

The University of Wisconsin System

# Feminist Collections



A  
Quarterly of  
Women's  
Studies  
Resources

WOMEN'S  
STUDIES



LIBRARIAN

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Women's Studies Librarian

# Feminist Collections

## A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

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**Cover art:** Miriam Greenwald

Numerous bibliographies and other informational files are available on the Women's Studies Librarian's World Wide Web site. The URL: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/> You'll find information about the office, tables of contents and selected full-text articles from recent issues of *Feminist Collections*, many *Core Lists in Women's Studies* on such topics as aging, feminist pedagogy, film studies, health, lesbian studies, mass media, and women of color in the U.S., a listing of *Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies*, including full text of a number of them, a catalog of films and videos in the UW System Women's Studies Audiovisual Collection, and links to other selected websites on women and gender as well as to search engines and general databases.

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# FROM THE EDITORS: E-BOOKS

By now, most people who follow developments in publishing have heard of the success of Stephen King's novella, *Riding the Bullet*, published only on the Internet, where 500,000 orders were placed within days of publication. What may be less well-known is that far from being a unique event, electronically published books with no print equivalents are an escalating phenomenon, with scores of traditional and upstart publishers already involved and more titles going E every day. Perhaps more surprising to those of us who care both about women's reading habits and their comfort with computers, the romance novel is one of the most popular categories of E-books to date. According to *Publishers Weekly* (in the March 6, 2000, inaugural of a column on electronic publishing), the first #1 bestseller on the E-Book Bestseller List is *The Renegade's Woman*, a romance from Dreams Unlimited of North Branford, CT ([www.dreams-unlimited.com](http://www.dreams-unlimited.com)). DiskUs Publishing of Albany, Indiana ([www.diskuspublishing.com](http://www.diskuspublishing.com)) has sold over 15,000 copies of the romance *Best Laid Plans* by Leta Nolan Childers, and Hard Shell Word Factory of Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, ([www.hardshell.com](http://www.hardshell.com)) has some eighty romance titles available.

What's the attraction to women readers? Inexpensive prices may be one factor. *Prisoner of Passion*, called an "ultrasensual romance" on the Hard Shell Word Factory site, can be had for \$4.00. Even better for the cost-conscious are sites like Bibliobytes ([www.bb.com](http://www.bb.com)), which makes its money from ads and gives away the

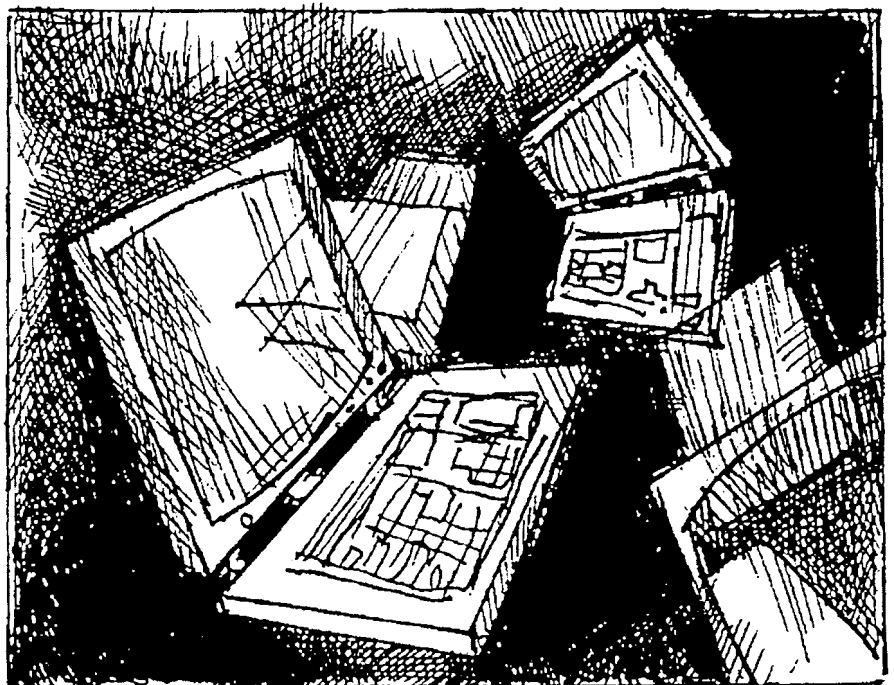
digitized books. Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* is currently a featured title on the Bibliobytes site; most of the offerings are classics and other works out of copyright. Ease of ordering and downloading may be another attraction. Publishers offer E-books in a variety of formats: ASCII (straight text), HTML (Web format), PDF (page images viewable on the Web), PRC (for palmtops), Softbook, and Rocket editions. Mothers of young children may like being able to find a good read at any hour of the day or night without having to haul the kids out of the house. For secret fans of bodice rippers, there's no need to worry about running into a colleague in the supermarket with one in your hand.

Libraries are also beginning to acquire E-books, either singly or through companies like NetLibrary ([www.netlibrary.com](http://www.netlibrary.com)), which has an

extensive selection of digitized versions of recent scholarly print publications, including many in women's studies. Our office is grappling with questions raised by E-books, too. Should we be reviewing them in *Feminist Collections*? Should we include them in *New Books on Women & Feminism*? On the Web, what differentiates something called a book from an organized website of textual information? What is a book, anyway?

Help us out. Take a look at the websites noted here and pay attention to other book/book-like entities you encounter on the Web, and let us know how you would characterize them. Some readers may think that one E-Book is one too many, but others may find that even a huge collection is not E-enough. Enough!

○ P.H.W. and L.S.



Miriam Greenwald

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

**T**hanks for the list of videos about woman suffrage in *Feminist Collections*. But I disagree with the accolades for Ken Burns' *Not for Ourselves Alone*.

First, the amount of time devoted to this subject was far less than was advertised, and much less than Ken Burns devoted to baseball, the Civil War, and other American subjects. Not only were women given the shorter time – a total of three hours, not the advertised on-air time of four hours – but the additional half-hour on TV each night was dominated by ads or by men, especially Ken Burns and his male co-producer.

And I found that the content left a lot out. Matilda Joselyn Gage, a major feminist theorist and suffrage leader who worked closely with Stanton and Anthony (and coedited the first three volumes of the *History of Woman Suffrage* with Stanton and Anthony), is given only a mention in this documentary. Ken Burns omitted Jewish feminist leader Ernestine Rose, the 1876 feminist protest against the Centennial, the work of Stanton's daughter, Harriot Stanton Blatch (and even a mention of the feminist work of Stanton's son, Theodore), and the diverse efforts of thousands and thousands of women around the nation and throughout the decades.

Also, I found his "gee-whiz" attitude annoying. He focused on Stanton, and to some extent, Anthony, as the "Great Leaders" whom "nobody" ever heard of – because he and his co-producer, Paul Barnes, had not heard of them. Yet, millions of American women and men knew and honored Stanton and Anthony even before their pictures were on postage stamps, Anthony's face appeared on the dollar coin, and Anthony's birthday was celebrated as a national feminist holiday.

A lot is missing in this documentary. We deserved better.

Sincerely,  
Ann Forfreedom

\*\*\*\*\*

Reviewer Susan Zaeske replies:

**I** couldn't agree more with Ann Forfreedom – the Burns documentary has its problems. It undeniably did, however, win a great deal of public attention for the history of women's suffrage as well as accolades for the production itself. The assigned task of my review was not to critique Burns, but rather to make

known a number of documentaries about the suffrage movement produced by women. My skepticism toward Burns was sounded, nevertheless, when I wrote, "With all the hype surrounding Burns' production, it is worth remembering that although his is the longest and no doubt the most heavily financed documentary of suffrage history, it is not the first nor does it offer the only possible interpretation."

