

January 2010

Women's Resource Center

Museletter



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Inspiration

"Such as I am, I am a precious gift."

~Zora Neal Hurston



"I wish to live because life has within it that which is good, that which is beautiful, and that which is love. Therefore, since I have known all these things, I have found them reason enough and--I wish to live. Moreover, because this is so, I wish others to live for generations and generations, and generations, and generations."

-Lorraine Hansberry

Welcome to the Spring 2010 Semester!

Welcome back! It's a new semester and a brand new year, and there is a lot going on here at the Women's Resource Center. This semester will be filled with workshops, speakers, and other informational and exciting events. Those of us here at the Women's Resource Center/ Stryker Institute are excited about new beginnings and having the opportunity to collaborate with students, organizations, and the Greeley community during this New Year. Take the time to stop by the WRC, explore our library, use our free printing, study, hang out, or enjoy some of the many events that we have scheduled. Please be sure to check out our website at www.unco.edu/wrc and learn about our up and coming events. Also, if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter feel free to email me, Letisha Brown at Letisha.Brown@unco.edu! Enjoy the beginning of the semester!

Letisha Brown, Editor

Updates

Calling UNC Faculty!!!

The Women's Resource Center is working on organizing workshops for the Spring 2010 semester. We would like to open an invitation for you to present a workshop on any topic of your choice that deals with women's issues. We would love to build a stronger bond between our WRC and the faculty of UNC. If interested we will work around your schedules to find the best time for the workshop. Workshops will be open to UNC students, faculty, staff, and Greeley community members.

Please contact Fabiola Mora or Kenna Johnson to and let them know if you are interested and feel free to send this email to others who may be interested.

Fabiola.mora@unco.edu

Kenna.Johnson@unco.edu

Thanks!



Goodbye!

From Donnae Wahl

Wow, I am actually leaving UNC. I never thought this day would come. I'm not saying that to be faux humble either, I really thought I would be here for at least two more years. I like it here.

I am really going to miss my job here at the Women's Resource Center, even though I am excited to be moving on to a Masters program in Women's Studies at the State University of New York at Albany.

I will never forget my time here, the WRC gave me the opportunity to expand my organizational and creative skills. I had the privilege of working with some of the coolest and most passionate women on campus, and for that, I am truly thankful.

I wish everyone at the WRC the best of luck, as well as everyone at UNC.

Thanks!

Donnae N. Wahl

STRYKER UPDATES

For the Spring Semester, the Stryker Institute will be conducting a mentoring program with the Greeley Dream Team and Educational Talent Search through District 6.

This program connects Stryker Scholars with Middle school girls from the community. Through this program the ladies will have a chance to go bowling, learn how to make tough decisions, how to value themselves, and how to make a difference in the community by volunteering at the Bonell Good Samaritan Center.

It is a great partnership and a great way to connect the Stryker Institute and UNC to the Greeley Community. We look forward to a great semester with the Stryker Institute Sister (SIS) mentoring program!



Creative Corner

Your Everything

~ *Andrea Renteria* ~

It was your everything...
It was your style that 1st caught my eye
All the way up
From your kicks to your tie
It was the integrity with which you
carried yourself
When the laws of attraction began to
apply
With a touch I would sigh
And I tried to defy
Till my words were tongue tied
And I couldn't help but comply
-

Your smooth flow in conversation
The ideas you laid out
Which reflect your great mind
Now I know I don't need to rewind
and remind you
As defined by you
That people are discussed by the
small
Events by the average
And ideas by the great
Something I've had to remind myself
as of late...
-

It was your entire self presentation
That threw me into meditation
Induced my hearts-reconciliation
And made me come to the realization
That I had a crush? Me?
Well It was these things that 1st caught
my attention
And after a while... I was on a mission
It was your voice that captivated and
drew me in
Your intellect and precision that kept
me driven
Kept my own passion risen
Lit a flame of interest within
That grew brighter and blazing
That feeling is still burning
The sensation..... Amazing
-

(And you've been on my mind ever
since...)
It's like my head was consumed by
thoughts of you
And I was convinced...
Not gonna lie, kinda pissed
Because I can't remember the exact
day that my heart fooled my mind
Said "Adios common sense"
Left my good judgment behind
And my vision was blurred with day
dreams...
Well they say love is blind,
But this?... this was ridiculous

