

Women's Resource Center

"The Muse-letter" February 1997



McKee 512, 351-1492

Bonnie Reiss, Editor

What to Do?

Steps for Dealing With Sexual Harassment

By Megan Graham
Staff Program Associate,
WRC

Due to the fact that sexual harassment is an unfortunate part of the college experiences of many female students, the Women's Resource Center would like to inform the campus community of steps that can be taken to help women deal with such harassment. The steps that we are describing are not a complete guide to all of the resources that are available, but they are a starting point for women who have been sexually harassed.

According to Judy Jones, the Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs, a woman who wishes to take action regarding sexual harassment should first visit Jones in Carter 3005,

x2303. Jones can explain the various options that are available. The student can choose to deal with sexual harassment herself, or a student can choose to file an informal grievance. If a student files an informal grievance, Jones will investigate the matter thoroughly.

A student who has been sexually harassed may also choose to file a formal grievance. In the case of a formal grievance, a student would call Jim LaCour, the Director of Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity, x2829. LaCour will first provide the student with a list of Discrimination Review Board Members. The student and the accused will each choose a person from the list of Board Members to represent them, and then those chosen Board Mem-

bers will choose a third member to form a review panel. The panel of three Board Members will then investigate the case and listen to both the student and the accused harasser. If the accused person is found guilty of sexual harassment, he will then face various sanctions, depending on his classification. If the harasser is another student, for example, he would be subject to rules regarding students.

LaCour reports that in his time at UNC, no formal grievances have ever been filed. Hopefully, knowledge of resources available for students will help them make informed decisions about how to handle sexual harassment.

Women's Resource Center Program Evaluation Survey

About the WRC:

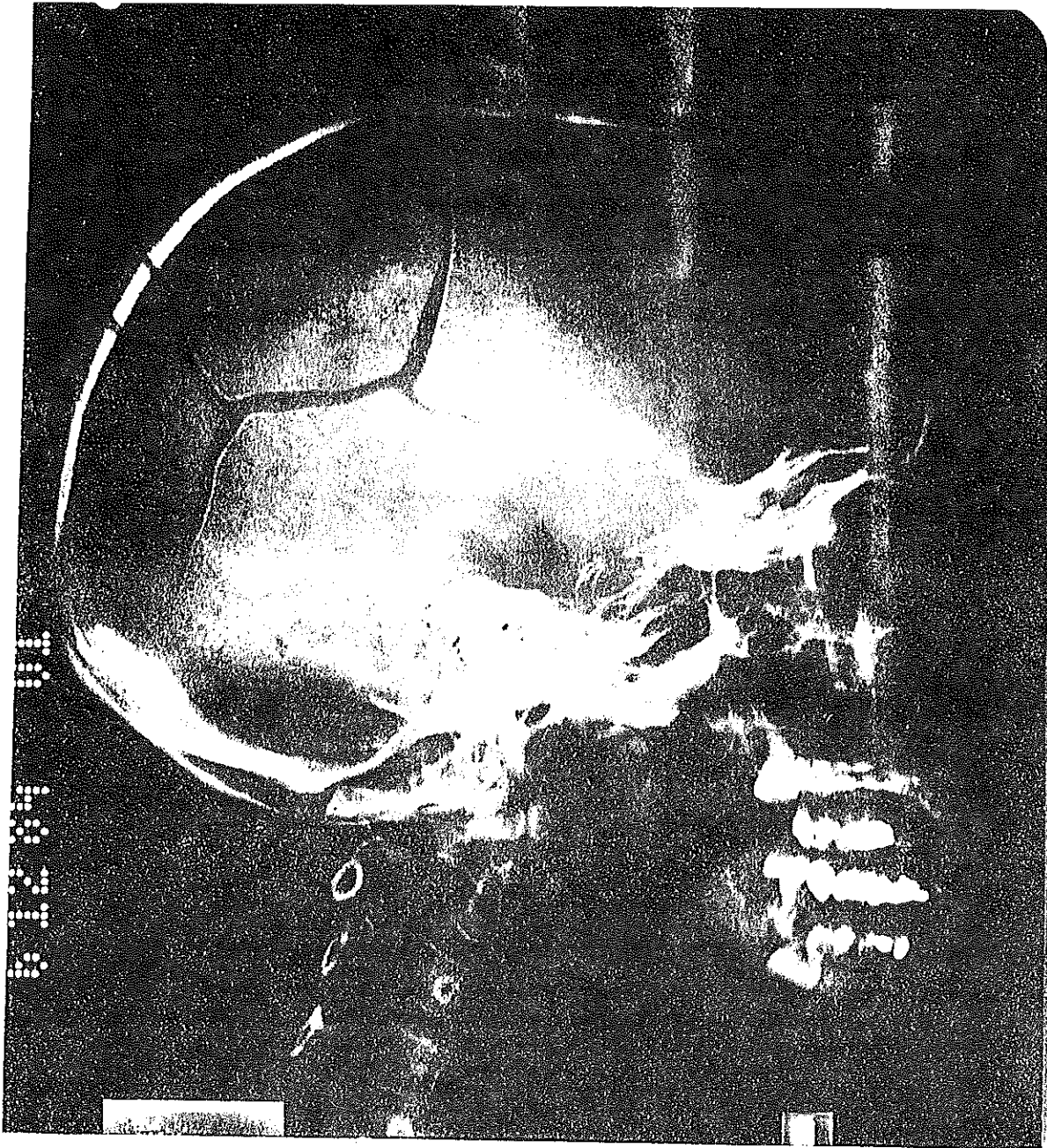
1. I am familiar with the Women's Resource Center yes no
if no, why not?
2. I know where the Women's Resource Center is located yes no
if no, why not?
3. I have visited the Women's Resource Center yes no
if no, why not?
4. I have heard a faculty member mention or refer a student to the Women's Resource Center yes no
5. I have attended programs of the Women's Resource Center:
once 2-5 times more than 5 never
if not, why not?
6. I have used the WRC Resource Library:
once 2-5 times more than 5 never
if not, why not?
7. I have read the WRC Museletter:
once 2-5 times more than 5 never
if not, why not?
8. The WRC has been a resource for me:
once 2-5 times more than 5 never
if not, why not?
9. The WRC has been a resource for someone I know:
once 2-5 times more than 5 never
if not, why not?
10. The WRC raises issues of concern to women students and/or the campus community:
strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree
11. The WRC helps the campus climate for women:
strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree
12. The WRC contributes to educational programming on campus:
strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Please check any of the following campus programs you have attended/participated in:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Tan | <input type="checkbox"/> Nobel Peace Prize Winner Rigoberta Menchú |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Van Derbur | <input type="checkbox"/> David Sadker/Failing at Fairness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Daly | <input type="checkbox"/> WRC Open House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist Bakesale | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Recognition Banquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WomanFest | <input type="checkbox"/> Take Our Daughters to Work Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color Me Woman | <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Rushin/The Black Back-Ups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TEARS of the Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Back to Beijing (featuring Dottie Lamm) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annette Kolodny | <input type="checkbox"/> ISM - National Diversity Summit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursdays in Black | <input type="checkbox"/> "Good Girls Don't Eat Dessert" |

Please complete other side.

