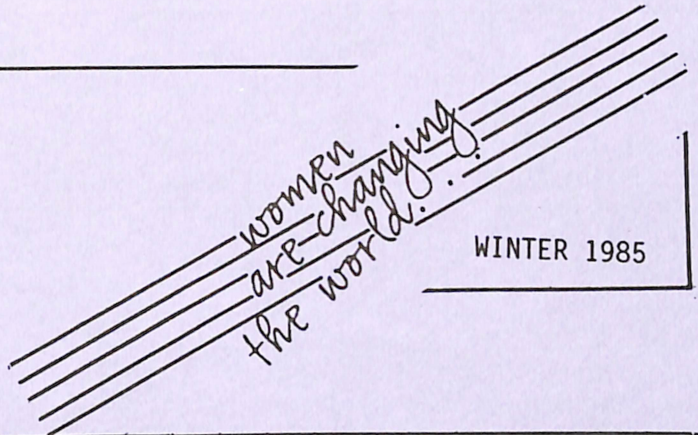


SOJOURNER

UNIVERSITY YW NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1985



Celebrate...WOMEN'S WEEK!

Women's Week '85, focused on the theme, "Celebrate Women's Empowerment," will take place on campus May 6-9.

Preparation for Women's Week is taking off in exciting ways. After five months of planning by a committee of U-YW women, other students and staff people are getting involved. The expanded committee will include students from MSA, MISA, the Minnesota Union and campus religious centers. Staff and faculty are being sought from various departments and offices. All interested persons will meet early in winter quarter to review what's been done so far at the U-YW and act to make Women's Week '85 a reality.

The Women's Week committee will form its own student organization early winter quarter. If interested in getting involved or for more information, call Kerrie at 373-2511.

WANTED: WOMEN'S ISSUES GROUPIES!

Let's talk! The U-YW is forming winter quarter Women's Issues Groups for Women to discuss our experiences, thoughts, and feelings on various topics: relationships, single motherhood, work, sexuality, scholarship, racism, the dynamics of class, spirituality. The possibilities are endless, and participants can choose issues of interest to them.

To get involved as a participant and/or to help plan and coordinate Women's Issues Groups, call 373-2511. Let's talk!

Join us!!

U-YW PURPOSE: An organization dedicated to empowering women, increasing understanding among individuals, and taking action to promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people.

"SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL" BROWN-BAGS EXPLORE THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S ISSUES

The U-YW is pleased to present a winter quarter series of brown-bag lunches featuring discussions with women from countries around the world. The series, which will focus on third world women's issues, is co-sponsored by Friends for a Non-Violent World.

Discussions will take place on Thursdays, beginning February 7, from 12 noon to 1 p.m., in an East Bank campus room to be determined. Watch for flyers in the coming weeks, or call the U-YW at 373-2511 for further information.

Scheduled thus far are the following:

- Thurs., Feb. 7: Tatiniana Volgina (Soviet Union)
- Thurs., Feb. 28: Liz Baes (Phillipines)
- Thurs., Mar. 14: Rocky Ralebipi (South Africa)

Other Thursday sessions are currently being booked.

"As a woman I have no country... As a woman my country is the whole world."

— Virginia Woolf.
Three Guineas

WILD & EARNEST

Do you enjoy the out-of-doors, fresh air and exercise? Wild & Earnest is a program which offers all these things plus much more. Designed for women interested in outdoor activities, Wild & Earnest offers opportunities for women to enjoy wilderness outings on a variety of skills levels.

Winter quarter we are beginning our programming with a trek over to Midwest Mountaineering for a ski-waxing clinic. The date is tentatively set for Thursday, January 24th, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Midwests' ski specialists will demonstrate basic ski waxing skills and techniques. Following the clinic, we will head for a nearby restaurant to socialize and plan our next outing. For definite dates and times, please contact the U-YW or Laura at 373-2511, or check "Daily" announcements and flyers.

After we have learned the basic ski-waxing skills, we will put that knowledge to use. On Saturday, January 26th, we are planning an afternoon of skiing at Theodore Wirth Park. We will ski from approximately 1-4 p.m. and then meet at one of the members homes to warm up with homemade pizza and hot cider. For more information on this outing, contact Kathy at [redacted] or Laura at 373-2511.