Let me explain,
From best friends to lovers nothing
is ever the same
And I can point my naked finger
but who's really to blame?
Excuse after excuse, all for you
And all of them lame
What a shame, what a shame
What a damn shame
My girls are confused because I've
always been a strong dame
Reputation compromised so advice
not the same
My Proclamation as feminist need
be reclaimed?
Because it's like I need to breath
your scent or my lungs will collapse
Like I need to see your face again or
I'm going to relapse
Like I want to go back to 5th grade
and write my first name with your
last name all day in all caps
...But if it's at the cost of my inde-
pendence, my confidence, no thank
you... I'll pass
It's like along you came and I'm
weak in my knees
Body temperature at a high point of
100 degrees
And I'm begging you please?
I said I'm Begging you please,
Don't stop... Loving me

Then it's CRASH back to reality
We're cool, and then you're mad at
me?
And not just any crash
I mean that Alice in Wonder Land
type of Crash
When all of the sudden you're in
the midst of unfamiliar territory
And you have to ask yourself, "Why
the hell am I following this fool?"
"Why are we always on Your time?"
"& Why do I feel so small all of the
sudden!?"
-

I hear your stories about girl after
girl
Sifting through diamonds to find
your one pearl
Spit up and used, Emotions abused
But after each one of LOVE you're
accused?

And in all honesty it leaves me a little amused
Because then I pull away from your kisses
And you look at me confused?
Fool please! You just finished telling me about
your most recent lay
And you expect me to let you wrap your arms
around me like it's just another day?
Enserio guey?
Fool that shits not okay
Along with your secrets the shadiness
The whole game that you play
-

I get asked on the daily and I always deny
I guess I'm scared to be vulnerable
Or maybe come off as weak
While my tears scream "revenge!"
My heart whispers "turn your cheek"
Honest?
I don't even know if it's a relationship that I seek
All I know is that
With you I'm comfortable
Yet butterflies at their peek
I don't shut up for anyone
But for you I'll change my tone
And I can't decide what's worse
Putting up with your shit
Or being alone
I'm tired of texting or calling
Then every 2 minutes, checking my phone
I got a Jones
Along with your "everything" I don't know what
it is
I know that
I'm tired of questioning my worth
Lord knows it's not your selflessness, your
length or your girth...
-

You came in to my life
In all actuality a good guy
Made me laugh more than you've made me cry
Made my heart sing
And you made my soul fly
But you have made me cry
Made my heart heavy with hurt
Two words from your mouth and my prides in
the dirt
With you the general rules don't apply
You made me vulnerable
Made my whole shit go awry
But if I said I didn't love you, that I've never
loved you that I've never been In love with
you.....
it'd be a damn lie....

Women's Resource Center Updates

January- Inspiring Women's Award Nominations are now open. Nominations taken at the WRC website, UC information desk and Scott-Willcoxon Hall.

January 28, 2010, 12pm-1pm- Gender Gap in Higher Education and How it Affects us in Our Professional Work

O Presentation by Chris Linder

In collaboration with the Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership student organization

February 16, 2010 7pm @ the UC Ballrooms- Hanifah Walidah. Having just shot and produced her latest video "Do You Mind" off the soundtrack of her new documentary "U People" and after just completing a new album "Wacha Playin'" with multi-national neofunk band the Brooklyn Funk Essential who are set to embark on a spring and summer international tour; Hanifah Walidah is easily defined as one of the hardest working renaissance women in the arts. Her work over the past 15 years with spoken word, music, theater and film, reads like a list of cultural milestones in almost every arm of the urban arts. You don't ask Hanifah Walidah what she does, but how?

February 22-25, 2010- Eating Disorders Awareness Week. The purpose of Eating Disorder Awareness Week is a week dedicated to promoting health body image. All programming has some significance to this purpose. The fashion show promotes "Celebrating Every BODY Everyday", students, faculty and staff model their interpretation of what makes them beautiful while displaying signs that indicate statistically the damaging effects that eating disorders are having. The mind and body fair is a resource fair that provides the Greeley and UNC communities with information on body image, eating disorders and promotion of healthy living. The chocolate party and art show allows for everyone to indulge in some delectable eats while viewing art created by recovering eating disorder individuals as well as a child's perspective of things they love about themselves.