**Some men break more
than their girlfriends'
hearts.**



**If you or someone you know
is involved in a
domestic violence situation,
A Woman's Place can help you.
For information or help, call 351-0476.**

The Women's Recognition Banquet

The Women's Resource Center, Associated Women Students, Women's Studies, the Commission for Women, and Women of Color will sponsor the 3rd Annual Women's Recognition Banquet honoring UNC women students, faculty and staff members. Although the Banquet is held in April this year, it is still part of Women's HerStory Month. The Banquet will be held on **Wednesday, April 16th** in the UC Ballroom beginning at 6:30 p.m. Nominations of individual women for special recognition will be taken at the Women's Resource Center until **Monday, March 31st**.

Nomination forms will be available in the Women's Resource Center and in the Student Activities area. All nominations submitted will be considered, and self-nominations are especially welcome. Be sure to base your nominations on the following criteria: contribution to the University Community and beyond; evidence of a commitment to diversity; and a number of other accomplishments that illustrate why your nominee deserves recognition.

Ticket prices for the Banquet are \$15 for faculty/staff and \$7.50 for students. The ticket price includes a buffet dinner. Tickets are available until **Friday, April 11** at the Women's Resource Center, located in McKee 539A.

For more information contact the Women's Resource Center at 351-1492.

Were You Mad Last Year? Come Back Again This Year For the 2nd Annual Feminist Bakesale!

By Leslie Hillen
Graduate Staff Program
Associate, WRC

Getting tired of being paid less for the same work and the same levels of achievement? Well, come to the Feminist Bakesale for more information about the pay discrepancies in the United States.

Once again, we're having the Feminist Bakesale!! For all of you who are unfamiliar, we

will sell each donated baked good according to how much you get paid in the work place. For instance, a white woman earns \$.70 for every dollar that a white man earns. That same white woman would pay only \$.70 for the same item that a white man would pay \$1 for. Our pay scale is based on the information gathered by the United States Department of Labor Women's Division.

We will be providing information at the sale about the pay discrepancies for African-American women and men, Chicano/Latino women and men, and disabled women and men which we will use for selling our goods.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Bakesale, or donating a baked good, please call the WRC at x1492.

Sexual Assault-Free Environment (SAFE) Week

- **Sunday, February 9:** 7 pm, "Sex, Lies, & Video-tapes," videos and discussion in McCowen, Harrison, Wiebking, Central Coalition & Student Family apartments.
8:30 pm, Candlelight Vigil. Begin at Wiebking & McCowen Halls and end at the UC Fireplace Lounge. Speakers will include President Skinner & Kami Dempsey, SRC President.
- **Monday, February 10:** 4 pm, Self Defense Class, Wilson Hall Basement.
7 pm, "For Men Only," UC Panorama Lounge.
- **Tuesday, February 11:** Noon, "Duty to Report: The Role of Faculty & Staff" Brown Bag Discussion, UC Columbine A.
7 pm, "You Be The Jury" Mock Trial & Discussion, UC Columbine Suites.

*For more information, contact Ann at x2573
- **Wednesday, February 12:** 10 am-2 pm, SAFE Information Fair, UC Lower Lobby
7 pm, "Sex Offenders: Who Are They & Will They Ever Change?" UC Columbine B.
9 pm, "Keep It Safe Sweetheart" Free your Mind Dance, Club Bentley.
- **Thursday, February 13:** 7 pm, "Hot, Sexy & Safer" with Maria Falzone, UC Ballrooms.

Celebrate African-American History Month

- **February 6:** The Third Annual Africana Night Celebration; music, dancing drumming, story telling, a fashion show, food, vendors, and guest speakers all in a rousing night of cultural celebration.
- **February 4, 11, 18, & 25:** One evening presentation each week by a different Professor, including: Dr. Anthonia Kalu, Dr. Osita Afoaku, Dr. George Junne, and Dr. Lawrence Borom. Highly informative and interesting seminars in areas of interest of specialty.
- **February 5 & 6:** The movie "Secrets and Lies" will be shown by the Honors Program in the evening in the Lindou Theater.
- **February 10 through the 14:** The second annual Black Artist Contest is open to artists using a Black Cultural theme, and will be on display in the University Center. On the 14th, at the Garvey Center, the winner will receive \$100.00, with second and third receiving \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively. Ballots will be available to the Campus and Greeley communities to vote for their favorites.
- **February 19 & 20:** The movie "Get on the Bus" will be shown by the Honors Program and the Marcus Garvey Center for Black Cultural Education in the evening in the Lindou Theater.
- **February 20 through the 22:** Students associated with the Marcus Garvey Center for Black Cultural Education including: students from Black Women of Tomorrow, Black Men of Today, The Black Student Union, the NAACP, and Praise Unlimited will travel to Ames, Iowa for the 20th Annual Big 8 Black Student Leadership Conference.
- **February 27:** a showing of the controversial film "Skin Deep" in the Marcus Garvey Center for Black Cultural Education, followed by an in-depth discussion on racism and a Black History month wrap-up.

* For more information concerning events, please call the Marcus Garvey Center at x2351

Feminist Historian To Speak At UNC

by Natacha Sochia
Intern, WRC

Gerda Lerner grew up in Austria in the 1930's in a very free thinking, intellectual household, with a businessman-pharmacist father and a mother who was a maverick, an artist, an early hippie, and feminist. In her 18th year, the Nazis came to power in Austria and Gerda and her mother were imprisoned for six weeks. At the end of their imprisonment Gerda managed to complete her high school education and graduate Magna Cum Laude.

After graduation, Gerda fled the Nazis to the United States, where she worked in stereotypically women's jobs, doing office work,

waitressing, and sales. Through this experience, Gerda realized she wanted more for herself and other women.

At 38, Gerda decided to get professional training as a historian. From the beginning of her studies, Gerda focused on the history of women. Eventually, she put together her own Women's Studies Program and taught the first course in Women's History at the New School in New York City.

Upon graduating with her Ph.D., Gerda's goal was to make Women's History legitimate, a part of a profession, and taught at every level of schooling.

Gerda has written many books as well as a musical and a screenplay. In her latest book, *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness*, she

says, "Women have transmitted the cultural heritage to their children of both sexes. Women have provided continuity in the building of communities. Women always worked to support themselves and family members. They have worked in the lowest-paying jobs, and they have worked for love in the home. Women have struggled for their emancipation. All of this is the lost heritage of every woman, and it must also be the heritage of every man."

We are very fortunate to help host this extraordinary woman here at UNC on **March 5, at 7 pm in the Panorama Lounge.** If you would like more information about this event, please call the WRC at x1492.

Paula Poundstone Laughs Her Way To Greeley

The perfect Valentine's gift! If you want to impress your date and have a great time, catch Paula Poundstone at the **Union Colony Civic Center on Friday, February 14, at 8 pm.** No matter how good or bad your Valentine date is, Poundstone will be sure to have you rolling in the aisles with laughter. For more information about the event, call the WRC at x1492 or UPC at x2265.

Wilma Mankiller To Come In February

A three time Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation will speak at UNC on **Thursday, February 20, at 7 pm, in the Panorama Lounge.**

We at the WRC are looking forward to spending an evening with such an incredible woman! If you would like any information on this event, please call the WRC at x1492

or Native American Student Services at x1905.

Women's Resource Center

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Bonnie Reiss, Editor



Equal Opportunity Objectification

by Bonnie Reiss
WRC, Editor

Funny as this may sound, the fellows who lived in the house where I currently live used to subscribe to *Playboy*. This strikes me as somewhat ironic that a house full of feminists actually gets every monthly issue of *Playboy*! Anyway, I always flip through the issues whenever we get them to see which woman happens to be chosen to be exploited for that particular month. Usually, it is the same type of woman every issue. This most recent issue was a little different.

