

Coffee Creek an Unexpected Place for Hope

A day at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility changed one woman's outlook on Oregon's penitentiary system

By Emily Wheeland

Upon first hearing about the possibility of taking a "staff field trip" to the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for women in Wilsonville, I was excited. I thought, "Hey, I'm a feminist, I'm in Women's Studies, I should take every opportunity available to learn about the situations of women with lives and issues different from my own."

But when I was told by a few people with personal connections to the cor-

rectional system how much more obnoxious, threatening, and intimidating female inmates are when compared to males, what had initially been excitement grew into anxiety and nervousness. Being the worrywart I am, I imagined walking down a long corridor of cells, women yelling obscenities at me through the metal bars, the only thing keeping them from beating the living daylight out of me.

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Tara Moore

Wilsonville resident Larry Eaton has buried school buses in protest of the location and zoning issues involved with Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Residents would like to see the area rezoned a commercial area so they can move and profit from the sale of their land.

OSU Folk Club; a history of service with more to come

By Tara Moore

The OSU Folk Club began out of necessity; the women of OAC needed a social outlet and a place to explore other cultures with other female faculty and staff. The wives and daughters of college employees, also became part of a group that continues to this very day.

"When you join the Folk Club, you meet people from other departments," said Kathy Heath, the Chair of the OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop.

Folk club members enjoy a variety of interest groups and involvement opportunities including a bridge group and special events for those women experiencing their first or second year at OSU. The best-known activity is volunteering at the thrift shop, located at 144 NW 2nd Street.

The money generated from the thrift shop circulates back into the community through scholarships and charitable grants to community groups.

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OSU ARCHIVES

The Folk Club has been a place for women of the college to socialize. A few of those pictured are OAC librarian Ida Kidder and wives of distinguished faculty including Mrs. Ida Callahan and Mrs. R.H. Dearborn as they celebrate Washington's Birthday, circa 1915.

Safer Sex Practice Tips from the Doctor



By Dr. Kathy Greaves

Instructor for the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences

Safer sex practices are important for anyone who is sexually active and is not 100 percent sure that their partner is free from a Sexually Transmitted Disease or a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STD or STI). When most people think of using safer sex practices, there are usually two things that come to mind. The first thought is trying to prevent the transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Keep in mind, however, that there are a number of other viral infections that are transmitted sexually. The importance of an infection being viral is that viral infections, by their very nature, are not curable. They are only treatable, meaning the virus will live in your body forever and you will have the STD forever. Viral STDs include Herpes, HPV or Genital Warts, and Viral Hepatitis A and B. There are also numerous bacterial infections that are transmitted sexually. These include, but are not limited to, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis. Bacterial infections, for the most part, are easily cured using antibiotics. The second thought with regard to safer sex practices is using a condom. Keep in mind, however, that many STDs/STIs are transmitted via skin-to-skin contact and there are lots of skin surfaces that are not protected by a condom.

There is a common misconception that only heterosexual and bisexual women are at risk, while lesbian women need not worry about STDs/STIs. I think this misconception is grounded in the myth that STDs/STIs are transmitted through sex, with sex being penile-vaginal intercourse. Therefore, if you do not have penile-vaginal intercourse, you are not at risk of contracting an STD/STI. The truth is that what puts a person at risk is what they do and how they do it, not with whom they do it or what their sexual orientation might be. Therefore, this discussion will focus more on the many sexual behaviors women might participate in and how to go about participating in those behaviors in a safe manner.

Before discussing various sexual activities, it is important to mention a few things about how these infections and

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W.I.R.E.
Women's Intra — Campus Resource Exchange — Spring 2003

WOMEN'S
CENTER

OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY

4th Annual Conference on Gender & Culture April 23rd and 24th, 2003 Memorial Union 206, 207, and 208

Wednesday, April 23rd

12:00-1:00 p.m., MU 208

Feeling Our Way: How Emotions Work at Work

Ann Virtu Snyder, Trainer and Women
Studies Instructor

1:00-1:30 p.m., MU 208

Intersection of Gender and Cul- ture: A Comparison of Adolescents' Ideologies in Japan and the U.S.

