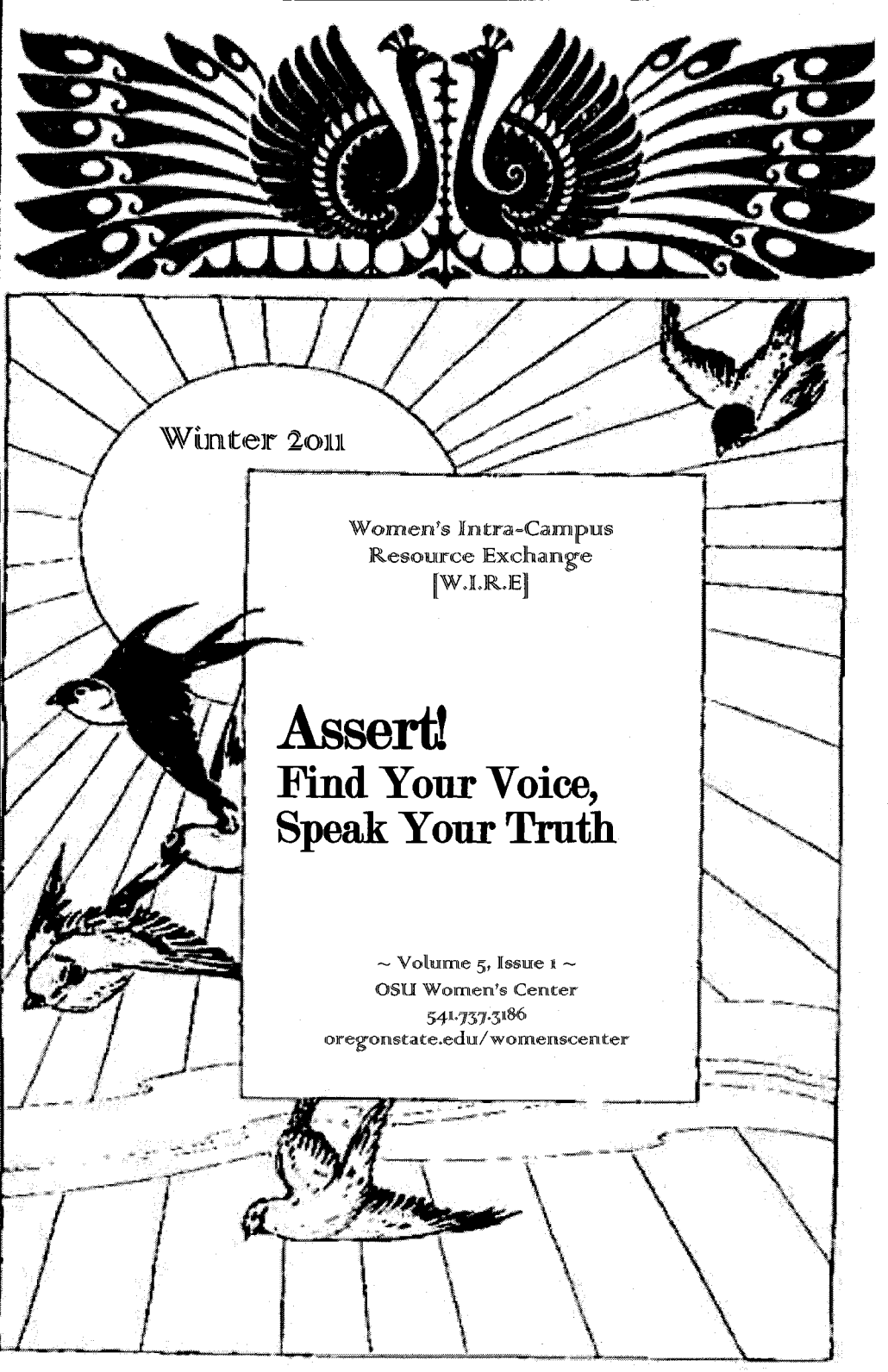

Winter 2011

Women's Intra-Campus
Resource Exchange
[W.I.R.E]

Assert!
Find Your Voice, Speak Your Truth

~ Volume 5, Issue 1 ~

OSU Women's Center
541.737.3186
oregonstate.edu/womenscenter

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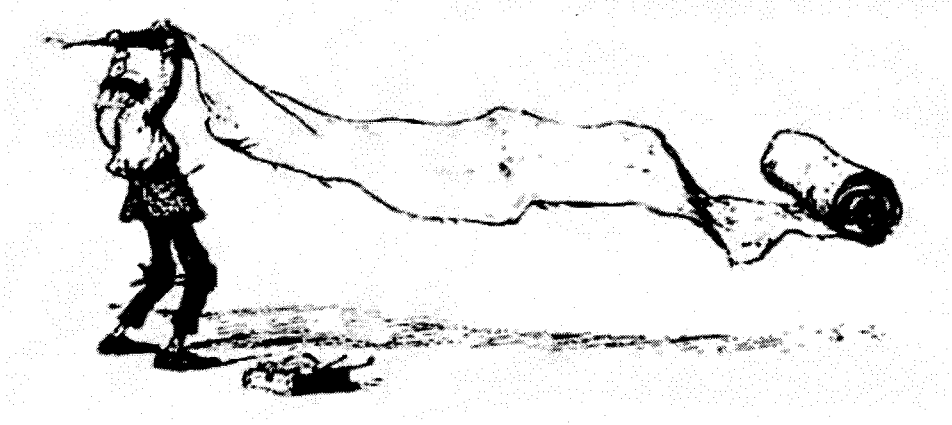

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Gettin' Dirty with Feminism

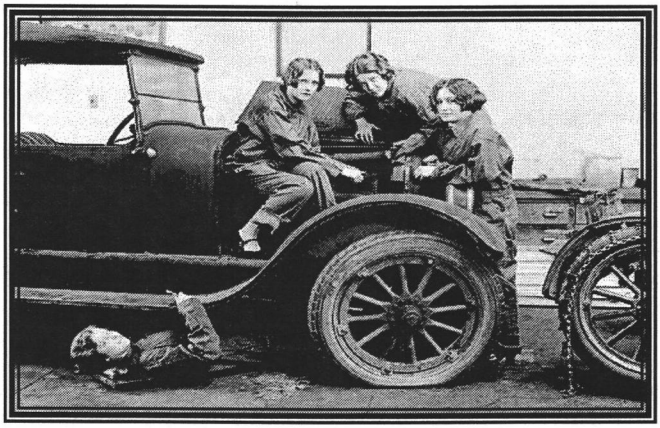
COURTNEY ROWE

Sexism is one of those unfortunate things that people like to believe doesn't exist until it happens to them. Before I became a feminist I would have denied that sexism existed. I would have told you until I was blue in the face that sexist people didn't exist anymore; and the people who claimed that it did, were just being overly sensitive and that they should stop taking things so seriously. People are just people, women are equal—after all we CAN vote. Maybe you're thinking right now that of course I would notice sexism, I am a feminist, I am more aware of injustice than I used to be. I tell you what though, even those of you who don't think sexism exists won't be able to deny that it happens after you hear my story.

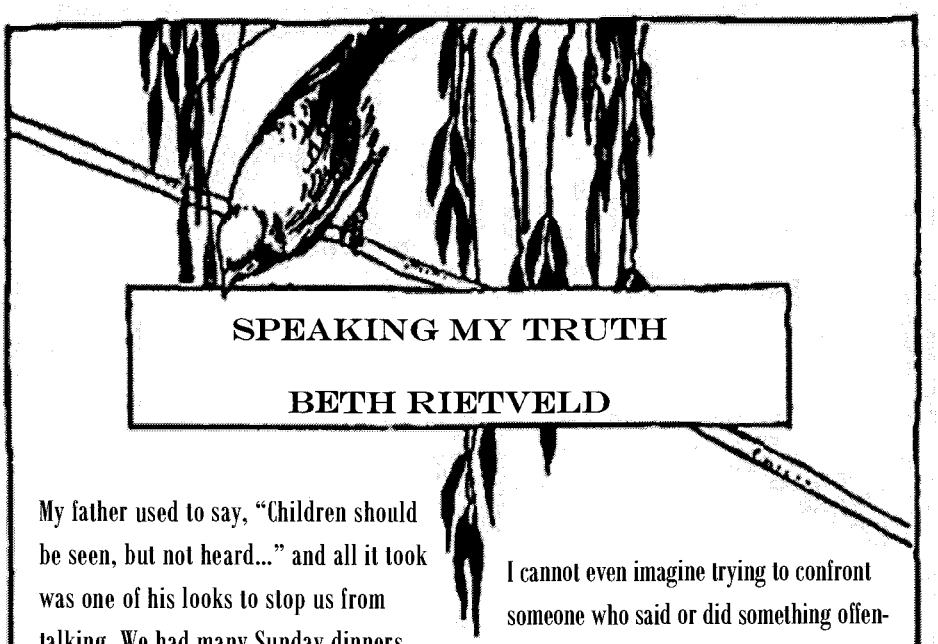
I believe in empowering women, its one of the reasons why I work at the Women's Center. As a program coordinator, I decided to start a Do It Yourself series there. The point of this program is to teach women how to do things they might not know how to do, like change the oil in their car. I didn't know how to change the oil in my car until I went to DIY Oil Change event where I was taught how to do it by an awesome female mechanic named Jonna who works at Clayton's Auto Repair.