As I was casually flipping through, I came across one very special playmate who was chosen specifically because she was a paraplegic. At first, I felt this was a positive move on *Playboy's* part. It showed me that the magazine was indeed an "equal opportunity employer." But, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that this was actually kind of sick. I mean, here is this pretty woman, with exceptionally large breasts, completely naked, with her legs rearranged underneath her to make it look

like she doesn't actually have a disability. I don't know about you, but I saw this to be quite possibly one of the most oppressive images I have seen in a long time.

The image portrayed makes us see a woman who, at first glimpse, not only is totally naked and "longing" for sex, but also is completely helpless. Talk about exploitation! Not only that, but in a much broader sense, this has to be the rawest form of the male fantasy. Is anyone unfamiliar with the male fantasy in which a woman, totally naked, always available, is also completely at his mercy (because she literally cannot walk away)? I don't know too many guys out there who would turn down a completely naked and beautiful woman who also happens to be completely helpless and dependent.

Now I'm not trying to say that all paraplegic people are helpless, but I think the message that *Playboy* is sending is not only negative, but detrimental to how perceptions are formed about women, in general, women with disabilities, in particular. Mary Daly says it best when she discusses dismem-

berment and women in her book *Gyn/Ecology*. Daly discusses a book called, *Rationale of the Dirty Joke*, by G. Legman (I know it sounds like some kind of sick joke, but that is really his name), which discusses the perversion of men being attracted to and stimulated by any type of female dismemberment. Not only does the author discuss it, but he makes it seem as though it is a normal and natural thing, and he points out that "female helplessness arouses many men" (Daly, 144). Paraplegia is used by *Playboy* as a symbol of helplessness and represents dismemberment.

Before everyone reading this automatically objects to what I have to say I would like people to take a step back and look at how we as a culture easily detach ourselves from situations such as these, and normalize them to fit our own agendas. Yes, *Playboy* is oppressive to women, but I think it has gone a little too far this time and sent not only a negative message, but an oppressive one as well.

"If Men Could Menstruate!"

By Gloria Steinem

A white minority of the world has spent centuries conning us into thinking that a white skin makes people superior—even though the only thing it really does is make them more subject to ultra-violet rays and to wrinkles.

Male human beings have built whole cultures around the idea that penis-envy is "natural" to women—though having such an unprotected organ could be said to make men vulnerable, and the power to give birth makes womb-envy at least logical.

In short, the characteristics of the powerful, and whatever they may be, are thought to be better than the characteristics of the powerless, and logic has nothing to do with it.

What would happen, for instance, if suddenly, sadly yet magically, men could menstruate and women could not??!

The answer is clear—menstruation would become an envious, boastworthy event: men would brag about how long and how much. Boys would mark the onset of menses, that longed-for proof of manhood, with religious ritual and stag parties. Congress would fund a National Institute of Dysmenorrhea to help stamp out monthly discomforts.

Sanitary supplies would be federally funded and free. (Of course, some

men would still pay for the prestige of commercial brands such as John Wayne Tampons, Muhammad Ali's Rope-a-dope Pads, Joe Namath Jock Shields—"For those light jock days," and Robert "Barretta" Blake Maxi Pads.)

Military men, right-wing politicians, and religious fundamentalists would cite menstruation ("menstruation") as proof that only men could serve in the Army ("you have to give blood to take blood"), occupy political office ("can women be aggressive without the steadfast cycle governed by the planet Mars?") be priests and ministers ("how could a woman give her blood for our sins?"), or rabbis ("without the monthly loss of impurities, woman remain unclean").

Male radicals, left-wing politicians, and mystics, however, would insist that women are equal, just different; and that no woman could enter their ranks if only she were willing to self-inflict a major wound every month ("you must give blood for the revolution"), recognize the preeminence of menstrual issues, or subordinate her selfness to all men in their Cycle of Enlightenment.

Street guys would brag "I am a three pad man" or answer praise from a buddy ("man, you lookin' good, you must be menstruating!") by giving fives and saying,

"Yeah, man, I am on the rag!"

TV shows would treat the subject at length. ("Happy Days:" Richie and Potsie try to convince Fonzie that he is still "The Fonz" even though he missed two periods in a row.") So would newspapers. (SHARK SCARE THREATENS MENSTRUATING MAN. JUDGE SITES MONTHLY STRESS IN PARDONING A MURDERER) And movies. (Newman and Redford in "Blood Brothers!").

Men would convince women that intercourse was more pleasurable at "that time of the month." Lesbians would be said to fear blood and therefore life itself—though probably only because they need a good menstruating man.

Of course, male intellectuals would offset the most moral and logical arguments. How could a woman master any discipline that demanded a sense of time, space, mathematics, or measurement, for instance, without that built-in gift for measuring the cycles of the moon and planets—and thus for measuring anything at all? In the rarefied fields of philosophy and religion, could women compensate for missing the rhythm of the universe? Or for their lack of symbolic death-and-resurrection every universe? Or for their lack of symbolic death-and-resurrection every month?

Shellie Moore Guy:

"For the Sheroes Who Help Me Stand."

by Laurie Lynn Hogan
Staff Program Associate, WRC

I met Shellie at a conference on women and spirituality last October. She was doing a workshop there, and I figured that anyone who uses the word "Sheroes" has to know what's up. During the course of her workshop, she sang, danced, recited her poetry, and told stories that reflected her herstory as an African-American woman.

During our short time together she made me laugh, reflect on myself, reflect on the world, and then cry because

Shellie Moore Guy
will be
speaking at
Club Bentley,
on March 12 at 6 pm

of those reflections. She had us singing and drumming on the desks — we were all eager to devour every word that spilled from her lips.

In short, she was

incredible.

Shellie Moore Guy is a published and award-winning poet, the host of "Ebony Expressions" radio talk show, a motivational speaker, and a nationally known storyteller. In addition, she is a community activist, a teacher of children and adults, the recipient of multiple awards including the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award, and most of all, an inspiration.

Wake Up

by Shellie Moore Guy

rest should not come
easy
during times of war.

There is an enemy lurking
disguised as children
wearing brown skin,
preying on ignorance
feeding on hatred sing-
ing
lullabies like we shall
overcome
Someday?
while death and destruc-
tion stink
on city streets.
Can't you smell it?
The casualties are buried
in graves

labeled *dead on arrival*
labeled *gang related*
labeled *they're not my*
problem
they're someone else's
children
But can't you see them?

Too many times the clock
has sounded
the alarm
Can't you hear it?
the eerie sounds of silence
mingling
with repetitions of *blast*
after blast after blast

blast
then someone screams and
you hit the floor
your eyes wild with images
of sons and daughters
lying alone on cold con-

crete.
The servant's sirens arrive
too late
the blood is on our hands.

Wake up!
don't fall asleep again
tranquilized
by self-righteousness
while the enemy plots
the blasts continue
& babies fall.

The mothers weep and
rock and moan
on church pews.
The choirs sing, the
pastors pray
another Amen.
Can't you feel it?
It's warfare. How can you
fall asleep?
Wake up!

Does UNC Really Embrace Diversity?

by Laurie Lynn Hogan
Staff Program Associate, WRC

If you want cultural diversity on this campus, there are several places you can go — any one of the cultural centers will work, as will the CHE lab, or you can take one of the classes offered by Africana Studies, Hispanic Studies, or the Anthropology department. These places also offer a large amount of diverse programming as well. This is certainly not an extensive list, but it is important to note that if you are interested in diverse perspectives, you have to seek them out on this campus.

