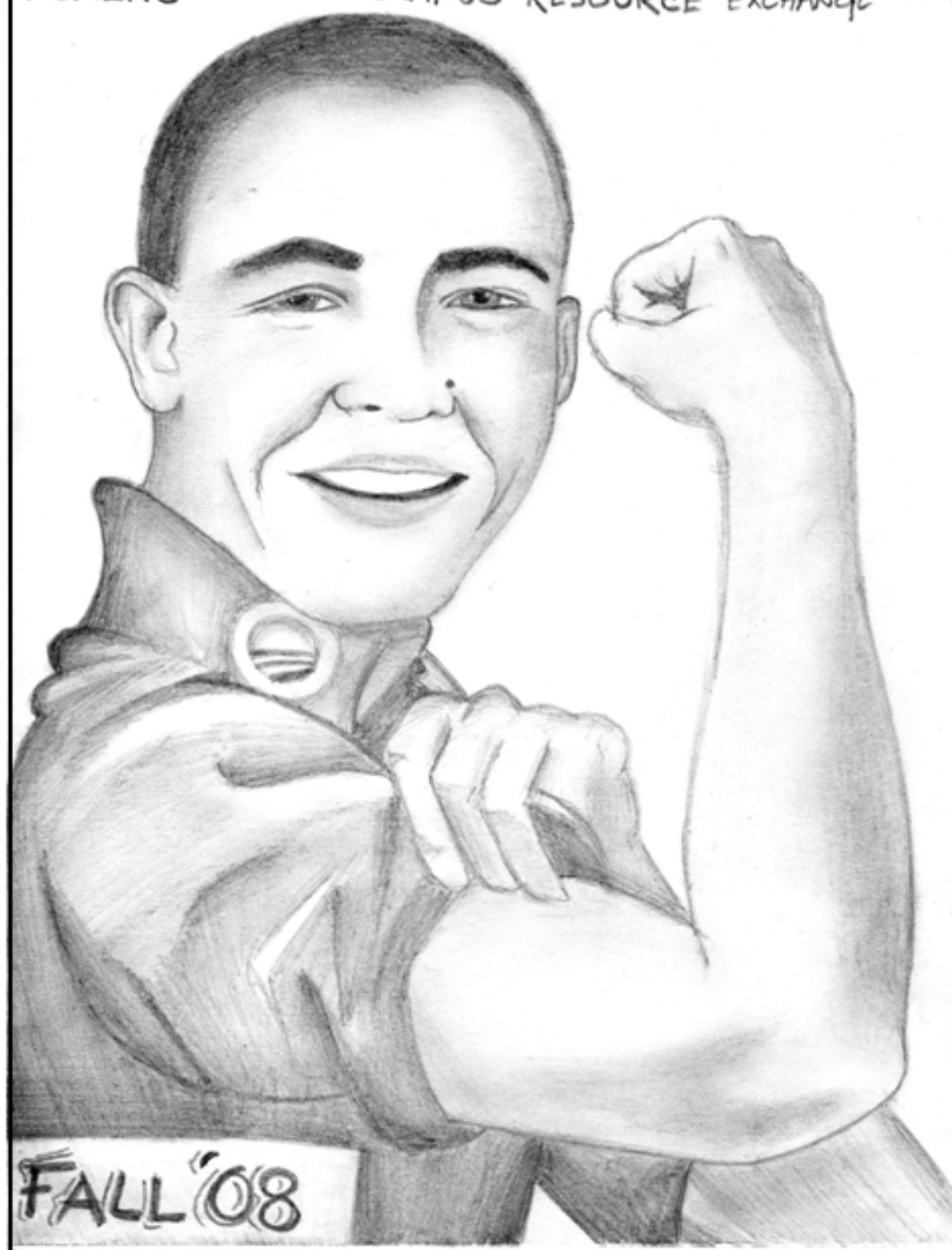


W.I.R.E. 4

WOMEN'S INTRA-CAMPUS RESOURCE EXCHANGE



Artwork by *Cassandra Pittman*

The Women's Center



Established in the 1972-73 school year, the Women's Center at Oregon State is a great place to kick-start a career in activism, form new friendships and find resources you probably didn't even know existed. We encourage any and everyone to stop by the little blue house for a visit and we promise that at the Women's Center, you'll always feel like you belong.

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday: 9-6
Friday: 9-5



Questions, comments or thoughts about the W.I.R.E.'d Zine? Send an email to Lindsay Schnell at womensceter@oregonstate.edu or call 541-737-3186. Feedback is appreciated!



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Focus on Another Center: The Pride Center

Obviously you already know how rockin' the Women's Center is because you're reading our Zine, but did you know Oregon State also has a slew of other super-cool and life-changing cultural centers? One of those is the **Pride Center**, a safe space for the LGBTQIA community that provides support services, education, outreach, community development, visibility and advocacy.