After that event I felt compelled to try out my new found knowledge on my car because it was way over due for an oil change and I wanted to do it myself. The weekend came and I took my car over to a shop where I know the owners and they knew what I wanted to do and were completely supportive. I jacked my car up and slid under it. I'm going to admit that the car was hot, and it was cramped and I was feeling claustrophobic, and it was pretty dirty. Still, I was going to do it. I got out a wrench and started trying to loosen the plug on my oil tank. Five minutes later, I had made no progress. I lowered my car, and drove to Jiffy Lube to get them to loosen it for me.

That was my big mistake. As soon as I got there, I told that I was trying to change the oil by myself. The guy got down to my level and started laughing at me. He informed me that they see people like me a lot. I kindly asked him if they could loosen the plug so I could be on my way. He and the other mechanics shot me incredulous looks, and sneers. A one armed mechanic (his other arm was in a sling) took me downstairs and demonstrated how he was able to loosen the plug with one hand. He made me feel like a total idiot and like I was completely incapable of doing this myself. After several refusals of their services I left the store more determined than ever to prove that I could do it.



I had a very agitated drive back to the shop, I believe I muttered a lot of profanities under my breath. When I got back, I was all business. I jacked the car back up and slide under it. The dirt, heat, and grossness ceased to bug me. I was completely determined to change my oil myself and I did. I was proud of myself, for doing something I never would have thought I'd be able to do. If sexism is good for anything, I guess you could make the argument that its good for inspiring change. I felt more compelled than ever to do the oil change myself, especially when I was laughed at. I firmly believe that women can do anything and sexism is place to stop us from thinking that we can.



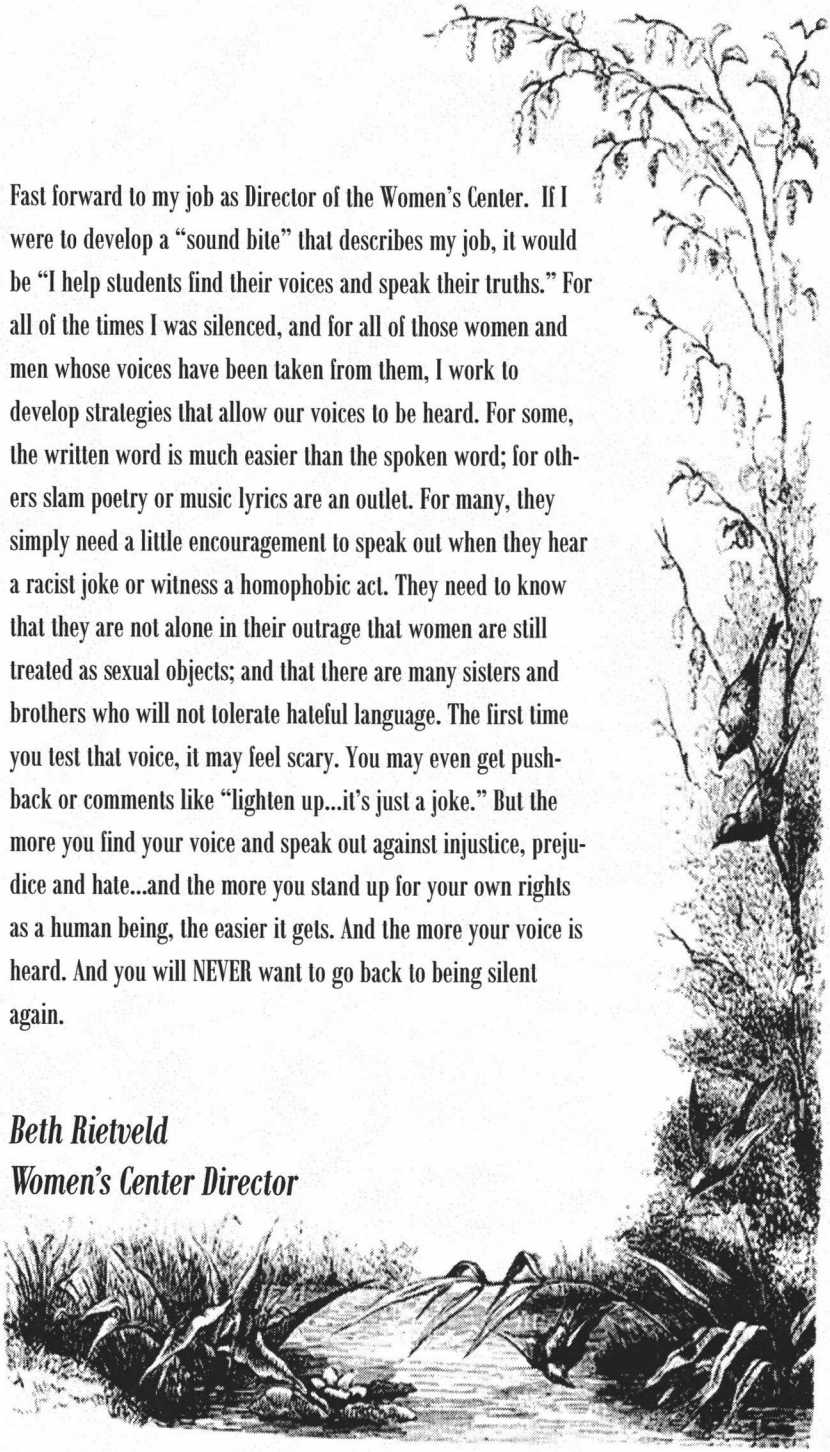
SPEAKING MY TRUTH

BETH RIETVELD

My father used to say, "Children should be seen, but not heard..." and all it took was one of his looks to stop us from talking. We had many Sunday dinners where the adults carried on their conversations about farming or the weather or local events or whoever was sick or in the hospital. But my three brothers and I were not allowed to interrupt. PERIOD.

I was fairly shy as a teenager and when I started college at the University of Illinois, it was a bit overwhelming to be in a place with 35,000 other humans. I was terrified to be surrounded by strangers and generally only went places when I was sure I would know others. Speaking up in class was hard for me, particularly since most classes had over 100 students.

I cannot even imagine trying to confront someone who said or did something offensive...and believe me, there were many in my lifetime: a church camp minister who touched me inappropriately (I cried until my parents were called to come and get me), a clarinet teacher who put his hand on my leg (I quit clarinet lessons), a math teacher in high school who made the girls write problems at the top of the blackboard so he could check out our legs (I never took calculus), the department head in grad school who sexually harassed me (I never asked him for a letter of reference), and my employer at OSU who propositioned me (he eventually left). In all of those cases there was definitely a power relationship, I was vulnerable and trusting, and the appropriate words were hard to find.



Fast forward to my job as Director of the Women's Center. If I were to develop a "sound bite" that describes my job, it would be "I help students find their voices and speak their truths." For all of the times I was silenced, and for all of those women and men whose voices have been taken from them, I work to develop strategies that allow our voices to be heard. For some, the written word is much easier than the spoken word; for others slam poetry or music lyrics are an outlet. For many, they simply need a little encouragement to speak out when they hear a racist joke or witness a homophobic act. They need to know that they are not alone in their outrage that women are still treated as sexual objects; and that there are many sisters and brothers who will not tolerate hateful language. The first time you test that voice, it may feel scary. You may even get push-back or comments like "lighten up...it's just a joke." But the more you find your voice and speak out against injustice, prejudice and hate...and the more you stand up for your own rights as a human being, the easier it gets. And the more your voice is heard. And you will NEVER want to go back to being silent again.

Beth Rietveld
Women's Center Director

Women of Achievement Award 2011

Do you know someone who engages in work that has positively affected the lives of women and serves as a positive role model for women and girls?

Think about nominating her for the 2011 Women of Achievement Awards – to be presented on ***Tuesday, April 26, 2011*** in the MU Lounge. Nominations are ***due by March 4, 2011 at 5pm*** in the OSU Women's Center.