Susan Zaeske, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

# BOOK REVIEWS

## BLACK FEMINISMS: FROM THEORY TO ACTIVISM

by Adrienne Dixson

Patricia Hill Collins, *FIGHTING WORDS: BLACK WOMEN AND THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998. 312p. bibl. index. pap., \$18.00, ISBN 0-8166-2377-5.

Joy James, *SHADOW BOXING: REPRESENTATIONS OF BLACK FEMINIST POLITICS*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. 224p. index. \$26.95, ISBN 0-213-22070-7.

Kimberly Springer, ed., *STILL LIFTING, STILL CLIMBING: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S CONTEMPORARY ACTIVISM*. New York: New York University Press, 1999. 353p. index. \$65.00, ISBN 0-8147-8124-1; pap., \$22.00, ISBN 0-8147-8125-X.

The diversity of thought encompassing Black feminisms is well represented in three recent publications by notable Black feminist scholars. *Fighting Words: Black Women and the Search for Justice* by Patricia Hill Collins, *Shadowboxing: Representations of Black Feminist Politics* by Joy James, and *Still Lifting, Still Climbing: African American Women's Contemporary Activism*, edited by Kimberly Springer, are excellent examples of the multiple interpretations of Black feminist ideology. Although Black women in general share a history of oppression related to our gender and race, issues of sexuality, economic class, physical (dis)ability, and other characteristics have certainly affected us (and our experiences as Black women) differently. This history that is both shared and unique speaks to the multiple expressions of Black feminist ideology. What has long plagued Black women and indeed plagues people of color in U.S. society in general, is the notion of essentialism – that is, that there is *one* essential

Black woman's identity or that *all* Black women think and act in a similar and predictable manner. These texts speak to the diversity of Black women's experiences and expressions of resistance. Collins' and James' texts provide us with a more theoretical way of understanding the *what* and the *why* of Black feminisms, and Springer's text offers concrete examples of the *how* of Black feminist resistance to social inequity.

*Fighting Words: Black Women and the Search for Justice* explores how Black feminist thought may help us understand two questions Patricia Hill Collins poses in her introduction: What epistemological criteria best evaluate critical social theories that aim to oppose oppression? And, what standards might be used to determine how effectively a critical social theory confronts injustice? In keeping with her pioneering work in *Black Feminist Thought*,<sup>1</sup> Collins rejects the notion that Black women have not produced and are not capable of producing social theories that speak to issues of injustice. In that previous

work, Collins argued that as Black women, we have experiences that are unique to us given the "multiple jeopardy" of the intersection of race, class, and gender that at times works to oppress us. As a result of this "unique angle of vision," we respond to these experiences in particular and unique ways. In *Fighting Words*, Collins extends the boundaries of Black feminist thought to explore the myriad ways in which Black women and Black feminist thought may help us to understand, resist, and correct oppression. Further, she explores how Black feminist thought emerges from the context of the contemporary political and social climate as well as current intellectual enterprises.

Collins organizes the book into three sections that address the current situation facing Black women and Black feminist thought in terms of the political, the intellectual, and the social (in the form of activism). Part I, "Black Women's Knowledge and Changing Power Relations," explores the "state of Black womanhood" some ten years since the publication of *Black Feminist Thought*. In this section Collins provides

insightful analysis and commentary on the current political and social milieu of U.S. society, arguing that a "new politics of containment" works to reinscribe stereotypes about Black women. These "controlling images" work to moderate our thoughts and actions. Specifically, she discusses a "new controlling image applied to Black middle class women," or what Wahneema Lubiano<sup>2</sup> identifies as the "Black Lady Overachiever." This image works in concert with the two other dominant images of Black women that Collins discussed in *Black Feminist Thought*, that of Mammy and Jezebel. In Part II, "Black Feminist Thought and Critical Social Theory," Collins explores how three intellectual enterprises – American sociology, postmodernism, and Afrocentrism – may or may not help Black feminist thought remain oppositional. Collins argues that for Black feminist thought, oppositionality is more a state of becoming than a state of being. She offers the possibilities and limitations of each state with regard to the extent each actually allows for a diversity of thought, such that true justice is possible. Finally, Part III, "Toward Justice," explores how particular ideas will help to develop Black feminist thought into a viable and necessary critical social theory. Specifically, Collins looks at the notions of standpoint theory and intersectionality to understand whether these ideas are necessarily helpful to and for Black feminist thought. Finally, Collins explores again, as she did in *Black Feminist Thought*, the possibility of a Black feminist epistemology and the extent to which it may or may not be helpful for similarly situated groups in imagining and indeed working toward justice.

Collins has offered an excellent text that helps us understand not only Black feminist thought and its relationship to Black women's experiences, but also how it may help those of us truly working for social justice.

*Shadowboxing: Representations of Black Feminist Politics* by Joy James is a thought-provoking treatise on radical Black feminism and activism. In keeping with her other texts, specifically, *Transcending the Talented Tenth* (1997),<sup>3</sup> James is highly critical of what she calls bourgeoisie, or non-radical, depoliticized Black feminist theory. James is particularly critical of those she calls "elite" or those who are seemingly in the academy and not directly working towards equity. Although she gives no concrete examples of whose work is problematic (probably because she believes it not productive to name names), it is clear that for James, theory without tangible action is useless.

In eight chapters, James covers topics ranging from building coalitions with women (and men) "outside" of the Black community to exploring the notion of *profeminisms* or Black men's participation in Black feminism. The first two chapters offer important historical and contextual information on Black feminisms, or what James often calls "antiracist feminism." Much like Collins in *Fighting Words*, James presents insight into the current political and social context in which Black feminism emerges and takes root. Chapter three offers an interesting look at what James calls *profeminisms* or the "models" that historical Black women activists left for us to follow.

She examines the work of Ida B. Wells and Ella Baker, with a cursory look at the work of Maria Stewart. Her analysis and critique are helpful in understanding how these women – who did not identify as feminists but as "race women" – are excellent and useful examples of the possibilities of radical Black feminism. Her offering is not just a celebration of these two women's lives and work, for she presents insightful critique of their shortcomings as advice to those seeking to take on this kind of work.

James' book is not for the faint of heart, however; her critiques of the "bourgeoisie, depolitical elite" are scathing and almost unforgiving. As an "aspiring academic," I have to admit I felt put on notice after reading *Shadow Boxing*. I think the value of her text, beyond its academic worth, is the notion of "keeping it real" that Collins discusses in *Fighting Words*. For those of us engaged in feminist research/work/theory, James' text is a necessary read. Specifically, to what extent is the work in which we are engaged for change and social justice? To James, if one is not working toward that end, one is merely maintaining the status quo. While this may be a harsh judgment and perhaps one can question how she as an academic can make this claim, it is important to consider the liberatory nature of our work if we say we are committed to social justice.

*Still Lifting, Still Climbing: African American Women's Contemporary Activism*, edited by Kimberly Springer, is a nice complement to the texts by



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Collins and James. Springer, a doctoral candidate at Emory University's Institute for Women's Studies, collected work from a broad array of feminist scholars both Black and White. The contributors range from graduate students to junior professors to established scholars in Black feminist theory. Their offerings are just as diverse. From interviews to mission statements to ethnography, the articles extensively cover Black women's activism in the U.S.

The text is divided into three sections. The first, "African American Women's Political Voices," presents the words of African American women activists. The first chapter includes an interview with Barbara Smith in which she discusses her family's influence on her activism and her life as an intellectual dedicated to working for change. Other articles in this chapter examine the vision statements of Black women's organizations and Black women's work with the community organizations that provide job training to undereducated women, specifically Black women.