March- Women's History Month is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the accomplishments of women from around the world. The Women's Resource Center is committed to recognizing and honoring Women of the past and celebrating and encouraging the advancement of women in the future. To kick off Women's History month, a historic timeline of women through history will be displayed in the Women's Resource Center during the first week of March. Members of the UNC community are welcomed to drop by and take a glimpse of remarkable women throughout history. The WRC along with the Center for International Education will be hosting a Women of the World Potluck, where we will celebrate and learn about the accomplishments of women all around the world. All female UNC community members are welcome to join and encouraged to bring a dish to share. Due to the religious beliefs of some of the women who will be in attendance, we ask that no males over the age of 10 attend this event..

March 2, 2010- Tissa Hami and Timeline Reception Tissa Hami is one of the world's few female Muslim stand-up comics. Her unique act and fresh perspective on life as an Iranian-American woman leave audiences in shock and awe. From Islamic fundamentalists to white liberals to good old-fashioned racists, no one is safe from her sharp wit. Tissa hopes her comedy will help break down stereotypes about Muslim women and foster understanding between Iranians and Americans.

March 8-12, 2010- Women's Appreciation Week and SAFE Week. A series of weeklong events hosted in collaboration with Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity, Inc.; a Latino- based fraternity which encompasses and values all cultures. Last year's events included; breast cancer awareness and domestic violence awareness events along with other women's issues events.

March 25, 2010- Women of the World the purpose of this event is to unite the women of UNC as we all experience international cuisine and educational perspectives of diverse topics. We respectfully ask that no males over the age of 10 attend this event due to cultural/religious beliefs of some women in attendance. This event is in partnership with the Center for International Education.

April 29, 2010- Women's Recognition Reception the purpose of the Women's Recognition Reception is to honor and recognize all of the volunteers who have helped make our programming a success. The WRC staff alone could not have accomplished everything we do without the assistance from our volunteers. We also award the Inspiring Women's Awards. The Inspiring Women's Awards will go to one female UNC staff, faculty and student. These individuals were nominated from the UNC community. Nomination forms can be picked up at the beginning of each Spring semester at the Women's Resource Center or online at <http://www.unco.edu/wrc/forms.htm>



Above is a photograph of the faculty, student and staff 2008-2009 winners of the Inspiring Women Award. If there is a woman in your life who you find to be a continuous inspiration, now is the time to let them know, by nominating them for this award. Applications can be found at the link provided above! Nominate three inspiring women in your life!

Feminisms,

by Tom Wallingford

To an extent, (and this is true of most groups vying for equality), the feminist movement seems self-obsessed with what men are doing, and what standard men are held to. This is one of the paradoxical necessary evils of the movement. We, as feminists, must be aware of how the higher members of the hierarchy in the society are treated and the advantages given as such. But over-awareness to these issue may cause problems, infighting, assumptions, and ultimately, a dilution of the power of the feminist movement.

One issue comes to mind: in early 2008, tears came to Hillary Clinton's eyes while speaking about how she doesn't "want to see us fall backwards" as a nation. The effect was simple and predictable. The move (whether genuine or scripted is a moot point) resonated with her base as a sign of passion. To those that already opposed Clinton, the move was disingenuous at best and the mark of an unstable, over-emotional, psychotic incapable of holding office at worst. Another predictable move was the accusations of misogyny, assumptions that the criticism leveled at Hillary would *never* be leveled at a man who began to get choked up at the podium.

I'm not insinuating that the campaign of Hillary Clinton wasn't sabotaged by misogyny (the words "iron my shirt" come to mind), but was the criticism of her crying *actually* misogynist in nature, or was it something else? For one, the largest criticism regarding her emotions before January 2008 was that she had no emotions (which supporting pundits actually mentioned before). The question remains: would these criticisms be placed on a man who did the same things?

To answer the question of over-emotionality, let's fast-forward to March 2009. Glenn Beck announced his 9/12 Project. He cried. By April, Glenn Beck had become the poster boy for insincerity and fear-mongering. Notice that this was criticism about a man who was already criticized for possibly being a lunatic (not like Clinton, who was criticized for being cold and calculating). Again, ignore whether you think Beck or Clinton were sincere in their tears. The reaction was almost identical: the bases were fired up (if the Tea Parties aren't an indication of that then I'm not sure what is) and the people who already hated them hated them more. Whereas Clinton has largely outlived the crying incident (if her approval rating is any indication), Glenn Beck was caricatured on *South Park* two weeks ago by a crying Eric Cartman claiming that Wendy had an evil, socialist plot to kill the Smurfs.

