Women's Studies Program Newsletter, Spring 1994

University of Montana–Missoula. Department of Women's Studies

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HISTORIAN CARROLL SMITH-ROSENBERG TO SPEAK APRIL 21

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Professor of History and Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, will give the first annual Van de Wetering Lecture on Thursday, April 21, at 8:00 PM in Journalism 304 on "The Federalist Papers: The Engendering of Political Representation." She will also present an afternoon seminar at 3:10 PM in the Turner Hall Lounge on "Captive Women/Savage Others." Professor Smith-Rosenberg is author of Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America (1985), The Body Politic (1987), and Religion and the Rise of the American City (1971), as well as several distinguished essays in American women's and social history.

Rosenberg's analysis of the Cult of True Womanhood and of ideological contests for words and power over women's stories and the domain of morality (in the nineteenth century) is widely praised and has been influential in shaping the writing of American history in the last two decades. In "Writing History" Professor Smith-Rosenberg remarked, "Women are more than the word female contained within (male) quotation marks. . . . As women, our own experience of words will lead us to ask two of the most fundamental questions historians can ask: How does the diversity of language suggest the structure of power? How do words, products of particular power structures, acquire sufficient autonomy to critique and challenge those structures? By applying the critical techniques of close reading . . . we will begin to re-form history and to hear women's stories with fresh clarity. . . . A historian, I am concerned with the ways in which class identity is formed and maintained. Three aspects of class identity in particular interest me: first, its initial construction; second, the ways in which middle-class American women and men both maintained and altered their identity over time; and third, the diversity and inner conflict that characterize all classes, but I would argue, the middle class in particular." (In Feminist Studies/Critical Studies, ed. Teresa de Lauretis, Indiana University Press, 1986, pp. 32-3).

A selection of Professor Smith-Rosenberg's essays is on reserve in the Women's Studies Program office (LA 435).

The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce that the Louise Greene - Elizabeth Smith Fund has been established with a generous gift to The University of Montana Foundation. The purposes of the fund are for both immediate needs and a long-term endowment to sustain the program and attract additional resources for the benefit of Women's Studies. We are encouraged by the commitment and the generosity of our benefactors!

FEMINIST PEDAGOGY RETREAT

The Faculty Development Committee and the Women's Studies Program are co-sponsoring a Spring Retreat in celebration of feminist teaching. April 9 and 10, 1994, at Lubrecht Forest Lodge. Professor Sue Latky, University of Iowa, co-founder of the journal "Feminist Teacher" and editor of an forthcoming collection of essays on feminist pedagogy, is the featured speaker.

University of Montana panelists include Jean Luckowski, School of Education; Jocelyn Siler and Kate Gadbow, English; Maxine van de Wetering and Deborah Siler, Philosophy; Mary Birch, Social Work; Julia Watson, Liberal/Women's Studies; and students Kaythe Cummings (Political Science) presenting a survey on gender/ethnic bias in the classroom and Merry Hutton (Native American Studies) on multicultural education.

Workshop discussions, facilitated by University of Montana faculty women, will include: an introduction of feminist pedagogical philosophies and techniques and an exploration of what distinguishes these as feminist; pragmatic as well as political justifications for adopting a feminist pedagogy; strategies for dealing with issues in the feminist classroom; and how feminist pedagogy is conducive to "women's ways of knowing."

Faculty will learn new perspectives and share their experiences in evaluation, classroom interaction, teaching context and strategies, and facilitating the exercise of alternative dialogues. About 20 faculty will participate.

- Chen Lucas Jennings & Mary Birch

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

We live at a time when AIDS, despite its relatively low profile on campus and in Montana (although nearly 200 have died in-state) is exerting effects on our everyday lives that were unthinkable just a decade ago. Anyone who is a parent confronts the epidemic not only in the current debate over when, how, and to what extent education about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) should enter the elementary and secondary school curricula. We also look differently at our children who, even as preteens, are saturated by a sexually-charged climate. For me there is a mixture of anxiety, regret, and downright uncertainty when I think of my son's future—or of our students', for that matter.

Anxiety at how pervasive the virus is becoming among young, sexually active people. (During 1991 and 1992 AIDS cases in American teenagers rose 77 percent.) Regret that the legacy of the sixties—challenging received authority and experimenting with liberation of many sorts—cannot, in personal relationships, be theirs without danger to their well-being. No love is free anymore. Every partner's history has life-and-death implications. And uncertainty about what the currently deadly immune-deficiency viruses will be three decades from now and how see "Director" p. 2
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their impact will reshape human social and political relations. In the "Third World" countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, will whole populations be reconfigured by the pandemic?