Confidence Conference

Women often struggle with low self esteem, insecurity and lack of confidence. This half-day conference will expose you to excellent speakers, engaging dialogue and new ways of thinking about your personal success and confidence.

Friday, April 22, 2011

1:00-5:00pm

Memorial Union

Examples of Empowerment through Sex-Positivity

Rachel Ulrich
&
Alea Payne

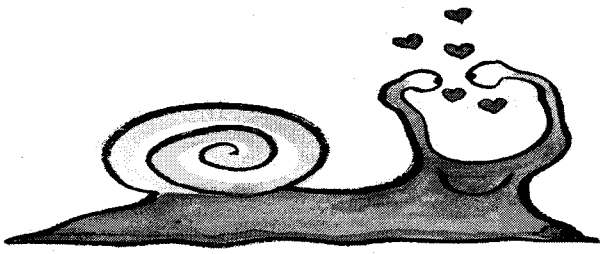
Sex-positive feminists continuously advocate sexual empowerment among women and sexual minority groups, encouraging them to have the sex THEY want, and know that they are deserving of the choice to experience happiness and intimacy in ways that are fulfilling to them.

In the fall of 2010, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community suffered tragic losses. Confronted constantly by relentless bullying, harassment, and threats from their peers, a staggering number of queer youth took their own lives rather than face another day of hatred. In response, Dan Savage launched the "It Gets Better" campaign. This campaign provides LGBT youth with an endless stream of video footage from adults telling them that high school does not last forever, and that they *will* have the opportunity to fall in love with the partner of their choice and be happy. Pixar films, the Los Angeles Gay Men's Choir, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and even President Barack Obama told our LGBT youth that it gets better after high school. One courageous Oregon State University student was so inspired by this campaign, that he launched a campus-wide "Campaign for Understanding" to create a local supportive environment for LGBT students here in Corvallis. In December, documentary director Michael Moore appeared on "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" where both guest and host mocked the two women who had accused Julian Assange of rape. In response, blogger Sady Doyle launched a Twitter campaign called #MooreandMe demanding Moore to apologize for his victim-blaming and shaming statements. Within a week, Moore appeared on the "Rachel Maddow Show" to apologize and issue a vociferous defense of rape survivors who report the crimes unjustly perpetrated against them. Keith Olbermann maintained his smug position on the topic until MSNBC fired him last week.

Also in December, MTV's *16 & Pregnant* aired a special episode called "No Easy Decision" where three teen aged women discussed their decision to terminate a pregnancy. Dr. Drew Pinsky asked thoughtful questions to give them an affirming space to openly discuss their feelings and share experiences. For the first time on television, viewers were offered a mature, graceful depiction of how young women experience abortion within the contexts of their own lives. One woman shared that she had already given birth to a baby she could barely support, and although she knew she would love the second baby just as fiercely as she does the first, she decided her energy needed to be focused on improving the situation of her current child before bringing another into the world.

All three young women expressed sadness about their pregnancies, but they showed us that women, like men, are complex beings. Even through their remorse, they expressed deep trust in themselves to know this was the right decision for them at this time in their young lives.

These three stories are examples of feminist successes in the fight for sex-positivity. Sex-positive feminists have long supported the right of LGBT people to develop a sexual identity; how can you not admire a campaign that tells gay youth that they will soon find someone with whom to fall in love and have sex? Sex-positive feminists have long decried the callous treatment of rape survivors, and MSNBC deserves respect for giving Rachel Maddow and Michael Moore a forum to encourage sensitivity toward rape and sexual assault survivors. Sex-positive feminists are especially irritated when the fluidity, complexity, and pleasure of human sexuality is ignored. In much the same way that women should not be forced to have sex they don't want, women must not be forced to create life against their will.



Dr. Jean Kilbourne

Nationally recognized author and speaker on the objectification and sexualization of women in advertising

7:00pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2011

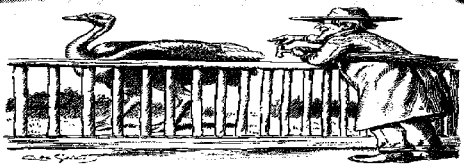
Austin Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center

Kilbourne was named by the New York Times Magazine as one of the three most popular speakers on college campuses

A Childs' First Love –Veronica Monet

Do you remember your first pet? How old were you?

I was three or four years old when my favorite aunt invited me to peer into a box of squirming kittens. They were brand new grey tabbies whose eyes were still shut tight. Their plaintive mews filled the air with a sense of sadness for me. How I longed to make them feel safe and loved. When my aunt told me I could take one of these little fur balls home, my heart leaped for joy. My very next thought was "Oh no, will my mom and dad let me keep the kitten?" I turned my pleading eyes in the direction of my parents while my aunt went to work on them with assurances that it would be good for me to have a kitten. I did get to take the kitten home once it was old enough and now these many years later, I am still struck with the intensity of that first emotional connection with a non-human life form.



Animals play an important role in my adult life too. My current animal companion is a 50 pound rescue named Amelie. She is part terrier and part boxer and 100 per cent love. Her previous owners were unkind to her and she came to my home fearful and desperate to please. It took some time to rebuild her confidence. In the beginning she didn't even know how to play with humans. If I tossed a ball in her direction she would not attempt to catch it. Instead she would cower and duck, convinced that I was trying to hit her with the ball. Today she is full of attitude and loves a rough game of tug of war.

In my professional life I teach anger management and communication skills to adults. When a client begins to retell that first pivotal relationship with an animal in their childhood, their entire demeanor is transformed. Otherwise emotionally reserved people will suddenly become less self-conscious and more animated as they retell the delight with which their particular furry friend filled their life. If the story is a sad one, I can count on tearful sobbing you might think would be reserved for the death of a parent or child. But with little exception, the deepest grief I have witnessed is reserved for that very first important relationship in the life of most children - that of their relationship with a pet.

A great deal of research supports the importance of animal companions to the lives of humans. Many studies confirm a predictive link between early childhood abuse of animals and violence towards humans in adult life. Programs which rehabilitate prison inmates by pairing them with horses or dogs who require rehabilitation too, have proven the power of the animal/ human bond to reduce recidivism rates. Therapy dogs and cats regularly visit the elderly and infirm, spreading their unconditional love and creating measurable improvements in human health and recovery rates.

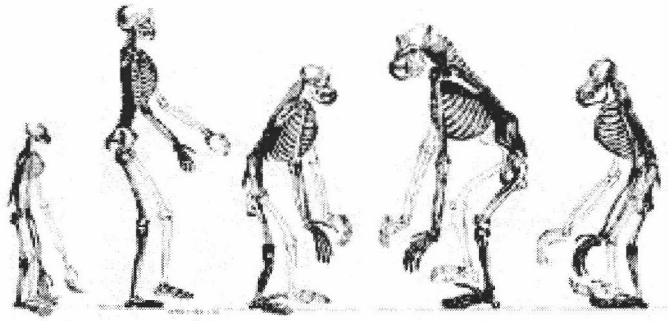
Pets are an economic priority in the United States as well, a multi-billion dollar industry which eclipses the sales of toys. More than a few immigrants to this country have marveled that supplies for dogs and cats warrant entire isles in supermarkets, not to mention huge stores like PETCO and PetSmart which are devoted to pets and pet needs entirely.

And yet, I believe we as a society are lacking a level of awareness pertaining to our pets. I don't think we understand just how crucial our early animal connections are to shaping our adult lives and human relationships. Therapy routinely focuses on our families. We are asked about our relationships with our mother, father, siblings and human playmates. But most intake forms don't have a section about pets. Most therapists do not ask their patients about their relationships with animals - whether in childhood or adulthood. Unfortunately, we are still stuck in a culture which relegates animal connections to the periphery of human psychology.

Deep ecologist, John Seed, argues that our current culture robs us of the emotional and visceral experience of the interconnectedness most of us shared with animals as small children. In fact the majority of us have been trained and shamed away from putting much importance on our connections to animals. While Americans love their pets, they still exhibit an awkwardness around expressing that love. Our laws classify pets as property and our conventions of speech relegate sentient beings to inanimate objects with pronouns like "it."

Human chauvinism, known as anthropocentrism, asserts human supremacy over all other life forms. It lives in the sacred text of many religions which believe "man" is the "pinnacle of creation." And it exists in scientific discourse which insists homo sapiens are superior to all other evolved life forms. No matter the political or spiritual orientation, people tend toward this self-serving world view.

But does it really serve us? Does minimizing and denying the heart connections, empathy, shared joys and love most of us felt for our pets when we were small children, help us to live better lives?