For the rest of winter quarter, ideas for outings include skating, downhill skiing and for those brave souls among us--winter camping! Spring quarter outing ideas in the planning include a bike maintenance clinic, followed by a bike trip, an afternoon of biking, canoeing, and much more.

If you are interested in any of these activities or want to get involved in any of the trip planning, contact Laura at [redacted] or 373-2511.

"Survival in a log cabin in the woods as a lone woman falls into three categories. They are simply the three rules for a full, good life that I learned as a Camp Fire Girl years ago. They are work, health and love.

Survival in the sphere of work means maintaining and protecting my home, and providing an income through my profession. Accomplishing this as a single woman has taken special mental attitude. The first thing was to convince myself that I could handle anything I had or wanted to. The time-old excuse of being a woman, hence frail, dumb, afraid, in need of protection and a man's assistance, has no place in an isolated and rustic life-style. I believe a woman can do whatever she sets her mind to, once she's learned how."

-Taken from Anne LaBastille's book "Woodswoman"

U-YW BIDS FAREWELL TO RHONDA

Thanks, farewell, and best wishes to RHONDA MADERY, the U-YW's Director of the past four years. Rhonda left the Y in mid-December to pursue other projects. She was also Director of the Women's Resource Center at the downtown Minneapolis Y, besides spending two days each week at the U-YW. We wish her well in the future!

WOMEN'S STUDIES/CAFS NOONTIME SERIES

JOIN BOOKIES!

"Bookies," the U-YW Book Discussion Group, started in November with Alice Walker's The Color Purple. Winter quarter will start out with reading and discussing Patricia Hampl's A Romantic Education. Future meetings will be held every two or three weeks, and book choices will be determined by the group. To start reading for the next meeting, call Laura at [REDACTED].

The University Department of Women's Studies and Center for Advanced Feminist Studies is presenting a bag-lunch program during winter quarter:

Weds., Jan. 23: Phyllis Rose, Director of At the Foot of the Mountain theatre, "Some Reflections on Feminist Theatre"

Weds., Feb. 13: Linda Jones, Assistant Prof. of Social Work, "When Aid to Families with Dependent Children is Cut--What Happens Now?"

Weds., Mar. 6: Maryann Syers-McNairy, CAFS student/M.Sue Wilson, Attorney-at-Law, "Lesbian Mothers' Custody Rights"

All sessions are from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in 457 Ford Hall.

LESBIAN RELATIONSHIP GROUP

A lesbian relationship group styled much like a seminar and sponsored by the U-YW, will begin Tuesday, February 12 for four consecutive Tuesdays.

The group will use a combination of lecture and discussion to explore the dynamics of lesbian relationships, coming out, friendships, caring, commitment, addiction, and dependency will be among the topics explored. Participants should come prepared to share and enjoy.

Facilitator: Jennifer Feigel, MSW. of Family and Children's Services, Minneapolis.

Cost: \$18.00

Tuesdays/Feb. 12, 19, 26 and March 5/
3:00-5:00 p.m./Ford Hall
To register, stop by 244 Coffman
Union or phone 373-2511.

WINTER QUARTER CLASSES OFFERED

FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR WOMEN

Women can no longer afford the false sense of security that comes with assuming that someone else will take care of our financial needs. We must be actively involved in setting and meeting our financial goals. This class will cover the mechanics of financial planning, the characteristics of investment options, and the need for insurance protection. Jeanne Keller is a financial planner with Waddell & Reed Financial Services Corporation. She has an MBA in Finance and is committed to assisting women identify and achieve their financial goals.

Mon./Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4/12:15-2:00 p.m./
3 sessions/\$10.00

WOMEN OF COLOR AND SUCCESS

Especially planned for junior and senior women of color, these three sessions will cover:

- Entering the professional world—what to expect as a woman of color
- Tips on advancement, balancing professional and private lives, etc.
- Resources and support systems for new professionals.

Call 373-2511 for starting dates and times.

February

is

BLACK HISTORY

month.

Foresister

JULIETTE DERRICOTTE 1987-1931

Juliette Derricotté's dream of attending the Lucy Cobb Institute in her hometown in Athens, Georgia was one she had to forget because of her color. But the incident was one that led to her lifelong commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination.

