Welcome back to Amherst, the University and, of course, Women's Studies. We hope all of you had a good summer and are ready to plunge into the mad whirl of Women's Studies classes and activities. This our first and most brief newsletter is being sent out in a rush to make sure you don't miss new courses, deadlines and upcoming events. Please note particularly the reception and poetry reading scheduled for September 19 (see below). We would also like to remind those students and sponsors who have not turned in signed end of semester reports or end of program reports to do so as soon as possible. Those of you applying for a Certificate or Major please turn in your letters and proposals or let us know where you are in the application process. And finally, please let us know if you've changed your address or phone number.

Women's Studies Reception

The Women's Studies Program most cordially invites you to join us at a reception September 19, from 4-6 in the 6th Floor Lounge of Thompson Hall. We would like to celebrate the beginning of our sixth year and introduce our staff and faculty to those of you who only know us through this newsletter. Valley women poets will be reading from their current works and a good time will be had by all.

The Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation announces its Women's Studies Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates, deadline Nov. 1, 1979. Grants average $1000. to be used for research expenses connected with the dissertation.

Women's Studies Union Council

Rising from the ashes! Women's Studies Union Council needs new students. All interested please contact the office.

National Council of Negro Women, funded by NEH, sponsors the first national scholarly research conference on Black Women, Nov. 12-13, Washington D.C. "Black Women: An Historical Perspective" coincides with the opening of the National Archives for Black Women's History and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum. Participants include Gerda Lerner, John Blassingame and Mary Berry. Contact Conference Coordinator, NCNW Research Conference, 1318 Vermont Ave., NW Wash., D.C. 20005

COURSE ADDENDUM

ANTHRO 372 Human Biological Reproduction Alan Swedlund, TTH 9:30-1:45
EDCU-I 590-D Film Animation in Education Settings, Lianne Brandon, W 1:00-3:30
HIST 364 American Civil War History, Stephen Oates, TTH 9:30-10:45
HOM EC 592B Intimacy, Aggression and Violence in Marriage and the Family, Roger Libby
TH 7-10PM 205 Skinner
190E Nature: Nuturing Mother or "Red in Tooth and Claw?" Teresina Havens, TU 4:30-6:00
Science for Survival, Marvin Kalkstein, M 7:00 pm

IP 190G Ecology and Society, Nesta King, TuTh 2:30-3:45

OHI 100C/Econ 100C Elements of Economics: The Political Economy of Welfare, Nancy Rose
M 4:00-6:30 (Note change of number)

SW 190D Sex Role Awareness: Autobiography and Autobiographical Writing-Women's Concerns,
Barbara Pridham Tu 3-6

SW Women's Issues, P. Rissmeyer, M 7-10 pm

SW 190T Women and Work, M. Tivnan, W 7-10 pm

SW 290A Women in Photography, K. Carlson, W 7-10 pm

SW 190P Woman Depicted by Women Artists, R. Shicoff, Tu 6:30-9:00

SW 298J Women's Center Practicum I, V. Jacoby Tu 3:00-5:30

SW 298T Violence Against Women: Cross Cultural Analysis and Strategies For Change, A. Guidice
W 7-10 PM

THEATER 591 Women Playwrights of The American Theater, Doris Abramson, MWF 2:30
(Note course number change)

Mt. Holyoke College

FRENCH 358 The Status of Women in France, E. Gelfand

Hampshire College

SS Psychoanalysis and Society, Cerullo, Gadlin

HA 278 Literary Progress, M. Russo

WOMEN'S STUDIES
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"They have been mistresses of poisons, of the winds, of the will. They were able to exercise their powers at will and to transform all kinds of persons into mere animals, geese pigs birds turtles. They have ruled over life and death. Their conjunct power has menaced hierarchies systems of government authorities. Their knowledge has competed successfully with the official knowledge to which they had no access, it has challenged it, found it wanting, threatened it, made it appear inefficacious." --from Les Guerilleres, Monique Wittig

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This is a month of high energy for women with International Women's Week and all the events preceding and following the week. Lives often tend to change, rearrange and even tilt upside down in March and April. Watch the buds swelling on the trees, see the green spreading, give your sister, lover, friend, mother, 1d a good hug. We did make it through another winter!

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Program News

Internships:
Right now is the time to come into the office and talk to me about doing summer field work or internships. It's also not the least bit too early to talk about next fall-even if it does seem years away. We have a number of new listings of places in the fields of human services, early childhood education, law, counseling, journalism etc. If you are interested in doing either a full or part time internship or even just vaguely thinking about it call the office and make an appointment (or just drop by and take your chances)

--Dale

End of Semester Reports:
We are missing many end of semester reports. Please bring yourselves up to date before the next crush is on.