Section two examines Black women's activism historically. Three

chapters look specifically at Black women's activism during the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Nationalist era. The remaining three chapters explore Black women's activism in the 1980s and early 1990s. Benita

Roth's piece on the emergence of Black feminist activism is important. Quite often Black women's feminist activism is seen as secondary to or an offshoot of White women's activism, particularly in relation to second-wave feminism. By exploring Black women's activism in the 1960s and 1970s, Roth challenges the popularly held mainstream feminist belief that Black women's feminist consciousness emerged *after* White feminist activism. Roth argues that the *number* of Black women involved in feminist work is often conflated with the *timing* of Black feminist emergence. This work is necessary not only as a corrective to the historical record, but also because it helps us understand the diversity of Black feminisms.

Section three looks at contemporary African-American women's activism. Topics range from examining protests against rape, the growing number of women being incarcerated, the Million Man March, and African-American women as media artists, to welfare reform. This section is particularly powerful because it not only highlights the work currently being done, but makes it clear that Black women are actively working toward change and social justice. Springer's

contribution offers a breadth of understanding of Black women's activism. This would be a fine addition to any women's studies library and a weighty supplement to a course.

The three texts reviewed here are substantial contributions to feminist theory and history. As these texts explicitly state, it is important that we understand the plurality of feminist thought in the U.S. I would recommend that these texts be read in conversation with one another. Collins' and James' theoretical perspectives are complemented very well by the concrete examples of Black women's activism presented in Springer's text. James' critique of the "elite" stands in interesting juxtaposition to Collins' work as she strives to "keep it real."

#### Notes

1. Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment* (New York: Routledge, 1990).
2. Wahneema Lubiano, "Black Ladies, Welfare Queens and State Minstrels: Ideological War by Narrative Means" in *Race-ing Justice, En-gendering Power: Essays on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas, and the Construction of Social Reality*, ed. Toni Morrison (New York: Pantheon, 1992), pp.323-63.
3. Joy James, *Transcending the Talented Tenth* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997).

[Adrienne Dixson is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research examines the relationship between Black feminist theory and Black women teachers' pedagogy.]



## GENDERED SUBJECTS: LAW, PROPERTY, AND POLITICAL PROTEST IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

by Kalpana Misra

Srimati Basu, *SHE COMES TO TAKE HER RIGHTS: INDIAN WOMEN, PROPERTY, AND PROPRIETY*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1999. 305p. bibl. index. \$65.50, ISBN 0-7914-4095-8; pap., \$21.95, ISBN 0-7914-4096-6.

Erin P. Moore, *GENDER, LAW, AND RESISTANCE IN INDIA*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press, 1998. 205p. bibl. index. \$32.50, ISBN 0-8165-1803-3.

Raka Ray, *FIELDS OF PROTEST: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN INDIA*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. 217p. bibl. index. \$49.95, ISBN 0-8166-3131-X; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-8166-3132-8.

The women's movement in India emerged in conjunction with the nationalist movement against British colonial rule, and in the wake of early and mid-nineteenth century movements for social and religious reform. The Indian National Congress took up the issue of emancipation of women on the basis of equal individual rights soon after its establishment in 1883. At its Karachi session in 1931, the Congress drafted resolutions on equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, religion, or caste, which were subsequently embodied in the Constitution of independent India adopted in 1949.

Supporters of women's rights well understood that the induction of women into public life as "full and equal citizens" would be completely realized only in the context of social and legal reform that addressed the broader causes of women's oppression such as caste, class, culture, and religion. Advocates of change argued in particular for a uniform civil code to replace religious personal laws, which sanctioned the subordination of women to men and limited their access to property and inheritance. Following the violence and trauma of

the partition separating Pakistan, however, it was decided to move forward with a reform of Hindu family law only and shelve the issue of a uniform civil code until such time that the minority communities were ready to initiate change themselves. The setback related to the adoption of a civil code notwithstanding, many within the Congress leadership and the established women's organizations believed that much had been achieved and the rest would follow automatically, and in due course.

Two and a half decades later, the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women provided a more sobering assessment. A large majority of women, especially in the rural areas, continued to occupy an inferior position in religious, cultural, and family life, had disadvantageous access to health care, legal remedy and counsel, and was severely marginalized in regard to political, economic, and educational opportunities. The second wave of feminist consciousness that emerged in the 1970s was in part a response to the findings of the Committee and its call

for a social movement to "mobilize public opinion and strengthen social effort" against oppressive social institutions, cultural patterns and social structures. Over the three decades since then, rapidly proliferating networks of women's groups and grassroots organizations have publicized, organized, and mobilized against dowry, dowry-related deaths, *sati* (widow-immolation), rape, alcoholism, and spouse abuse as well as economic degradation, and through their organizational skills and activities have enhanced the self-confidence and political consciousness of masses of women. The varied modes of resistance and protest have been matched by an equally impressive output of scholarship, pathbreaking in its attempts to make visible the lives of marginalized, impoverished rural and urban women, while reflecting an awareness of the perils of assuming "universal gender interests" and ignoring the diversity of women's experiences in specific economic, social, historical, regional and cultural contexts.

The three books reviewed in this essay provide a contextualized understanding of the complex interconnections between gender, law, culture, politics, and economics. The first two, *She Comes To Take Her Rights*, and *Gender, Law and Resistance in India*, assess the role of cultural hegemony and the impact of legal reform and legislative change on women's lives and prospects. *Fields of Protest* by Raka Ray also utilizes the concept of cultural (in its political manifestation) hegemony or lack thereof along with the balance of political forces to understand the conditions under which women organize collectively to create and sustain movements to fight for their rights. The focus on women's agency rather than helpless, passive accommodation to circumstances is the common thread running through all three works and provides valuable insights into the active, diverse, and sometimes conflicting ways women work with or undermine the dominant cultural and political discourses that shape their lives.

Srimati Basu begins her analysis with a simple question, "Why have laws of equal inheritance not worked for Indian women in over four post-independence decades?" (p.4) The Hindu Succession Act was arguably the most revolutionary of the acts passed in the 1950s. If a man died intestate, equal and absolute inheritance rights were to be vested in his widow, mother, sons, daughters, and their immediate heirs – a significant reversal of the historic pattern of economic dependency upon males in the propertied classes

in many parts of India. Yet formal ownership patterns and Hindu inheritance practices have changed very little since the passing of the benchmark legislation.

Based on a series of interviews in New Delhi with a cross section of middle-class and poor women of various ages and ethnicities and both rural and urban backgrounds, Basu's study emphasizes the notions of choice and agency in Indian women's decisions to decline their share of natal property. All of the women interviewed were cognizant of the benefits of owning property and of the laws governing succession. They perceived and understood the injustice of customary distribution in favor of males, and when asked about their own preferences in an ideal situation, they invariably spoke in support of distributing their own assets equally among sons and daughters. However, for the respondents in Basu's sample, the "loss" of natal property was offset by the emotional wealth and space gained by maintaining the affection of brothers-and sisters-in-law, retaining close ties with the natal family, preventing the fragmentation of ancestral property, and safeguarding both the prosperity of the natal family in itself and as a source of gifts and various types of assistance in the present and future. Basu's research offers a persuasive argument that it is not passivity or ignorance that restricts women's enjoyment of property ownership, but a conscious negotiation of familial relationships and bonds to build social capital and ensure immediate and long-term emotional and material security. Far more beneficial and profitable in the long run than inheritance are women's

access to education and employment opportunities, as revealed in the differences between middle-class and lower-class women, as well as the distinct advantage that non-property-owning professional middle-class women have over property-owning lower-class men. It is the awareness of the value of literacy, paid employment, and the acceptance in principle of parity between sons and daughters in the voices of women from varying backgrounds and classes that holds the greatest promise for change.

