

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 2006**

April 5...Poetry Slam @ Bombs Away Café 7-9 pm

April 11...Movie Night (Human Trafficking) @ Women's Center 6pm-?

April 12th...Human Trafficking part II @ Women's Center 7:30pm-?

April 14...Awareness Concert @ Club Escape

Week of April 17 – 21...Clothesline Project in the MU Quad

April 26...Take Back the Night @ MU steps – Corvallis Court House. Pre-March activities starting at 7 pm. Speak out immediately following the march.

April 27...Rachel Griffin Presentation in Milam Auditorium 6 – 7:30pm

10 Reasons Why Gay Marriage is Wrong?! NOT

- 01) Being gay is not natural. Real Americans always reject unnatural things like eyeglasses, polyester, and air conditioning.
- 02) Gay marriage will encourage people to be gay, in the same way that hanging around tall people will make you tall.
- 03) Legalizing gay marriage will open the door to all kinds of crazy behavior. People may even wish to marry their pets because a dog has legal standing and can sign a marriage contract.
- 04) Straight marriage has been around a long time and hasn't changed at all; women are still property, blacks still can't marry whites, and divorce is still illegal.
- 05) Straight marriage will be less meaningful if gay marriage is allowed; the sanctity of Brittany Spears' 55-hour just-for-fun marriage would be destroyed.
- 06) Straight marriages are valid because they produce children. Gay couples, infertile couples, and old people shouldn't be allowed to marry because our orphanages aren't full yet, and the world needs more children.
- 07) Obviously gay parents will raise gay children, since straight parents only raise straight children.
- 08) Gay marriage is not supported by religion. In a theocracy like ours, the values of one religion are imposed on the entire country. That's why we have only one religion in America.
- 09) Children can never succeed without a male and a female role model at home. That's why we as a society expressly forbid single parents to raise children.
- 10) Gay marriage will change the foundation of society; we could never adapt to new social norms. Just like we haven't adapted to cars, the service-sector economy, or longer life spans.

Without Justice There is No Love by Awbrey Willett

My stepfather once asked me if a book had ever changed my life. I was in my first year of high school and didn't feel confident saying, "Yes of course." The truth is that my book shelf is testimony to many of my own favorite word soaked life savers. From Anne of Green Gable to Letters to a Young Poet I can say yes now to that question without hesitation. Irish Journalist Nuala O'Faolain even took it so far as to claim that, "If there was nothing else, reading would-obviously-be worth living for." Maybe you don't agree or you haven't felt that power lately or maybe you've just read one too many text books that didn't seem to touch your life. Whatever your point of view on this subject my reply would be, "You must read bell hooks." In particular save your life with her book *All About Love*.

On February 2nd I joined a crowd in Portland to listen to bell hooks speak about politics, religion, and love. She was wonderfully direct and her tangents were almost better than her planned route of conversation. She said so many things my heart longed to hear- "You can't teach anyone anything unless they have an opening inside to hear it", "Self-love can not flourish in isolation", "People do have the ability to deal with complexity" to paraphrase a few of her nuggets of wisdom. Though I questioned some of her cultural critiques, such as her claim that the film *Crash* wasn't revolutionary because of the traditional white, male, hero figure played by Matt Dylan, most of her critiques got me to thinking about love in our culture and its revolutionary power. In the face of backlash here at the Women's Center I'd began to feel that justice was hollow in and of itself. Why work so hard and suffer so much to make the world more just? And then she said it, "without justice there is no love." No matter what kind of cultural critique you are (and we all have a thing or two to say about the way things should be) it is undeniable that hooks is a visionary guide for us all.

Why We Think Amy Leer Just Rocks!! By Melissa Morales-Warming

A funny, sassy feminist... wait, isn't that an oxymoron? Feminists aren't supposed to be funny.....

Meet Amy Leer, Instructor in Women Studies. She's well-known for her laid-back and down-to-earth teaching style in the Program's introductory courses WS 223 "Self and Society" and WS 224 "Personal and Social Change" as well as special topics courses like WS 299 "Witches, Midwives and Healers." If you take a class with her, you'll probably take another because of the way she brings classroom material to life, especially with plenty of examples from everyday stuff from *Desperate Housewives* to Kanye West. Hint: She loves pop culture!

Amy Leer uses a lot of pop culture examples in her classroom because it makes an impact on students. We identify with what's on TV and the movies, and those things often make better examples than a bunch of theory. For that reason, she's teaching a course on the HBO series *Sex and the City*. What's a better way of spending class time than watching Carrie, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte? Of course there will be informed classroom discussions and assignments to turn in. If you need more information, contact Women Studies at 737-2826, or better, sign up for the course Spring Term WS 399 on Mondays from 6-8:50 and Summer Term WS 199.

We Love Our Volunteers!