From day one (remember Discover UNC?), we were told that this was a campus that embraced diversity. If this were the case, however, we would find multiplistic views in every class and in every department. We would see a more substantial reflection of people from varying backgrounds and of different ethnicities, not only in the physical classroom (by way of both students and professors, not to mention within the rest of the staff and administration of UNC), but in the curriculum of those classes as well.

It is with all of this in mind that students representing several diverse groups on campus have come together under the umbrella of the Colorado Progressive Coalition to act as a solid voice for diversity. After many meetings and discussions, we have

developed a platform for diversity that indicates what we believe to be the most timely and pressing issues for diverse communities on this campus.

The Platform itself reads as follows:

- Asian/Pacific American students make up the second largest non-white population on this campus. WE DEMAND THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ASIAN STUDIES MINOR AND STUDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES REFERENDUM.

- The disparity between the enrollment rate and graduation rate of students of color is alarming, which indicates a blatant disregard for these students. WE DEMAND THE ALREADY EXISTING RETENTION PROGRAM BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY.

- There is no cultural center for UNC's significant gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered population. WE DEMAND A G/L/B/T CULTURAL CENTER AND A GRADUATE ASSISTANT TO STAFF THE CENTER.

- Current debates on funding problems must not sacrifice existing programs that value diversity. WE DEMAND FULL FUNDING, SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPANSION OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

If you find the language included herein too strong, perhaps you should consider the strong feelings of students of color or gay/lesbian

students when they don't see anything even closely resembling themselves reflected in most of their classes. Or maybe you should begin to question why a University which advertises itself as being supportive of diversity even thought about cutting the Anthropology Department, when Anthropology is, by definition, one of the most diverse disciplines on this campus. It's possible that you'll begin to feel as strongly as we do.

And if you are so inclined to get in on a little revolutionary action, there are some things you can do to help. There are Diversity Platform Petitions circulating right now that you can sign. Better yet, you can grab some copies from Pete in the COPIRG office (Student Activities area of the University Center, 351-4504) and circulate them in your classes. We are working toward a goal of 1,000 signatures (10% of the campus population). Half of these signatures have already been attained.

In addition, on March 12 at noon at the UC West Patio, there will be a Rally for Diversity. Come by and listen to some of the issues that diverse groups on this campus are facing (besides, rallies are always fun). Most of all, insist that your professors, advisors, administrators, and friends unconditionally work towards infusing diversity into the core of this University.

Remember: you have a voice. Use it.

Who Are the Real Token Torturers?

by Melanie Wilson
Director, WRC

One of the organizing principles of the Women's Resource Center is support for women. This makes our practice quite simple and straightforward: if it's good for women, we support it. However, there are times when the interests of individual women become competing interests. While this appears to be a vexing dilemma, (and it can be), it doesn't have to be.

First, women have a wonderful knack for working things out. Many times I've found such "competing interests" to be only different sides of the proverbial

same coin. But more to point of this musing is our assertion that in other situations we can and must draw the line — we support women who support other women.

For instance, if there are women who, in whatever circumstance, have stepped on other women at every stage of their career and aligned themselves against women at every opportunity, we would be foolish to support those practices and those individuals. Women who have aligned themselves with the current power structure and who are surprised when it turns against them, as it most often will, cannot expect us to rush to their defense. Mary Daly, one of the great phi-

losophers of the 20th century, refers to such women as "token torturers": women acting as agents of the oppressors against other women. We "just say no" to token torture.

The consistent practice of supporting women is what we value. Just calling yourself a feminist is not good enough (Camille Paglia and Christina Hoff Sommers, for goodness sake, call themselves feminists). You must walk the walk at least a bit, given your own circumstances. And by all means, don't work against women. That is the disqualifier. It really IS very simple.

Renowed UNC Women Alumnae

•Lucile Bogue, BA-34, is the founder of Colorado Mountain College and an award-winning author.

•Carol Mutter, BA-67, is the highest ranking woman in military service. She is a Lieutenant General with the United States Marine Corps.

•Babara Coloroso, BA-70, MA-72, is a children's advocate.

•Babara Sue Davis, BA-74, is a costume designer for Jim Henson Associates and wardrobe stylist for the Muppets.

•Maureen Hogg, BA-77, is a senior technical writer for Ball Corporation Aerospace Systems. She has been legally blind and deaf since age 15.

•Elena Batman, MM-87, sang a leading role in Phantom of the Opera on Broadway.

WRC Associate Director Sought

The WRC is seeking a bright and talented individual to serve as the Associate Director for the 1997-98 school year. This is a graduate assistantship position for 9 months, in-state tuition paid. You can pick up a GA application form after February 11 at the WRC or in the Office of Student Affairs, Carter 3005. Please call the WRC (x1492) if you have any questions about this position. If you like to work on issues of concern to woman, like to make a difference, and like to have fun, this is the place for you!

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For more information contact the Women's Resource Center at 351-1492.

Thursday's In Black

by Kristin Heil
Staff Program Associate, WRC

Every day, many lives are effected by violence. Victims are often silenced by fear, and their plight is ignored. **Thursdays In Black** is a worldwide campaign remembering individuals, especially women and children, who are victimized by abuse, rape, and murder. This protest against violence is simple: wear black each Thursday.

March is Women's Herstory Month, and the Thursday's in Black movement is generally practiced each Thursday of the month. In order to

increase awareness of this event, a display will be set up on Thursday, March 6th, in the University Center (Fireside Lounge) from 10-4 pm, which will include information about this campaign. Also available will be **Thursdays In Black** buttons for \$1.00, as well as other merchandise from the Women's Resource Center. This month, and every month, please remember those who have suffered at the hand of violence and participate in **Thursdays In Black**. More information can be obtained by contacting the Women's Resource Center at 351-1492.

"Herstory in Art: Judy Chicago's Dinner Party"

"The Dinner Party" by Judy Chicago remains one of the most influential works of 20th Century art. And Greeley, unbeknownst to many, is a hotbed of women's art. So it is only natural that some of our Greeley artists were involved in the creation and/or staging of this show.

Judith Meyers is one of those artists. She has graciously agreed to share with us some of her slides on "The Dinner Party" and talk about this amazing piece. Her slide show and discussion will be held Monday March 24 in the Milne Auditorium (Kepner Hall) at 6:30 pm.

Anyone with an interest in art or women artists is invited to attend.

Women's Resource Center

"The Muse-letter" April 1997

McKee 512, 351-1492

Natacha Sochia, Editor



What the Hell Are "Femi-Nazis?"

by Megan Graham
Staff Program Associate, WRC

Antifeminist rhetoric is not a new concept; it has been around since the beginning of the women's movement. Early on venerable medical professionals and politicians warned that women were too physically and mentally delicate to participate in the cruel harsh male world, and that doing so would cause their ovaries to shrivel up, making child-bearing impossible. In our society of professional female athletes and Senators, we realize the ridiculousness of such arguments. However, what we do not realize is that these arguments are not as antiquated as we think.