Erin Moore's *Gender, Law, and Resistance in India* deals more directly with the diverse modes of resistance and defiance of patriarchal codes and conventions. Moore's research focuses on issues faced by Muslim women who are governed by religious family laws, and provides insights into the multiple ways a set of shared cultural assumptions within a certain community, rather than formal legislation, informs the substance of "legal" decisions. The plot and narrative make for interesting reading, but the book's title and many of Moore's generalizations are misleading if not pretentious. The author devotes several pages to establishing the unique, distinctive, and exclusive characteristics of the Meo community within which she lived and researched, yet thinks nothing of using the Meo experience to generalize about North Indian gender relations, women in India, Indian notions of resistance, and so on.

The central character is the Muslim woman Hunni, who defies her husband, his family, the village community, and sometimes her natal family to gain greater control over her life, sexuality, and general well-being. Moore feels an obvious affinity for this woman, whom she



Miriam Greenwald

believes has been dealt an unfair set of cards in life; however, she makes no effort to give Hunni her own voice. Hunni was not a woman Moore knew very well – indeed, in the several years of research Moore conducted in the village, the two women barely had more than a couple of conversations. In Moore's account of Hunni's trials and tribulations, her acts of sabotage and resistance, there is never any hint of what the woman Hunni really feels, thinks, what motivates her to do what she does, and what ultimately she hopes to achieve.

Hunni's defiance of patriarchy is neither particularly heroic nor transformative in regard to general structures of power and privilege. Sup-

ported by a powerful lover and her natal family, she engages in "acts of sabotage" consisting of theft, brawls, and the slow poisoning of her timid, sickly, indecisive, and incompetent husband. Her challenge to the patriarchal construct of gender relations is self-serving and limited. One of the key *Panchayat* (village council) meetings that Moore uses to showcase the administration of gendered justice revolves around Hunni's opposition to the marriages of her two daughters, which have been arranged by her husband and his brothers. The only reason Moore offers for Hunni's disapproval of the match is that it deprived her of a

potentially lucrative deal. The gendered justice the community meetings meted out was seldom implemented, and more than anything Moore's story illustrates the gap between the ideology of patriarchy and the practice of defiant, strong-willed women like Hunni.

The principal value of Moore's work lies in her exposition of the layers of discourse and assertions of ideology or custom that mask male control of productive resources, as well as in the undermining of widely prevalent Western stereotypes of powerless, submissive Indian women, especially those from the Muslim community. Challenges such as those posed by Hunni to hegemonic domination are but small gestures; nevertheless, within these individual moments of resistance and cultural negotiation may lie the potential for more radical spaces of dissent. As Moore points out, although Hunni herself lost her case for maintenance from her husband, other women who filed similar cases subsequently were more successful.

Secondly, it is the recognition of solitary gestures that attunes us to the role of agency in collective action aimed at more systematic attacks on structures of power and privilege. Raka Ray's *Fields of Protest* begins with a look at individuals constituting groups that articulate resistant and alternate ideologies and struggle for their rights on a daily basis. Ray's purpose is to understand the circumstances under which participants of social movements choose their issues, styles, and strategies. According to Ray, the historical, cultural, and political specificity of the

construction of social movements, and of the agency and practice of actors, can be understood with reference to the "political fields" within which they are embedded. The dominant political culture and the distribution of power constitute a hegemonic political field when they are characterized by homogeneity and concentration of power. A fragmented field is one where the political culture is more heterogeneous, and power is dispersed.

The crucial difference between women's movements in the West Bengal city of Calcutta and the Maharashtrian city of Bombay, according to Ray, can be traced precisely to the distinction between their political fields. In Calcutta, a homogeneous leftist culture and the political dominance of the governing Communist Party, CPI (M), allows little room for subordinate groups to establish themselves and promote an autonomous agenda. This is reflected both in the similarity of issues (jobs, literacy, etc.) addressed by the two most powerful women's organizations in Calcutta and in the small degree of variance in their strategies. In Bombay, where until the recent

rise of the right-wing *Shiv Sena*, the patterns of entry and exit for the political arena have been more diverse and open, it has been easier for a variety of groups to coexist. This accounts not simply for a reversal of situations between a dominant autonomous group and a subordinate women's wing of the CPI (M), but also the different focus on issues such as domestic violence, religious fundamentalism, and unequal relations within the family.

*Fields of Protest* is an important demonstration of how collective interests and identities are shaped within varying locations. "Neither hapless victims nor blazing heroines, the activists in Indian women's movements organize and strategize within constraints, as do activists in all social movements" (p.19). Their struggles against rape and domestic abuse, for equal pay for equal work, and for rights to better health, education, and inheritance take place within the politics of personal transformation, although such transformation may mean different things in different fields.

In varying ways, all three books contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the ambivalent role of the modern state and law in the struggle for women's rights. Although the scope and effectiveness of state policies and the legal system can be

conditioned by powerful interests and retrograde social structures, the postcolonial state identified with a modernist project of economic and social transformation along with potential sources of empowerment within law can be a strategic ally for women. Ray's analysis of hegemonic fields also points to the vindication of scholars who have long argued that state sponsorship of women's interests does not necessarily empower women as a group, where the issues and organizations of the feminist movement are simply "expropriated" by the state. Democracy and pluralist politics that provide space for mobilization and articulation of women's interests by politically affiliated and autonomous women's organizations are indeed the most effective ways for women to gain more visibility as citizens, to demand not only more effective enforcement of existing laws and policies, but also additional ones to better serve their needs and interests.

#### Notes

1. Government of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, *Toward Equality: Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India* (New Delhi, 1974), p.101.

[Kalpana Misra is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She serves on the Women's Studies Governing Board, and as Director of the International Studies Certificate Program at the University of Tulsa.]

# FEMINIST VISIONS

## LOCATING HOPE

by Darshan Perusek

**ETERNAL SEED.** Director: Meera Dewan. 43 mins. 1996. Subtitles. Rental: \$175 (16mm film); \$90 (video). Sale: \$250 (video). Women Make Movies, 462 Broadway #500, New York, NY 10013; phone: 212-925-0606.

**THE HIDDEN STORY.** Directors: Ranjani Mazumdar and Shikha Jhingan. 58 mins. 1995. Subtitles. Rental: \$75 (video). Sale: \$275 (video). Women Make Movies (address above).

The two videos under review are both about women in India (small farmers, wage laborers, and tribals) whose lives depend upon the resources of the field and the forest, their close and intimate relationship with the land from which they draw their sustenance, their struggle to defend their rights against the encroachment of local and international market forces, and their dreams and aspirations for a just and equitable society. They are both useful in that they provide information about women in rural India, and raise important questions of tradition and change, class and caste, relations between men and women, biodiversity and traditional farming practices, and the benefits and hazards of genetically engineered agricultural crops. My quarrel with *Eternal Seed* is the dangerously religious and nativist implications of its message; the problem with *Hidden Story* is its lack of any message at all, other than the fact that the lives of rural women all over India are hard, and that they struggle nevertheless to create what sweetness they can on this bitter earth.

On November 28, 1998, Professor Nanjundaswamy, president of the KRRS, a Gandhian movement of ten million farmers in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, took part in

a significant protest. Along with Bansanna, owner of a field in which Monsanto had been carrying out experiments with genetically modified seeds without his knowledge, the professor uprooted the first infested and poisoned plant, and then invited the rest of the local peasants to do the same. The uprooted plants were put in a pile and set on fire. It was the beginning of a mass-based Gandhian civil disobedience campaign called Operation Cremation Monsanto. Several local organizations, including the Progressive Front, the Action Front of the untouchables, the Karnataka Liberation Front, and the Organization of the Landless, took part in the symbolic "cremation." The bonfire lit the skies.