With the virus spreading four times more rapidly among women than among men, what will be the consequences for family and child health? For how we view the division of sexual responsibility itself? American women currently underestimate the risk of AIDS. Women's Studies Programs are just one of many venues that might address the danger of conceiving AIDS as a men's disease and a disease of the "marginal"-hiv-drug users, the urban poor. A 1986 German film noted aptly, "The Virus Has No Morality" (Rosa von Prallheim). The profound uncertainties around AIDS are increasingly chilling. This year, student concern seems rarely voiced in campus-wide dialogue. For three years (1989-91) a pioneering course on AIDS was taught in the Dept. of Social Work by Professor Mary Birch and Judy Smith. The AIDS quilt came to the Field House. Performance art pieces voiced rage and sorrow. Now it is quieter. Although, in the US for adults aged 25 to 44, AIDS is the leading cause of death for men and the fourth for women, it remains largely invisible, spoken.

The pernicious omnipresence of AIDS was brought home to me recently. I had been thinking, with relief and some surprise, that no one in the circle of my acquaintances had yet died from the virus, though, since a few were HIV-positive, it would only be a matter of time. Then, two incidents snuck up from nowhere and changed that. Reading dossiers for a search committee, I came to a candidate from UC Irvine, my graduate school, whose research had laged because the dissertation director had died of AIDS. With shock I noted that the director was someone under whom I had taught Humanities Core as a TA. Although that was 20 years ago, it seemed a brutal, sudden death.

The second incident occurred just a week later. At a conference in New York, I attended a panel on autobiographical film in which a paper focused on a remarkable auto-documentary of a man's dying of AIDS. A minute into the lengthy clip, I realized that the filmmaker-subject was a man I had known at the college in Massachusetts where I worked 17 years ago, when, as a brash and brilliant young man, he presented a mini-festival of his first documentaries. I don't remember breathing in the 15 minutes of the clip that charted his decline and death. Perhaps the most painful image in the clip was the closing moment from an early film of Tom, in his blue snowflake sweater, dancing with Mark, two young men in love who seemed to be the world before them. Maybe it's not even a question of response. You shed tears, life goes on. But in crucial ways our perception of the world is reorganized by the AIDS epidemic, one of several disasters unsettling the late twentieth century. And yet—there aren't many red ribbons on campus. Who has actually had an AIDS test? (They are cheap and anonymous at the Dept. of Public Health on Alder St.) The Sunday New York Times recently ran a multi-page spread on dealing with an HIV-positive diagnosis. It included an extensive list of support groups and safe referrals in the NY area. We need to see such information in The Kaimin. And the Missoulian.

Two 1993 films--Philadelphia, from the US, on the external impact of AIDS (loss of job, income, health, colleagues), and Les nuits fauves, Savage Nights, from France, on the internal dilemmas and agonies of an HIV-positive bisexual man--have challenged us to reform our collective consciousness in acknowledging the virus. Here at UM and in Missoula, how can we contribute to shaping the public and academic dialogue?

--Julia Watson

NEW OFFICE STAFF

The Women's Studies Program is pleased to welcome Colleen Hunter as administrative assistant. She earned her Bachelor of Music in 1980 and Master of Music in 1986, from the University of Montana. Colleen founded the Department of Music's Suzuki String Program in 1992 and currently maintains a studio of 30 violin and viola students. She often carries a second job--as a tax checker for H & R Block, as clerical support for Adventure Cycling, and now as half-time administrative assistant for the Women's Studies Program. Colleen performs regularly with the Missoula Symphony, the String Orchestra of the Rockies, and on faculty recitals at the University of Montana. Other interests include women's issues, reading, gardening, hiking, backpacking, backcountry skiing, whitewater rafting, and bicycle touring. Last summer, she completed a 4653-mile TransAmerica bicycle trip, and she is currently planning a Missoula/Anchorage, AK tour for the summer of 1995. Colleen's exceptional competence, versatility, and diplomacy have been applauded by all.

The faces of the Women's Studies work study student employees have also changed. We are pleased to welcome Dawn Billings, a freshman majoring in business/pre-law from Livingston, and Ivy Scull, a freshman art major from Kalispell.

BOOKS & JOURNALS NEEDED

If you have unwanted desk copies, duplicates, or other books on or by women that you don't need, please send or bring them to the Women's Studies Office, LA 435. We would like to build up a small collection in three areas: classics by women, genre books by women authors (eg., detective, romance, western), and feminist theory and history. If in doubt--send anyway.

