

women's studies

News

Colgate University Women's Studies Program

Winter 1996 Vol. 5 No. 3

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Like all social movements which have had a significant impact, the Women's Movement has its critics. Some of them make the argument that feminism is "politically correct," claiming that it stifles dissent and promotes only one way of looking at issues.

In fact, the Women's Movement is remarkably diverse. It contains within itself organizations, groups, and individuals of many different social classes, ethnicities, and ideologies. Furthermore, within the Movement there are sharp disagreements on a number of issues. Dissent is a healthy sign in a social movement. It means that it is open to many points of view, and is confident enough to tolerate the free discussion of issues.

Feminists disagree with one another on many subjects including the causes of violence against women; reasons for widespread eating disorders among women; remedies for women's

lower income and greater poverty compared to men; and strategies for effectively fighting sexism.

One topic widely debated within the Women's Movement concerns the value of coeducation for women. Some feminist scholars have argued that women should be educated separately from men because women are systematically silenced and disadvantaged in coeducational settings. Other feminists claim that great strides have been made in eliminating sexism in education, and they point out that women are attending college today in greater numbers than are men. Arguing that separate education for girls would inevitably become inferior education, they suggest that only in coeducational settings can girls learn to stand up for themselves and demand the equal education they deserve.

The subject of pornography is another issue that finds feminists sharply at odds with one another. A large and

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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS: GET INVOLVED!

1. **Register to Vote.** If you are not already registered, you should do so right away. Call the Center for Women's Studies (x7156) for details on how to get registered. Just remember, the 96 elections are fast approaching.
2. **Volunteer in the Hamilton Community.** There are many ways of getting involved in volunteer projects. **Carol Walter**, a student assistant in the Center for Women's Studies, is helping students find projects to work on in Hamilton and the surrounding areas. You can reach her at x7156.
3. **Attend a Weekly Lecture on Campus.** Hundreds of lectures are held at Colgate every year. Take advantage of the opportunity to hear a diverse group of speakers while you are still in college.
4. **Read the Paper.** How can you get involved if you don't know what is going on? Reading the paper is the easiest way to educate yourself about pressing issues and therefore become more politically active.
5. **E-Mail your Representatives.** If there is an issue about which you are concerned, write your representatives and let them know how you feel. You can make a difference.

President Clinton:
President@whitehouse.gov
Hillary Rodham Clinton:
First Lady@whitehouse.gov

To Get the E-Mail Addresses of your Senators and Representatives by Zip Code:
<http://www.hrcusa.org/actnctr/index.html>

**NOW IS THE TIME TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO
BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN 96!**



Students attending the Women's Studies Conference in New Paltz pose for a picture before their departure. The conference, which was held in October, focused on issues of international feminism.

Winter 1996 Calendar

JANUARY

21 SUNDAY

Center for Women's Studies Staff
Retreat
12:00-4:00

23 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series
Maureen Fox, Madison County
Community Action
"Community Action: Everyone's
Call"
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

23 TUESDAY

Gretel Ehrlich
Reading *Solace of Open Spaces, A
Match to the Heart*
4:30 pm
105 Lawrence Hall

23 TUESDAY

"Four Feminists of Faith"
Joan Friedman, Nan DeVries,
Ghazala Anwar, Marilyn Thie
7:30 pm
Center for Women's Studies

26 FRIDAY

Free Film Series
The House of Spirits
8:00 pm
Center for Women's Studies

30 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series
Mark Murphy
"Title IX: Women in Athletics"
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

30 TUESDAY

Nadine Strossen, President of
American Liberties Union
"Pornography, Women's Rights
& Free Speech"
7:00 pm
Cultural Center

FEBRUARY

2 FRIDAY

Free Film Series
Like Water for Chocolate
8:00 pm
Center for Women's Studies

6 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series, TBA
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

7 WEDNESDAY

Eating Disorder Screening Day
Information and /or One-on-One
Evaluation
11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Hall of Presidents

9 FRIDAY

Free Film Series
Go Fish
8:00 pm
Center for Women's Studies

13 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series
"Exploring Options for Study
Abroad"
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

16 FRIDAY

Free Film Series
Daughters of the Dust
8:00 pm
Center for Women's Studies

19 MONDAY

Glenn Ivers '73 and Sandra Stanick,
Director of Global Women and
Literacy Program
"Hope Is an Educated Woman"
Viewing of Film and Discussion
7:30 pm
Center for Women's Studies

20 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series
Professor Dora Hast
"Balance and Swing: Gendered
Politics in New England Contra
Dance"
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

23 FRIDAY

Free Film Series
Norma Rae
8:00 pm
Center for Women's Studies

26 MONDAY

Jo Freeman, State University of
New York
"Feminism vs. Family Values"
7:30 pm
Center for Women's Studies

27 TUESDAY

Brown Bag Lunch Series
Dr. Miller and Carol Reed R.N.
"Sex Ed 101"
11:30 am
Center for Women's Studies

COLGATE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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What's Happening in Women's Studies

LONG TIME ACTIVIST TO VISIT COLGATE

The Women's Studies Program is excited to bring Jo Freeman to campus. Professor Freeman has played a key organizational role in the Women's Liberation Movement since its inception. As part of her work in the Movement, she founded one of the first national feminist newsletters, *Voice of the Women's Liberation Movement*.

