Greetings! Another academic year is upon us and Women's Studies is indeed still here and going strong. However, we are not yet a fully accredited major. There remains one more bureaucratic task to complete and that is the approval by the Governor's Board of Higher Ed. We will keep you informed as to our status and we hope that we will soon be instructing students in how they may change their major from BDIC to Women's Studies.

We welcome two new faculty members this year: Lelia Ahmed and Kathy Barry. Both women have just returned from the World Conference for the United Nations Decade of Women in Copenhagen and we look forward to hearing their perspectives on the conference. Both Lelia and Kathy will be invited to present lectures at our Spring Colloquium series.

Lelia Ahmed comes to us from the English department of the University of Arab Emirates, Al-Ain and is originally from Egypt. Lelia, along with five other faculty members devised the curricula for and helped establish the English Department at the University. She was chair of that department and taught 19th and 20th Century English literature. Lelia received her Ph.D., M.A., and B.A., from the University of Cambridge, England. She has published articles pertaining to the Middle East, a short story and a book: E.W. Lane: A study of his life and works and of British ideas of the Middle East in the Nineteenth Century. Lelia will be teaching two courses this fall: "The Novel in Cross Cultural Perspective" (which fulfills our Cross-Cultural requirement) and "Women in the Middle East."

Kathy Barry, author of the recently published book, Female Sexual Slavery, will be filling Janice Raymond's position for this year. (Jan is on leave and shall return in Fall '81) Kathy, in the process of obtaining her PhD. in Sociology and Education Research from the University of California, Berkeley, has worked as a woman's advocate for universities, has lectured widely on women's issues and contributed to national magazines and feminist publications on a variety of topics. Of Kathy Barry and Female Sexual Slavery, Susan Brownmiller writes: "Kathy Barry has spearheaded the moral force of the women's movement in San Francisco, Sacramento and Detroit. In this, her first book, she exposes the dark side of sexuality and dares to ask the crucial question 'Why do men do these things to women?' The issues she raises deserve nationwide attention." Kathy will be teaching a course titled: "Women and the Health Care System." (see below)

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Fall Colloquium Series
Presenting: "Black-eyed Susans in Song: A Recital of Music by Black Women Composers"

We are opening our Fall Colloquium series with song. Johnnella Butler, soprano, with Constance LaSalle on the piano will perform Wednesday, September 10, 7:30 pm in Bezanson Hall. Johnnella, a professor at Smith College, has given many performances in the valley.

Bezanson Hall is located in the Fine Arts Facility, opposite the entrance to the Music Department. For more directions please call us at the office.

Please take note and post the enclosed flyer for the complete colloquium schedule. We will be placing posters in conspicuous locations prior to each event and look forward to seeing you there.

September 10 7:30 pm Bezanson Hall
"Black-eyed Susans in Song: A recital of Music by Black Women Composers" Johnnella Butler, soprano; Constance LaSalle, Piano.
COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOST 297: Women and the Health Care System
Kathy Barry Barlett 201 M 1:25-3:20
W 1:25

This course will focus on the social definition of women by the medical establishment including traditional medicine, psychiatry and psychotherapy, and the so-called alternative health care systems. We will study how the social control of women's health, sexuality and reproductive experience is accomplished through the medical establishment. The course will strike a balance between understanding how patriarchal practices and ideology are imposed on women and function to control them, and women's control of her own body through knowledge, self-help and the feminist health care movement.

In studying the origins of male medical control of women's bodies, health, sexuality and child-bearing, we will place particular focus on the history of midwifery and the implications of the obstetrical takeover. In addition, we will examine the taboos, rituals and practices that surround women's experience of menstruation, childbirth and menopause and compare them with their counterparts in gynecological surgery, carcinogenic birth control and hormone therapy. The medical establishment's response to sexual violence and their denial of lesbian sexuality and gynecological needs will be discussed as further illustrations of male control of women's bodies.

This course will also place considerable emphasis on the mind-body split fostered by the medical establishment and the role of psychiatry and psychotherapy in defining "normal" and "abnormal" female behavior. The feminist critique of psychology's attempt to construct the female will be presented with emphasis on increased knowledge of women's sexuality. In addition, we will examine how traditional sex role ideology is being affirmed in transsexualism and through the medical and psychotherapeutic practices relating to it.

Future problems in terms of patriarchal uses of genetic technology for manipulation and control will be explored and contrasted with the politics of feminist health care alternatives.