We have our own modern rhetoricians perpetuating the same tired myths of feminists as unhappy avengers who are threatening society. For example, Rush Limbaugh, America's number one radio talk show host, has coined the term "femi-Nazis" to describe feminists. Limbaugh's parallel between feminists and Hitler's Nazis of World War II is clear: Today's feminists, like Nazis, are

unreasonable, militant soldiers intent on world domination. Limbaugh's far-fetched caricature is not accurate. In reality, most feminists subscribe to liberal feminism, which is the belief that women can find equality within the present social structure, not by destroying it. In fact, the largest feminist organization in America, the National Organization for Women, is based on seeking "equality for the sexes." (NOW statement of purpose)

If Rush Limbaugh's rhetoric is not enough to give feminists a bad name, there are plenty of movies that will. In a recent hit movie, P.C.U. (Politically Correct University), feminist college students march around in combat boots and fatigues, protesting fraternity parties. This low-budget comedy is a spin-off of Rush Limbaugh's "femi-Nazis" and is an antifeminist representation for the college set. Of course, the feminists in the movie are not without hope; by the end of the movie, they shed their combat gear and began to enjoy the fraternity party. The message of this movie is that feminists are man-hating protesters who need men to make them happy. When

these women finally abandon their silly notions of equality, they are free to enjoy life. Unfortunately, this whole message and its humor was lost on me. I could not relate to this movie because I am a college student, yet have never seen a so-called "femi-Nazis". I have attended many fraternity parties, and I have never seen any protesters, except the police. I have seen minority students protesting at Carter Hall, and I have had religious groups give me pamphlets, but I have yet to see a "femi-Nazi" protest. If these angry women are pervading our culture, where are they?

These false stereotypes have persisted because certain members of our society want them to persist, so that women will remain fearful and skeptical of the feminist movement, and therefore never join together to achieve equality. I believe that women must realize the fabrication that underlies the antifeminist sentiment. They can then declare themselves feminists and actively strive for the equality they deserve.

WRC Staff Say Goodbye

A Life-Changing Experience

by Terri Baker
Graduate Assistant, WRC

On August 20th, 1993, I moved from St. Petersburg, Florida to Denver, Colorado. My father drove the moving van which was towing my car, and my partner at the time drove her car with our blended family: her dog, our dog, and my cat. The trip took more than 32 hours, but in many ways it has proven to be the beginning of a journey that will continue for the rest of my life.

Moving day was like most summer days in Florida, hot and humid. This day was no exception. The house was full of many friends who had come to bid us farewell. One of my most enduring memories of that day was waving good-bye to Michele and Holly as we drove away...

I spent most of the next 3 days riding in the moving truck with my dad. We talked about politics, we saw people who had lost everything that summer when the Mississippi River flooded, we talked about the impact that TV, radio, telephones and electricity had on people in rural communities, we stood in a field with stalks of corn that seemed to be about 20 feet tall, we talked about the impact that a doctorate would have on my life and he told me how proud he

was of me. We ate lunch at rest areas, and we walked the dogs in fields of wildflowers. One of the most spectacular sights I've ever seen was at the end of the 2nd day. We were somewhere in Kansas and we were completely surrounded by sunflowers; giant, bright yellow sunflowers.

On the 3rd day we arrived in Denver to a house that I had rented, sight unseen, from someone I didn't know. This move was truly an act of faith. The house was perfect. The dogs loved the yard, the location was ideal for commuting to Greeley, and the neighbors greeted us with a warm welcome when we arrived.

Since then my life has changed in ways that cannot be quantified and certainly cannot be explained very clearly. I've met the best friends I've ever had in my life and I've met friends that will be a part of my life forever. These are friends who watched me struggle and held me when I doubted my ability as a psychologist, friends who celebrated with me after comps, and friends who held me when I cried after the loss of a 10-year relationship.

The last 2 years I've worked as a GA at the Women's Resource Center and I've had the privilege of working with the most incredible women on the face of the earth. Despite their tender age (I'm 20 years older than most of

them - well, except for Melaniel!) I consider all of these women to be courageous and powerful. I'm very proud of them all and I'm proud to be fortunate enough to count them among my dearest friends.

My father was right when we were driving through the middle of this hugely beautiful country. He said, "Your experience in Colorado is going to change your life." He had no idea how accurate he would be. Many things have changed in my life, I think all for the good, but changes nonetheless. One giant change is that I will be returning to Florida alone.

In September I start the final leg of my formal educational training when I begin a 2000 hour internship at a hospital in Florida. It is almost impossible for me to believe that in just a few short weeks I'll be getting into my car and driving back to Florida. I'll be returning home after finishing what it was that I came here to do.

I want to thank Karen for never wavering in her support and encouragement of me, the Department of Professional Psychology for helping me discover parts of my personality that I never knew existed, the Women's Resource Center for teaching me how to be a strong advocate for women, and to my family back in Florida. Thank you for never giving up on me.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Ms. Reiss:

I am greatly disappointed in the attitudes that come across in your newsletter. I read the first article, "Equal Opportunity Objectification" in the March 1997 "The Museletter." The oppression of women of all races and abilities was portrayed in this article, unfortunately most of it was lost on me because the "man bashing" was more apparent. What I have gotten out of "The Muse-letter" is that women are so oppressed in society, that they must put down men in order to make themselves feel better. This reminds me of being a racist. In essence, a racist is someone who belittles another for the color of

his/her skin. It seems that many of the articles are belittling men because of their anatomical differences. Instead of encouraging women to rise to their full potential, still living in today's world, your message is that men are oppressing us and it is because of them that we cannot rise to our full potential. I disagree!!! I have worked with many men who have encouraged me to reach for my maximum potential. To blatantly stereotype, as you frequently have done in your letter, is contradicting the essence of teaching women to strive for their potential. I think women and men can be compared to apples and oranges. Apples and oranges are both fruits, both have reproductive systems, both have nutrients, both have

fleshy parts that can be consumed, and both grow on trees. To say an apple is better than an orange is a qualitative statement. Since we are all individuals, both men and women, we each need to strive for what our best is.

My advice, stop being "femi-nazis" and blaming men for oppression of women. Women have choices. We can vote and we can choose. How we react to the opportunities that life deals us, depends on how we choose. If women continue to blame men, then we are no better than any bigot we meet on the street.

Thank you,
Dana Vanderhurst, M.A.
Vocational Evaluator

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Proposed End to Consensual Relationships?

by Natacha Sochia
Assistant Editor, WRC

Have you ever wanted to date your professor? Has a professor ever wanted to date you? If either or neither instance has come up there are a few things students, faculty, and staff should be aware of. The University is looking into putting a clause regarding Amorous Relations into the Sexual Harassment Policy of UNC. This clause and all its elements have not been decided on. One of the main ideas was that if there is a relationship occurring between two people of differing evaluative positions, it has to be out in the open, and supervisory and/or evaluative responsibility must be relinquished.

During the March 13th lunch with President Skinner, one of his weekly lunches held in Zacharia's, the subject of consensual relationships was discussed. Even though there were few people in attendance, the lunch proved very informative. The University

wanted to find out what people thought about this added clause and the responses varied only slightly.

One student, a junior and there with members of his Philosophy class, was very upset that there might be a loss of freedom if people's right to chose whom they date is restricted. Another student commented, saying that he thought people who enter into these kinds of relationships have every right to do so but if something goes awry then those individuals must face the consequences.

President Skinner pointed to the obvious and said that if people of differing positions are involved in an amorous relationship, the potential for a difficult situation is intensified greatly. The students were not pleased, and asked President Skinner, "Why is power held by jobs being placed into relationships?" Skinner was quick to give his and the institution's reason for this examination of

problems and basically said, "We want to protect the institution from being held responsible."

This is the basis for this clause, to protect the institution, not the students or faculty and staff but the institution as a whole.

Unfortunately, the institution has little to no chance of being involved in a relationship with someone of a higher position that has the potential to go sour.

President Skinner pointed out that many other institutions have policies that regulate these relationships and that the University will examine other institutions' policies to get ideas on how to formulate one for this University.

Was the point of this lunch to find a way to protect those who enter into relationships of differing evaluative positions, or was it to prevent the institution from being held responsible if one of those relationships goes bad?