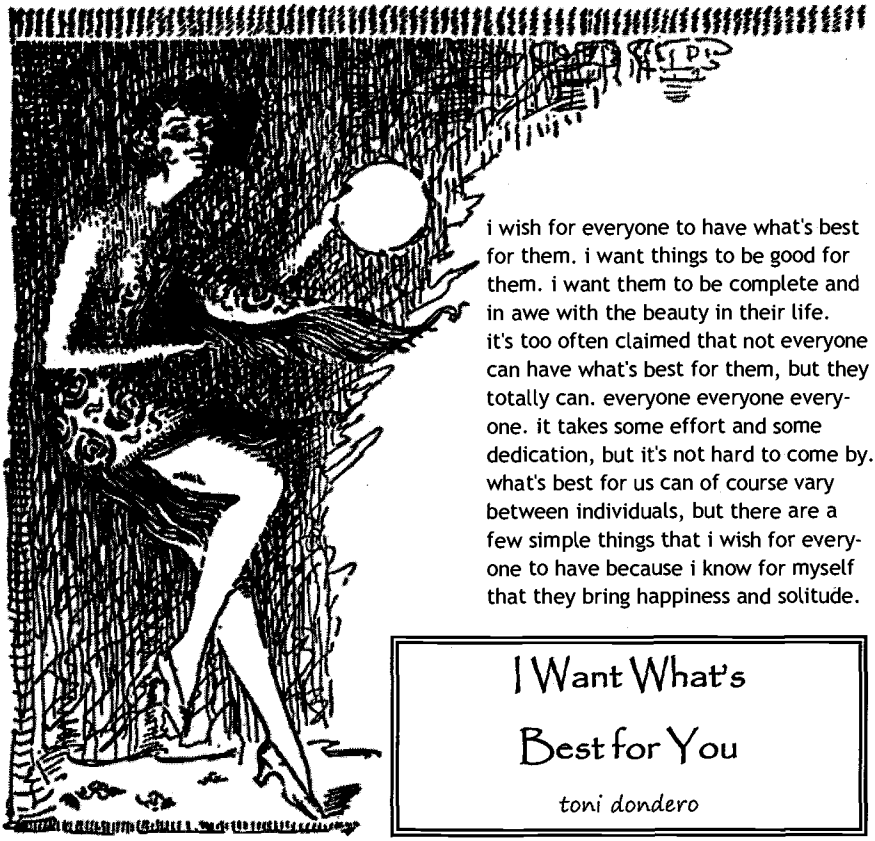


From the vantage point of my office, I would reply with a resounding "no." My clients don't come to me to talk about their childhood pets. They are there to work on repressed or acted out anger as well as sexual dissatisfaction of one sort or another. But in the process of uncovering those emotions and life events which often produce dysfunctional patterns and frustrated goals, a violation of innocence and a crushing of spirit very often reveals itself. While this may take the form of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and/or protracted illness, I have been astounded at the level of grief reserved for that first love - the love of a pet.

Humans have a long history of living in harmony with other life forms just as we have a long history of abusing anyone we designate as "other" be that another gender, another race or another species. If we are ever to tip the balance in favor of a more loving and positive culture, we must begin an open dialog about our true feelings surrounding our animal relationships. If we continue to silence the voice of our inner child and don the mask of adulthood which demands an almost robotic response our tender memories, then we continue to perpetuate a culture which is both mechanical and cruel.

I believe reconnecting to that first love - that first reciprocal relationship formed on trust and shared joy with another life form - is vital to our mental and emotional well-being as well as the capacity of the human species to survive and thrive. It could be that it even contains the solutions to violence for which we have long been searching.

Veronica Monet, ACS, CAM
www.sexwithoutshame.com
www.sextalkradionetwork.com
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Minor in Business Administration, OSU alum 1982



i wish for everyone to have what's best for them. i want things to be good for them. i want them to be complete and in awe with the beauty in their life. it's too often claimed that not everyone can have what's best for them, but they totally can. everyone everyone everyone. it takes some effort and some dedication, but it's not hard to come by. what's best for us can of course vary between individuals, but there are a few simple things that i wish for everyone to have because i know for myself that they bring happiness and solitude.

I Want What's Best for You

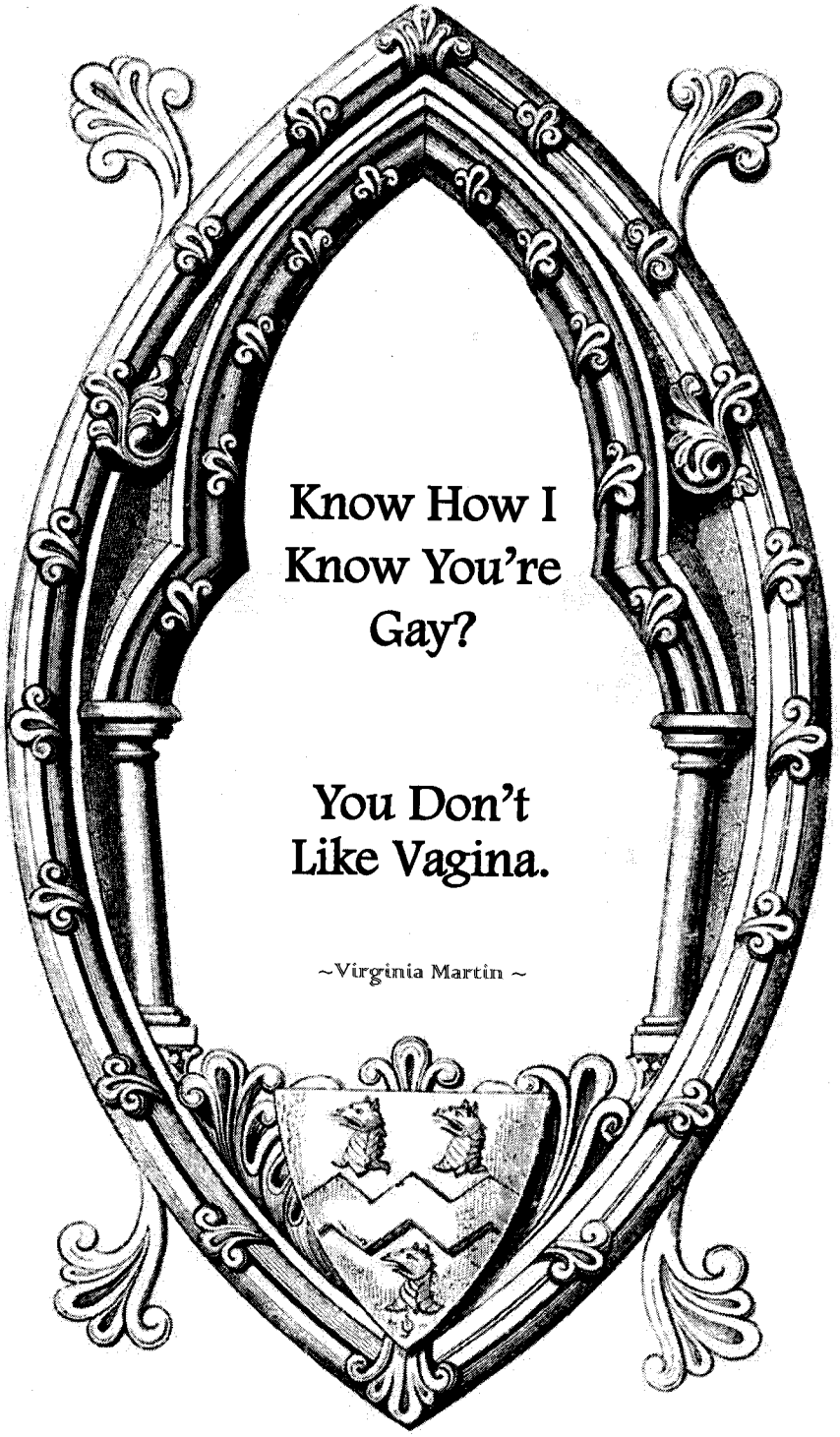
toni dondero

1. ***radical self-love:*** i can't think of any better way to describe the type of love you should have for yourself. it needs to be radical. you need to discover more things about yourself, cherish those things, share them, show them off. realize how incredibly incredible you are and love yourself for all that you are. then keep discovering more things, and keep loving.

2. ***infinite fun:*** we do a lot. we are constantly tied down by our commitments that we don't make the effort to have lots and lots of fun. sure, we make the time to go out with our friends, watch our favorite show, or get some laughs in around the office, but to actually have fun, we need to separate ourselves from our everyday routine and fully immerse ourselves in FUN. we need to go on more adventures, make new friends, sing karaoke loudly and badly, try odd foods, wear a ridiculous outfit, and let every worry in the world disappear for a bit.