Meera Dewan's *Eternal Seed* dramatizes this mass-based struggle by focusing on the particular lives of three peasant women: Yashodha, Sunanda, and Nilimma, with other women – like the chorus in Greek drama – reinforcing the theme with song and symbolic gestures and acts. The stakes in this struggle are high, the women assert, the choices clear: "Foreign companies are back in India," says Sunanda, a single woman

with six children and an old father, struggling to survive on an acre of land. "They want to take over our land for their hybrid seeds. They want to trap us again. But their seeds don't suit our soil. Hybrid seeds need so much labor, costly pesticides, fertilizers. We prefer natural farming with our old seeds and manure. We won't hand over our plants and seeds or our country to foreign traders."

Nilimma touches on another issue that affects the daily lives of ordinary people, the patenting by foreign corporations of indigenous plants and knowledge of their uses for medicinal and other purposes, described by concerned activists in the field as "bio-piracy." Nilimma uses, for instance, as do so many other Indian peasants, an infusion of the leaves of the widely growing neem tree and tobacco leaves as a pesticide and fertilizer for her crops, and for treatment of skin and blood disorders. Currently, she points out, there are thirteen patents on neem products in the U.S. – where not a single neem grows – owned by U.S., Japanese, and German corporations. What was a commonly owned

resource and commonly shared knowledge becomes private property and private knowledge, to be bought and sold in the global market. In words echoing Sunanda's defiance, Nilimma, too, says:

Neem patent is our right.  
Leave Karnataka, leave our  
land.  
We'll protect our old seeds.

The stakes are, indeed, high. The question of who will control the seed, giver of life and health, is critical to the lives of millions of people engaged in agriculture all over the world. Embedded in the seed, as the women in the video make clear, are issues of economic survival, of justice and democracy, of physical health and well-being, of self-respect and dignity. Yet what should have been a spirited articulation and reasoned debate of these issues turns out to be, instead, a loaded argument for tradition over modernity, with "woman" center stage as the inheritor and custodian of tradition. Watching the women in the video perform ancient rituals to make the seed grow and yield its bountiful fruit, one would conclude this tradition is exclusively Hindu. Given the multireligious and multicultural realities of Indian society, and the tensions between different groups that explode into violence with unsettling frequency, to frame Indian tradition in these terms is disingenuous, if not outright provocative. To the accompaniment of Sanskrit hymns and incense, women prepare and nurture the seed with tender hands for its "nuptial" journey to the

field, whispering words of encouragement to the "coiled energy" within it.

The camera cuts to a harvester and the voice-over points to the relevant contrast between woman/nature and male-created, alien technology, tearing up the earth with cutting steel, thrusting probes into the lobes of flowers in sterile laboratories, reducing nature and plants to "servile stature." There is no hint in the video of the "servile stature" of women in the Hindu tradition, nor of its oppressive caste hierarchies, nor of its centuries-old practice of excluding from its cultural and political calculations millions of its own people as "out-castes." Nor is there any suggestion that technology, in and of itself, is not to be blamed for the "blind looting" of the earth's resources, that the fact that a bullock-driven plough can be worked only by day and extracts substantial grain from the field does not make it inherently more virtuous than the harvester, "Reaping by its blinding light/ Spouting cataracts of grain."

The second video, *Hidden Stories*, is an attempt, according to the filmmakers, to "recover" the stories of four women from different parts of rural India: Mitgibai, a leader of tribal women from Bastar in the eastern state of Orissa; Gorabai, a Muslim peasant woman from Bikaner in the central desert state of Rajasthan; Kamakshi, a Dalit (untouchable) agricultural laborer in the southern state of Tamilnad; and Sharuladi, a leader, like Mitgibai, of a tribal women's movement in the Santhal community in the state of Bengal, east of Orissa. The women inter-

viewed in the documentary are intelligent and articulate. They have a strong sense of solidarity with other women, a keen understanding of the political, economic, and cultural forces that constrain and limit their lives, and the physical and moral strength to fight against these forces and defend their right to their lives and livelihood. The narrative voice-over, in contrast, comes across as simple-minded and naïve at best, and patronizing at worst. The subjects are talked about, never addressed directly. Answers to some critical questions about their lives are never asked of the women but addressed to the audience instead. Nor do the filmmakers explain why they chose to travel to four distant corners of the country in search of these particular women. This is not to deny the force and power of the women's stories, but to point to a lack of depth and cohesive vision in the film.

When the government put barbed wire around the forest to keep the villagers out, the women in Mitgibai's village held meetings night and day to "save the forest," demanded that the fence be torn down, and when it wasn't, tore it down themselves, all the while facing the anger of their husbands for neglecting their domestic duties. "Our life is in the forest," Mitgibai explains. Without the roots and mushrooms and fruits of the forest to eat in the absence of rice, they would starve.

Gorabai, who comes from a family whose traditional occupation was to sing at the marriage, birth, and death ceremonies of the upper caste in the village, is a Muslim, but except for the absence of the red mark on her forehead, you couldn't tell. "Living with the Hindus," she explains in response to a question regarding her identity as a Muslim,

"our style of dress, speech, language, everything has become like the Hindus." She worked for years in the Rajput landlord's fields to pay off a debt her husband's father had taken. "All my life I kept my face behind purdah and worked with dedication at home, hardly ever spoke to outsiders, not even to my sisters and brothers." Gorabai would draw water for Dalit women in the village when they were not allowed at the caste well.

This is what the women talk about. The voice-over, in the background, marvels about the readiness and élan with which Mitgibai, for instance, "performs" for the camera, describes her as an "enigmatic and clever person," and wonders, as Mitgibai performs the "surya namaskar" (obeisance to the sun), about why this "proud tribal woman" is drawn to brahminical rituals and traditions historically alien and hostile to those of her own community. Why not ask Mitgibai?

Was Gorabai, a Muslim, alone in her incorporation of Hindu patterns of dress and speech in her life or was this a common practice in her village? If so, how did it affect relations between Hindus and Muslims in the village? And Muslims and Dalits? Why not ask Gorabai, instead of fruitlessly speculate?

To conclude, the two videos are, in my view, seriously flawed in terms of the presentation of issues critical to the lives of rural women in India, and in their implied or explicitly stated analysis and solutions. They do perform a necessary service, though, in raising these issues, and in that respect, can serve as useful tools in the classroom for a discussion of, among other things, the problems of perspective and voice in a documen-

tary. Furthermore, while some of the problems Indian rural women face, especially those at the extreme margins of society because of caste, are peculiar to Indian women, other issues raised by the videos – of landlessness and poverty, of agricultural practices that sustain people's livelihoods while incorporating reasonable technologies, of the economic and ethical implications of genetically modified seeds – are of critical importance to women in developing countries across the world. These videos could also be used, therefore, in conjunction with documentary videos of rural women in other third world countries.

*[Darshan Perusek is Professor in the English Department at UW-Stout and editor of Kaleidoscope International Magazine of Literature, Fine Arts, and Disability.]*



*Miriam Greenwald*

[Editors' note: The following two reviews cover videos on the sensitive topic of violence -- including date rape -- in young women's lives. We hope you'll read both of them to gain a better grasp of some of the possibilities available for helping young women understand the potential problems with seemingly casual dating relationships.]