WOST 293A: The Novel in Cross Cultural Perspective
Leila Ahmed
TTh 11:15
Fulfills WOST cross-cultural requirement-
(Syllabus and Location not available at the time of this publication)

WOST 491A: Women in the Middle East
Leila Ahmed M 9:05-12:05 Bartlett 456
(Syllabus not available at time of this publication)

WOST 193 1 credit: Running and Feminism
Elaine Koenig WF 10:10 Location TBA

This course will give women the opportunity to study sport from a feminist perspective. Readings will be assigned on women and sports and there will be a weekly discussion section. One research paper required on some aspect of women and sport.

The course will also have a practical aspect. Women of the class will be required to meet twice a week for the purpose of running. The instructor will also introduce women to the Universal Gym at Boyden. Many of the readings and most of the course will be focused on running.

Course Location, Time and Schedule Changes

As a result of our continuing efforts to serve you better Arlene has persuaded the scheduling office to find space in Barlett and Herter for Women's Studies courses. So... please note the following room changes:

WOST 191A Career Development
Arlene Avakian W 3:35-5:15 Bartlett 203
Dale Melcher

( Please note: this course was originally scheduled for Monday but was changed in order to avoid a conflict with the Women's Studies Colloquium series. Students who were signed up for this course and who can no longer take it because of scheduling conflicts and who are graduating this year (1981) please see Dale or Arlene in the office if you'd like to make other arrangements to cover the material. If you won't be graduating this academic year, hang in there, we hope to offer the course each fall.)
walking into the office five minutes before the end of the add-drop period musing about wanting to do "something" outside the classroom. I still have some interesting placements available and would be happy to talk with you, but DO IT SOON!

Proposal Deadlines:

For those of you who consider yourselves Women's Studies majors, who represent yourselves as Women's Studies majors to your friends, family, the chancellor of the University and the world, and who have not written your Women's Studies proposals, TAKE NOTE!!! We are setting an absolute deadline for submission of proposals for anyone who is a second semester junior or at a more advanced stage in her career. If you signed proposal is not in our office by SEPTEMBER 30, 1980, you will have lost the opportunity to be a Women's Studies major. For those of you who are first semester juniors, your proposals should be into our office by OCTOBER 20, 1980. If you have any problems, serious extenuating circumstances or otherwise can't make either of these deadlines, you must let us know. We fully intend to be inflexible on this issue.

Work Study:

We have work study positions open in this office, particularly someone to take over this newsletter. So, if you have work-study or know of some wonderful friend who does, come talk to as soon as possible.

Honors Students:

The paragraph above regarding proposal deadlines applies to you also. Please, if you are considering becoming Women's Studies honors students, get your honors proposals in quickly.

Women's Studies Library:

We now subscribe to Conditions and Off Our Backs as well as Signs. You are welcome to come read these journals in the office, however, please remember, that journals and other reference materials may not be borrowed.

Graduate Schools:

We have updated our file of graduate programs in Women's Studies. Feel free to come in and browse through the files and generally speak to staff regarding your plans after graduation.
POEM FOR MY SISTER
(for Renee)

and though we never shared
secrets after the lights
went out or wove giggles against the patchwork
of lights dancing in
from the streets;
and though I didn't understand your guzzling
the project's nite life
or your stomach swelling
against all sanctified preachings,
to the nosey neighbors' surprise;
we weren't so far apart
as we ran
to the store or ran
up dark stairs at night fighting
shadows we knew were there.
The pain of birth wasn't yours alone
(a miracle who developed and stormed out
a boy angel with big eyes and curly hair--
to the neighbors' delight).

I still don't understand your chaos
of life next to my orderliness
and yet the blood that runs
beneath your darker skin
and makes you my No.1 soul singer--
your blue voice filtering the night screaming
notes with a pain only god would ignore--
the genes that make you taller
and darker and me smaller
and quieter and one who gives birth
to poems (to the neighbors' surprise),
are one and the same.

as I sit here beating my typewriter
and you sit there singing against your window,
the story we tell will prove
we are our mama's daughters.

Irma McClaurin

Irma McClaurin, author of two books of
poetry: Song in the Night, Pearl Press and
Black Chicago, Rannick Amuru Press, is the
1975 winner of the Gwendolyn Brooks Award
in Poetry and has published in numerous
journals and magazines. The following poem
is from her latest book.
Warm Greetings to you! Well, another semester, another year, and another presidential administration are coming to an end.... More and more students are becoming Women's Studies majors and certificate students.... More and more students come into the office wanting to take Women's Studies courses.... Our reputation as one of the best Women's Studies Program (if not the best, according to devoted transfer students) in the nation has been attracting students from as far away as Hawaii to visit or transfer to UMASS for the specific purpose to enter into a Women's Studies Program.... And knowledge of our Program has become international (we received a letter recently from a woman in India who is very interested in the Program).... And, The New York Times recently interviewed Cathy Portuges, WOST Coordinator, and Judy Lebold, a WOST major, for an article they were writing on the field of Women's Studies.... This is all to say that our Program is growing stronger and stronger everyday with enthusiastic, intelligent, and determined women in the very same America that elected Ronald Reagan president. In these times it is important to know that we are strong and we are powerful and that Women's Studies empowers us even more with researched information/facts, theoretical frameworks, and celebrations and understanding of our lives and our struggles as women living in patriarchy....