They give us their time, energy and insights. The Women's Center wouldn't be the home it is without their bright faces. This term, we spotlight the volunteers and interns that make the Women's Center more than just a blue house. By Myra Long

Megan Hollis

Intern

Junior- Political Science

Favorite album of all time: Tori Amos, From the Hotel & current album: Tilly & The Wall Wild Like Children

Megan is currently working on the WC self-assessment but generally works on various special projects.

Jenna Dinsmore

Junior- Civil Engineering

Current favorite album: Rumors-Fleetwood Mac

Jenna's been volunteering for 2 years helping with childcare night and also special projects.

Melissa Morgles Warming

Intern;

GTA in Women's Studies; MAIS in WS, Ethnic Studies & Philosophy.

Current favourite album: Lila Downs Una Sangre (One Blood)

Melissa works with community to diversity, the WC assessment, updating resources, and proudly involved with the Catholic Church.

Shagome Barsegian

Senior in Apparel Design and Merchandising Management

Her current favorite album is by Anthony & the Johnsons. Shagane was fundamental to this years art show. Without her art time, and connections, "The Beautiful Body" would not be the success it is.

Meagan Williams

Intern- Sophomore in Sociology

Current favorite album: the Fray "Hot to Save a Life" Meagan is working to bring the Residence Halls and Greek Life to Women's Center.

Jeanna Ramos

Sophomore in business. Jeanna works on various office projects (including the Zine), is on the advisory board, and is also a SOL leader. Jeanna is working not only at the WC but across campus as well.

Holly Broderich

Junior in Business Administration.

Holly helps out with the various office projects.

Mandi Reller

Sophomore in Forest Recreational Resources. Her current favorite album is Damien Rice's O. Mandi helps out on various special projects and office projects.

Amanda Carsten

Junior in Photography

Current favorite album is Coheed & Cambria's 1st album. Amanda has helped out with this Zine & the body art exhibit for "The Beautiful Body" art show.

Fatima Alramadhan is with the English Language Institute. She volunteers at the WC on Fridays and has fun with various office projects. Fatima's favorite song of all time is called "Salam Allah Ya Oma", which means "greeting to my Mother".

Melissa Brazeale is a junior in Sociology.

Her current favorite album is "Give Up" by the Postal Service. Melissa is trying to be involved with the Women's Center, working on various projects. Melissa works to increase diversity awareness.

Sarah Ghasedi is a grad student and teaches WR 121. Sarah is collaborating with the WC and bringing the Feminism Panel: What does it mean to identify as a Feminist? Check it out on Feb 23rd, 5:30 in the MU Joyce Powell room.

Aparna Narayan is a junior in Bioengineering. Her current favorite album is "Details" by Frou Frou. Aparna helps out on occasion in the office.

Elaine Daggett is a freshman in Rangeland Resources and likes British music. Elaine helps out with various office projects.

Thinking Outside the Box: Love Your Body! By Molly Gray

They are disorders that affect all genders, races, classes, sexual orientations and ages. On February 27-March 3rd the OSU Women's Center and Students Promoting Eating Disorders Awareness celebrates the awareness and education of Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Currently 5-10 million women in the United States struggle with an eating disorder, and 1 million men are fighting the same battle. It is time to educate our sisters, mothers, boyfriends, teachers, daughters and friends about these issues.

It is time to stop buying Bratz and Barbie dolls for birthday presents. It is time to stop reading Cosmo and Vogue magazines. It is time to stop obsessing over calories. It is time to stop throwing out all carbs. It is time to stop our girls' from idolizing the figures (lack of, more like), of Mary-Kate Olson and Paris Hilton.

It is time to start loving and embracing our stomachs, thighs, asses, and necks. It is time to be critical of the media. It is time to eat and drink what you enjoy without feeling guilty. It is time to throw a curve at life and reject what we are taught.

It is time to be educated about these issues. Most importantly, it is time to prevent these disorders. It is time we act and change. But it is imperative that we do it together.

To learn more contact Molly Gray at graymol@onid.orst.edu or the OSU Women's Center womenscenter@oregonstate.edu

All Week

- Presentations of "Get Real" Power Point Presentation in WS 223 and 224 classes
- At every presentation, folders will be handed out to all participants with fact sheets and information from the Women's Center and UCPS.
- Resource binders created for and distributed to all residence halls and sororities on campus.
- Letters of praise: Write thank you letters to Dove for their "campaign for real beauty" and to Kashi's movement against bad dieting.
- Letters of protest: Write letters of protest to Nutri-Grain's "Respect yourself in the morning," campaign which shows that eating one pastry will make you fat and go straight to your hips or butt. Also to Spencer gifts for their tasteless "I beat anorexia" t-shirts made for extremely overweight individuals as gag gifts. This trivializes a deadly disease.