3. ***unconditional compassion:*** from experience, i know that when you love, care for, and value others, it brings you a sort of lasting happiness. it is essential to have compassion for your friends and close loved ones; it isn't always convenient, but taking the time to make sure our friends have what they need and feel loved is a responsibility we have as a friend. we also need to have compassion for strangers. this is a responsibility we have as a human being. we need to do the simple task of seeing others as ourselves and treating them like the incredible, amazing beings we all are. giving the people around us the best will give us the best. work on these for yourself. help others work on them. give the best to others. give the best to yourself.

SANTIAGO UCEDA



Know How I Know You're Gay?

You Don't Like Vagina.

~Virginia Martin ~

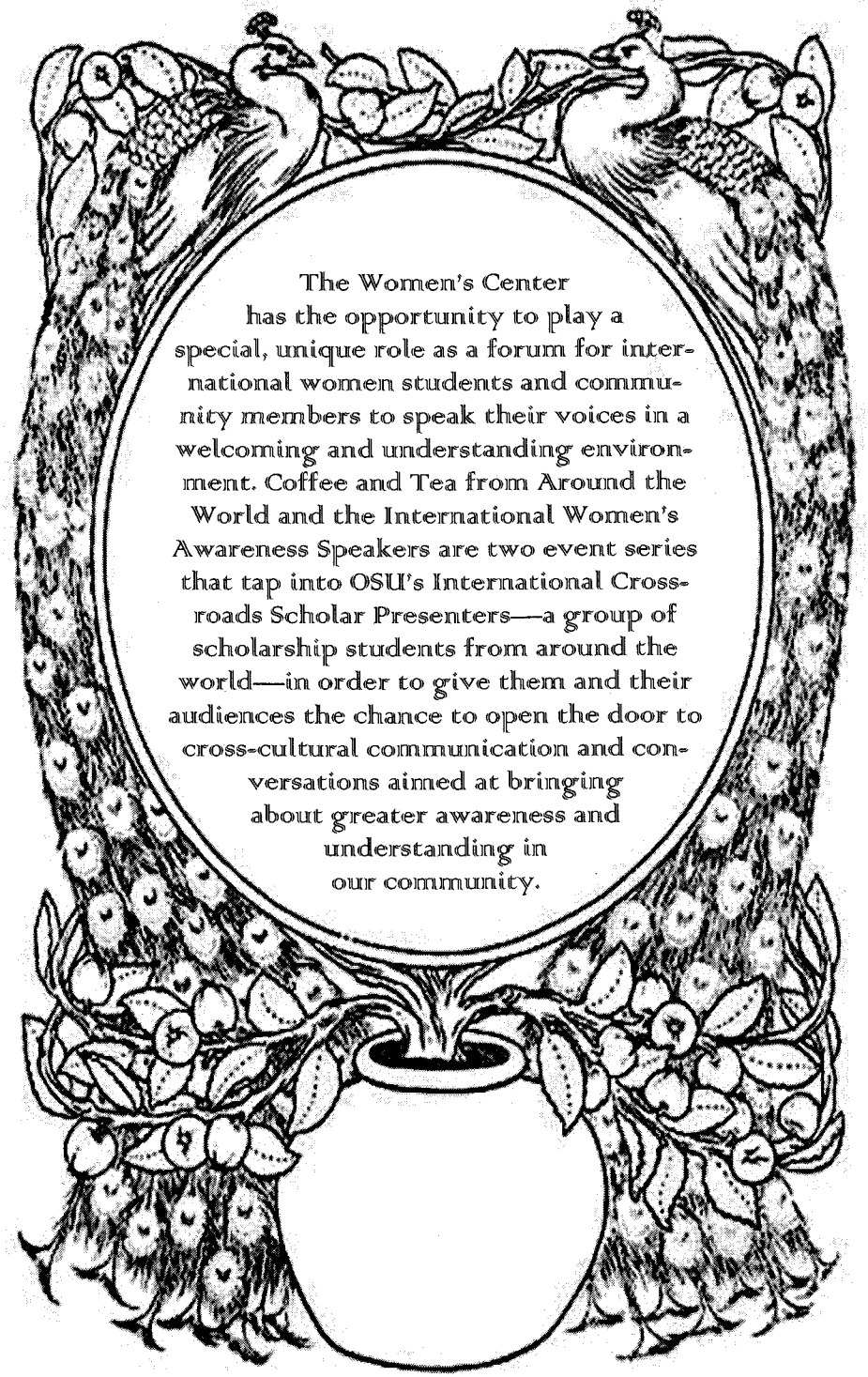
Usually I advise against questioning another person's sexual orientation - if all the hipsters of the world have decided that "pony" is an orientation, I will be the last to say "neigh." There is, however, one exception to this rule. If a man identifies as straight and then proceeds to go on and on about the stomach turning horror of giving oral sex to women, I am compelled to question either that man's claim of heterosexuality or his choices in female partners. The first thing I think is "it sounds as if you might prefer penis." I know, don't judge. It's terrible that my knee jerk impulse is to assume some gayness, but this is the place for honesty, terrible as it may be.

As a person who is actually gay(ish) and enjoys sex with women, going down is probably one of my all time favorite sexual possibilities. In fact, I would expect that people who are exclusively attracted to women would be even more enamored of the oral action than my pansexual persuasion would even allow for me to understand. If nothing else, the reptile brain of a heterosexual male should compel him toward the muff in almost every situation. Oh I know, I have heard all the ridiculous talk about the taste and the smell but that only serves to support my argument even further. If a person is physically and chemically attracted to women that taste and smell should be the best thing ever. If that is not the case, it seems only logical that either that person is not actually all that interested in women or that person has an ongoing problem with dating the hygienically challenged/irresponsible.

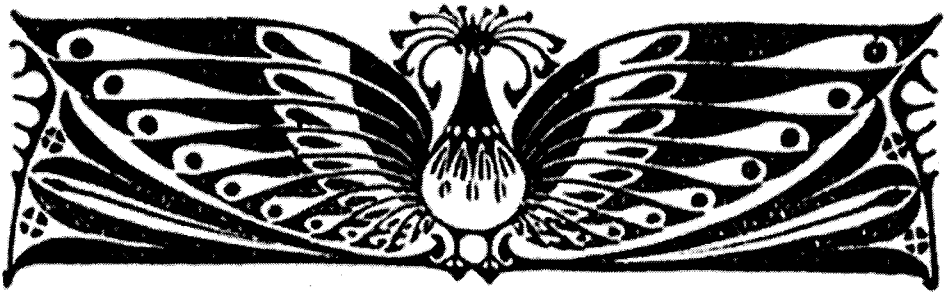
Straight guys, help me help you right now. Does it really add up in your mind that every time you have sex with the woman in your life she has a wild, mind blowing "When Harry met Sally" orgasm, yet her interest in said sex remains ambivalent at best? Are you ambivalent about getting laid? Nope? Me either. Now I will tell you why she is ambivalent and you and I are not. **MOST women can't have an orgasm without their clitoris being stimulated.** If the person you or I were having sex with complained about doing the thing that is a sure fire way to get us off, we might take on a little ambivalence too. According to Rebecca Chalker, author of *The Clitoral Truth,* California sexologists William Hartman and Marilyn Fithian monitored over 20,000 orgasms and found that it takes an *average* of twenty minutes for women to reach orgasm in the laboratory. For many women, it can take up to a half-hour or more of sustained stimulation to move into orgasmic range. You need to be dedicated, committed to the cause. And on the nights that you don't have the stamina to get the job done, do what men have done in similar situations throughout history, get out the power tools.

A vibrator provides concentrated stimulation in the places that need to be stimulated, and a vibrator's neck doesn't get acramp. Don't get all cranky, it doesn't mean she wants to replace you or that your penis isn't the most amazing thing ever (insecure much?) It just means she needs a little extra help pushing her over the edge, and friend, it is just not about you. So don't be a douche. Either face up to your gayness or go down on your girlfriend/hook-up/wife. You'll be more popular, you'll probably get laid more often, and I can stop wondering when you are ever going to come out of the damn closet.