The Women's Studies Office has Women's Review of Books (April 1991-December 1993) and Ms. Magazine (September 1990- May 1993). We would like donations of other current journals on women, such as Signs. Please send or bring them to the office.

FIRST SESSION SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE ON WOMEN'S WRITING

FR/ENGL 485--French Women Writers in Translation (3 cr.)

Visiting Asst. Professor Pascale Krumm will offer this course on French women writers from the Middle Ages to the twentieth-century. Typical portrayals of women, such as the mother, the prostitute, the saintly woman, the diseased woman, etc., will be studied in the writing of both female and male writers. Please see Professor Krumm for more information.
SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6: "Restructuring of the Global and Montana Economy: Women and Children" by Jill Belsky, Asst. Professor of Sociology, and Paul Miller, Professor of Sociology, 7:00 PM, Social Science 356, Women's Studies Visiting Lecturer Series

April 8: "Nature and Culture in the Northern West," panel of speakers including Patricia Nelson Limerick, University of Colorado, 1-8 PM, Montana Theatre

April 13: "Women, Farms and New Technologies" by Katherine Weist, Professor of Anthropology, noon, Pope Room/Law School, Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series--bring a lunch, beverages provided

April 21: "Captive Women/Savage' Others" by Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, 3:10 PM, Turner Hall Lounge, Women's Studies Visiting Lecturer Series

April 21: "The Federalist Papers: The Engendering of Political Representation" by Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Professor of History and Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, 8:00 PM, Journalism 304, First Annual Van de Wetoring Lecture

April 27: "Speaking about Women's Issues through Choreography" by Amy Ragsdale, Asst. Professor of Dance, noon, Room 005--PAR/TV Building, Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series--bring a lunch, beverages provided

April 27: "Native American Women Encounter Columbus," speakers: Deborah Wetsit, Asst. Professor of Counselor Education, UM; Rhonda Lankford, lawyer, Flathead Nation; and Iris Heavy Runner, Minnesota scholar and activist; 3:00 PM, Mount Sentinel Rooms, co-sponsored by Women's Studies and Native American Studies

April 28: "What's New in Drug Treatments for Menopause" by Beth Thompson, MD, noon, University Hall 210

April 28: YWCA's 8th Annual Salute to Excellence to honor outstanding women and a prominent male advocate of women in Missoula. A dinner and program will be held at the Holiday Inn. For reservations, call 543-6691.

April 29 - May 1: A two and a half day Community Building Workshop will be held by the Jeannette Rankin Peace Resource Center to offer strategies for working with a mix of people of vastly differing opinions and to celebrate diversity. For further information, call Lynn Tennefoss at 543-3955.

April 30: Dr. Alla Arasoughly, Expert on Women and Cinema in the Arab World, with Maureen Curnow, Chair, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, UM, 6:00 PM, Journalism 304


May 10: "All But the Waltz" by Mary Clearman Blew, a discussion on KUFM, 7:30 PM

CALLS FOR PAPERS

--Complete information posted on bulletin board outside LA 435.

Proposals for Reconciling Gender Issues in Higher Education, regarding gender issues affecting the campus environment. Send by April 15, 1994 to: Division of Continuing Education, 30 South Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446-2501 (800/639-3188)

Essays for Common Ground: Feminist Collaboration in the Academy--An Anthology on Feminist Collaboration in Academics. Send by July 30, 1994 to: Elizabeth G. Peck, English Department, A.O. Thomas Hall, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE 68849 or JoAnna S. Mink, English Department, MSU 53, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN 56002-8400

Papers for Social Politics--International Studies in Gender, State, & Society. Send to: Sonya Michel, Department of History, University of Illinois, 309 Gregory Hall, 810 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL, 61801 (217/333-1155)

Manuscripts of scholarly material, fiction, and/or practical material on women's writing. Send proposal, outline or sample chapter to: Deborah B. Leighton, Astarte Shell Press, P.O. Box 10453, Portland, ME 04104
UPCOMING CONFERENCES

--Brochures available for some conferences (call the Women's Studies Office at 243-2584).