Still More Goodbyes...

by Alyssa Goff
Intern, WRC

I have been at UNC for four years and it was this semester that I was fortunate enough to meet and work with some of the most amazing people I have ever met. I regret that I did not find the WRC

until my senior year. I am very sorry that I did not have more time to give to a place that has given me as well as the campus so much. I only hope that wherever I move onto there are people half as dedicated, strong, and outspoken as the people I have met this semester.

I appreciated the opportunity and experience. I know that the UNC Women's Resource Center will accomplish amazing tasks and reach the highest heights in coming years. Goodbye and Good luck--Alyssa

Women's Resource Center

"The Muse-letter" Sept/Oct 1997



McKee 512, 351-1492

Natacha Sochia, Editor

Awesome Women of UNC

by **Melanie Wilson, Director**
WRC

The Women's Resource Center honored many outstanding women at its Third Annual Women's Recognition Banquet last spring. Forty-nine students and 26 faculty and staff members were honored for their accomplishments.

As always, an elite group of women were selected for special recognition. The following students were presented with plaques denoting their outstanding level of achievement:

Johnna Greeley, Coordinator of Center of Personal Education and a member of University Student Wellness Advocacy Team;

Cindy Iwata, nursing and honors student with an impressive record of research and service;

Theresa Tiedemann, 4.0 master's student, UPC advisor and new Associate Director of the Women's Resource Center;

Alberta Nozie, Native American Student Services Graduate Assistant and driving force behind programs such as Wilma Mankiller and the First Annual NASS Pow-Wow;

Shawna Barzdukas, a 4.0 accounting student who presented her thesis on women's mentoring at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Five staff/faculty members were awarded special recognition: **Priscilla Kimboko**, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and co-chair of the Commission for Women;

Wendy Rich-Goldschmidt, Crime Prevention and Train-

ing Officer with the UNC Police Department;

Genie Canales, Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, recently named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers;

Arietta Wiedmann, now-departed Director of the Center for Adult Student Services and former West Campus Dean for Aims Community College;

Susan Kirkpatrick, ex-mayor of Ft. Collins, former UNC Assistant Professor of Political Science and candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

These women epitomize the best of UNC, and the Women's Resource Center is proud to honor them. Join us next spring for the Fourth Annual Women's Recognition Banquet!

Ladies Con't...

Enter the Spirit of Theresa

Hello! As the new Associate Director of the WRC, I find myself following in the footsteps of some very remarkable women. At first I shuddered at the thought of having to fill such shoes. However, the warm reception and feeling of acceptance I received from the women of the Center quickly melted away any anxiety I felt-- an experience that I am confident you too will share when interacting with the WRC staff. After all, they can't help it!

A bit about myself: Most importantly, my favorite type of food is

Vietnamese! I am in the first year of my studies as a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology. Yes, I want to be a shrink! This desire stems from my profound belief in the power and strength of the human spirit coupled with my fascination with the mind, body, spirit connection. I love the outdoors and the life that connecting with nature gives me. I am an avid theater patron and have even taken a stab at the stage myself. The development of spirituality (both my own and in general) and the empowerment of women are also great passions of

mine. The latter is the reason I am so excited to work with the WRC. The idea of working with such a dynamic staff to empower the women of this University and its surrounding community thrills me! We are in for quite a year and I hope you will take every opportunity available to join us in the adventure! Don't let your fears keep you from reaching out and trying something new. Your companion on this wonderful journey called life! T. Tiedemann

Happy Kristin is Back

Aloha, and welcome back to another fun-filled year with the WRC!!! I am Kristin Hau'oli Heil, returning for another year as a Staff Program Associate for the Women's Resource Center, and I couldn't be happier to be here. I've had about a million jobs, and this one is definitely the best, for it combines FUN and ZANY women and absolutely CRUCIAL work, lots of laughs and tears, and the sense that we are subverting the dominant paradigm. Oh, and we eat lots, too! All this in our tiny (and I do mean tiny) office—what more could you ask for? As for typical bio-type info: I am a junior and I plan on majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies, combining Women's Studies, Political

Science, and Sociology. (Keep your fingers crossed for my proposal to be accepted!) If/when I grow up I'd like to be an activist in women's issues for the rest of my life—it is my passion. I have a new kitty named Alice; she is the best & cutest kitty in the world. I am 4'11" and my middle name means "happy"! I take as many naps as humanly possible and prefer Coke to Pepsi. Of all the lessons taught at UNC, the most important to me has been that if people are comfortable with the status quo, I need to work harder and be louder. I am pro-women, and that doesn't mean I'm anti-anything, except for anti-hate & oppression. I expect this year will be a great one, and I invite/challenge/ask you to join us!

Welcome Becki

Hello! My name is Becki Bell and this is my first year on the Women's Resource Center staff. I am a senior psychology major with a biology minor. In my three years at UNC, I have participated in the Women Students Leadership Institute, Alpha Phi Sorority, UNC Women's Lacrosse, and Psi Chi Honors Society. I am looking forward to an outstanding year of programming, speakers, and events that the Women's Resource Center will be providing to the UNC campus and Greeley community. Please feel free to stop by the Women's Resource Center any time to browse through our library, talk with our staff or get information on programs for UNC students.

Former UNC Professor to Run for Congress

by Natacha Sochia,
Museletter Editor WRC

From the fall 1992 through the spring of 1997 the University of Northern Colorado was fortunate to have an exceptional woman and leader teaching on its campus. Susan Kirkpatrick gave her educational services to the Political Science department of this institution.

Not only has this amazing woman leader been a professor but prior to this she was the first directly elected Mayor in the history of Fort Collins. She served on the Fort Collins City Council from 1986-93 and was the Mayor from 1990-93. Kirkpatrick was appointed by Governor Romer to serve on the Great Outdoors Colo-

rado Trust which distributes lottery proceeds statewide for outdoor recreation, open space, wildlife protection and environmental education.

Susan Kirkpatrick will run in the Fourth Congressional District for the seat now held by first term representative Bob Schaffer. She said she feels good about the prospect of running as a moderate candidate in this large Congressional District. She will run on the Democratic Party ticket and does not anticipate a primary election challenge from within the party.

She was born in Niagara Falls, NY and moved to Fort Collins in 1980. She graduated from the University of Michigan with

a B.A. in Political Science, received a Master's in Education from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Colorado State University.

She has served on the Platte River Power Authority, the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board, the Community Foundation Serving Northern Colorado, the Health Professions Panel sponsored by the Colorado Trust, the Fort Collins Library Board as well as being a weekly community columnist for the *Fort Collins Coloradoan*.

Susan Kirkpatrick is an outstanding leader and a great asset to the community. We wish her well in this challenging race.

"Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should just live next door and visit now and then."

Katharine Hepburn

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Rockin' the Casbah '97

2nd Annual Queer Leadership Conference

The Greeley Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance is proud to host the Queer Leadership Conference September 20th-21st here at UNC. The conference will address topics like bisexuality and feminism, US lesbian history, acknowledging privilege, and the 1998 legislative session. There are fees for registration, but most meals will be provided (so it's worth

it).

Chrystos, a widely acclaimed writer and Native Rights activist, will have two speaking engagements — she will be the keynote speaker for the conference on Saturday and do a poetry reading on Friday, September 19 at 7p.m. in the Panorama Lounge, which is free and open to the public. Friday's reading will be followed by a reception at the NASS and A/PASS

house. The WRC is a co-sponsor of her visit.