The Pride Center affirms the identities and empowers the lives of the LGBTQI people by fostering an opportunity for individuals to explore aspects of sexual orientation and gender identity in an open and non-judgmental atmosphere. It's located on campus of course, specifically at **1553 SW A Avenue**. You can also check out their website at <http://oregonstate.edu/pridecenter/>. Of course you'll want to visit them (hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 10-6 because they're involved in a lot of cool events. Want proof? Fall term they hosted **National Coming Out Week**, were a major co-sponsor of **Trans Awareness Week**, held the West Coast full-length premier of *Still Black*, a full-length documentary depicting the lives of black trans men, and held a **Safer Sex Party**. But wait, there's more! Winter term they

plan to host, among other events, **World AIDS Day**, **Sexual Responsibility Week** and the **LGBT Career Fair**.

Also, there's this: the Pride Center houses a drag corral in its basement ... isn't that reason enough to go check out what's going on over there?

And if you don't believe us, just listen to what Luke Sugie has to say: "There are so many good resources there. They have so many books, I don't know what to do—it would take me years to read them all. It's a little out of the way but I make time to come down here and so do other people."

"I think that says a lot about how important it is."

—Angie Tissi



What a Woman!

Ilene Kleinsorge came to Oregon State University originally as an accounting professor. Now, 22 years later, she's running the department. With Ilene at the helm of the College of Business, women make up 48 percent of the program. She has been the Dean of the CoB for five years, a position that just 10 percent of women around the country hold. In 2007 Ilene founded the Women's Empowerment Exchange, WE², an organization designed to put women leaders in business in front of and beside students. Now with more than 80 members, WE² serves as a social network that helps develop professional women. For her work advancing women on campus and in the community, Ilene has been chosen as this term's "What a Woman!"



Q: Who is the most influential woman in your life and why?

A: My mother, who told me I could do anything I wanted and encouraged me to try, and my daughter for very similar reasons. She believes I can do anything, too.

Q: Why do you think it's important to work to help the advancement of women?

A: I think talent squandered or missed is something that our society can ill afford. I see extreme talent and potential in our women that sometimes needs to be nurtured differently.

Q: When and how did you first discover that helping advance women was going to be one of your goals? When was the "ah-ha!" moment?

A: A group of MBA students came to me in the early 1990s to talk about developing a course about women and leadership at the graduate level. I was an accounting professor at the time. But listening to these women tell their stories and watching the reaction of young women students gave it a target to women that I could define.

Q: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

A: That I raised two children who contribute to their communities, who are wonderful parents and who have a strong sense of empathy.

What a Woman, cont.

Q: What's your advice to women who are struggling to find their own power?

A: Believe in yourself, be authentic, don't be afraid of shared power and find a vision.

Q: If you could change one thing for women at OSU, what would it be?

A: That every woman on campus would feel value in her contribution, regardless of her position – student, classified, leader, whatever. I think identifying your own definition of success and then living with that is important. And then you work to achieve that definition and strive to continue to learn, but be confident with where you are.

Q: You're one of only three female deans on campus – what's it like?

A: Woo-hoo! Being a dean is a privileged position, whether you're male or female; you represent a group of talented students and staff. Sometimes it's just hard to do the position (regardless of your gender). I don't know if it would be easier if there were 12 female deans. I think we miss opportunities for diversity by not having more diverse leadership, but I value all the other deans' perspectives. We need more women in leadership roles (on campus) because it brings a diverse perspective.

Q: How do you balance your work with the rest of your life?

A: Right now I don't! (laughs) When you have a vision and a passion for what you're doing you run the risk of that passion taking over your life and when you're in the building mode, it's always hard. But I try to find social time with friends and quiet time on the weekends. I try to interject a sense of normalcy.

Q: What is the best gift you've ever received?

A: Health

Q: Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

A: If you say a feminist is one who believes that women have talent and should be able to develop to their highest potential then yes, I'm a feminist.

**“I think identifying
your own definition
of success and then
living with that is
important.”**

—Interview conducted by Lindsay Schnell



Student Showcase

The following poems, photographs, paintings and drawings represent just a few of the immensely talented women we have on this campus. Enjoy their work and if you have something you'd like to submit, email womenscenter@oregonstate.edu.

Untitled

By Amy Zacher

Boobs are God's way of saying hooray
They're always ready to party
to swing into action on a moment's notice
Like a best friend
they'll be the magic provider of confidence
Better than any shot of courage

So lift your hands up and shout for joy
Whether they're big or small
Whether you've got one or two
Whether they're in their prime or past

Say hooray!

White Girls With Curves

By Laura Warden-Camp

You've looked
all your life
in the mirror,
wishing you were
slimmer, a bit tighter,
or maybe a lot.