**April 13-16:** Woman as Social Conscience
Contact: Women's Research Conference, University P.O. Box 181, University of South Dakota, 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

**April 14-17:** From Silence to Language to Action
North West Women's Studies Association 1994 Regional Conference
Contact: NWWSA Regional Conference, c/o The Women's Center, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447-5759

**April 15-16:** Conference in Celebration of Women's Studies - 20 Years
Contact: Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Program, 333 Smith Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

**April 15-17:** Emerging Theories/Merging Practices in Gender Studies
--9th National Graduate Women's Studies Conference
Contact: National Graduate Women's Studies Conference, University of California at San Diego, Conference Services 0613, La Jolla, CA 92039, (619/534-4230)

**April 15-17:** 3rd Annual Conference on 18th & 19th Century British Women Writers
Contact: Andrea Kaitany, 201 Morrill Hall, Department of English, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

**April 20-25:** 2nd International Grassroots Seminar for Women: Women's Rights at Home and in the World
--To mobilize women for the 1995 World Conference of Women.
Contact: Sister to Sister Network (CSI), P.O. Box 1710, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 or Linda Cornell at 543-1910 (2 Week Travel Package: $2,650)

**April 25-30:** Learning from Women, Harvard Medical School Conference
Contact: Judy Reiner Pratt, Ed.D., Continuing Education, Department of Psychiatry, The Cambridge Hospital, 1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617/664-8165)

**May 11-14:** Psychosocial & Behavioral Factors in Women's Health: Creating an Agenda for the 21st Century
Contact: Wanda Robinson, Women's Health Conference Assistant, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street NE, Washington DC 20002-4142 (202/336-6123)

**May 13-15:** Turning the Century, a conference on communication, coalition and change for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals
Contact: Turning the Century, American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, #9 Exchange Place, Boston Building, #715, Salt Lake City, UT 84411-2850 (801/521-9882)

**May 30 - July 1:** Sappho & Lady Mary Wroth: Major Writers of Classical Antiquity and the English Renaissance
Contact: Sappho/Lady Mary Wroth, Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies, 1120 Francis Scott Key Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7325 (301/405-6830)

**June 24:** In the Classroom and Beyond: Race, Gender, Class, and Curriculum in Higher Education
Contact: Elizabeth Higginsbotham, Center for Research on Women, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN 38152 (901/678-2770)

**June 30:** Innovations in State & Local Government: New Directions for Women
--Fourth Women's Policy Research Conference

**June 15-19:** Teaching, Theory & Action: Women Working in a Global Perspective
--National Women's Studies Association 15th annual conference
Contact: Lisa Anderson, NWSA Conference Office, 105 Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

**July 25-28:** A Woman's Place is in the Curriculum: Women's History Strategies and Resources
Training Workshops for K-12 Educators
Contact: National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492 (707/839-6000)

SEMESTER ABROAD

--Brochures available in LA 435.

**Women and Development: Latin American Perspectives**, September 6 - December 16, 1994, Undergraduate Study in Mexico and Central America, Contact: Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, 731 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454 (612/330-1159), **April 1 deadline**.

**Women and Development: A Southern Africa Perspective**, February 2 - May 18, 1995, Undergraduate Study in Namibia and South Africa, Contact: Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, 731 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454 (612/330-1159), **October 15 deadline**.

TOURS

**Tour of the Islands of Malta & Gozo:** To Sites Associated with the Divine Feminine, May 1994.
Contact: Sally Greiser, Temenos, 315 South 4th Street East, Missoula, MT 59801 (542-1475)

Contact: Lydia Ruyle, The Goddess Tour, 2101 24th Street, Greeley, CO 80631 (303/352-1643)
WE ASKED UM FACULTY . . .
1) What are you now working on that has relevance to Women's Studies?
- Writing a book chapter with Connie Bullis (University of Utah) to be published in Communication & the Disenfranchised: Social Health and Implications, on "Women as Disenfranchised Communicators"—Betsy Bach
- Women's lament in ancient Athens—its power, societal response to it, its relation to development of the Athenian democratic state (continuing research); restructuring of my course on Women in Antiquity (Other Stories, Other Voices), which I shall teach through the Honors College in autumn—Linda Rutland Gillson
- Robert Bolling's Dirty Pictures: Misogyny and the Recursive Dilemmas of Colonial Self-Construction in Revolutionary Virginia's Foremost Poet (all about male self-construction's conflicts as they get displaced onto women, with some powerful visuals)—Ken Lockridge
- Getting teased on KUFM for criticizing Nannie Alderson, mugged by the Sunbonnet Mafia—William Bevis

2) What book are you reading that might be of interest for gender issues?
- Sexuality and Gender in Early Modern Europe, ed. James Grantham Turner (1990), especially piece by Domna C. Stanton—Ken Lockridge
- Frankenstein, Orlando, Yellow Wallpaper, Wayward Women (travel). Stepping Westward by Tisdale, Comedy & the Woman Writer by Judy Little—Lois Welch
- David Malouf's new novel (Australian) about a white man who lives among the aborigines—Juliette Crump