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It's once again time to consider internships or field placements for next semester, or even possibly for January term. I have the usual assortment of fascinating and informative internship possibilities. I would be happy to help you track down something that meets your specific needs and interests. If you have any thoughts, no matter how vague, about doing some sort of field work next semester, please come in to see me soon to talk it over.

Dale

Cathy Portuges, our energetic and dedicated Coordinator, will be taking a leave of absence next semester in order to concentrate on her research project funded by a Mellon Foundation Grant (awarded by Wellesley College Center for Research on Women). Her project "uses recent psychoanalytic research to illuminate the indebtedness of modern cinema to psychoanalytic thought." Her project will analyze cinematic conventions of photography, sound, color, light, and narrative which are used often unconsciously by directors to make statements about what it is to be female and male.

Margo Culley will become Acting Coordinator for the Women's Studies Program in Cathy's absence.

***** HOLLY NEAR CONCERT *****

The Women's Studies Union Council (the same ones who brought you that marvelous forum) will present Holly Near in concert on Feb. 7, 1981 at the Fine Arts Center, UMASS. This concert is a part of a benefit concert tour Holly is doing for the National Women's Studies Association to raise money for the National Women's Studies Conference at UCONN in May, 1981.

Concert plans are now underway; interested women who wish to participate are welcomed (and needed). If you are interested in helping, joining the WOST Union Council, or would like more information, contact Liz, Judy, or Lori at the Women's Studies office (545-1922).

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If you want to be on the WOST mailing list or if you have been receiving two (or more?) newsletters, please contact Arlene in the office.
Here's the end of the semester reminder to all Women's Studies majors and certificate students from the friendly folks at the Women's Studies office: Don't leave town before submitting your end of the semester report. It is a requirement of your major/certificate and it is a useful method in summarizing and evaluating your learning experiences in Women's Studies courses. And if you turn in your report before intersession, you will have one less worry to ponder on your break (and who needs extra worries in 1981?).

And for all you students out there who do not worry about end of the semester reports because you are neither a WOST major or certificate student, and who are hooked on Women's Studies courses, now is the time to consider joining the Program officially (yes, yes, this is a pitch...). You are cordially invited to come into the office and talk with Arlene or Dale about all the opportunities that await for you as a WOST student. They have many ideas about how you can blend your interests and practical experiences with your academic studies. There's no obligations and no commitments involved in talking with them: enlightenment, however, is a strong possibility.

A Working Women's Resource Library is being established by the Working Women's Taskforce at Everywoman's Center. The library will include information on occupational health, sexual harassment, women's unions, employment issues for minority women, time and stress management, and how to get a job. At this time the Working Women's Taskforce is still in the process of setting up the library; if you need to have access to information right away, contact Karen Eichstadt-West for assistance.

Want to see your favorite poem or quote in the Women's Studies newsletter? Contact Judy in the WOST office for details!

The 12th National Women and the Law Conference will be held April 3-5, 1981 in Boston. The theme of the conference will be "Women and Justice: Blind No More". Conference programming will bring into focus the oppression of poor women, women of color, and lesbians, and the examination of the hierarchy within the legal profession. Registration fees are based on a sliding scale. We have the conference brochure in the office if you would like more information.

Beginning next semester, this newsletter will offer a separate space for announcements of research projects and requests for any leads, information, or materials from those in the Women's Studies community who have done work on a project's topic or in a related field. This space will be for all scholars (be you undergrad or prof) and will begin to establish a communication network between all of us who do research work in Women's Studies.

Also, contributions are wanted for the newsletter in the form of short (very short) critiques and/or announcements of important conferences, new books, articles, journals, or recent news on or off campus that you would like others to know about. Through this newsletter we all have the opportunity to spread the word.