Yoshie Sano, PhD candidate, Human De-
velopment and Family Studies

2:00-3:00 p.m., MU 208

Orientalism, Western Interpreta- tion and Feminism in Islam

Laurie A. Erickson, MAIS student in Ethnic
Studies, Women Studies and Anthropology

3:00-4:00 p.m., MU 208

Opportunities and Challenges for OSU Women in Engineering and Chemistry From Women Students' Perspectives

Carole Ann Crateau, University Honors
College Instructor

Anna Schrage, Student, Engineering

Emily Simpson, Student, Chemistry

4:00-5:00 p.m., MU 208

Experiential Learning at Oregon State University: A Collaboration of the Women's Center and Women Studies Department

Jennifer Almquist, MAIS student in
Women Studies

Beth Rietveld, Director, Women's Center
and Interim Director, Student Involvement

4:30-7:00 p.m., MU 206

6th Annual International Feminist Film Festival

*Our Sisters Too: Women in the Middle
East*, featuring:

The Settlers and *The Women of Hezbollah*

7:00-9:00 p.m., MU 208

Women in Politics, Government, and Law Panel, featuring:

Kelley Wirth, State Representative

Karin Stauder, Corvallis Police Detective

Patricia Lacy, Office of Legal Advocacy

Alana Jeydel, Assistant Professor, Political
Science

Thursday, April 24th

12:00-12:30 p.m., MU 208

A Health Education Approach to Protect Female Violence Victims in Rural Tajikistan

Lola Yuldacheva, MD, Visiting Professor,
Public Health

1:00-2:00 p.m., MU 208

Diaper Divas: Examining and Countering the Sexualization of Young Girls in the U.S.

Elizabeth Sweet, Student, Sociology

Jen McBrian, Student, Liberal Studies

2:00-3:00 p.m., MU 208

Establishing A Peer Mediation Center

Patricia Lacy, Director, ASOSU Office of
Legal Advocacy

Alicia Crain, Intern, ASOSU Office of
Legal Advocacy

2:00-4:30 p.m., MU 206

6th Annual International Feminist Film Festival

*Our Sisters Too: Women in the Middle
East*, featuring:

Zinat: One Special Day and *A Female*

Cabby in Sidi Bel-Abbes

3:00-3:30 p.m., MU 208

Young Women, Body Image, and the Media: Socializing Oregon's Waif

Lisa Hasko, Alumna, Sociology

4:00-4:30 p.m., MU 208

"Ms." Perceptions: Investigating the Evolution of a Mindset

Karen Willard, Student, Anthropology

Bruce Alexander, Student, Anthropology

7:00-9:00 p.m.,

Milam Auditorium

Geography of

Selves: Identity

and the New

Tribalism

Gloria Anzaldúa



Gloria Anzaldúa

The 2003 Women of Achievement Award Winners

Congratulations to:

Anne Gillies

Linda Klinge

Judith Li

Makiko Matsumoto

Annie Popkin

The Women's Center would like to invite members of the OSU and Corvallis communities to a reception, held in their honor on Friday April 25th from 3:30 – 5 p.m. at the Women's Center.



Melynda Cheng

Pro-choice and pro-life protesters came face-to-face outside the Memorial Union Quad on the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

Excitement in the Quad on Roe vs. Wade's 30th Anniversary

By Cynthia Cooper

I responded to an e-mail on the Women's Center list serve, as did a group of women. We were dedicated to expressing support for a woman's right to choose. We descended on the Women's Center about two weeks before the Roe v. Wade 30th

anniversary. This was not a pre-organized committee or an on-going group. These were ten women who wanted to prepare for an opportunity to share more-informed points of view in response to the staged theatrical event that was anticipated from the College Republicans. The women who showed up that evening had not discussed what would be said or how to say it. We only knew that we would be making posters. We sat on the living room couches for a while, contemplating just what the message was that we needed to present to the OSU community.