3) What book influenced your ideas about women when you were growing up?
- None. And that's the point—Ken Lockridge
- The Woman Warrior by Maxine H. Kingston—Betsy Bach
- I suppose Little Women, especially Joan, a character whom my aunt was named after. More influential upon my development were my grandmother and two or three aunts. They provided stronger models for me than characters in books, though I loved to read. All of my aunts and grandmother were accomplished and strong women whom I idolized—Juliette Crump
- Every book I read influenced my ideas about women. By my mid-20s, I was consciously seeking books which gave some alternative to depictions of women as seductresses, sweet nothingers, heroic drudges, harridans & witches, bimbos, or pedestalized perfections. I didn't find any until I was in my 30s—Lois Welch

NEW FROM W.O.R.D.—HOMESHARE
Do you have a room in your home that's empty? A new program in Missoula, started by the Family Housing Intervention Network, is looking for community people who are willing to open their home to a pregnant woman for four to six months. There is a small monthly stipend to the home providers, and the home will have their medical and food needs furnished. Informational meetings on HomeShare: Wednesday, April 6, 12 noon and 6:30 PM, Women's Opportunity & Resource Development Inc. (WORD), 127 North Higgins (2nd floor). Call Ren at 543-3550.

UM SEXUAL ASSAULT RECOVERY SERVICE
SARS is a 24-hour service providing support, referral, and information for sexual assault survivors and their partners, friends, and families. SARS can provide support and information at any stage in the healing process as well as give information about emergency, medical, academic, and legal procedures. Advocates are available to accompany students to the hospital, police or court as necessary. Support groups are offered every semester.
24-hour telephone: 243-6556(women) and 243-4711(men)

VIEWS FROM OTHER WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS/ORGANIZATIONS

A new survey, conducted by the Feminist Majority, reveals that 50.2% of women's health clinics have experienced severe anti-abortion violence in the first seven months of 1993. . .Over 20% of the clinics responding to the survey received death threats to clinic staff during the first seven months of 1993. Eighteen percent of clinics reported bomb threats. Sixteen percent of clinics had been blockaded. . .Clinics in California, Texas, Michigan, Florida, Montana, New York, and Illinois are among the states facing the most severe violence.

----Feminist Majority Report, Dec. 1993

An estimated four million women are battered by spouses or intimate partners every year. This makes battering the number one cause of injury to American women. Statistics obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that incidents of rape have risen nearly four times as fast as the total crime rate, and are continuing to rise. Large annual increases in violent crime against women demonstrate the need for legislation to combat this trend. The Violence Against Women Act (HR 1113) was introduced in the first session of the 103rd Congress, in summer 1993. The three broad goals of the Act include:
- Making streets safe for women,
- Protecting the right of all Americans to be free from violence based on their gender, and
- Making homes safe for women.

The bill offers several measures for achieving these goals by:
- Providing funds for increased law enforcement efforts,
- Authorizing funds for rape prevention and education, and
- Training for police, prosecutors, and judges to deal more effectively with sexual assault and domestic violence.

Write to your representative(s) of Congress if you support this bill. (For Montana your representative is Pat Williams.)

----Colgate University Women's Studies News, Winter 1993

Our mission remains to foster the kind of crucial interdisciplinary feminist research that both sustains Women's Studies and keeps it on the forefront of scholarly, curricular, and pedagogical transformation. Our ongoing programs, such as providing a research home for Honorary fellows, and arranging lectures and colloquia, continue to serve as very visible parts of the Center. . .

----Voices from the Attic: Newsletter of the Women's Studies Research Center, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison. Feb. 1994

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The time has come for us to emerge from the introspective self-examination that has devoured our recent past, to emerge as a leader in the struggle against antifeminist backlash on campuses as well as in society at large. We don't have to be a fan of Susan Faludi's to recognize backlash. When feminist teachers and students are disdainfully labelled "rape crisis radicals," it is backlash. When Mother Jones publishes a cover story on Women's Studies that regurgitates every right-wing misrepresentation of the past 20 years, it is backlash. When a student-run newspaper at Penn State University engages in a two-year non-stop campaign of hate and ridicule against feminist teachers and students, and does so with impunity, it is backlash. The time has come for us—all of us—to confront this challenge from the right.

National Women's Studies Association Letter, Feb. 1994

We also have on file newsletters from the University of Mississippi's Sarah Isom Center Newsletter and the San Jose State University Women's Studies Newsletter. Donations of current copies of other newsletters are appreciated.

This newsletter is published by the Women's Studies Program at the University of Montana. Our campus address is LA 435, and our telephone extension is x2584. Julia Watson, Director of Women's Studies, is writer and editor; and Colleen Hunter, Adm. Assistant, is writer and designer.

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