Chrystos is the 1994 winner of the Audre Lorde International Poetry Competition and the Sappho Award of Distinction in 1995. Some of her published works include Not Vanishing, Fire Power, Dream On, and In Her I Am.

For more information on attending the conference or hearing Chrystos speak, please call GGLBA at 351-1484.

Wonderful Outstanding Woman

by Becki Bell
Staff Program Associate, WRC

The Women's Resource Center is proud to select Dr. Nancy J. Karlin, Professor of Psychology, as the Wonderful Outstanding Woman of the month. Dr. Karlin has been teaching at the University of Northern Colorado since the spring of 1990, and she also brings a multitude of

other talents to her department. She was both a research assistant and instructor at CSU before coming to UNC. She has authored articles in juried publications, books, and supplements. She has presented her research and knowledge in countless professional presentations and conferences. Her dedication to her

students is evident and further exemplified by her election as the Rocky Mountain Regional Vice-President of Psi Chi, the undergraduate honor society. She is a woman who epitomizes excellence and dedication to the students of UNC. Congratulations Dr. Karlin.

If you would like to nominate a student or faculty member to be recognized in our Museletter, please submit a page detailing her qualifications to the WRC by the first of each month.

Women's Resource Center

"The Muse-letter" Oct/Nov 1997



McKee 512, 351-1492 Natacha Sochia, Editor

"Take Back the Night" Returns

by Kristin Heil, WRC Program Associate

UNC's second annual **Take Back the Night March** will be held on October 30, 1997. The candlelight march will begin at 6:30 pm beneath the McKee Breezeway and will wind around campus to conclude at the Helen Langworthy Theatre. Upon arriving at Helen Langworthy, a short presentation will be given regarding violence against women. Hot chocolate will also be available to warm us up!

Take Back the Night is a nationwide move-

ment which sends a powerful message: violence against women is not acceptable. The event is open to all who wish to remember women who are victims of violence. Gloria Steinem once said, "All women are in battle every day," illustrating that even those women who have not been directly affected by violence are victimized because of the unsafe climate which exists in our society. **Take Back the Night** creates an environment in which women can walk in complete safety, while at the same time

offering remembrance to those who have suffered. The march also raises awareness of the issue of violence against women, as this crime is often hidden from view.

All are welcome at this important march. Violence against women is everyone's problem and we encourage you to join our voices in demanding change. Questions about **Take Back the Night** can be directed to Kristin at the Women's Resource Center, 351-1492. Please join us for this empowering event.

Spotlight on Fraternities

by Litsa Tanner, WRC Intern

We have all heard the statistics about fraternities and sexual assault. According to a 1987 study of 32 incidents of campus gang rape, Chris O'Sullivan, Ph.D., found that 90 percent of these rapes were committed by fraternity members and athletes. A 1990 national survey of over 12,000 students by the Campus Violence Prevention Center at Towson State University discovered that although fraternity members and athletes make up only 16 percent of the student body, they committed 55 percent of all **admitted** acquaintance rapes.

Whether you think these statistics are representative of our campus is irrelevant. Every day I hear people claiming that fraternities are given a bad reputation when it comes to violence against women, specifically sexual assault. Well, I have some advice for all of you men out there who believe that fraternities are unjustly stereotyped as perpetrators of sexual assault against women. For the most part, chewing out anyone who reads or mentions the statistics on fraternities and sexual assault really does not accomplish much. Maybe you should consider

GETTING INVOLVED.

There are many, many different rallies and demonstrations every year on our very own campus that specifically function to speak out against such atrocities, and I have yet to see significant numbers of fraternity members at such demonstrations as the candlelight vigil to remember the victims and survivors of sexual assault, which takes place during SAFE week; I have yet to see large numbers of you at the rallies such as Take Back the Night. *Could it possibly be your lack of representation at such events that is perpetuating this stereotype?* It cannot be helping your claims that such accusations are unjust.

The only way in which fraternities are going to be able to shed this supposedly unjust negative image is to become actively involved in the fight against the very acts they are being accused of. Question the behavior of the men around you as to whether or not it is violent and disrespectful of women and their bodies. Let me give you some helpful indicators to look for: men who use phrases such as "that f**king bitch...", "Like she didn't want it...", "Just look at the way she was dressed and was acting," or words like bitch, cunt, slut, whore, and skank used on a regular basis should send off some

indicator lights. If your buddy is carrying a passed out or extremely drunk woman up the stairs to his room (as a general rule, if she is so drunk or high that she cannot walk, she sure as hell cannot give consent), this should light up a big red flashing light in front of your face! In addition to looking for this behavior in your male peers, as well as addressing it with them, you can begin your public activism by participating in the 2nd annual Take Back the Night rally which will be held on the 30th of October.

Now, I can already hear many of you saying, "But that stuff is for women only, they are all a bunch of feminist man-haters. Men are not welcome at those events." The only people who are not welcome at such rallies are those who believe that violence against women is acceptable and justifiable. So now that I have given you some helpful hints, I do not want to hear your adamant claims that such stereotypes are unfair and unjust until I see significant representation at these rallies and demonstrations, as well as a conscious attempt to assess the actions of those around you as to how they address women.

October Is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Litsa Tanner, WRC Intern

Due to the fact that our society puts such a great emphasis on individuality and privacy, domestic violence has historically been looked at as a "family" issue that should be kept in the home. However, it is this very attitude which keeps women who are in abusive relationships from leaving their batterers. Not only is there no help from her community, there is no one with whom she can talk about her experiences. If women in abusive relationships do not have the support of their community, then it is nearly impossible for them to **safely** escape their abusers.

As we move through October and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is important that we take steps to change our attitudes about domestic violence. If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, there are people who can help you. A Woman's Place (AWP), the battered women's shelter in Greeley, maintains a

24 hour crisis line which can be reached at 356-4226. As well as safe housing for women in imminent danger, AWP offers both one-on-one and group counseling for battered women and their children, as well as assistance to women applying for Temporary Restraining Orders (it is important to remember that AWP legal advocates **cannot** give legal advice; however, they can **help** you through the process as well as offer emotional support during the court proceedings). Most importantly, we must remember that we are not alone in this world.

Domestic violence affects all of us, and it is our silence which perpetuates the violence and hurts us the most.

- In the United States, every thirteen seconds an act of domestic violence occurs (approximately 4.6 every minute, and 276 battering incidents every hour).
- In 1992 1,432 women were killed

by their significant other (female victims represent 70% of all significant other murder victims).

- In Colorado between the years of 1987 and 1991, more than 500 people were killed as a result of domestic violence and hundreds more were physically and mentally disabled or died from "complications" resulting from domestic abuse.
- Domestic violence knows no boundaries. Women of color experience the same rate of violence at the hands of their significant others as white women.
- Women between the ages of 20 and 34 have the highest risk of violence perpetrated by their significant other.
- 96% of domestic violence incidents are committed by men.
- There are three times as many animal shelters than domestic violence shelters in the United States.

THE "F" WORD

by Becki Bell, WRC Staff
Program Associate

Do you believe that women are people? If so, you may be a (gasp) *feminist*! Since the beginning of feminism, the very definition of feminism has been dynamic and ever-changing. Rebecca West wrote in 1913, "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is; I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat." Why are people, especially women, so hesitant to call themselves feminists? Naomi Wolf, a feminist writer, states that "Twice as many women believe in the goals of the Women's Movement as are willing to use the word 'feminist'." A 1992 Ms. Foundation survey,

"Women's Voices '92: A Polling Report" found that many women are "personally uncomfortable" with the term "feminist" even as they endorse the movement's goals.