Without a whole lot of pomp and circumstance, we quickly warmed up and began to discuss what we needed to get across: Many young people are not aware of the history of medical

problems that resulted from tens to 100s of thousands of "back-alley" abortions prior to women obtaining the guaranteed right to choose. Practicing safe sex prevents unwanted pregnancies. There's no such thing as a "partial birth abortion." There is not a basis for believing that the same women go back again and again to get abortions.

We quickly got down to business and looked up the relevant details from various websites, including those of the PPFA and NARAL. Before I had time to really get anyone's

name down, we were spread out in the kitchen with pencils and poster markers, making our messages easily seen and quickly grasped. Emily laid out our poster with the gory and regrettable consequences of illegal abortions – including among them hemorrhaging. Another one of us pre-

**"If you can't trust
me with a choice,
how can you trust
me with a child?"**

pared the poster that challenges, "If you can't trust me with a choice, how can you trust me with a child?" We put together a poster with the statistics – numbers of abortions in the '50s and current estimates of abortion numbers. We included a reminder that condoms prevent abortions (that was mine...it was the *easiest* one to execute). It was our hope that these messages would help put the debate about abortion in the context of the true history and facts about abortions.

Jen had reserved our tents – which she and her comrades assembled before the high-traffic hours of the MU quad. We had laminated posters hung along the top of the tent, and two long tables full of pamphlets provided by NARAL and Planned Parenthood. We had candy and condoms, and buttons and stickers.

It began as a gray drizzly day and progressed into a rainy day. We had other company on the quad – people from around the community, who suggested that those creative little wooden crosses on the lawn represented people who had or who would die in a war – perhaps the war that Bush would have us wage on Iraq. Around the noon hour, a healthy crowd stood at the entrance of the

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Safer Sex, Continued from page 1

diseases are transmitted. Many STDs/STIs are spread via bodily fluids such as blood, semen, and vaginal fluids. Therefore, exposure to the bodily fluids of an infected person is a high-risk activity. Many other STDs/STIs are spread via the skin surfaces of the genital and rectal region. For example, Genital Warts and Herpes are found on skin surfaces. So, if you are bumping and grinding with someone and both of you are naked, you do not have to be having intercourse to be at risk. In fact, you could be having intercourse and using a condom and you could still contract Warts or Herpes because the condom only protects the penis and the vagina. The genital skin surfaces are still coming in contact with one another. Current medical opinion is that both Herpes and Genital Warts can be transmitted not only when the virus is active, meaning a visible sore/wart is present, but also when the virus is asymptomatic, meaning that there is not a visible sore/wart present.

Fingers can spread Chlamydia

“You do not have to be having intercourse to be at risk.”

and Herpes from one part of the body to another. Therefore, if your sexual partner has Chlamydia and manually stimulates her or his genitals and then stimulates yours, the infection can be transmitted from

your partner to you. Oral Herpes (Herpes Simplex Virus I) can be transmitted through kissing. It can also be transferred to the genitals through oral sex. Many STDs/STIs

can be transmitted through oral-genital contact. These include Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Herpes, Warts, and Viral Hepatitis.

Here are some general recommendations regarding precautions to take while participating in various types of sexual activity:

◇ Anal intercourse is considered the most risky sexual behavior, in terms of the transmission of HIV. If you are going to participate in this activity, ALWAYS use a condom unless you know, for sure, that your partner is not infected. Keep in mind tens of thousands of individuals are HIV positive and do not know it.

◇ Vaginal intercourse is also a very easy way to transmit HIV. Therefore, it is important to always use a condom unless you are absolutely sure of

your partner's health status.

◇ When performing oral sex on a woman, cover the entire vaginal area with a dental dam (a square of latex) or non-microwaveable plastic wrap. Use creative means of keeping the latex or wrap in place, such as a garter belt, so that your hands are free to roam.

◇ When performing oral sex on a man, be sure the condom is securely in place. If your mouth is going to come in contact with his scrotal sac or his perineum, use a dental dam or plastic wrap.

◇ Oral-anal stimulation, also known as rimming, requires extra care as you are not only at risk of contracting an STD/STI, but you are also at risk of contracting certain gastrointestinal infections, some of which can be very serious. In this case, use a dental dam or plastic wrap. You could also use a condom slipped over your tongue.

