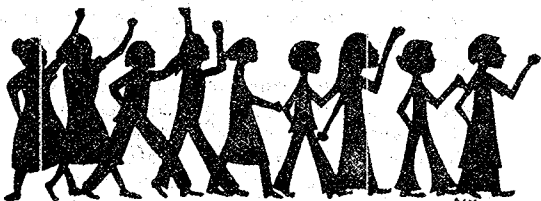


# Women's Studies

February 1995

## RALLY FOR WOMEN'S LIVES!!!

On Sunday, April 9, women and men from all across the country will gather on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to show the nation, the 104th Congress, and President Clinton that we will fight back! The National Organization for Women hopes to see the most impressive rally ever to stop violence against women. Featured at the rally will be the first ever national display of the clothesline Project for/by abused women. Also occurring will be the Young Feminist Summit on Violence (April 7-8). For more information on the Summit, or to join the William and Mary delegation to the Sunday Rally, contact Kristi at 221-4753.



## POET'S PERFORMANCE POSTPONED

Linda Joy Burke's poetry performance and workshop has been rescheduled. The new date is Thursday, April 13. Ms. Burke will lead an afternoon workshop (3-5:30) and will perform at 8:00 p.m. in Tidewater Room A of the University Center. To sign up for the workshop, or for more information about the performance, contact Kristi at 221-4753.

## FORUM: PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND CULTURE

Women's Studies 205: Perspectives on Women and Culture, will hold forums every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall, room 201. All are welcome. The schedule of forums for February is as follows: Feb. 14: Marjorie Snipes, Anthropology, 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.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY SEMINAR OFFERED

On Wednesday, March 15, the Christopher Newport Continuing Education Program will offer a one-day seminar entitled, "Changing Attitudes on Women, Work, and the Family: You've Come A Long Way, Maybe." The seminar will last from 9 a.m. to noon, and lunch will be provided. Total cost is \$29. Course contingent on enrollment. The seminar will be led by Heather Scully. For more information, contact Ms. Scully at 221-3633.

## COLONIAL WOMEN'S HISTORY

Colonial Williamsburg will present several special programs during March for Women's History Month. The focus this year will be "Beside the Great Man: Martha Custis Dandridge Washington returns to Williamsburg." Planned events include an hour-long History Walk spotlighting Martha's association with Williamsburg, held three times daily throughout the month. From March 14-18, a series of programs will be presented each morning at 10:30 in the Dewitt Wallace Gallery Homage Auditorium located on Francis Street. The schedule is as follows:  
**Tues. (3/14):** "Images of Martha Washington" presented by Laurie Suber, painting researcher. **Wed.:** Presentation by Dr. Fields, author of *Worthy Partner: The Papers of Martha Washington*. **Thurs.:** Panel discussion on life in 1750's Williamsburg. **Fri.:** "Ladies of Spirit: Women in the Life of Washington" panel discussion. **Sat.:** "The Re-creation of the Young Martha Washington," character interpretation with costumes.

## INTERNSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

The Carol Woody Scholarship is available for students interested in receiving "real world" experience to complement their W&M studies. Awards from \$100 to \$400 are available for Spring Break or Summer internships. Deadline for Spring Break application: Feb. 20; for Summer, April 10. For more information, call Dr. Green at 221-2457.

## 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. 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.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATE WORK

The Women's Studies department now has the newest edition of the *Guide to Graduate Work in Women's Studies*, published by the National Women's Studies Association. Come by the Women's Studies Office, 327 Richmond Road (next to Sentry) to see the guide.

## SUBMIT TO WINGED NATION

The deadline for submissions is March 27. *Winged Nation* welcomes women's academic essays, short stories, and photographs as well as poetry and artwork. Drop box is located next to the Swem circulation desk. For more information, contact Tara Kelly at 221-5487.

#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES / PAPER CALLS

##### Women in Administration

The 1995 Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration will be held June 25 through July 21 at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. Application forms (due April 3) are available in the Women's Studies Office.