Currently, Ms. Freeman is a professor of Political Science at the State University of New York. Her primary focus of study is women and politics. In addition to teaching, Professor Freeman is now in the process of doing research for a book. The book will be an historical analysis of women's political activism since 1920. Her most recent book is entitled, *The Politics of Women's Liberation: A Case Study of an Emerging Social Movement and Its Relation to the Policy Process*.

Professor Freeman will speak in the Center for Women's Studies on Monday, February 26 at 7:30 pm. The title of her talk is, "Feminism vs. Family Values." Her lecture will include discussion of how the feminist movement has polarized the Democratic and Republican Parties. Please join us in welcoming Professor Freeman to Colgate for a lively discussion of feminism and politics.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

As the second semester commences, many people will begin their search for summer, or more permanent employment. **Cherie Alcott**, a student assistant in the Center for Women's Studies, has done some of the job-searching work for you!

She has put together an updated list of available intern positions which deal with women's and gender issues. This list is housed in the Center for Women's Studies' library.

In addition to information about specific internships, Cheri has also displayed resource materials for helping you explore other job opportunities in

women's studies. They include information on the Women's Web Site and resume tips. There are also reference books in the library which list hundreds of women's and social service organizations. These books can be helpful in finding organizations which best suit your interests.

Please feel free to come into the Center, have a cup of coffee, and check out what resources are available.



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW FACULTY

The Colgate community is happy to welcome a new professor to the History Department and Women's Studies Program. Professor Camilla Townsend comes to Colgate from Rutgers University where she recently completed her graduate work in History with a minor field in Women's History.

One of Professor Townsend's main areas of interest is Latin American history. She spent two years in Nicaragua "checking out what it was like to live during a revolution." While in Nicaragua she learned a great deal about the people and politics of Latin America.

Professor Townsend also has had experience with social service work. She spent four years working at a battered women's shelter in Philadelphia. At the shelter she did everything from cleaning and answering phones to doing advocacy work for victims of domestic violence. The advocacy included escorting battered women to court and

giving them advice to aid in the trial process.

This semester Professor Townsend is teaching a Women's Studies course entitled, "Seminar on Problems in Latin American History: Gender and the State." Professor Townsend hopes to teach a course on U.S. Women's History in the future. Please join the Women's Studies Program in welcoming Camilla Townsend to Colgate.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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well organized group of feminists maintains that pornography should be restricted or even banned because its dominant images of violence and subordination of women are deeply harmful. Feminists who take this position, including Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, have received considerable public attention for their suggestion that pornographers be prosecuted.

On the other side of the debate, groups like Feminists for Free Expression have been established as anti-censorship organizations. These feminists argue that, distasteful as much pornography may be, it should be protected as a form of free speech, and that censorship is likely to harm rather than help women.

Nadine Strossen, the first woman president of the American Civil Liberties Union, is a strong advocate of the latter position. Ms. Strossen will be speaking at Colgate on January 30 in the Cultural Center at 7:00 PM. Her new book, *Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex, and the Fight for Women's Rights*, will be the main topic of discussion.

The Women's Studies Program is bringing Ms. Strossen to campus precisely to stimulate the kind of dialogue that is critical for the Women's Movement to remain a vital center of open debate. I hope you will join us on January 30th for what promises to be a wide-ranging discussion on a very important issue.

Joan D. Mandl

The Center For Women's Studies Proudly Presents:

NADINE STROSSEN

President of the American Civil Liberties Union

"PORNOGRAPHY, WOMEN'S RIGHTS & FREE SPEECH"

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 pm

Cultural Center

Kiera Becker, a student assistant in the Center for Women's Studies, is organizing a field trip to Albany, the state capital. While in Albany, students will have the chance to meet government officials to learn more about current issues. Students will also do some lobbying while in Albany to raise awareness on various issues including rape and welfare laws. If you are interested in attending the Albany Legislative Day, please return this form to the Center for Women's Studies.

_____ Yes! I would like to register for the Albany Legislative Day.

Name _____

Box: _____

Phone: _____

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know a Senior who has demonstrated active leadership in improving the status of women at Colgate or in the wider community? Have you worked hard to change outdated stereotypes of women or to ensure equality between women and men? If so, don't forget to nominate that Senior (or yourself) for the Annual Women's Studies Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award. Send your nomination for the award to Professor Marilyn Thie in the Department of Philosophy or to Laura Leith at The Center for Women's Studies. Women's Studies presents its Stanton Award for activism at the Colgate University Awards Convocation each April.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a serious intellectual, social critic and writer, as well as an activist committed to creating a world of equality and justice. We honor her by recognizing the Colgate students who best exhibits those important characteristics. Send in your nomination today.