I have not.
I was raised by people
of a different standard.
Rounder,
with spirits that burn.

Men appreciated my
physique, while you
never asked them at all.
You cried in loose jeans:
“Why am I so bottom heavy?”
I say hon, you need a cushion.

When I was dancing
everyday and
stressing even more,
my curves began eroding.
I couldn't stop them – I tried.

Ten pounds I lost,
while you gained five.
You still weighed less than
me.
Your friends tell you
you're getting fat.
Boys tell me I'm sickly.

Oh, excuse us for having
a natural adjustment.
We're 5'4" and slim –
not fat, not thin.
What do you want from us?



Manifesto by Neebinnaukzhik Southall



What will our next president do for women.?



A victory for women: Feminists sound off on what Obama's election means for the future

By Lindsay Schnell

As Barack Obama took the stage in Grant Park late on the night of November 4, 2008 to give his acceptance speech, political pundits across the globe talked of how with Obama's victory, racial barriers had fallen and his win was a win for all minorities. There is no doubt that was, and is, true. But what does Obama's victory mean for women?

Ariel Levy, author of *Female Chauvinist Pigs* and a well-known speaker on feminist issues, says that Obama's victory is truly a victory for women.

"I think the Obama presidency will be great for women—a huge improvement over what we've had for the past 8 years," Levy said in an email interview. "First of all, I think Obama is serious about dealing with poverty and healthcare in this country, two issues that disproportionately affect women. He is going to stop rolling back reproductive freedom. And he is going to appoint judges who take seriously women's right to equal protection under the law."

Levy is of course alluding to a woman's right to choose, a hot topic in the 2008 election that was fueled by the Republicans' nomination of Sarah Palin, someone who is staunchly pro-life. It is expected that at least one, if not two, Supreme Court Justices will retire in the next four years, which means the next president will appoint judge(s) to replace the departing. Should John McCain and Sarah Palin have won the election these Supreme Court seats would have surely been filled by conservative judges who have fought to reverse *Roe v. Wade*.

From a feminist perspective, Levy is in good company. In its weekly newsletter, NOW President Kim Gandy said the "historic win by Barack Obama and Joe Biden is truly a victory for women and girls in the United States and around the world. After eight years of the Bush admini-

stration slashing away at women's and civil rights, shredding social services, and favoring ideology over science, women voters cleaned house today."

Obama's win has hit close to home, too. Alisha DeVogele, ASOSU Director of Women's Affairs, says she has confidence the new president will be good for women because of decisions he's already made.

"I think Obama will be good for women because if you look at his cabinet selections, especially his United Nations Representative (Susan E. Rice) you see he has picked a woman who has a past fighting for women's issues and that's great because it shows that he's serious about helping women around the world," DeVogele says.

"As much as we'd like to believe the United States is a bubble, the truth is that oppression somewhere affects women everywhere because ideas, values and beliefs transcend imaginary borders on a map."

Obama has also said he's serious about getting women equal pay for equal work, citing that he wants his daughters to earn as much as boys their age would. Levy, who says pay equity has always been a "pillar" of feminism, believes this is yet another reason Obama will be good for the country.

Another reason supporters cite is because of Obama's work to stop violence against women. Many might not know it, but Obama introduced legislation to fight domestic violence, and helped reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (which received a lot of support from the soon-to-be Vice President Joe Biden when it was first introduced more than a decade ago) in January of 2006.

Overall, Levy says women across the nation should be happy.

"I think, frankly, that Obama's victory is one for all Americans—even those who don't realize what they have gained," she said. "The promise of having him as my president has renewed my respect for my country."



Did you know 1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted in their time on campus, and most of the time, alcohol is involved in those assaults? No woman should ever be left behind. Buy a bracelet, support the cause.

\$1 at the Women's Center.

Want to end violence against women? Us, too. We've started our movement with by making a calendar that finishes the phrase: "When Violence Against Women and Children Ends, I Will ...", featuring some of the coolest women on campus. You can start your movement by purchasing a calendar at the Women's Center for only \$15. They'll make great holiday presents ...



Dear Mr. President ...

As the expectations mount for our President-elect, I would like to add one more. Mr. Obama, as you dive into fixing the US economy, digging out of the quagmire in Iraq, and repairing international relations I would like to echo Abigail Adams, whose husband was facing similar crises, and remind you to remember the ladies. Not just any ladies, in particular the poorest and most underserved women of the world for whom US international aid dollars provide their only access to healthcare.

In 1984 President Regan instituted the Mexico City Policy, now generally known as the Global Gag Rule. It states that organizations receiving USAID funding cannot provide abortions (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest), provide abortion counseling, information, resources, or lobby for increased access to abortion in their home countries. As an executive order this policy is not subject to congressional review or vote.