At the Talladega College in Talladega, Georgia, where Juliette earned her Master's Degree in religious studies, she was active in campus and community activities, particularly the YWCA. She served as a representative of the YWCA traveling to different colleges where she often spoke on the need for better relations between black and white women.

After college she went to work for the YWCA as the National Travel Secretary, a position which brought her speaking engagements across the nation and in China and Japan. In 1924 she was one of two Black delegates to the World Student Christian Federation in England. She was instrumental in the organization of the interracial structure of the National Student Council of the YWCA.

From 1929-1931 Juliette served as the only women trustee of Talladega College. And following her resignation from the YWCA she served as Dean of Women Students at Fisk College for approximately three years.

On November 6, 1931, Juliette and some of her students were traveling to her home in Athens. They were hit head on by another car. The local Dalton, Georgia hospital would not treat Blacks. They were given emergency treatment in a white doctor's office then moved to a Black women's home. Several hours later they were driven to the hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Despite these efforts, Juliette Derricotte died on November 7, 1931.

The tragic death of Juliette brought to end a career dedicated to the education of women and the elimination of racism. However, her contributions live on in the institution she helped shape.

-Kerrie Blevins-

"Look at me! Ain't I a woman?
Nobody ever helped me into
carriages or over mud puddles,
or gave me any best place...
and ain't I a woman?
Look at me! Look at my arm!
I have ploughed, and I have
planted, and I have gathered
into barns...and ain't
I a woman?...I have borne
thirteen children and
seen them most all sold into
slavery and when I
cried out with a mother's grief,
none but Jesus heard me.
And ain't I a woman?"

Sojourner Truth,
Women's Rights Convention,
1851



ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

South Africa is presently waging war in Southern Africa. It is a devastating war largely ignored by U.S. citizens whose attention to international conflict is riveted in the direction of Central America and the Middle East. But the devastation in Southern Africa is no less deadly.

The basis for this war is apartheid, South Africa's racist system of oppression which denies freedom to the Black majority of South Africa and Namibia. And its aggression is causing untold suffering to the people of neighboring states. What is worse, the war is being waged with the tacit support of this U.S. Administration's policy of "constructive engagement." The people of the United States need to understand the roots of this conflict and help put a stop to U.S. complicity with apartheid.

It is urgent that the Administration and Congress be told that Americans do not condone the evils of racism and that the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" is being treated by the South African government as a sign of general American support for its policies.

You may want to communicate your concerns to:

Secretary of State George Schultz
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Further action suggestions:

- *Support comprehensive, enforceable United Nations sanctions against South Africa.
- *Urge divestment of public funds, pension funds and university portfolios from U.S. Corporations and banks that invest in South Africa, supporting the apartheid

system and freeing up monies for apartheid's war.

*Press for increased economic aid to Southern Africa.

*Give support to refugees of apartheid's war.

*Inform yourself and others by sponsoring educational events in your community that focus on the war against apartheid and on current U.S. policy in South Africa.

A listing of resource materials is available from the U-YW, ask to see Public Policy Bulletin, Fall 1984; the above information was taken from that bulletin.

SURVIVAL: CYCLE OF THE BLACK WOMAN

Saturday, February 2
African American Museum of
Culture and Art
25th and Riverside, Mpls.
7:00 p.m.

This reading will be directed by Ms. Mordecia Strickland and will include about 10-12 readers. Ms. Strickland, who grew up in North Carolina and graduated from Carleton College, said that the program will include the themes of love, death, family, religion and struggle--that is, survival. "Black women -- and other women of color -- we are the experts on surviving and singing the blues," she said. "We have something real to write about."

An open reading will follow the performance. Admission will be by donation.

TEN YEARS AFTER: 10th ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

1985 marks the end of the United Nation's Decade for Women. A new series of non-credit classes examines the history, impact, and current status of complex and sometimes controversial issues raised during this last decade. TEN YEARS AFTER: 10th ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR is offered by Continuing Education for Women, Extension, University of Minnesota.

WOMEN'S ISSUES IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD: THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE begins March 26 and examines the issues women of different countries will bring to the International Conference on women to be held in Nairobi, Kenya this summer.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEMINISM IN MINNESOTA: WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN LAKE WOBEGONE, beginning April 30, examines why Minnesota has become a national focal point for legislation on women's rights.

The series continues next fall and winter with UNDERSTANDING COMPARABLE WORTH: ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS, and WOMEN'S ISSUES WORLDWIDE: A STUDY GROUP.