##### Family Violence Research

The Fourth Annual Family Violence Research Conference, to be held July 21-24 at the University of New Hampshire, seeks abstracts on all types of family violence and from many fields (law, psychology, biology, women's studies, etc.). Send abstracts by March 3 to Glenda Kaufman Kantor, Ph.D., Conference Chair, Family Research Laboratory, 126 Horton Social Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, 03824.

##### Summer Writers' Workshop

Clarion, The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop, is now accepting applications for its summer program, June 18-July 29. Deadline is March 31. For more information, send a SASE to Clarion, c/o Mary Sheridan, E-185 Holmes Hall, Lyman Briggs School, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48825-1107.

##### World Women & Media Workshop

From March 23-26 The University of Iowa will host international journalists and scholars in anticipation of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women. Registration is \$55 (\$30 student/low-income) and must be postmarked by March 3. Mail your name, address, occupation, phone #, and check made out to University of Iowa/World Women and Media Workshop to Linda Coulter, WWMW Registration Coordinator, School for Journalism and Mass Communication, Communications Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 52242-1592.

##### Gender in a Coed World

This conference will explore gender issues in the learning, growth and interactions of children. It will be held from March 30-April 1 at the Park School of Baltimore. For more information, contact Barbara Hoyt at (410) 339-4187.

#### **LET'S DIALOGUE**

As a professor, you hear a lot of information that is supplementary to whatever topic it is you are discussing. You hear your students talk and you get an idea of who is seeing whom, what happened last weekend, and how far along they are in their class assignments. You take this information in, forming impressions, but probably saying little directly to them. But what do you do when you hear men and women in your classrooms making blatant sexist remarks?

Do you recognize remarks as sexist, wanting to say something? Do you say something? Do you recognize these remarks and tune out? While we have a responsibility to educate students on areas directly involved in our degrees and in our departments, do you believe we also have a responsibility to educate our students on the effects their sexist remarks may have?

Please send your thoughts along to Loralee Clark, Women's Studies Program, 327 Richmond Road.

#### **WHAT CAN I DO?: WOMEN'S HUMOR**

Have you ever been told that as a woman you have no sense of humor? That you don't know what is funny and what isn't? Some women have been told they have no sense of humor so many times, they believe it. Why are so many invested in making sure women undervalue their sense of humor?

Women do not laugh at the misfortune of others as readily as men do. (Just take for example The Three Stooges; picking on the "nerds" or those who don't "fit in"; playing practical jokes on people just to laugh when the joke succeeds.) Women are more likely to console someone who is a victim before they laugh at them. Women comedians either criticize themselves on stage because they've internalized what they've experienced (denigrating humor directed at them) or they go the other route and attack or subvert the choices people make, such as mindlessly following social expectations. For example,

Lily Tomlin: "I refuse to be intimidated by reality anymore. After all, what is reality anyway? Nothin' but a collective hunch."

Elayne Boosler: "Reagan was against sex education in the schools because he thought there was a connection between promiscuity and sex education--that kids did it because they learned about it. No way. I had four years of algebra and I never do math. These guys say they're against abortion because birth is a miracle. Popcorn is a miracle, too, if you don't know how it's done."

Using humor in this second way, to examine and criticize existing power structures, is a risky endeavor which is threatening to those who wield the power.

Yet many women who are not professional comedians do not use their humor to examine and criticize those who mindlessly follow social expectations. Many women still laugh along with laugh-tracks and follow male humor even when we don't think what we're laughing at is so funny. We have to unlearn old information concerning our sense of humor in the same ways we have to unlearn old information concerning women not having the intelligence to do research or hold important jobs, not having the stamina to run marathons.

When we begin to use our humor to defend ourselves against jokes we find offensive, we're employing our intelligence and awareness in a way that benefits us more than it benefits those who tell the jokes which are aimed at us. Humor can be a way to affirm ourselves, to channel fear into pleasure, and to translate pain into courage. When you tell a joke, a funny story, or a witty remark and no one laughs, what you have made isn't a mistake; what you've made is a beginning. Women's humor is usually undervalued, yet it is priceless.

L. Clark (adapted from Barreca's *They Used to Call Me Snow White...But I Drifted.*)



Kay Domine  
Swem Library  
University Archivist