The Global Gag Rule was repealed under President Clinton, but was reinstated by President George W. Bush the day after his inauguration. Basically, this means that organizations can lose their funding and US donated condoms and contraception for simply giving women all the facts. This is particularly problematic for organizations in countries like South Africa, where the AIDS epidemic requires by law that healthcare officials provide patients with information about *all* their options. There are a lot of issues involved—the right of women to access healthcare, the right of doctors and organizations to provide the services they see fit, and the right of people to not have someone else's values forced upon them.

The good news is that Susan F. Wood, co-chairman of Obama's advisory committee for women's health, has said that the President-elect intends to reverse harmful policies that link AIDS funding to promotion of abstinence and monogamy. So, on January 21, 2009 I am hopeful that the world's most vulnerable women will be able to access healthcare in all its various forms without the US forcing a singular version of morality on

—Elle Publitz



Sarah Palin

I wish I could say the selection of Sarah Palin, the first woman to put be on a Republican presidential ticket, made the feminist in me blush with joy. But that would be a lie, and my parents always told me lying was wrong. The truth is that when I first heard about Palin and all she stood for, I gave serious consideration to throwing my TV out the window I was so irritated. This would not be considered “inclusive” of me, and therefore might violate the feminist doctrine.

Like her, love her or hate her, think she's unqualified or think she's brilliant, Sarah Palin won't go away. And regardless of how you feel about her, it's important that we take a step back and examine what Sarah Palin's effect on women has been and will be.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a Palin fan by any means. But that doesn't mean I wasn't furious with those who were questioning if she was doing her “womanly” duty by leaving the kids at home. Are you kidding me? It's 2008, people! Is anyone asking Barack Obama—who has two young daughters—if he's wrong for leaving his kids to run for office? Absolutely not. It's time we stop thinking a woman and man have two different places and roles in our society, and recognize that all human beings need to contribute. If Sarah Palin and her family have decided to run their household with Dad home more of the time than Mom, that's no one's business but their own.

And, while I would be the first one to hop a plane to Europe should Palin ever be in charge of this country, I will say this: No one made a big deal about a woman being on the ticket. Hillary Clinton braved the path by herself in a long primary run, and it paid off for Palin. No one complained about a woman being on the ticket; the complaint was that the woman chosen might be unqualified. But this means that the next time a woman does run—and hopefully someday does *win*—it will already be normalized. Obama broke huge racial barriers by being voted the first African-American president. The next time an African-American is elected, we'll be used to it, just like the first time a woman is elected we'll be used to the idea.

And if you think of it that way, maybe Palin actually did some good things for women, however unintentional it may have been.

—Lindsay Schnell

Have you read any amazing books by women authors lately?
Want to discuss them with others? Those interested in
starting a book club should contact Stephanie McClure at
sawyers@onid.orst.edu. Word lovers wanted.



Director's Cut

I can hardly describe the rush I felt when CNN, NBC, CBS and ABC called the election for Obama. I had the remote control in my hand and kept switching channels just to make sure that it was real.

I had been invited to several election night parties, but somehow it seemed more meaningful to invite a close friend to our house for dinner and watch the results from the safety of my own space. We had tears during the acceptance speech and while I have been known to cry publicly, I was glad to do so privately this time.

This was the first election in which all of my children and step-children voted. It made me appreciate their adulthood for the first time ... and gave me some joy that Courtney and Jesse will remember their first presidential election as groundbreaking.

It caused me to think back to the first time I voted in 1972 for George McGovern. The significance of my voting in 1972 was that this was the first presidential election in which 18-year olds could vote. The voting age was 21 prior to 1971, but the argument was made successfully that if 18-year olds could fight and die in Viet Nam, they certainly should be able to vote for those who control the decision to go to war in the first place.

What an impact the 18-24 year old voters had on this election! It is hard to think back to a time when most college students could not vote.

The outcome notwithstanding, I was more sick and tired of the election this year more than any other. The attacks ads, the sheer quantity of ads, the junk mail, the signs everywhere, the sound bites that kept being repeated...all caused me to wish this to be over more than two months ago.

And why could the candidates not talk about "Josephine the Plumber," instead of Joe. And more attention to women's issues would have been nice. I know that the economy is issue number one, but women who might be single moms (or not) are disproportionately affected by unemployment, lack of healthcare, education, family violence, etc.

So now what? I am hopeful that the tide of emotion and excitement will result in an engaged and active group of new voters; an assembly of young citizens who want to create social change. I am excited for a future that will not only affect my life, but will connect my children and future grandchildren to opportunities for service. I am hopeful that conversations about race, gender, class, ability and sexual orientation will be more about highlighting the humanity of all than about taking away rights. And I am thrilled that we may for the first time in a very long time, come together across liberal and conservative lines to create a nation that we can be proud of...a nation where

ALL women and men are created equal.

—Beth Rietveld, Director