"Despite repeated assurances that women aren't particularly sexual creatures, in cultures around the world men have gone to extraordinary lengths to control female libido: female genital mutilation, medieval witch burnings, chastity belts, suffocating corsets, muttered insults about insatiable whores, pathologizing, paternalistic medical diagnoses of nymphomania or hysteria, the debilitating scorn heaped on any female who chooses to be generous with her sexuality...all parts of a worldwide campaign to keep the supposedly low-key female libido under control. Why the electrified high-security razor-wire fence to contain a kitty-cat?" ~Sex at Dawn



The Women's Center has the opportunity to play a special, unique role as a forum for international women students and community members to speak their voices in a welcoming and understanding environment. Coffee and Tea from Around the World and the International Women's Awareness Speakers are two event series that tap into OSU's International Crossroads Scholar Presenters—a group of scholarship students from around the world—in order to give them and their audiences the chance to open the door to cross-cultural communication and conversations aimed at bringing about greater awareness and understanding in our community.



Study and Internship Abroad for Social Justice

~Nancy Staton Barbour~

Students interested in international social justice projects have an enticing range of study and internship opportunities to consider. Women around the world are leading efforts in support of gender equity, food sovereignty, sustainability, land rights, financial inclusion, and other concerns of social justice. We have much to learn from their particular challenges, methods of organization, and successes. The following are just a few of the exciting programs available for students to research issues, contribute to solutions, and learn from local organizers and leaders on many continents. Program descriptions are adapted from information provided on their websites.

SIT www.sit.edu/studyabroad

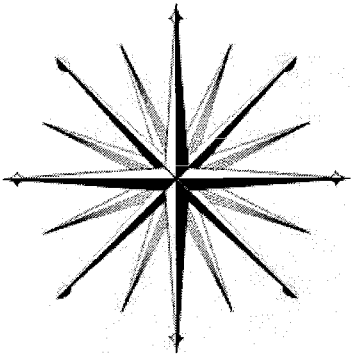
CIEE www.ciee.org

OSU http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/programs

OUS http://oregonabroad.ous.edu

OUS Australia: James Cook University

Students may take courses in Indigenous Australian studies, Asia-Pacific community development, women's studies, environmental management, social work and community welfare. Environmental concentrations include field trips to the Wet Tropic Rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef world heritage sites. Several disciplines collaborate with Indigenous communities to enhance students' understanding of local histories and current issues. Some classes offer training in research ethics and protocols for consulting with communities.



SIT Chile: Cultural Identity, Social Justice, and Community Development This program enables students to engage directly with Chilean grassroots organizations and local communities in Valparaíso on volunteer projects. Through partnership with these groups and with local residents, students learn about strategies for positive development and the many challenges of modernization and traditional ways of life in the region. Students work on community-identified projects as well as their own independent study projects. Research subjects include: the Disappeared, historical memory, and the human rights movement; urban Mapuche/Aymara culture; women's reproductive rights and public health services; and habitat degradation and local community action.

CIEE India: The Centre for Women's studies at the University of Hyderabad
Graduate and undergraduate coursework is available in a variety of subjects, including: women's movements in India; feminist political theory and the sociology of gender; population and reproductive health; women and science; women and the environment; women and global development; gendered economics; gender violence; women and religion; women and entrepreneurship; women in the Diaspora; women and performing arts; and women and intersecting marginalities.

SIT Mali: Health, Gender, and Community Empowerment
Studying the interconnections between Western African women and gender roles, family health, and development, students gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues of international health and globalization. The program visits the Malian Association for the Defense and Rights of Women, a group spearheaded by Malian women to address issues of domestic violence, health, inheritance rights, and other gender-specific problems. The organization provides local women with legal counsel, and students may be invited to attend court hearings.

SIT Morocco: Migration and Transnational Identity
This program explores issues that affect local and international migration that extend from Morocco and other parts of North and Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe. Excursions include a trip to Amsterdam to contemplate the impacts of religion, modernization, desertification, poverty, and other factors on human mobility. Joint lectures with students from the SIT Netherlands program consider the oral histories of women migrants, Islam and youth culture in Europe, and topics of women and sexuality in migrant communities.

CIEE Nicaragua: Social Justice and Development Studies
Set in Managua, with classes at the Universidad NacionalAutónoma de Nicaragua, this program introduces students to the realities of Nicaraguan society and issues of social justice, with concentrations in sustainable ecosystems and tourism, environmental economics, and post-revolutionary neoliberal society. Organized excursions include opportunities to see the work of community-based social justice groups and sustainable development organizations.

OSU South Africa: Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Pretoria
The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies uses education and activism in gender justice and human rights to promote a culture of tolerance and diversity. Faculty research interests include: body politics and the gendered crafting of citizenship; South African feminisms; women in engineering, science and technology; women and sexual health; contemporary masculinities; and gendered poverty.

CIEE Thailand: Development and Globalization
Promoting the understanding of complex development and globalization issues, the study center in KhonKaen helps students recognize their roles as global citizens. The program engages real-world issues—the effects of dams and mining, urban slums, people living with HIV/AIDS, organic farming, human rights, and NGOs—from both an academic and a grassroots perspective. Student research areas include development and planning, environmental studies, social justice, and peace studies.

OUS Tunisia: Gender, Environment, and Cross-Cultural Communication
Students may choose from programs in Mediterranean and Tunisian civilization, gender studies, environmental studies, and cross-cultural communication, in addition to language studies in Arabic and French. Courses highlight issues such as the impact of development on natural resources in North Africa, women and international literature, and the effects of gender on language.

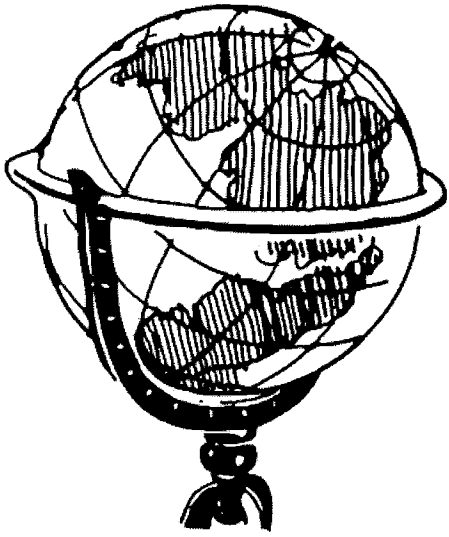
OSU: University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

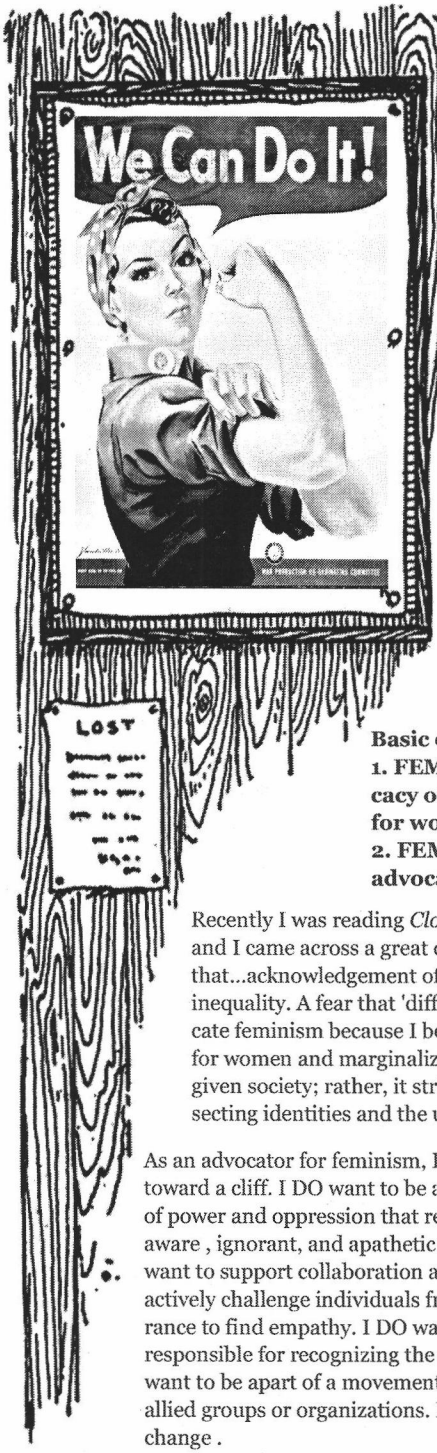
Among the attractions of seaside Brighton is a strong LGBT culture. The program in gender and cultural studies offers classes in media and film, anthropology, sociology, and international relations. "Gender, Feminism and Representation" examines the constructions of masculinity and femininity in art, literature, movies and television. Other courses consider: gender across cultures; culture, race and ethnicity; constructions of sexuality; gender politics; colonialism and postcoloniality; and sexualities in cinema.

