



Women's Studies

November 1993

MEET THE AUTHOR OF NIGHT SKY

Susan Yankowitz, the feminist author whose play, *Night Sky*, will soon be performed by the William and Mary Theatre, will be on campus November 19 and 20 for a variety of events as follows:

Play Writing Workshop

3-5 p.m., Friday, November 19
no experience necessary but you must sign up on the call board in PBK

Reception

following the 8 p.m. performance on Friday the 19th

Moderated Talk

3:30 p.m., Saturday, November 20

All events will be in the Dodge Room of PBK Hall. All events are free and open to the public. *Night Sky* is showing November 18-21 in PBK Hall,; for tickets call the box office at 221-2674. Yankowitz's visit is sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the Department of Theatre and Speech.

POET BEA GATES VISITS CAMPUS

The visit by lesbian poet Bea Gates to the campus was a wonderful mix of storytelling, poetry reading and writing. At lunch, Bea shared glimpses of her own life with a group of students focusing on the particulars of how one becomes a published poet to how she and others survive in New York City relying on their art and teaching.

During her talk in the afternoon on "Living Proof: Lesbian Feminist Publishing and Community," Bea gave a brief history of lesbian and women's publishing, highlighting her own involvement from the mid-seventies through the late eighties. She told stories about well-known writers such as Grace Paley, Susan Griffin and Adrienne Rich as well as the stories around her own publishing experience from purchasing a press, to managing printers who didn't agree with her politics, to her feelings about this month.

The reading and writing workshop

was the culmination of an exciting day. Her poetry, quite diverse in form and content, was accompanied craft, AIDS, and her own coming out as a lesbian. After the reading, Bea lead us into a writing exercise which we discussed in small groups while Bea went around and spoke with each participant individually. Bea's visit greatly enhanced our understanding of women's community, the poetry process, and a poet's life.

Beatrix Gates' poetry can be found in Gay and Lesbian Writing in Our Time, ed. Carl Morse and Joan Larkin; Naming the Waves: An Anthology of Lesbian Poetry, ed. Christian MacEwen and the most recent edition of The Kenyon Review.

"WHY WE LIKE WOMEN'S STUDIES"

Student Eileen O'Brien attended the Virginia Women's Studies Conference at James Madison University November 5-6. The following is her comment on the panel presentation in which she participated:

At the VWSA, I was a member of a student panel discussing, "Why We Like Women's Studies" with three other students, two from Mary Baldwin and one from James Madison. We each responded to several questions, including how we became interested in Women's Studies, how our friends and family responded to that interest, and the structure of the program at each university. We all shared how our lives were changed and how we became stronger, more independent, and self-confident through our involvement in Women's Studies. We also responded to critics of Women's Studies programs who claim that classes are more like self-help groups for "victims" than anything else. While we agreed that there are some depressing truths to be uncovered throughout our history, the focus of Women's Studies moves beyond these truths and toward empowerment. The enthusiastic panel inspired faculty to keep Women's Studies Programs afloat, and showed them that their efforts have profound effects on women's lives.

NEW JOURNAL AVAILABLE IN SWEM

Swem Library now has a current subscription to Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers. The Library has issues from fall 1984 to date.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!!!

Winged Nation

The women's art and literature magazine, Winged Nation, is now accepting submissions for next year's issue. Submissions can be placed in the box in Swem or sent to C.S. box 2521. In addition, Winged Nation is always happy to accept donations. If you have not yet bought your "See Jane subvert institutions of patriarchy" T-shirt, you can buy one by calling Emily at x5724.

Dean's Prize for Scholars

The deadline for the Dean's Prize for Scholarship in Women's Studies isn't until April, but now is the time to save your term papers and projects from this semester so that you can enter next semester's competition. \$100 will be awarded to both an undergraduate and a graduate student in three areas: Arts and Sciences, Education, and VIMS. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

Campus Sexual Violence

Duke University is sponsoring the 3rd annual national student conference on campus sexual violence. Student workshops, presentations, speakers, and ideas must be submitted by November 19th to Workshop Committee c/o Alana Kuperstein and Josh Gelerter, Sexual Assault Support Services, Duke University Women's Center, Box 90920, Durham, NC 27708-0920.

Anthology on Anti-Rape Movement

The editors of an anthology documenting the student anti-rape movement are seeking students or recent graduates with experience in anti-rape work to contribute to the book. Contact Debbie Ventis at x2457 if you are interested in submitting work.

Summer Research Opportunity

The University of California at Berkeley invites minorities and women who will not be graduating this spring to apply for an 8-week summer research internship in both the

humanities and sciences. The program provides room, board, travel expenses, and a stipend. For more information contact Summer Research Opportunities Program, 424 Sproul Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

CALLS FOR PAPERS...

Anthology on Menopause

The editor of an anthology on menopause is seeking personal narratives and critical essays about the meanings of menopause. For more information contact Dr. Lynne Taetzsch, 5812 Dawes Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311.

The Black Woman, Health, Human Rights, and the Environment, the 2nd

International Conference on Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Bridges Across Activism and the Academy will take place Sept. 1994 in Indianapolis, IN. Submit a one-page abstract by December 19 to Obioma Nnaemeka, French and Women's Studies, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140.

Peace and War Issues

The Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis and the Council on Peace Research in History are sponsoring a conference entitled, "Peace and War Issues: Gender, Race and Ethnicity," to be held Nov. 1994. Paper proposals are due Jan. 1, 1992. For more information contact the RCHA, 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

Woman, Text, Image

Binghamton University is sponsoring a conference designed to explore issues of gender in visual, textual, and other cultural representations. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and are due December 22, 1993. Send abstracts to Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Dept. of Romance Lang. and Lit., BU, P.O. Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000.



Kay Domine
Swem Library
University Archivist