For further information about course location, time, and fee call 373-9743 or write Continuing Education for Women, 200 Westbrook Hall, 77 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

University YW students welcome Katharine Tyler to 244 Coffman as the U-YW's new Program Coordinator, our full-time programming, advisory, and administrative staffperson.

We also say a very fond farewell to former Program Coordinator Peg Lonnquist, who moved on to a position with the University of Iowa Women's Center in September.

Katharine brings to the U-YW diverse skills and enthusiasms, with a background centering around educational and communications-related work. She is currently finishing up papers for her M.A. degree in English at the University where, while focusing on feminist literary scholarship, she has been a teaching assistant in both English and Women's Studies, and involved in Women's Studies Department activities and governance.

Before coming to the University, Katharine worked for two years in publications/public relations in Baltimore, including a year as Communications Coordinator for the American Heart Association, Maryland Affiliate. She holds a B.A. degree in English/Psychology from Baltimore's Goucher College, where she was active in campus publications and activities programming.

THE MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CENTER

The Minnesota Women's Center offers some new programs this year, and everyone is encouraged to come to them.

The Center offers women-centered counseling and support groups. There will be opportunities for career groups and sexual harassment groups. At present there is a support group for re-entry women meeting on Fridays, 11:30-1:00, at the Center. In winter quarter a coffee and conversation group for re-entry women, called the Coffee Connection, will be held every Tuesday, 9:00-10:00, in Room 2, Eddy Hall.

The Center is running a series of lunchtime seminars on women's issues. The topics most recently discussed have been, "Making Friends at the U," "Acquaintance Rape," and "Balancing Your Life." The seminars will run through the academic year and will be held every other Tuesday, 11:30-1:00, in Room 2, Eddy Hall. Topics and dates will be advertised in the Daily.

A book of current job opportunities in the Twin Cities and statewide is kept at the Women's Center for all to use. It is available during the Center's hours.

For more information, call the Minnesota Women's Center at 373-3850, or drop in to the Center at 5 Eddy Hall between 8:00 and 4:30, Monday through Friday.

WOMEN'S WEEK WRITING CONTEST

Categories: short fiction,
creative essays,
and poetry.

Entry fees: \$1.00 per poem
\$2.00 for fiction/essays

First prize winners will participate in special reading during Women's Week.

For further information call 373-2511 or stop by 244 CMU--ask for Katherine.

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 1985 (contest will be cancelled and entrants notified if there is limited response)

OUR MOTHERS, OURSELVES?

Dynamics of mother and daughter relationships will be the focus of a women's issues discussion group being planned for February. Women interested in getting together to explore cultural, social psychological and emotional aspects of mother/daughter bonds are encouraged to sign up with the U-YW during January.

Possible discussion topics include: What does daughterhood mean to us, culturally and personally? Are there prevailing social "messages" about mother/daughter relationships? What have our particular experiences been with our mothers (or significant mother figures)? What have our mothers taught us, directly or indirectly, about being women, and what of this do we value? Some of us may have daughters of our own--what insights have they given us into mother/daughter dynamics? Which books or movies have given us insights, and which have rung false? Other discussion ideas are invited, and many new angles will undoubtedly evolve as the group gets underway.

Those interested in participating in (and/or helping to coordinate) the group should call 373-2511. Please indicate the days and times you would prefer to meet during winter quarter

HELP YOURSELF TO HEALTH

Ongoing consumer health education programs are offered each quarter by Boynton Health Service. They are open to all students, faculty, and staff on campus. A small registration fee is charged for some programs. The services include:

Shape Your Weight: a group program providing information on diet, exercise, and behavior modification for persons interested in controlling weight. Meets once a week for two hours. First session begins Jan. 17 at 12:15 p.m.; second session begins Feb. 14 at 12:15 p.m. Deposit required. Register at Cashiers' office W220.

Chemical Health Self Assessment: sessions for persons who want to check up on their chemical use patterns are held each Monday from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in Room N401. No appointment needed.

Contraception Education Sessions: offered three times a week in the Women's Clinic and open to men and women who want information on contraceptive methods. Call the Women's Clinic, 373-4153, for dates and times.