## YOUNG, FEMALE, AND IN DANGER: VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS

by Cathy Seasholes

**DATE RAPE: THE ULTIMATE VIOLATION OF TRUST.** 27 mins. 1989. Prod.: Hart Associates. Written by Jeni Frick. \$59.95. National Center for Violence Prevention, P.O. Box 9, Calhoun, KY, 42327-0009. Telephone: 800-962-6662; fax: 800-541-0007; website: <http://www.nimcoinc.com>

**IN LOVE AND IN DANGER: DATING VIOLENCE.** 15 mins. 1998. Prod./Dir.: Fran Victor and Bill Harder, for The Junior League of Ann Arbor (part of The Dating Violence Prevention and Education Project). Sale: \$119.95. Sunburst Communications, 101 Castleton Street, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Telephone: 800-431-1934; website: <http://www.SUNBURST.com>

**DATE VIOLENCE: A YOUNG WOMAN'S GUIDE.** 23 mins. 1997. Prod.: Barbara Bender and Denny Cogswell. Exec. Prod.: Art Linkletter, Barbara Bender, and Pamela J. Nelson. Rental: \$75.00. Sale: \$129.00. Films for Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053. Telephone: 800-257-5126; fax: 609-275-3767; website: <http://www.films.com>

**"WHEN A KISS IS NOT JUST A KISS": SEX WITHOUT CONSENT--AN INTERACTIVE EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAM.** 36 mins. 1994. Created by Toby Simon, Associate Dean of Student Life, Brown University. Sale: \$99.00. Mumbleypeg Productions, 152 Madison Avenue, Suite 1903, New York, New York 10016. Telephone: 212-889-1919.

While both males and females are victims of sexual assault and relationship violence, young women and girls live in especially dangerous times. One quarter of girls report having experienced some violence in their relationships before graduating from high school. Isolation, the pressure to belong, and lowered self-esteem can make it difficult for them to reach out for help in the midst of troubled relationships. Add to this the difficulty of making safe decisions in the context of dysfunctional role-modeling by parents, the glorification

of sex and violence in the media, and gender socialization.

We know more about violence against women now than ever before, yet we have not made much progress in changing the frequency of this violence. The four videos reviewed here were created by people wanting to change this, to build greater understanding of the dynamics of power and control as expressed through violence in heterosexual relationships, with the hope of preventing future abuse.

Open up the National Center for Violence Prevention's catalog and you'll find over twenty videos focused

on acquaintance rape. Highlighted as a special selection is *Date Rape: The Ultimate Violation of Trust*. This educational video is geared toward a college audience, with the intent of increasing student awareness of the risk of sexual assault in dating situations.

*Date Rape* begins with a list of commonly held myths and quickly moves into a role-played scenario. A young woman is talking on the phone to a friend while waiting for a man to arrive for their first date. The friend expresses concern, stating "I've heard he's a real jerk. . . be careful," and the lead woman assures her that things will be fine. However, when a perpetrator is motivated to assault a woman, rarely



are things “fine.” Signs of trouble at the beginning of the scene are subtle, yet a careful analysis reveals that the man has clearly planned how the evening will end.

*Date Rape* continues with statements and advice provided by experts – unfortunately, the weakest section of the video. While each of the professionals has valuable information to share, their presentations are stiff, their appearances dated, and some of their statements seem to reinforce stereotypes.

Hearing a survivor’s personal account of her experience is often what it takes for people to transform their own beliefs and behaviors about sexual assault. Thus the final eleven minutes of *Date Rape* are dedicated to a college woman’s powerful story of being raped on her twenty-first birthday, and a reenactment of her experience, which is frighteningly timeless. Excessive alcohol consumption left her unable to consent; a male friend-of-a-friend exploited her vulnerability and raped her; and in the depths of her struggle to survive after the assault, she attempted suicide.

*Date Rape* is best for its relative low cost, the narrator’s summarizing comments, and the survivor’s personal disclosure. What is missing is a written guide to help viewers critically analyze and interpret what they are hearing and seeing in this dated video. Notably absent are racial diversity, a challenge to some of the professionals’ culturally narrow statements, a critique of scenes in the final role play, and context for the survivor’s self-blaming statements which, left unquestioned, implicitly suggest that she was somehow responsible for the rape.

For every shortcoming noted about *Date Rape*, the video *In Love and In Danger: Dating Violence*, created ten

years later, succeeds. The visual presentation is engaging and contemporary, the experts are dynamic, and there is an excellent companion workbook complete with handouts. *In Love and In Danger* doesn’t address sexual assault, but looks at other forms of dating violence in teen relationships. Here, a survivor’s recounting of her intense and terrifying personal story is also central to the video. Her ability to articulate the complexities of her feelings and thoughts earlier in the relationship, through the violence itself, and into her healing process, adds additional depth. This award-winning video is marketed for a seventh- to twelfth-grade audience, and is equally valuable for parents and educators.

*In Love and In Danger* conveys a lot in fifteen minutes. The professionals who are interviewed speak naturally and fluidly, reflect some diversity, and are portrayed with a sense of genuine passion and knowledge. What they have to say seems worth listening to. The narrator gets right to the point when she says, “All it takes is to fall in love with someone who is willing to use violence.” Another person affirms that, “We’re talking about crime, and regardless of age, teens need to be held accountable for their actions.”

Some of the power of this video derives from the developmental context for regarding gender and violence issues that is set in the opening scenes. Groups of elementary and then older students are filmed with corresponding voices repeating phrases heard all too often in school hallways: “Boys rule,” “If you don’t have a boyfriend, you’re nothing,” “If you really love me, you’ll do it.” Since what seems most distinct about teen relationship violence is that young people are more likely to inter-

pret violence as a sign of love than adults are, it is also critical that we talk about positive alternatives. A sexual assault professional emphasizes that, “We need to teach our sons and daughters about healthy relationships from the time they’re very young. The earlier we start, the less likely they are to be part of the statistics on violence.”

In *Date Violence: A Young Woman’s Guide*, the approach of direct, practical advice is taken further by including concrete ideas about what positive intimacy and boundaries might look like, stating, “A healthy relationship... is one where there is personal growth, freedom, and a foundation for realizing hopes and dreams.” *Date Violence* is process oriented, acknowledging that people change with time and personal growth and that many things can be true at the same time for a young woman. The video concedes that the path taken to leaving destructive relationships is often not a straight or easy one.

While the faceless, female narrator sometimes sounds too scripted, it is refreshing and effective that she speaks directly to the viewer. Throughout the video, comprehensive lists of examples are used to illustrate her points. These examples encourage self-reflection and are complemented by statements like, “Recognizing abuse is most clear by the way it makes us feel.” The primary limitations of this video are the metaphors highlighted throughout, such as, “Romantic love is the spark that ignites the fire, and that fire can either burn out of control or become an ember glowing in the hearth of the soul.” While these

restaurant, or party). The reenactments serve as a subtle yet powerful demonstration of the fragmenting effect these drugs have upon a victim's memory.

Unfortunately, a victim of this type of crime often has no memory or only a partial memory of the assault. Rohypnol, a powerful sedative, is odorless and tasteless. It takes effect on unsuspecting victims within minutes, causing unconsciousness and retrograde amnesia. When combined with alcohol, these effects are compounded and can lead to coma. The video offers suggestions on how to avoid becoming a victim of this type of crime. Survivors stress watching your drink being made, maintaining custody of your drink, and having a strict buddy system set up in advance of going out for the evening.

Interspersed with the victims' accounts and reenactments are interviews with professionals such as a district attorney, a police officer, and a doctor. The focus of these interviews is not only the effects of these drugs, but the investigation and prosecution of cases in which these drugs are used by perpetrators of sexual assault. Date rape is difficult to prosecute and is underreported. Use of so-called "date rape" drugs like Rohypnol have made this even more difficult. The profes-

sionals interviewed in the video as well as one of the victims were involved in one of the first date rape drug cases prosecuted in the United States. They provide suggestions for conducting an investigation, such as getting a search warrant immediately in order to search an alleged perpetrator's residence, interviewing everyone in the alleged perpetrator's acquaintance because often they work in partnerships or groups to set up a victim, and taking urine samples from the victim at the hospital since traces of Rohypnol may stay in the urine for up to thirty-six hours.

