Candlelight Vigil

On Friday, March 17, Women's Issues Group will sponsor a candlelight vigil for survivors of rape and incest. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will occur at Grim Dell Amphitheatre. The program will include testimonials from survivors, along with music and poetry. If you have a testimonial, or a song or poem to perform or read, please call Kristi at 221-4753. If you have a testimonial, but wish for it to be anonymous and read by someone else, feel free to slip it under my (Kristi's) door at Hunt Hall, room 202. By Thursday, March 16. Rain date: Friday, March 24.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

The Carol Woody Scholarship is available for women students interested in receiving "real world" experience to complement their W&M studies. Awards from $100 to $400 are available for summer internships. To apply, submit a one-page proposal to Dr. Green, Women's Studies Office, 327 Richmond Road, by April 10. For more information, call Dr. Green at 221-2457.

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP POSTPONED

Women's Issues Group has rescheduled its trip to D.C. The group now plans to go on a Saturday in late March or early April. All members of the W&M community are invited. Transportation to the Women's Art Museum and Lammas, A Women's Bookstore, will be provided. For more information, or to sign up, call Melanie at 221-5623.

W&M JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND THE LAW

Women’s Studies welcomes the addition of an important new resource, the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law.

Women's Studies holds a copy of the journal at the office, 327 Richmond Road. Topics addressed in this first issue include anti-stalking bills, abortion law, and a feminist analysis of breast implant litigation.

RIGHT-WING ALERT: BREAKING THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

A new e-mail list has been created concerning the campus response to the Right-Wing Initiatives in the "Contract With America." This "Contract" includes proposals to slash education funding, end environmental protections, eliminate programs addressing violence against women, destroy the safety net for the poor, and scapegoat immigrants for economic problems. The new e-mail list is called CANK-RW (Campus Anti-Right-Wing Alert), and discussion will focus, at least for the first few weeks, on student organizing. After this, the list will serve as a forum to educate people about the growth of right-wing movements which have led to proposals such as the contract. To subscribe, send an e-mail to canet@pencil.cs.missouri.edu with a subject of "canet" whose body just says: sub can-rw Your Name 'digest'.

CONFERENCES / CALLS FOR PAPERS

Feminism Beside Itself

Indiana University presents this conference, to be held March 21-25. On-site registration is $35 for faculty, $25 for students. For more information, contact Diane Blum at (612) 330-8269.

Population, Women, Environment

The Principia College School of Government presents the 46th annual Public Affairs Conference, to be held April 6-8 in Elsah, Illinois. For more information, contact Yannick Laclau, Director, Public Affairs Conference, Principia College, Elsah, IL 62028. Phone: (618) 374-4930.

National Women's Studies Association

NWSA '95—"Women's Movements: Cultural, Intellectual, and Political (Re)Evolution"—will take place June 21-25 at the University of Oklahoma. Speakers will include bell hooks, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Charlotte Bunch, and Cynthia Enloe. For registration information, contact Loretta Younger at the National Office. Phone: (301) 403-0544/0525. E-mail: nwswmail.umd.edu.

Physical Illness and Sexuality

The Journal of Sex Research requests paper submissions for a special issue of the Journal, "Bodies Besieged: The Impact of Chronic and Serious Physical Illness on Sexuality, Passion, and Desire." Manuscripts are due August 1. For more information, send a letter and SASE to Naomi B. McCormick, Ph.D.,
WHAT CAN I DO? SEX, SEXUALITY, AND FEMINISM

Many people feel sex and sexuality shouldn't be subject to feminist analysis. The standard objection is: "I don't think anyone should spend time analyzing what people do in their bedrooms as long as everyone in the bedroom has consented to it." However, in our society the following chart indicates the "appropriate" gender roles for sex and sexuality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENDER ROLE</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
<td>Masculine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STYLE</td>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Aggressive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX POSITION</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>Bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELATION TO PLEASURE</td>
<td>Gives</td>
<td>Takes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We live in a culture that does not affirm sexual freedom. Take for example the classic (yet unfortunately still well-alive) virgin/whore dichotomy, heterosexism, homophobia, and seec undersex viewing concerning bisexuality and transsexuality. And how are those who choose celibacy over another form of sexuality seen? We can eat any one choose and perfume with sex but we cannot examine it at a political level? How can sex not be political when it clearly oppressed and coerced? Sexual coercion has clear links with heterosexism, men should prove their "masculinity" (read "heterosexuality") and women their "femininity" (read "willingness to be a heterosexual sex object"). Men feeling love with men is not appraised as a show of masculinity in this culture, nor is women making love with women appraised as a show of femininity.

Make no mistake: The struggle to end prejudice, exploitation, and oppression of lesbians, gay men, and other sexual minorities is a crucial feminist agenda. As bell hooks states, "It is a necessary component of the movement to end female sexual oppression. Affirming lesbianism, women of varied sexual preferences resist the perpetuation of compulsory heterosexuality" (p. 151). Hooks further states that "just as the struggle to end sexual oppression aims to eliminate heterosexism, it should not endorse any one sexual choice, celibacy, bisexuality, homosexuality, or heterosexuality" (p. 152).

Women need to know they can be politically committed to the advocacy of feminism regardless of their sexual preferences or practices. Before advocates of feminism can develop aggressive- and career-free sexual theories, we must first become aware of our established cultural constructs are detrimental to the everyday, lived experiences of women. We must examine how we as individuals support and maintain our and other women's oppression in the areas of sex and sexuality.

Support the varying degrees and practices of free sexuality. Encourage women who choose to examine and/or reexamine their sexuality or who wrestle with questions similar to those posed in this article. Keep in mind that the heart of feminism centers on choice, regardless of what one's choices concerning sex and sexuality are.

(Additional materials gathered from the August/September 1985 issue of Off Our Hocks and from Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center by bell hooks (1984).)

Kay Domino
Sewanee University Archives