Grant Awarded:
Janice Raymond is the co-principal investigator of an $80,000 National Science Foundation and The National Endowment for the Humanities grant, to fund a June conference on Ethical Issues in Human Reproductive Technology: Analysis by Women.

Publication News:

Janice Raymond's book, The Transsexual Empire, The Making of the She-Male, has been published by Beacon Press and will be available April 30. Following is a blurb from Beacon Press:
"Sex-change operations: do they really accomplish what their advocates claim? In the first book to question these controversial operations, Janice Raymond explains the medical and psychological procedures involved in turning men into "women" and less often today, women into "men". The risk which many include cancer, unsatisfactory surgery and post-operative occurrence of suicide are examined. More important the author analyzes the patriarchal social context that makes transsexuality possible.

Based on extensive research, Raymond's findings show how transsexual operations contribute to sexism presented in the guise of sex therapy. She describes gender identity clinics which encourage would be transsexuals to conform to the sexual stereotypes of their "new" sex through the use of questionable techniques of behavior modification.

The reader learns why four times as many men as women have these very expensive operations, and what the relationship is between sex role dissatification and body dissatisfaction. Raymond
discusses whether transsexuals are made or born and the medical/psychiatric treatments that have multiplied to take care of the "problem." Basically the transsexual empire is the medical conglomerate that has created the treatment, technology and reality of transsexualism.

The New England Women's Studies Convention: March 31, 1979 University of New Hampshire, Durham


For more information on the conference come see us in the office or give us a call.

Agnes Smedley Show & Digging Out:

The reception for the Agnes Smedley photo exhibit was well attended and the response was extremely enthusiastic. Cynthia Holmes did a fine job arranging the exhibit and many thanks go to her for her effort, imagination and diligence.

Response to the Digging Out reading was very positive and exciting. It is satisfying to see other people sparked by our work.

Margo Culley - Digging Out

As members of the class, New England Women Writers, we wish to formally extend our gratitude to Margo Culley, the caretaker, initator and guardian of the project. It was never easy, she did not just sit back and do nothing (as she claims) and she never threw up her hands and ran for the hills. Margo guided us through from beginning to end. The class was never just simply a class. We were a group of women dealing with some difficult material: the voices of women speaking truthfully about their lives. Often those voices reached in and grabbed us and set us off. And Margo was there, trying to hold the class together, keep us from leaping onto the table with knives in our teeth and breaking our anger on each other. We were women from different backgrounds with all our differing theories and visions. It was not always easy to facilitate but it worked and so much good material and energies were generated from it. (Including Digging Out.) Margo says:

"Oh, but you did all the work." We send out our deep appreciation for all her effort and her steady caring for all of us.-- Carol, Cynthia.

We have a letter of congratulations from Lenore Hoffman, Project Director of the MLA project that funded the New England Women Writers Class and Digging Out congratulating us for the publication. She writes: "The writings are fresh, spontaneous, enthusiastic, and genuinely creative I felt as if I knew the women writing as well as the women being written about. There is a real respect, even love, for these lost women, which emerges from the pages--through the art work, the photos, the design, the interspersing quotes with exposition. All come together in a booklet which both celebrates and educates. I was truly impressed and pleased that I was part of a project in which students could produce such fine work."

Symposium:

Our symposium, Racism, Black Women and the Teaching of Women's Studies was well attended. It was exciting to see so many people come together to grapple with the difficult and extremely important issue of racism and women's studies. Much constructive and instructive material was presented; many challenges made and on Sunday, concrete suggestions on how to include black women in women's studies curricula were presented. We have the proceedings of both days on tape and we are particularly interested in having Sunday's presentations transcribed and published in order to make the material available to everyone.

Career Weekend
April 7-8

The plans for a Women's Studies Career Weekend are progressing. Women with special needs, interest or requests should call Mary Ruth Warner or Nancy Callahan. A mailing will be sent out soon and response to the mailing is requested.

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King Alert

If there is any doubt in any one's mind that the high and low priests of patriarchy are hazardous to women and children, take a look at what our honorable governor is doing to women on welfare and to this university. Not only are welfare women losing benefits, which are already not enough to pay for such basics as rent, food
and clothing, but we are in danger of losing quality education. Women on this campus are losing food stamps, financial aide, welfare groceries while the rents and tuition go up, while the inflation rate hits 10% and the university budget is being cut with all programs competing for dwindling funds.

