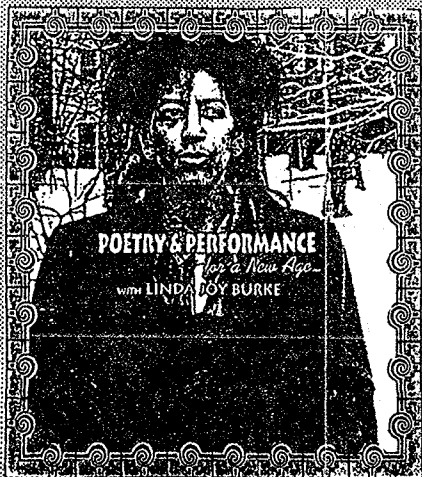


Women's Studies

Mid-January 1994

POET/PERFORMER TO APPEAR

On Thursday, February 9, poet and performer Linda Joy Burke will appear at the College of William and Mary. Ms. Burke will lead a workshop entitled "Free Fall Writing" at 3p.m. and will perform at 8p.m. Both events are open to all members of the W&M and Williamsburg communities. Space in the afternoon workshop is limited. To reserve your space in the workshop, or to hear more information about the performance, call Kristi at 221-4753.



A Black History Month Event. Sponsored by Women's Issues Group.

FORUM: PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND CULTURE

Women's Studies 205: Perspectives on Women and Culture, will hold weekly forums every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall, room 201. These forums are free of charge and open to the public. The schedule of forums for the spring semester is as follows:

Jan. 24: Njeri Jackson, Political Science, VCU will lecture: "From Silence To Empowerment: Do We Really Want To Sing In This Choir Anyway?"

Jan. 31: Workshop on Identity Formation

Feb. 7: Dreamworlds, video on media representations of women

Feb. 14: Marjorie Snipes, Anthropology, will lecture: "Warmikuna: The Essence of Womanhood in the Andes"

Feb. 21: The Famine Within, video on eating disorders

Feb. 28: Defending Our Lives, video on domestic violence survivors

Mar. 14: Small Happiness, video on women in China

Mar. 21: Panel Discussion: The Family

Mar. 28: Workshop on Heterosexism and Homophobia by

Claire Kaplan, University of Virginia

Apr. 4: Rosie the Riveter, video on women in the U.S. during World War II

Apr. 11: Amina Wadud-Muhsin, Philosophy and Religious Studies, VCU, will lecture: "Islam and Spirituality"

Apr. 18: Panel Discussion: Racism on Campus

SUBMIT TO WINGED NATION

The deadline for submissions is fast approaching! *Winged Nation* seeks your art and writing. The magazine welcomes academic essays, short stories, and photographs as well as poetry and artwork. Drop boxes are located in the Tucker Office and next to the Swem circulation desk. For more information, contact Tara Kelly at 221-5487.

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP PLANNED

Women's Issues Group is sponsoring a trip to Washington D.C. on Saturday, February 25. All members of the W&M community are invited to come along. Transportation to the Women's Art Museum and Lammas, A Women's Bookstore, will be provided. For more information, or to sign up, call Melanie at 221-5623.

TECHNO ART AT THE U.N.

Arizona State University seeks applicants for the project, "The World's Women On-Line!" to be presented at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing this summer. The project involves women artists exhibiting their work globally from personal computers via the Internet. If you have art you would like included in this collage, send a color photograph (no slides) of your work with a resume, self-addressed stamped envelope, and your computer info (if you used a computer to create your art) to:

Muriel Magenta, Project Director
Institute for Studies in the Arts
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-2102
phone: (602) 965-4483

A pre-conference installation will be mounted at ASU March 2-30, 1995.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

OUTWRITE '95

OUTWRITE '95, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered writers' conference, will be held March 3-5 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. Speakers include Alison Bechdel, Linda Villarosa, and Cherrie Moraga. \$60 registration may be made at the door. For more information, call (617) 426-4469.

Student Conference: Campus Sexual Violence

This national conference, occurring at SUNY at Buffalo Mar. 10-12, features W&M Alumna Katie Koestner as Key Presenter. For more info, contact Michelle Casuccio, 405 Michael Hall, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14214.

LET'S DIALOGUE

LESBIANS AND CLASS: CAN WE TALK?

I feel it important to identify the stereotypes that surround us regarding the intersection of class and sexual orientation, specifically lesbian sexual orientation, and to enhance awareness around issues of sexual orientation and class. I encourage you to ask yourself the following questions and talk with others about these questions.

IDENTIFY THE STEREOTYPES:

What class do lesbians belong to? What ethnic/cultural groups?

What do they wear? How do lesbians accessorize?

Where and how do they live? What kind of education do lesbians have?

What kinds of jobs do they have (if employed)?

How old are lesbians?

What are their family relationships like?

IDENTIFY OUR REALITIES:

When did you first become aware of your class?

When did you first become aware of being a lesbian? (If you are not fortunate enough to be a lesbian, when did you become aware of the existence of lesbians?)

How does your awareness of being a lesbian influence your concept of who you are within your class or origin? Your ethnicity/culture?

How does your class consciousness affect the way you think about who you are as a lesbian?

What strengths has your class of origin given you in your lesbian existence?

EXPLORE ELEMENTS OF INCLUSION/EXCLUSION:

Do you feel there are class differences within our lesbian community?

What are those differences?

Do you feel those differences contribute to a sense of community-building through a celebration of diversity?

Do you find class differences obstacles within our communities?

What do you need to say about the way class "works" in our lesbian communities? How are you affected?

What strengths and benefits could a celebration of class differences bring to our lesbian communities? What about your ethnic/cultural heritage?

What did you come away with from considering these questions? What new questions are raised for you? I welcome any (anonymous) responses and/or questions: Lorelee Clark, 327 Richmond Rd., Women's Studies Program.
[Adapted from T. Passman, Maine

WHAT CAN I DO?: WOMEN'S BEHAVIOR

One of our responsibilities as advocates of feminism is to challenge confining attitudes about women's appropriate behavior and question why it is people want us to behave in certain ways.

When women practice and/or show interest in feminist ideals or beliefs, the label *man-hater* usually rears its ugly head. It is important for us to understand what this term implies, as well as what the consequences of using this term have not only for those it is used against, but for us as well.

Man-hater intimates two meanings. Firstly, it indicates that by not supporting established patriarchal norms and roles, the woman who embraces feminism loathes men. Secondly, because our language and thoughts are set up as dichotomies, this term implies that if a woman hates men, she must love women. Therefore, it stands to reason that advocates of feminism are inherently lesbians.

The impact of using man-hater on a woman is such that homophobic fears are aroused and heterosexuality is reinforced as the desired norm, regardless of one's sexual orientation. Using man-hater creates a category of "other" women and is part of a divide-and-conquer strategy, to keep women who resist patriarchy from building coalitions with one another. This is evident in the results using man-hater has on most women. A common initial reaction is for a woman to immediately deny she is against men or patriarchy in any way, shape, or form.

So, what can we do? If you are someone who has accused women who step out of their socially assigned roles of being man-haters, think about the implications and consequences of your actions. If you are someone who has been labeled a man-hater, do not fall prey to the implied dichotomy and homophobia inherent within that identification. Prove that you are aware of the labeler's conscious and/or unconscious motivations behind the use of the term by attempting to engage in a dialogue rather than automatically denying the label. Because when you deny the label, you deny the validity of feminist ideals and beliefs.

[By L. Clark, Women's Studies]

Kay Domine
Swem Library
University Archivist