IE3 Global Internships

Internship abroad provides the opportunity to earn credits and professional experience simultaneously. Student interns work with local schools, community centers, NGOs, conservation funds, grassroots organizations, and women's leadership foundations to promote education, health, environment, public policy, economic and social justice issues worldwide. Women in Progress (Ghana) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Ecuador) are among more than fifty internships available for students in women's studies, ethnic studies, languages, environmental studies, and other social justice fields.

Find out more at http://ie3global.ous.edu/find/category/womens studies
http://ie3global.ous.edu/find/category/womens studies
Financial aid and scholarships are offered through OSU and other sources. Contact International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA) for more information.
IDEA's offices are on the fourth floor of Snell Hall
Telephone: 541-737-3006
http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad





Developing My Feminist Political Consciousness

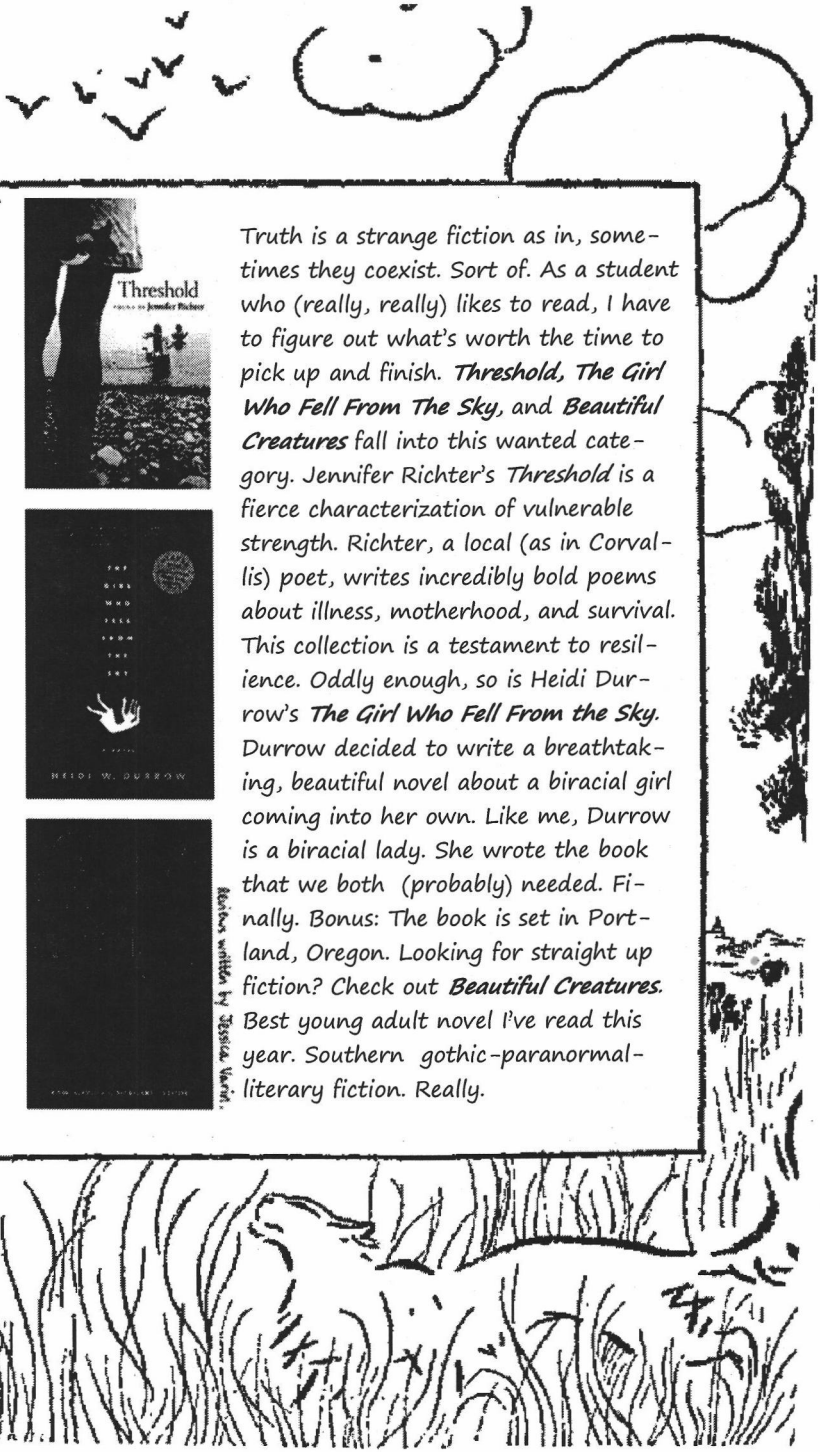
by Alea Payne

Finding feminism and developing a personal definition of what it means to advocate feminism remains a constant motivator in my life. My definition continues to grow over time, and I'm always adding to it as I move through academia and connections between my schooling and the world around me intersect, interact, and challenge or affirm their formation. The process of collecting information and transforming my knowledge is electrifying and inspiring. The evolution of my feminist political identity is deeply personal, and in practice, it energizes and provokes feminist activist action. For myself, the term feminist and feminism, and its core principles, exist on a continuum.

Basic definitions I have seen within my studies:
1. FEMINISM n. the policy, practice, and advocacy of political, economic, and social equality for women.
2. FEMINIST adj. or n. a person who advocates feminism.

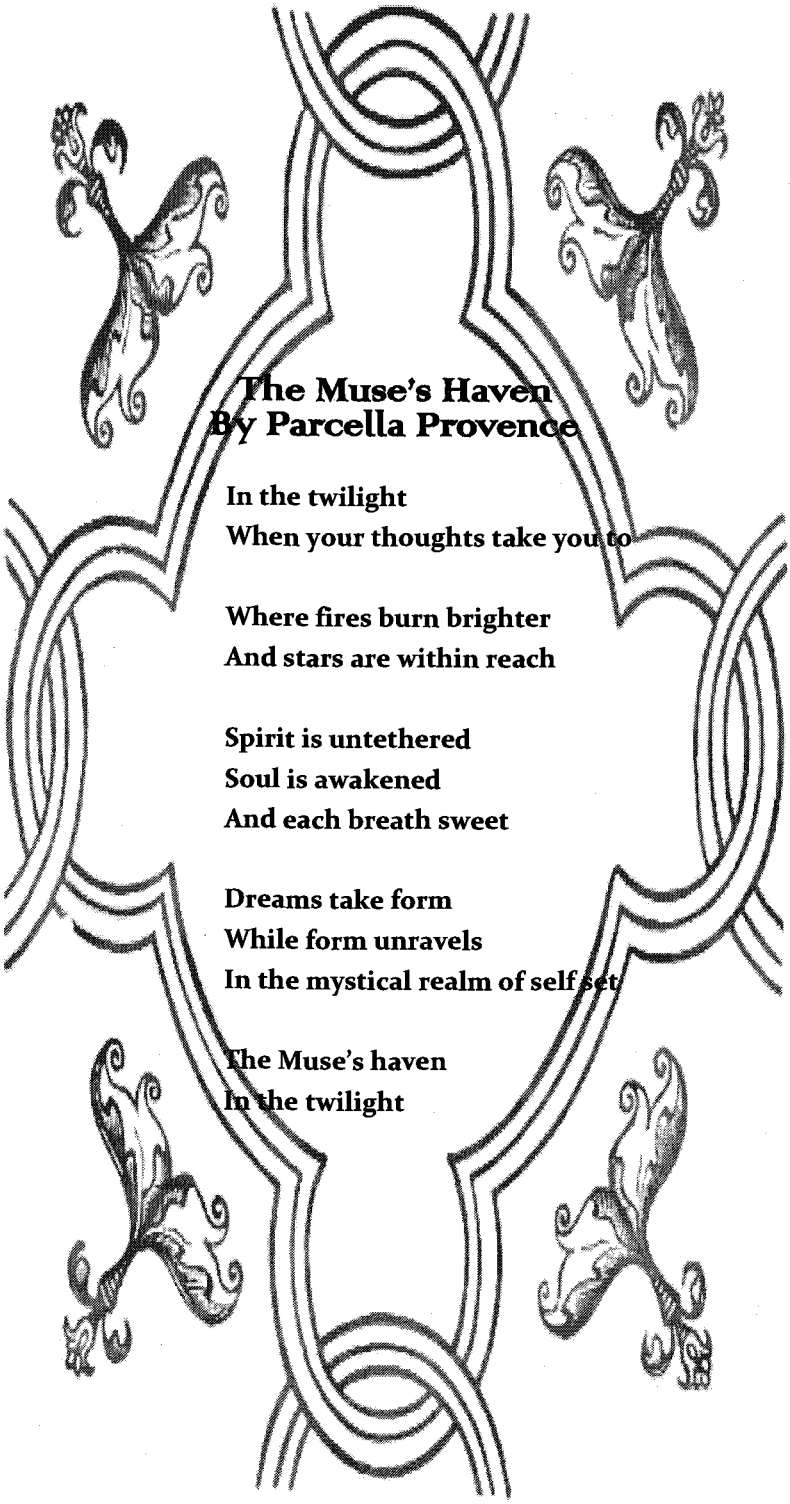
Recently I was reading *Closing the Leadership Gap* by Marie C. Wilson, and I came across a great quote: "Caution betrays a fear that...acknowledgement of difference will come to mean an acceptance of inequality. A fear that 'different from' will morph into 'less than'." I advocate feminism because I believe that as a political movement it seeks not for women and marginalized groups to be "equal" to dominant groups in a given society; rather, it strives to promote the valuation of peoples intersecting identities and the unique perspectives from which they derive.