Stop Smoking Program: a four-hour program to provide participants with information and strategies to stop smoking. Preregistration is necessary. Call 376-8658 for information on dates and times. Deposit required.

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS HOT SCOOPS WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

The winter months will feature top-notch competition from the University of Minnesota women's basketball, swimming and diving, and gymnastics teams. The basketball team will feature All-American candidate, Laura Coenen, with the team playing a round robin Big Ten schedule starting January 18 against Michigan State. The gymnastics and swim teams, both placing second in the Big Ten last season, should contend for the conference titles again this year.

Tickets for Gopher women's athletic events are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. With a group order of ten or more tickets, the cost of each ticket is only \$1.00. For more information, phone 376-2566 or 373-3181.

Cheer on your Gopher women athletes in Big Ten competition at the University of Minnesota.

1/4-5	Swimming & Diving	Cooke Hall
1/7	Gymnastics	Williams Arena
1/17	Gymnastics	Williams Arena
1/18	Basketball	Williams Arena
1/19	Gymnastics	Williams Arena
1/20	Basketball	Williams Arena
1/25	Swimming & Diving	Cooke Hall
1/26	Swimming & Diving	Cooke Hall
2/1	Basketball	Williams Arena
2/3	Basketball	Williams Arena
2/8	Basketball	Williams Arena
2/9	Swimming & Diving	Cooke Hall
2/22	Basketball	Williams Arena
2/24	Basketball	Williams Arena
2/15	Swimming & Diving	Cooke Hall
3/1	Tennis-All Star	98th St. Club
3/3	Gymnastics	Williams Arena
3/7	Basketball	Williams Arena
3/9	Basketball	Williams Arena
3/15-17	MN Sr. St. Meet	Cooke Hall

Contact 373-2255 or 373-3181 for time of events.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Student Cabinet and Volunteer Coordinators will meet at Lyman Lodge, January 18 & 19, to design new programs and to learn strategies for publicizing and recruiting for the programs. The retreat will also be an opportunity to evaluate how goals are set Fall quarter and how the Cabinet works toward meeting those goals. Student Cabinet Members and Program Coordinator, Katharine Tyler, will facilitate major portions of the two day retreat. Louise Rathburn of the Advisory Board will be on hand to talk about the YW history and Ann DeGroot, Coordinator of "Take Back The Night," will facilitate a discussion of exclusivity issues.

CELEBRATE YOURSELF - LYMAN LODGE

Ninth annual live-in weekend for women of all ages. Created by a year-round committee, the purpose of the program is to afford participants an opportunity to renew body, mind and spirit through various mediums of expression. In seeking the hidden artist in everyone, levels of skill become of little importance as women explore painting, drawing, crafts, music, body movement and writing. Charlotte Holtzermann, dance performer, choreographer, traveler, and teacher, will keynote the weekend. Other features are Lyman's firesides, lakeshore and woody setting. Fee includes lodging, meals, and most supplies. Some partial scholarships are available. Phone 474-2503 for detailed brochure and other information.

Sherry Lee, editor of SOJOURNER, has read poetry at Celebrate and is currently a member of Celebrate Yourself Steering Committee. She recommends, "getting away from it all, unwinding at Lyman, and meeting many new friends."

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 29-31
\$65.00 for members/\$75 for non-members

ANCHOVIES

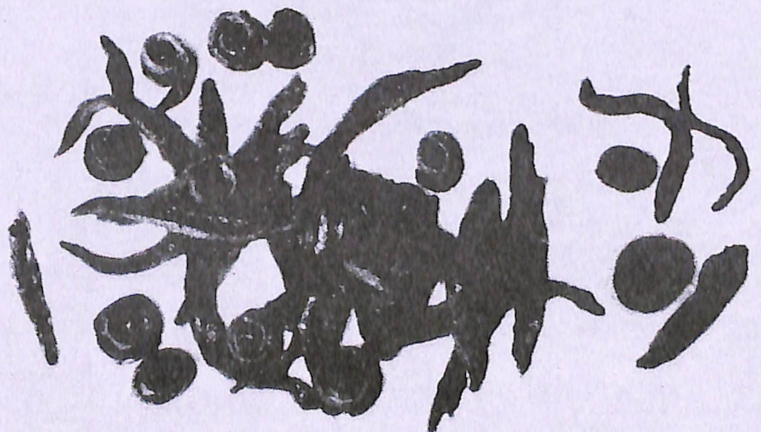
Poems by Sherry Lee

Sherry Lee is a Senior at the U of M, majoring in poetry, and women and minority studies. Anchovies was published in conjunction with her Senior Project.