◇ During vulva-to-vulva sex, use a dental dam or plastic wrap, taking care to keep it in place.

◇ Manual penetration of the vagina and anus can be risky if your partner's fingers or hand have sores or open

cuts. If you're concerned about this, use latex gloves, condoms, or finger cots to cover the infected area.

◇ Always use new "materials" (i.e. dental dam, plastic wrap, condom, finger cot, etc.) when moving from the anus to the vagina, or between partners.

◇ Sex toys should always be cleaned with a bleach solution when transferred between partners. You could also use a new condom each time someone new has possession of the toy.

◇ If you shave one another, use a separate razor for each partner.

◇ It can be particularly risky in terms of HIV, if you are a woman having

“Fingers can spread Chlamydia and Herpes from one part of the body to another.”

sexual contact with another woman when she is menstruating because menstrual blood contains a lot of the virus. Use a dental dam or non-microwaveable plastic wrap. An additional pre-

caution you could take would be to use an Instead. Instead is a product on the market designed to be used “instead” of a tampon. Essentially it is shaped like a diaphragm, is inserted in the vagina, cups over the cervix and catches the menstrual blood, which keeps it from exiting the vagina.

Row vs. Wade, Continued from page 2

MU, one half shouting “PRO” the other answering with “CHOICE.”

The split between our tents began to shed accumulated rainwater onto the middle of the table. The main mass of lunch time visitors had come and gone. We had three visitors toward the end of the early afternoon hours – two College Republicans hoping to change our minds with those hard questions about what defines the beginning of a human. I challenged one young Republican student to go talk to low-income couples, and sent him away with a handful of condoms. The third was a gentleman who shared our sentiment that ending abortion would invite unwarranted social disasters.

The rain had not let up. Jen and Emily carried off two big heavy boxes full of extra pamphlets and our posters. With the help of another person, we disassembled one tent and walked the other over to the center that would shelter the guests who would show up to have the 30th Anniversary Roe v. Wade cake that afternoon.

Next year – 31 flavors of condoms, and a change of administration!

Folk Club, Continued from page 1

The folk club awarded its first scholarship in 1930 for the amount of \$50. But the thrift shop didn't begin until 1949, when the president at the time, Betty Slegal, wanted to have a thrift sale that would last for one year to raise money for the Good Samaritan Hospital.

Shortly afterward, the thrift shop moved into a small, donated room in the back of what is now the Peacock Tavern. After several temporary homes, including nine years in a condemned building, the thrift shop made its final move to its permanent location in downtown Corvallis on the 1st of December 1969.

The OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop now consigns secondhand items, and anything from clothing to small furniture can be found in the store. Seventy-five percent of the money made from the sale of any consigned item at the thrift shop goes

back to the consignor. The 25 percent that the folk club keeps is used to fund the OSU Folk Club scholarships and for the allocations that the

group makes to community organizations.

Since 1931, the folk club has awarded nearly \$406,000 in scholarships to women who are nontraditional students or in-

coming freshmen from Benton County schools.

Another amazing accomplishment of the folk club has been its ability to give an estimated \$819,000 back to the community. In 2002, 43 organizations received a total of \$30,012, including Benton County Senior Citizen Dial-A-Bus, Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis, and Senior Meals/Meals on Wheels.

Over the years membership in the folk club has fluctuated, but according to the President of the OSU Folk Club, Joan Cook, there are over 150 women who currently vol-

OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop Summer Hours

Monday evenings: 7 - 9 p.m.

Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri:

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(closed Monday nights in September)

Winter Hours

(September 18 - June 10)

Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

unteer at the thrift shop and with the many others who are involved with the other special interest groups, the folk club is alive and well.

For Cook, like many members, the folk club has greatly impacted her experience at OSU. “It's been a big part of my life, because it was one of the first things that I was introduced to,” she said.

To obtain more information about the OSU Folk Club or thrift shop, please contact Kathy Heath at heathk6@attbi.com.