Monday

- Posters covering mirrors in men's and women's bathrooms all across campus.
- Residence Hall Presentations:
 - *West Hall Main Lounge 4:30-5:30pm
 - *Finley Hall Main Lounge 6-7pm
 - *McNary Main Lounge 7:30-8:30pm

Tuesday

- Women's Center invites everyone to bring a picture or advertisement that promotes healthy body ideals for women to place on their Wall of Fame, followed by a discussion. This is 2-3pm at the Women's Center.
- Michelle Robero from University Counseling and Psychological Services presents: Emotional Hunger: 4-5pm in MU 209.

Wednesday

- Americorps Community Educator, Jenny Kulas will present from 5:30-7:30pm at the Women's Center on issues relating to eating disorders as a coping mechanism to issues tied to sexual assault and violence in general.

Thursday

- "Speed Learning" at the Women's Center, 6-8pm. This will be a fun, fast and interactive way to learn about food and body image is integrated in many cultures. Representatives from the cultural centers will be presenting.

Friday

- Eating Disorder Therapist, Mariette Brouwers from UCPS, will lead a workshop entitled, "Toxic Myths." It will be 3-5pm at the Women's Center.

- Cooking lesson by nutritionist for quick and easy tips for healthy recipes for college student lifestyles. Meat eaters, Vegetarians and Vegans welcome! This will be in the basement kitchens in Milam Hall.

Finding and Uniting Women by Jeanne Ramos

I am a new student to Oregon State University and have not been on the campus for about 14 years. When I arrived on the campus I found many cultural centers here to support the needs of the minority students scattered around the campus, but I am a student with many more issues to face than just the fact that I am Hispanic. I am Hispanic but I am also, Indian, German, handicap, an older student and an activist, so my issues involve more than one area. I know there are a lot of Women that fall into the same category as myself and are in need of support. The women's center is a place that supports all women no matter what their minority status or need. Many of the issues women and minorities face today are similar, so why do we fight these issues separately? Isn't there more power in groups?

The Women's Center is a place for all women to support one another, is that not what minority cultural centers are for also? I believe there is a fight out there in society today and we must gain the power of the people (ALL PEOPLE) to win! We need to work together and share in this fight to be treated equally without prejudice of color, sex, disability, sexuality or of any of the other words such as racism, classism, looksism, or any other "ism" that come to our minds. Help us by joining the fight to defeat oppression on this campus, and then society can learn from our example.

STUDENT PARENT RAFFLE

The Women's Center wants to recognize all student-parents for the workload they handle! You are all appreciated for managing school, family and life in general. Stop by and enter the student-parent raffle for recognition prizes. To enter drop your **NAME AND CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS** in the designated basket at the Women's Center. The recognition prizes will be given to 6 student-parents at the beginning of Spring Term. If there are any concerns/questions, you may contact Sophia Scott at scottso@onid.orst.edu or by calling the Women's Center at 541-737-3186.

Leaving a Legacy...the Time to Start is NOW

I often think about what I want to leave as my legacy when I retire from Oregon State University. I expect for most of those who are reading this, retirement is the furthest thing from your mind right now...and finding some kind of paid employment is a priority.

Nevertheless, I hope that everyone takes a moment to think about what impression they want to leave with others in every encounter. And when you leave OSU for life-after-college, what do you want to be remembered for?

Margaret Lumpkin died on December 25, 2005 and most OSU students will never have heard that name before. Some of us who have been at OSU for a long time will remember her as an activist for women's issues and for education in our community and on our campus. In fact, I'd go so far as to say if it wasn't for Margaret, the Women's Center might not exist. In 1973, Margaret helped to establish Benton Annex as the Women's Center and she taught a course called *American Women Today* which became the first Women Studies course.

I went to Margaret's memorial service on January 14 and in the room were many of the past *Women of Achievement* honored over the past 20 years. We were all present to celebrate Margaret's advocacy for women's rights, her 30 years of teaching in the College of Education and the legacy she left behind for all of us to continue.

Someone else died within the last month having left a legacy of service to students and others with disabilities. Gina Jackson was an outspoken advocate for accessibility on campus. During her term as ASOSU Disabled Student Affairs Task Force Director, Gina did much to raise awareness about access to classes, programs, and even to professors who wouldn't come down from their inaccessible 4th floor offices to meet with her for office hours.

For those who didn't know Gina, she used a motorized scooter to move from one place to another and when she died at age 34, left a huge hole in the hearts of many who admired her courage, her work for social justice, and her perseverance.

In reflecting on these two lives dedicated to improving the way for others, I would like to challenge you to think of what you want to leave behind. As you graduate from OSU, as you finish your service to a student organization or living group, as you move on to other things...what do you want *your* legacy to be?

Beth Rietveld
Women's Center Director