The video's participants also touch on the issue of manufacturing the drug and debate various ways to make drugs like Rohypnol safer for legitimate consumption rather than having the U.S. Congress vote to make them illegal substances. At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars in profit from the sale of Rohypnol, available in sixty-four countries (not including the United States).

*The Rape Drug* is an informative introduction to the growing problem of using drugs to sexually assault victims. It brings to light an insidious problem as well as the courage and ingenuity required in the pursuit of justice.

Sexual violence can have a devastating impact upon one's ability to trust. *Confianza* means both "loss of

self-confidence" and "loss of trust in others." This Spanish-language video (with English captioning) about date/acquaintance rape thoroughly explores both forms of loss. *La Confianza Perdida* combines first-person testimony from survivors of sexual assault with reenactment scenes portrayed by actors. Professionals such as a lawyer, physician, social worker, and advocate are also interviewed.

A variety of sexual assault issues are discussed. These include: definitions of sexual violence, sexual assault and the Latino culture, concerns and barriers encountered by immigrant women, marital rape, sexual assault prevention, medical and social services available to survivors, and things to consider when filing a police report. Suggestions for prevention place less emphasis on community efforts and how to avoid becoming a perpetrator. Instead, they stress women protecting and empowering themselves. This video will promote discussion and serve as a highly informative introduction to the issue of sexual assault. Aimed directly at a Latino audience, this valuable resource hits its mark.

Dating violence is not an easy topic for young women or men to confront, but these videos offer valuable information about how things can go wrong and how important it is to be aware of the situation in order to avoid becoming a victim/survivor.

[Jenny Fiss is the Educational Resources Coordinator for the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA).]

# WORLD WIDE WEBSITES

## A LOOK AT WOMEN'S HEALTH ON ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE WEBSITES

by Ann Boyer

With interest in alternative and complementary medicine growing yearly, one can now find thousands of websites addressing this topic. True, it's more difficult to turn up sites focusing *exclusively* on women's health issues – and those one does find are often geared to selling a product. Yet websites of a primarily informational nature do exist. In the sampling below, I've tried to include sites of integrity, that show responsibility in the way they present information, and that lead the user to additional useful pages.

### MEGASITES

Readers should keep in mind that while some megasites offer original information, others do not, but rather present a well-organized collection of links to sites that do.

#### ASK NOAH About: Alternative (Complementary) Medicine

URL: <http://www.noah.cuny.edu/alternative/alternative.html>

Maintained by: Robert Lesner

Last update: August 27, 1999

Reviewed: January 17, 2000

Page author Robert Lesner prefaces ASK NOAH with a statement that is worth repeating: "The therapies discussed on this page are by definition alternatives to, or outside the scope of, generally accepted medical standards of care. The effectiveness of some of these treatments has been proven by scientific evidence, while limited or no research data exists to support other treatments. In 1993, through Congressional mandate, the National Institutes of Health established an Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM) to acknowledge other treatment possibilities. In the same spirit, without endorsement, NOAH offers this selection of alternative/complementary therapies." ASK NOAH is organized into three sections. *Alternative Healing Approaches* lists links to fourteen different alternative therapies, from Acupuncture to Reflexology. Each therapy offers a goodly selection of links, logically arranged. The

*Resources* section includes categories such as: Education, Find a Doctor, Online Journals, Government Resources, and Veterinary Medicine. A third section, *Health Conditions and Concerns*, presents links to each of twenty or so individual health conditions, including AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, anxiety and depression, arthritis, cancer, chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia, headache, pregnancy, and women's health. This is a thoughtfully designed page, one of the best megasites I found.

Readers might also want to look at **The Alternative Medicine HomePage** (<http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html>). This page is maintained by Charles B. Wessel at Falk Library of the Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh. Although not specifically geared to women, it provides good information on many conditions affecting women.

#### The Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Women's Health Information Resources

URL: <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/rosenthal/Women.html>

Maintained by: Jackie Wootton

Last update: January, 2000

Reviewed: January 16, 2000

This website is one of the largest and most complete to be found on this subject. The Center is part of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Here are some examples of the research sponsored by the Center:

*Clinical Studies:* Menopausal hot flashes: effect of Chinese herbal preparations; Ethnobotany in the urban environment: herbal therapies for women's health

*Surveys:* Complementary and alternative medicine use by African-American and Hispanic women

*Literature Reviews:* Breast cancer studies where alternative/complementary therapies were used

The Rosenthal Center site is worth spending some time with. It includes extensive links to women's health information resources such as online journals, professional associations, research and clinical trials listings, and to sites focusing on a number of specific women's health topics. As with many complementary and alternative medicine websites, links are included to conventional-medicine pages as well.

**Women's Health Interactive: Natural Health Center**

URL: [http://www.womens-health.com/health\\_center/naturalhealth/index.html](http://www.womens-health.com/health_center/naturalhealth/index.html)

Maintained by: Marilyn Hodge

Last update: January 7, 2000

Reviewed: January 17, 2000

This is part of the megasite Women's Health Interactive. More than either of the sites discussed above, it focuses on natural therapies for women's health problems. The site contains much information presented in a manner intended to educate. The sponsoring company (of the same name) designs and develops educational materials and does strategic planning of healthcare communications, instructional design of distance-learning modules, and web page design. This page is an effective advertisement for their services. There are several sections: *Three Types of Natural Therapy* explains how homeopathy, herbal medicine and nutritional supplementation can be used to treat specific problems of women. *Natural Therapy for You* discusses the role of individual natural therapies in treating many different conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, anxiety, infertility, migraine, perimenopausal symptoms, and heart disease. The site also includes an FAQ and a national directory of woman-centered service providers. There are disclaimers regarding many of the therapies discussed, and reminders for women to consult their physicians before using herbal therapies. The site is carefully done, and maintains a friendly, helpful tone.

## ACADEMIC SITES

**Bastyr University Cancer Research Center**

URL: <http://www.bastyr.edu/research/bucrc/>

Maintained by: Rupert Berk

Last update: December 2, 1999

Reviewed: January 16, 2000

Bastyr University, located outside Seattle, Washington, specializes in the study of natural healing. It offers undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs. In addition to its curriculum it operates a research institute and the largest natural health clinic in the state of Washington. The Cancer Research Center, established in February 1997, is part of the university's research institute. At present it is conducting several studies on cancer in women. These include: survey of North American naturopathic physicians who treat women with breast cancer; taxol as a promising high dilutional chemotherapeutic agent in treatment of breast cancer; controlled trial of garlic in advanced breast cancer; use of alternative medicine by cancer patients; and a naturopathic medical treatment of breast cancer, an evolving treatment manual.

Reports on these studies are available at the website. Another academic site describing research on alternative therapies is the **Center for Alternative Medicine Research in Cancer**, at the University of Texas-Houston (<http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/utcam/>). Both it and Bastyr are among the eleven institutions whose research is sponsored by the **NIH Center for Complementary/Alternative Medicine** (<http://nccam.nih.gov/nccam/research/centers.shtml>).

## WOMEN'S CLINIC SITES

**Women To Women**

URL: <http://www.womentowomen.com/index.htm>

Maintained by: Carolyn Andres

Last update: monthly updates

Reviewed: January 17, 2000

This appealing site is sponsored by Women to Women, a health clinic in Yarmouth, Maine, founded by Dr. Marcelle Pick and Dr. Christiane Northrup, whose programs appear on PBS. The clinic offers medical, nutritional, and alternative approaches to women's health problems. Although considerable space is devoted to promoting the various videos and other items produced by the clinic's staff, useful sections can be found on the following topics: understanding the causes of breast pain, intestinal bloating, and information on natural hormones. A good collection of links rounds out the offerings. This site takes a very positive approach and radiates energy. A related site is **Feminist Women's Health Center** ([www.fwhc.org/home2.htm](http://www.fwhc.org/home2.htm)), based in Yakima, Washington. Although the focus of this

site is reproductive choice, there is also material on such topics as yeast infections, menopause, and the relationship of organochlorines to breast cancer. It is also important to note that the **National Women's Health Network** offers, among its large array of other women-centered health information, some items on alternative health care via its website: <http://www.womenshealthnetwork.org/Clearing-house/altmed.htm> (although most information must be ordered).