The poems in Anchovies encompass "The System...which continues to continue." It is anger, cynicism, love, celebration--life is all of these. Why Anchovies? Originally it was used to paraphrase men, something that is smelly and taste bad; however it came to be a dichotomy, that is taken from other perspectives Anchovies can reach the acclaim of delicacy!

Sherry Lee, winner of the 1984 Lorraine Hansberry Award for literary excellence and achievement, also wrote A Little Mixed Up (Guild Press second printing 1982), edited Chromosomes and Genes (Guild Press 1982), edited Corn Songs poems by Ginney Allery (Guild Press 1983), collaborated on A Sampler of Women (Guild Press 1984), edited Lively Kids Winning Words (MS READaTHON 1984), and has been published in "Under Construction," "Loonfeather," and other anthologies. Sherry is a member of North Hennepin Writers Guild, Chaparral Poets, and The Loft.

Anchovies can be purchased through the University Y-W, with part of the proceeds going to support U-YW Programs, call 373-2511 for further information.



CHANGING WEATHER

There's something in the blood's stomach
speaking louder than hunger or reason.
It says, Let the politicians
live beneath their own decrees.
Let the talkers grow silent,
the prophets be proved wrong.

The wind is changing.
Lives fall apart.
It's a game called Shadow, Shadow,
and the rules explain the man outside
shooting at nothing
that holds him hostage.

This morning geese huddled in the prison yard
By hundreds
they trespassed the barbed circles of wire
and guards on lookout in white suits.
The earth grew long necks
and spoke its own language.

There is something in the blood
and the geese have heard it.
Now they rise up
to journey through the labyrinth of night,
flying past antlers on barns,
flying over women's houses,
perfume maddening the air.

The sky opens
and a stronger world flies through, shadow,
shadow on the ground.
Let the talkers grow silent.
The prison yard is flying.

Linda Hogan

This poem will appear in Linda's new book,
Seeing Through The Sun, University of
Massachusetts Press.

Linda Hogan is of the Chickasaw Nation.
She is the author of Calling Myself Home,
Daughters I Love You, Eclipse (just out
from UCLA American Indian Studies Center
Press), Seeing Through the Sun (forth-
coming in March, Univ. of Mass. Press),
and The Black Horse from Pueblo of Acoma.
Linda has recently completed a collection
of short stories and won an independent
writers fellowship for that collection
from the State of Colorado.

It is with great celebration we welcome
Linda to Minnesota.

Viewpoint:

IRRITABILITY

by Carol Pollock

(This paper was written for a class taught by Jeanne Barker-Nunn--Feminist Scholarly Writing.)

"Old Bill Jones had a daughter and a son. The son went to college and the daughter went wrong." I memorized the litany of Old Bill's trials in the key of G while learning to play the guitar. After I mastered the chords, I forgot the words of this simple cowboy song except for the line about the daughter. The melody behind that one verse stayed with me and seemed to run through my own life. I felt that something had gone wrong, but I had no clear idea of what it was. I sensed a chord of discontent; it seemed that my temperament did not suit the environment. One bad note persistently sounded as I tried to achieve harmony with the world around me. I became preoccupied with isolating, defining, and hopefully eliminating this bad note. I called this note irritability.

Irritability was the sharp note I heard, for example, at work. I work as a secretary, my office is the part of the world where I always heard this strident note. I perceived others as singing in tune with a melody I could not catch, cheerful secretaries pleasantly whistling while they worked. I still hear this note in my office; however, it no longer grates on my ears. I have listened carefully to the song around me, I have also learned some new songs, and I hear this note as a strident, but pleasant one in a new song. I would like to examine this note of irritability and redefine it as a quality to be preserved, not eliminated.

I am not sure why I latched onto the word irritability as the definition for that insistent discord I heard. Because I felt out of tune, I sought "professional advice." I learned that irritability was in the constellation of symptoms associated with depression, a common female complaint. I knew that premenstrual women were often described as tense and irritable. The word captured that crabby, impatient quality often ascribed to women who do not present a bland, smiling face. It was a catch-all word imposed on women who were older, who needed a good screw, who were on the rag. Irritable women are not sunny faced and sweet. An irritable woman is a sour note in the sweet song expected from the female.