According to the "Beacon Hill Update", King has hired Carlson, the man responsible for the welfare cuts in California and Pennsylvania. "If Carlson brings his Pennsylvania and California approach to Mass. we can expect a media campaign designed to create an anti-welfare recipient climate, and a clever packaging of old ideas into a master plan." Some of these old ideas include the limiting of out-patient visits for medicaid recipients, the rescinding of certification of in and out patients in the more expensive hospitals, co-payment for drugs, the resurrection of the man under the bed assumption and the redefinition of the family unit. There are more goodies in the package. It is a design to keep us fighting at all times. The newspaper tells us that 14,000 recipients have been caught defrauding welfare, but does not tell about the realities of the lives of thousands of other welfare mothers struggling just to pay the rent. It seems they have forgotten that the program is Aid to Dependent Children, not Aid to Dependent Dogs. Is our crime that of being unmarried, black, Third World?

It is time to stop taking all of this silently. Time to begin voicing our alarm, writing letters and organizing. We cannot afford to lose any more. People should start pressuring, press wherever you can, however you can, let's just not sit on each other. --CWP

"They try to keep women 'blessed' by poverty. We have seen that they have starved women's minds through transmitting a poor vocabulary, a shabby symbol system, a genuinely impoverishing education. Hags can hardly afford to overlook the fact that they keep us chained to the wheel of mind-deadening work by keeping us economically poor. Our spiritual and physical deprivation/poverty nourish and support each other. The queens/prince charmings thus work to keep women road-blocked by the twin rocks of spiritual and economic poverty."

--from Gym/Ecology by Mary Daly

Child Care

Speaking of road blocks and economic and spiritual poverty going hand in hand:

A child care fund was begun, March 9, when Mary Daly spoke at Smith College. Child care was not provided for this event and there are those of us who refuse to give up the journey because we can't afford child care, so we passed the bucket and received a healthy donation for the child care that we provided for our children. There is some left over and anyone wishing to contribute to or deplete this fund, call Carol at the office.

This is also a plea to the community. We cannot forget the children and we cannot forget the mothers of those children.

"I need to have one or two days a week when I can hole up somewhere and work. Here the phone jangles, the kids exist from my plate... poetically I haven't enough left."

--from Anne Sexton, A Self Portrait in Letters

Announcements

Glasscauk Poetry Contest—Mount Holyoke

On Friday, March 30, Audre Lorde, Susan Griffin and Jean Valentine will be holding informal sessions, "Life and Letters Conversations" in dorm living rooms from 3-4:30 p.m. Audre Lorde will be in Torrey dorm, Jean Valentine in Porter and Susan Griffin in So. Mandelle.

The students in the poetry contest will be reading their poems Friday night at 8 in Gambell. Saturday, March 31, 11am: Audre Lorde, Susan Griffin and Jean Valentine will be reading their poems and at 4:30 Audre Lorde will be doing a workshop titled: "Differences—Racism and Homophobia" in the Black Cultural Center, Dunlop St., MHC.

Sunday, April 1 at 1 pm Audre Lorde will be reading her poems in Gambell. The three poets will read in Gambell auditorium on Saturday morning. For info call: 534-5951

Women's Studies Union Council Meeting—Tuesday, April 3, 12 noon in Campus Center.
The Catalyst Newstand, a women's collective with feminist politics, is seeking new members. They offer the university small press and alternative publications concerned with a wide range of issues as well as women's music by Olivia and Redwood Records. Women interested in joining should call 253-9481 or 586-1705.

Necesidades, a Hampshire County based organization dedicated to combatting and aiding victims of violence against women, is actively seeking new members. Volunteers with a sense of commitment to helping battered women and their children are needed to be trained as advocates. Volunteers with experience in, or willingness to learn, community outreach and grassroots fundraising, are encouraged to join, and women interested in doing internships. Call Pam at 586-5066 9:30am-1pm Monday-Friday for info.

* American Friends Service Committee has resources available on Human Rights and social change issues. Films, slide shows, speakers and literature are available to be used for classes, workshops, groups or meetings.

Sterilization Abuse - slide show
Janie's Janie - film which follows the life of a white working class woman through a year after the breakup of her marriage.
Reversing the Arms Race - a videotape

For a catalogue of resources and more info write AFSC, Langworthy Road, N'ton or call Francis Crowe at 584-8975 or Lily Anderson at 628-3808 (evenings).

* Students, Faculty: We welcome input to this newsletter! Also- we need to do some serious recruiting for the program, as many of our students are graduating this semester. Please do what you can, give us suggestions, come to our aid.

* This newsletter was produced by Carol W. Potte

* The Scholar and The Feminist VI: The Future of Difference
A conference sponsored by The Barnard College Women's Center, Saturday, April 21, 1979
Some of the participants: Nancy Chodorow, Monique Wittig, Josette Feral, Audre Lorde and many more... For more information call the office or stop by and see the mailing.

* Cuban Women and Revolutionary Change
Slides and discussion by members of a UMass anthropology seminar who visited Cuba last January. April 5 4-5:30 904-08 CC

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