The media's portrayal of feminists may be a key factor in the hesitance to use the term "feminist." Rush Limbaugh's term "feminazis" is an extreme example of the media portraying feminists as a militant group. Perhaps the definition of feminism needs to be reevaluated. Naomi Wolf argues that "feminism should mean, on an overarching level, nothing more complicated than women's willingness to act politically to get what they determine that they need."

Wolf further postulates that one of the reasons the term

feminism has been rejected simultaneously with women and men supporting feminist ideals is that women do not view feminism as having a "line item veto" ideology. It is important for women to recognize that by saying they are feminists, they do not have to accept every facet of all that the word encompasses.

A personal definition of feminism would be a solution to feminism being some arcane ideology that begets negative connotations. The next time feminism is portrayed as some "unspoken doctrine" of secret agendas for the eradication of all that is not feminist, stop and reevaluate your own definition of feminism, and recognize that this is simply someone else's perception of feminism.



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Natacha Sochia, Editor

Welcome to the World of Activism

by Kristin Heil,
WRC Program Associate

I received a chilling dose of activist reality on the evening of Monday, October 13th. During Colorado's first execution in 30 years, I took part in a candlelight vigil outside the Governor's Mansion in memory of Ginny May and in opposition to the death penalty. For me, the protest sent a message that no violence, no killing, is acceptable. This article is not about the debate over capital punishment, however. This article is in reaction to those individuals who protested our vigil.

I had never attended a protest before Monday. The rallies I took part in, up until now, were all quite affirming and no dissenters were present. Monday was very different. I witnessed first-

hand how a few individuals could draw attention away from a peaceful demonstration and fill the evening with anger. The first exposure I had to this was a man driving by very slowly, all the while screaming at us. I was able to shrug this off, as I did expect to have people who disagreed yell or honk or gesture at us as they passed. What I did not expect, however, was to see the man mentioned above show up across the street with his buddy, who was carrying a sign with a picture depicting a partial-birth abortion on it. This sign, which was larger than I am, was the most offensive propaganda I have ever seen. For the next three hours, we were screamed at by this man and his cohorts, were called murderers (even though we were protesting the death pen-

alty), and were even told to "Drop our candles and die." We were called baby-killers, Politically Correct tree-huggers, and homosexuals (as if being concerned about the environment or being a lesbian or gay was evil). Our side of the street concentrated on non-violence, sang songs of peace, and listened to several readings, but the rage of those across the street could not be drowned out, especially when one man threatened, "How'd you like it if I raped your mother? What if I raped you?"

My shock and anger does not stem from the fact that there were individuals who opposed my view. I am angered because of the tactics used by these particular fundamentalists on their moral

----continued on pg 2 >>>>

The Backlash Theory

by Litsa Tanner, WRC Intern

Once again I have noticed that some people have some misconceptions about many feminist theories they have encountered. One of these is the commonly heard *Backlash* theory most widely recognized through the writings of Susan Faludi in her book Backlash. This article is for those of you who think that the Backlash theory is a conspiracy theory.

The Backlash theory does not claim that there is a well-organized conspiracy against feminism. Feminists are not suggesting that there is a "Smoking Man" sitting around a table with all his assistants developing elaborate plans to destroy feminism.

Instead the backlash is a combination of many unconscious forces within our societal structure. For example, a common element of backlash recognized by feminists is the tactic of lesbian-baiting. Now when someone calls a woman a lesbian, because she identifies herself as a feminist, they are not necessarily thinking, "Hey, I am going to call her a lesbian because I want to try and make her not want to associate herself with feminism."

Furthermore, feminists are not suggesting that there are secret classes offered to teach people how to do lesbian-baiting. Instead this person's actions reflect how they perceive

things. In other words, this person really believes that most if not all feminists are lesbians. Now the question becomes *why do they feel this way?* (Here is where the backlash comes in). Somewhere along the line a person who held this belief about feminists began to present this assumption to others and before you know it this image of feminists had become the image of feminists held by a large group of people. Hence backlash theory claims that all of these elements (as well as the negative connotations of the label lesbian) together form a backlash against feminists.

FRA TERNITIES RESPOND

by Litsa and the WRC staff

The Women's Resource Center would like to recognize a group of men on campus who are actively speaking out against those

who perpetrate violence against women. From November 5 - 7 the members of Alpha Kappa Lambda put on a fund raiser in titled "These

Hands Don't Hurt" which benefited a local rape crisis center and a battered women's shelter. Keep up the good work, Guys!!

SMOKE THIS, BAYBEEEE!!!

by Laurie Lynn Hogan,
Resident Smartypants

One year ago, I attended a Women and Spirituality Conference in Minnesota. I met an older woman — she must've been in her 50s or 60s — who came up to me and said that she was so glad to see young people like me taking on the responsibility to ensure that women had a strong voice in the world. She told me that the future depended on me, that I couldn't give up when it seemed like everything was going wrong, and that what I was doing in the world really mattered to her, to her generation, and to women everywhere. I was blown away by the words of this woman who had just met me until I realized that it was because of her that I could be any of the things that I am today. Without her, I would not be able to speak my mind. Without the work that she and her sisters did before me and mine, I would not be strong.

I am standing on the backs of my grandmothers. So are you.

When I started working at the Women's Resource Center, Melanie Wilson told me that when she met me, I looked like a

deer trapped in the headlights. I was scared and I didn't know why or how or what the world



was about. I didn't know why I was so uncontrollably angry all the time. I didn't understand my constant feelings of nervousness, of fury, and of total isolation. I was trapped in the headlights, and it was not until I came into myself as a woman, not until I found the power inherent in that identity, that I began my lifetime of work towards

justice. I changed, Melanie said, from the trapped woman into the woman who now stands before you and before those damn headlights and dares anyone to fuck with me.

There is no longer anything in this world that can touch my soul that is so full of my voice, my power, my strength. Nothing.

Remember your grandmothers. Remember, that you, too, will be a grandmother in some sense of the word someday. Everything you do matters. Believe this about yourself. Whenever somebody tells you that college is not the "real world," spit in their faces and tell them that it's real to you, that what you are learning is real, and that when you graduate, you will take that reality and turn this world upside down. That's what I'm gonna do.

For those of you who said it could not be done: I'm gonna rock this world, whether anybody likes it or not. So put that in your pipe and smoke it.

The Women's Resource Center would like to thank the following for their donations:

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Be sure to "Matronize" these businesses that have supported the
1997 Retreat For Women Students!

Wonderful Outstanding Woman

by Wendy Rich Goldschmidt UNC
Police Officer and Quest Author

The Women's Resource Center would like to recognize a UNC student this month as our WOW recipient. Ms. Cyndi Hernandez is an exceptional UNC student as well as community member. She is presently a junior, majoring in Human Biology. She is a full time student who has consistently maintained a 3.25 GPA. She is a

McNair Scholar and a former employee in the Academic Advising Office and Discover UNC program.

This summer Cyndi plans to complete a research project with the Biology Department, and upon graduation she plans on continuing her education at CSU in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Aside from her many

education, work and social commitments Cyndi is also a full-time, single parent. Her son Nicolas is a bright, outgoing three year old. Regardless of what else is going on in Cyndi's life, she somehow finds time to make her son her number one priority. Congratulations Cyndi! UNC is lucky to have such an outstanding student leader.

If you would like nominate a student or faculty member to be recognized in our Museletter, please submit a page detailing her qualifications to the WRC (McKee 539, 351-1492) by the first of each month.