OSU Women's Center

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Tara Moore

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The Women's Center is open
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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I had quietly accepted the stereotypes of all inmates being hardened criminals, murderers, drug dealers, and bank robbers, regardless of gender. Sadly, somewhere in the back of my head, I suppose I saw the women at Coffee Creek, who in many ways are not much different from myself, as people who had failed us as a society.

But is it true? Have women in prison, and men for that matter, truly failed us, or have we as a society failed them?

According to our tour guide, many women in prison are from “broken homes,” have experienced sexual assault and/or domestic violence, are from poor or working class backgrounds, and are often in prison for non-violent crimes. If they are in prison for violent crimes, it is often because they fought back against an abuser.

I tend to submit to the belief that people are largely a product of their environments, so when we take notice of the backgrounds of many female inmates, is it really all that surprising they have ended up

where they are? Because sexism, racism, classism, and a number of other systems of oppression run so rampant in the U.S. leaving many people feeling isolated, exploited, oppressed, and marginalized, is it so surprising that this country has so many people committing so many

crimes and that we have such a gigantic prison industrial complex? Not to excuse criminal behavior, but it appears that oftentimes women who commit crimes do so out of desperation, because they lack other options, resources, and opportunities to simply survive. Therefore, we often put women in prison for non-violent crimes such as prostitution, drug use, and financial problems.

After the trip to Coffee Creek, which was by the way not scary or frightening as I had imagined, I am left with one lingering question: who is to say that if life didn't so generously grant me with the racial, socioeconomic, familial, and educational privileges it has that I wouldn't be at Coffee Creek too?

Perhaps the most amazing and inspiring thing about Coffee Creek

is its emphasis on rehabilitation. Many of the staff we met seemed to assert the belief that Coffee Creek is a place where what inmates did in the past becomes less important than the positive things they will do in the future. And as our tour guide said, while some taxpayers like to complain about their money going to rehabilitation services like those at Coffee Creek (i.e. literacy, childcare, and self-esteem building classes, as well as job-skills training, computer classes and web design), the women leaving Coffee Creek will likely be leaving much happier and healthier people than when they came in.

If rehabilitation services didn't exist at Coffee Creek, it seems likely that the women would be more of a risk to society coming out than they were going in. Perhaps this emphasis on empowerment, self-esteem, and education, explains why only about 30 percent of women at Coffee Creek return (compared to upwards of 60 percent in other women's prisons around the country). The bottom line is that when we make

an investment in women like those at Coffee Creek, we are making an investment in our society. By funding such rehabilitation services, we are attempting to ensure healthier and safer communities for all of us, and isn't that always money well spent?

Well, despite some Wilsonville residents' complaints, Coffee Creek won't be going anywhere anytime soon. And while I know prison isn't a fun place for anyone to be, I saw the facility as a place of hope and in some ways, healing. Although I was saddened to see that so many of the women at Coffee Creek were even younger than myself and to hear

that most of them never had the many unearned advantages I have in life, I didn't leave with a feeling of despair. With its emphasis on rehabilitation, Coffee

Creek seems to be a place where women, many of whom are marginalized, unhappy, and unhealthy upon arrival, can gain self-confidence, education, and the skills they need to become fully functioning members of our society.

“It appears that often times women who commit crimes do so out of desperation...”

“When we make an investment in women like those at Coffee Creek, we are making an investment in our society.”

Calendar of Events

May

21st – Work/Life Balance Series: Sugar Damage and Living Foods Healing – 12 – 1 p.m. A discussion of how food choices affect a person's mood and physical health.

21st – Campus Safety Walk – 8:30 p.m. The purpose of this event is to inspect

areas of the campus community where there is a concern for safety and to suggest improvements to the campus environment that will reduce opportunities for harassment, assault, and sexual assault and that will increase accessibility to OSU facilities and services. Please join us!

June

12th – Graduating Feminists Unite! – 12 – 4 p.m. Stand out from the crowd! Calling all graduating feminists and/or Women Studies majors/minors/certificates (no matter your gender) to come together and decorate sashes that symbolize your commitment to

women and your individuality. *All events will be held at the Women's Center unless otherwise specified. The Women's Center is wheelchair accessible.*

Please call the Women's Center at (541) 737-3186 or check the web site for additional events.

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