As an advocator for feminism, I don't want to rule the world or point the men toward a cliff. I DO want to be apart of the radical dismantlement of the systems of power and oppression that restrict our movement and fight to keep us unaware , ignorant, and apathetic to communities different from out own. I DO want to support collaboration and recognition of intersectionality. I DO want to actively challenge individuals from my community to come out of blissful ignorance to find empathy. I DO want to challenged and hold myself personally responsible for recognizing the unearned privilege and power I possess. I DO want to be apart of a movement that promotes accountability of oneself and of allied groups or organizations. I DO to be a part of creating lasting social change .



Reviews written by Jessica Varner.

Truth is a strange fiction as in, sometimes they coexist. Sort of. As a student who (really, really) likes to read, I have to figure out what's worth the time to pick up and finish. ***Threshold, The Girl Who Fell From The Sky,*** and ***Beautiful Creatures*** fall into this wanted category. Jennifer Richter's *Threshold* is a fierce characterization of vulnerable strength. Richter, a local (as in Corvallis) poet, writes incredibly bold poems about illness, motherhood, and survival. This collection is a testament to resilience. Oddly enough, so is Heidi Durrow's ***The Girl Who Fell From the Sky.*** Durrow decided to write a breathtaking, beautiful novel about a biracial girl coming into her own. Like me, Durrow is a biracial lady. She wrote the book that we both (probably) needed. Finally. Bonus: The book is set in Portland, Oregon. Looking for straight up fiction? Check out ***Beautiful Creatures.*** Best young adult novel I've read this year. Southern gothic-paranormal-literary fiction. Really.



The Muse's Haven
By Parcella Provence

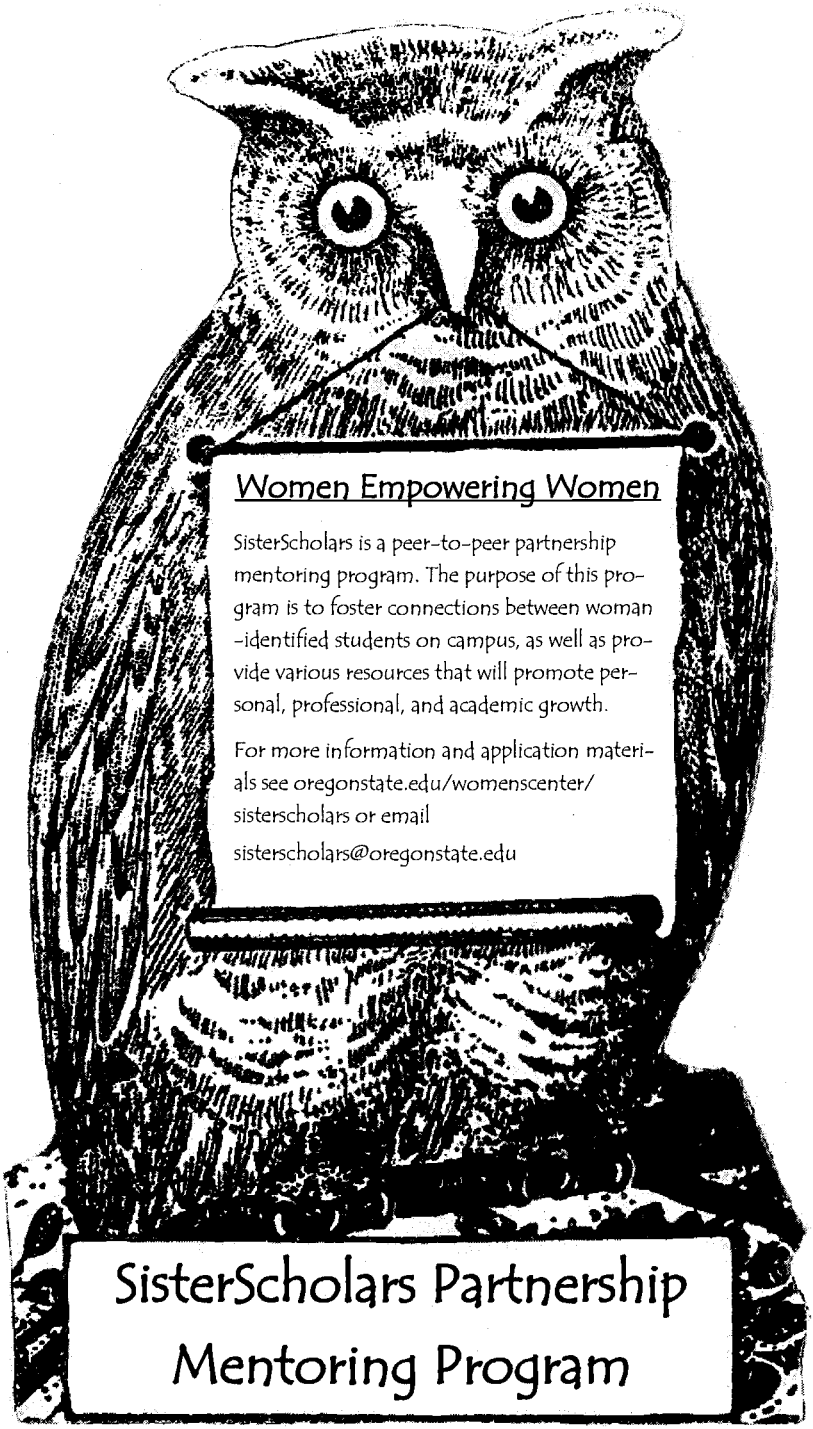
In the twilight
When your thoughts take you to

Where fires burn brighter
And stars are within reach

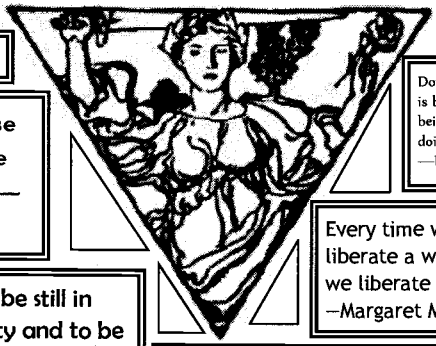
Spirit is untethered
Soul is awakened
And each breath sweet

Dreams take form
While form unravels
In the mystical realm of self set

The Muse's haven
In the twilight


Women Empowering Women
SisterScholars is a peer-to-peer partnership mentoring program. The purpose of this program is to foster connections between woman -identified students on campus, as well as provide various resources that will promote personal, professional, and academic growth.
For more information and application materials see oregonstate.edu/womenscenter/sisterscholars or email sisterscholars@oregonstate.edu
SisterScholars Partnership Mentoring Program

What inspires you?



What empowers you?

Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got. — Janis Joplin

Doing nothing is better than being busy doing nothing. —Lao Tzu

Never let the hand you hold, hold you down. — Unknown Author

Every time we liberate a woman, we liberate a man. —Margaret Mead

You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and to be vibrantly alive in repose. —Indira Gandhi

Freedom is people realizing they are their own leader. —Diane Nash

"The truth will set you free. But first, it will piss you off." —Gloria Steinem

One is not born a woman, one becomes one.

"When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak." —Audre Lorde

I'm tough, I'm ambitious, and I know exactly what I want. If that makes me a bitch, okay. ~Madonna Ciccone

Each person must live there life as a model for others. —Rosa Parks

"We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society." —Angela Davis

"The caged bird sings with a fearful trill,
of things unknown, but longed for still,
and his tune is heard on the distant hill,
for the caged bird sings of freedom."
— Maya Angelou

**"We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies."**

"Better to write for yourself and have no public, than to write for the public and have no self."—Cyril Connolly

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." —Alice Walker

"Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it with use." —Ruth