Please remember to return all library books to the Women's Studies office before you disassociate yourselves from the university for the month of January. Overdue books have been returning to us, but we're greedy: we want ALL of them back. Please search your shelves, your packs, and your hearts and return the books you borrow.
Now that the end of the semester is here, a flood of Women's Studies research papers are quickly exchanging hands from students to professors, from professors to students. Before you tuck these papers away into oblivion, seriously consider donating a copy of your paper to the Women's Studies Program. We have a special file in the Women's Studies resource room for papers written by Women's Studies students. Don't worry (or speculate) if your paper is "good enough" to preserve; even if your paper isn't the definitive word on the subject, it may give another student the spark or stepping stone she was looking for. And professors, please remind and encourage your students to contribute to the file and to support our efforts to have students' work readily accessible for other Women's Studies students.

Speaking of research and preserving our work, the Lesbian Herstory Archives has recently published in their sixth newsletter "Lesbian Herstory Sources: A Guide to the Lesbian Herstory Archives Collection." The guide includes listings of special collections, bibliographies, journals, and tapes that are available at the Archives. The guide is a useful tool in understanding the scope of materials the Archives contains. The newsletter also announces specific requests for the types of material the Archives is particularly interested in obtaining (there is a request for students to send their papers). If you want to keep yourself up to date in the collecting and excavating of lesbian herstory, the newsletter is $3.00 and the address is: Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., Lesbian Herstory Archives, P.O. Box 1258, NYC, NY 10016.

The Student Caucus of the National Women's Studies Association has printed their first newsletter for and by and about Women's Studies students. The articles are written by women throughout the country on various topics including: "What good is a WOST degree?" (sound familiar?), "Feminist Resources: People and Print Materials," and "Sparkling the '81 Imagination: Prepare Now For the NWSA Conference". A copy of the newsletter is available in the office (in-house reading only). For more information on the student caucus, contact Judy in the office.

The Women's Studies Union Council sponsored a forum entitled: "My Father asks: What Is This Women's Studies Stuff?" in November for the Women's Studies community. Over forty women came to listen to students, faculty, staff workers, and alumnae share their experiences, ideas, and reflections within the Women's Studies talk (i.e. our lives and our work) under non-emergency conditions (although it was two days after the election...) in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. It was inspiring and energizing to hear about perseverances, dreams, and victories (especially Jefti Palemno's report that she has been hired for jobs because she had a Women's Studies degree). If by some unfortunate circumstance you missed the forum, the Women's Studies Union Council will sponsor another one next spring with a different perspective.

** CONFERENCES **

The First National Congress On Women In Music will be held in March, 1981, in New York City. The conference is sponsored by the Barnard College Women's Center in cooperation with The Barnard College and Columbia University Music Departments. This will be the first conference devoted entirely to women in music. The conference will combine performance with the presentation of scholarly papers, panel discussions and workshops. For more information, come read the brochure in the Women's Studies office.

Here is another reminder that the New England Women's Studies Association will hold it's regional conference on Feb. 7, 1981 in Boston. For registration information, write Laurie Crumpacker, Women's Studies, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, Ma. 02115
Kathy Barry, a Women's Studies faculty member, will speak on the topic: "The Lesbian Connection to Female Sexual Slavery" on Dec. 9 at Memorial Hall (the Alumni Building) in the front lounge. Kathy is the author of the book, Female Sexual Slavery, and is a visiting lecturer for the Women's Studies Program for the 80-81 academic year. Her talk is sponsored by the Women's Studies Union Council and the Lesbian Union.

Writing Workshop For Women

Rita Gabis, a Women's Studies major, is interested in forming a workshop for writers who are interested in sharing their work with others. Any type of writing is welcomed. The workshop would meet once a week for the whole semester; it is important that participants are willing to invest time and energy to maintain the existence of the workshop for the whole semester. There may be the opportunity to obtain credit for the workshop. For more information contact the Women's Studies office or Rita at 549-0453.

The UMass Library has recently purchased the book, Films For, By, And About Women, by Kaye Sullivan (Scarecrow Press, 1980).

WFCR will host five one hour radio programs on Emily Dickinson Dec. 9-12. On Dec. 10 there will be two programs celebrating the 150th anniversary of Emily's birth. All programs will be aired 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. except the evening show on the 10th which will be aired at 10 p.m. The contents of the programs will include taped panel discussions from the Emily Dickinson Symposium, readings of her letters and poetry, and a guided tour of her house.

When the Russian feminist Tat'yana Mamonova spoke here in Amherst on the conditions of life for Soviet women, she requested feminists to write the Soviet Union in protest of the Soviet government's treatment of feminists in Russia. The main points in your letter should focus on the fact that American feminists feel a bond of sisterhood for Russian feminists and that feminists in Russia should have the right to publish their views (Mamonova was exiled from Russia for helping to write and publish the journal, Women in Russia). Our voices can make a difference in the way the government tries to silence our sisters.

Women's Studies
200 Bartlett Hall
UMASS Amherst 01003