One of the dictionary definitions of irritable is petulant, testy. This was how I perceived my irritable streak. I saw it as a rough edge to my personality, an irksome character flaw that lived within my nature and whose long fingernails scraped on the walls of the world. This shrill scraping sound was the note that offended the ears of social expectations. Irritability simmered at work as I struggled to exhibit a docile, pleasant face to the office world. After all, wasn't it a secretary's job to be pleasant? Irritability kept me from singing the right notes, it kept me off key and out of the choir. I set out to train my voice and refine this harsh note. I did not succeed in changing my voice, I did succeed in redefining irritability. This redefinition removed the negative implications of the word.

My redefinition of the word irritable emerged like the picture made by the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Only I did not have a copy of the picture to guide me as I arranged the pieces. I could only see that the shapes of the pieces interlocked.

One of the pieces I examined was the data presented in a psychological study done in the 1950's. The results were published in a book entitled LIVES THROUGH TIME. Block collected test (objective) data, autobiographical data, and biographical data from friends, teachers, and co-workers of the subjects over an extended period of time. Subjects were followed from adolescence into adulthood. From the data, Block identified individual traits and classified traits into several groups. One of these groups of women was labeled type Z. These women were above average in intelligence and did not conform to stereotypical role patterns. These women expressed dissatisfaction with their status in school and especially at work; these women were described by others as irritable. This bit of Block's data stuck with me like the line about Old Bill's daughter.

The next piece of the puzzle was another context in which the word irritability is used. In biological terms the word means excitable and excitable means alive. An irritable cell receives a stimulus, conducts it, and responds. Irritability equals life and the lack of irritability indicates death. Irritability is the capacity I would also call intelligence. While playing with these two pieces of the puzzle, I began to hear the note of irritability sound differently. Irritability began to sound energetic, not exasperating; irritability began to sound the same as intelligence.

Humming this note, I began to examine the environment. I looked at my environment where so often this note sounded wrong. I looked behind my irritability, wondered what might be behind the irritability of the type Z woman. Looking behind, looking inward, my gaze reflected back outside like light shining on a cat's retina. I saw irritability glowing like a cat's eye--a reflection of what is perceived. A response. I also saw the last piece of the puzzle.

The last piece of the puzzle was a chapter in Andrea Dworkin's book RIGHT WING WOMEN on the politics of intelligence. In this chapter I heard a succinct, powerful explanation of the vibrations that created that note of irritability. She defines intelligence as "... a vitality of the mind that acts directly in and on the world, without mediation." She also outlines the conflicts between intelligence as an

ambitious, aggressive, active quality and the qualities expected of women: "Rigorous intelligence abhors sentimentality...and women must be sentimental." She sees intelligence as a form of energy that needs to act continuously, that needs consequences and challenges from the world. She likens intelligence that is kept private and out of the arena of action to the swollen belly of a starving child. Her chapter describes the dilemma of an intelligent woman who needs to be active yet is taught (expected) to be passive: "She will try to find the nice way to exercise intelligence. But intelligence is not ladylike. Intelligence is full of excesses."

The ideas in Dworkin's chapter completed my picture, I had put together a new definition of irritability. The vibrations of the conflict between an intelligent response and the limitations imposed by social expectations rung the note of irritability. I no longer saw irritability as a noxious trait that infected my attitude, it was no longer a flaw I wanted to flush out of my psyche, it was not a personal problem. Irritability was a sign of life! I began to see irritability as an attribute of intelligence. Even more than an attribute, I see this quality in myself and others as an expression of intelligence. It became a note I wanted to sing, not submerge in the trite melody of the choir around me.

Questions? Call us!

- "Sojourner," the U-YW newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER.

SOJOURNER, The University YW Newsletter, is published quarterly by the University of Minnesota YWCA. We invite articles, poetry, illustrations, comments, and suggestions. Send inquiries or submissions to U-YW, 244 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Mpls., MN.

Editor: Sherry Lee

Production: Laura Blowers
Sherry Lee

Shirts are lavender with dark purple design on the front. Long-sleeved shirts also have "women are changing the world" slogan on the sleeve.

Front design

women are changing the world.
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