I'm going to apologize in advance for the following look at the question of detachment. This will involve some *Slaughterhouse Five*-esque time jumping that will possibly just have to be dealt with. Now, taking a look at 2005, when the world saw the face of George Bush flying over Katrina's aftermath, Bill Maher saw that rather than a reaction, Bush "didn't have one". Michael Moore criticized Bush's lack of emotion or action while the World Trade Centers fell. To be completely fair, Michael Moore said more that Bush simply looked confused (meaning, he had the wrong emotion). Lewis Black attacked Bush for nearly the same thing when he said that "his words don't match his face. Something is askew" and that "If you're the President, you should go 'We're going to talk about the war, I must have a frowny face.'"

Even with the reality that men in politics are frequently called out for their coldness (Cheney) or emotions (O'Reilly) many people cited the criticism Clinton received from crying as some kind of death knell, indicative and representative of all the struggles she faced in politics for being a woman. I will reiterate that grasping fervently to the established patriarchal system in America's government didn't just hurt Hillary, it may well have killed her campaign. The point of this essay was not to disprove that, but to establish a kind of focus for feminists.

Many feminists circles can cite up and down every single thing that happened to Hillary based on her sex, but the problem is that much of the mainstream media focused on the backlash to her crying, and the backlash to that backlash. It makes the movement sound petty, because that argument is petty. "Iron my shirts" or "How do we beat the bitch?" should have been the quotes heard on every news station and brought up in every debate. The fact of the matter is they weren't, or at least not as much as Hillary's misty-eyed commentary on the state of America.

The problem isn't pointing out misogyny, the problem is pointing out the best examples of it to prove our point. While some commentators did have a sexist agenda when commenting on Clinton, some genuinely didn't, so lumping them all together, as I've said, sounds petty and rash, like we're looking for something that isn't necessarily there to be angry about. But the fact of the matter is that it exists in very explicit ways that we inexplicably failed to use as examples. When you want to show someone what an egg is, you don't show them an omelet, is what I'm trying to say. It may have elements of what you're trying to show the people, but it's not the pure and genuine article, and therefore, loses some validity with those who are getting preached to that aren't the choir.



WRC Calendar of Events, Spring 2010

JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Committee on Women's Programming 4 -5 @WRC	12	13	14 EDAW meeting 2- 3pm @ WRC	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day!	19	20	21 EDAW meeting 2- 3pm @ WRC	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 "Gender Gap in Higher Ed" 12-1 @WRC EDAW 2-3 @WRC	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 EDAW Meeting 2-3 @ WRC	5	6
7	8 Committee on Women's Programming 4-5 @ WRC	9	10	11 EDAW meeting 2-3 @WRC	12	13
14	15	16 Speaker Hanifah Walidah 7-9 UC Ball- rooms	17	18 EDAW meeting 2-3 @ WRC	19	20
21	22 Journey Conference, Mind & Body Fair, 10-1 UC Fireside, Speaker Coleen Coffey	23 "How to Help a Friend" 7pm @WRC	24 Fashion Show 7-9, UC Ballrooms	25 Art Show & Chocolate Party 6-8 @WRC	26	27
28						

WRC Calendar of Events, Spring 2010

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's History month Time-line	2 Time line Reception 10-2 @ WRC , Tissa Hami 7pm UC Ballrooms	3	4	5	6
7	8 Committee on Women's Programming 4-5 @ WRC,	9	10 Women's Appreciation/SAFE WEEK	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Committee on Women's Programming 4-5 @ WRC	23	24 Dr. Falcon "Swift Raid" Workshop, 2-3 @ WRC	25 Women of the World Potluck 5:30 @ WRC	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Committee on Women's Programming 4-5 @ WRC	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Committee on Women's Programming 4-5 @ WRC	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Women's Recognition Reception UC Ballrooms	30	

The naked earth is warm with Spring,
And with green grass and bursting trees
Leans to the sun's kiss glorying,
And quivers in the sunny breeze.
~Julian Grenfell

Women's Resource Center & Stryker Institute

January 2010

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