## PERSONAL/ACTIVIST SITES

### AnnieAppleseed Project

URL: <http://www.annieappleseedproject.org/annieappleseedproject/index.html>

Maintained by: Ann Fonfa

Last update: weekly updates

Reviewed: January 17, 2000

This is the page of a breast-cancer patient and activist, Ann Fonfa. A fairly extensive site geared towards cancer patients, it "acts to spread news, views and information about access to alternative cancer therapies." The introduction continues: "The contributors of the various reports are primarily patients. . . . Patients need to know how to make valid choices now. We offer no obvious answers but many possibilities. If it has worked for someone else, it may work for you." This is the most extreme of any of the pages reviewed here; it's a good example of a very personal site. The various sections include studies that help explain the value of natural and nontoxic substances, explore multicultural issues, summarize meetings/advocacy issues, and discuss specific alternative treatments from the patient's perspective. Ms. Fonfa stresses that she is not a doctor and has no medical training. She is very committed to this issue, and her intensity comes through in her well-done website.

## MAGAZINE-FORMAT SITES

### Menopause Online

URL: <http://www.menopause-online.com/>

Maintained by: Innovative Internet Marketing Solutions

Last update: Michael O'Reilly M.D.

Reviewed: daily

The magazine format of this engaging page includes many features that make it fun to explore. Various sections cover treatments, vitamins and herbal remedies, the last offering descriptions of some twenty different herbs. Online discussions are featured in the chat room, with guest speakers. Articles on the page include *Holistic Healing: Focusing and Menopause*, *Reiki: Relief for Menopausal Symptoms*, and *Progesterone: Natural or Synthetic?* One section focuses on insomnia and its treatments, both conventional and herbal, and another on migraine headache. Recipes are offered for soy foods to help prevent hot flashes. Truly holistic in approach, this website seamlessly combines discussions of conventional medical therapies with discussions of alternative ones. The editors and editorial board include several M.Ds. A medical disclaimer is included.

## SUMMARY

This review has touched on some of the major types of websites the author found on this topic, but it is not exhaustive. Readers who take the time to explore the Web's dynamic environment will undoubtedly discover their own favorite sites.

*[Ann Boyer, M.A., M.L.S., spent ten years as a Reference Librarian at the Health Science Library of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She maintained the Women's Health and Alternative/Complementary Medicine sections of the HealthWeb megasite, a collaboration among medical school librarians to offer pointers to websites of quality. The URL for the Alternative/Complementary Medicine page is :<http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/chslib/hw/altmed/> Ms. Boyer recently retired.]*

# COMPUTER TALK

■ Remember that our website (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>) includes electronic versions of all recent "Computer Talk" columns, plus many bibliographies, core lists of women's studies books, and links to hundreds of other websites by topic. ■

## WORLD WIDE WEBSITES

**300 WOMEN ARTISTS: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN** is a University of Wisconsin-River Falls website offering images of work produced by many women artists, as well as links to other sources of images and biographies of women artists. The Web address: <http://www.uwrf.edu/history/women.html>

The **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE** website was brought to our attention by our wonderful graphic artist, who has herself felt the pains of "marital status discrimination." The association's website carries a host of resources, from Recent News to Facts About Singles, Marital Status State by State, Domestic Partnership Information, and Unwed Births Internationally, as well as membership information. Website address is: <http://www.singlesrights.com>

The **ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** website is a bit dated in parts but includes a bibliography on Armenian women and news about an international conference to take place in October of this year in Armenia. Website address: <http://www.njin.net/~merguian/AIWA/>

**ASK MISSINFORMATION**, the website of Internet advice columnist Jayne Lytel, offers advice here on topics ranging from arts and entertainment to health to parenting, shopping, and relationships. Archives of past responses offer a raft of information. URL for the site is: <http://www.missinformation.com/>

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEMINISM AND SCIENCE REFERENCES** is available online (in both HTML and PDF formats) thanks to a PROMISE (Projects for Multicultural and Interdisciplinary Study and Education) project funded by the National Science

Foundation. PROMISE's goal is "to build upon feminist critiques of science by integrating studies of science and feminism." The bibliography's Web address is: <http://www.scsv.nevada.edu/~promise/refs.html>

The **CANADIAN WOMEN'S MARCH COMMITTEE** has put together a substantial website on which are gathered a variety of resources, including demands on the Canadian government, links to related projects, and a growing listing of events and plans across the provinces for participation in the World March of Women 2000. Home website is: <http://www.canada.marchofwomen.org/en/index.html>

**A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN ENGINEERING** is the National Academy of Engineering's project to "bring national attention to the opportunities, creativity, and potential that engineering represents to women and to all people of all ages." Some forty-five women engineers are profiled in the "gallery." Website address is: <http://www.nae.edu/cwe>

The **CENTER FOR WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**, a consortium of six programs based at Rutgers, has "fostered women's leadership in the area of human rights through women's global leadership institutes, strategic planning activities, international mobilization campaigns, UN monitoring, global education endeavors, publications, and a resource center." Website address is: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/>

**CROW**, the sophisticated E-zine by and about Croatian women, carries regular sections on stereotypes (in egregious ads), positive role models, Croatian women's groups, and an archive of previous issues (some 800 Web pages) in addition to current features. The magazine is also looking for financial sponsors to help it get into print as one of the only periodicals in the region with an alternative image of women. The Web address is: <http://www.4net.hr/crow/crowom00.htm>

**CURVE MAGAZINE**, a lesbian publication based in San Francisco, has an online presence that includes excerpts from recent and back issues, subscription information, an email list, and more. Their URL: <http://www.curvemag.com/>

**CYBERSISTERS** is a "telementoring" program for middle school girls that pairs students at Oregon State University and University of Oregon with girls for

encouragement and support in math and science. The Web address is: <http://www.cyber-sisters.org/>

A list of **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** websites came to our office by way of WMST-L (the women's studies discussion list). Among the sites noted: **Relationship Crises and Violence** (<http://www.looksmart.com/eus1/eus53671/eus158224/eus214358/r?l&>); the **American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence** (<http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html>); **Men Against Domestic Violence** (<http://www.silcom.com/%7Epaladin/madv/>); **Emotional Abuse list from Domestic-Violence.net** (<http://www.domestic-violence.net/dv/general/emotional.htm>); **Safety Tips and Advice for Women** (<http://www.safetyforwomen.com/>); **The Domestic Violence Institute** (<http://www.dviworld.org/>); and the **Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence** (<http://www.cpsdv.org/>).

**EARLY MODERN WOMEN ONLINE: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY** by Georgianna Ziegler of Folger Shakespeare Library (Washington, DC) offers a solid collection of links to resources under the topics: general sites, individual women writers, art and music, literary megasites, and cultural background. Web address for the bibliography: <http://www.folger.edu/welcome.htm>

The **ECE (Economic Commission for Europe) PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE 2000 REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION** has published its Conclusions online (in PDF format) at: <http://www.unece.org/women/beijing+5/meetdoc/conclus.pdf>

**ELDIS: GENDER** is a megasite with hundreds of links to organizations and resources related to women in development. Hosted by the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, England, the website has this URL: <http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/gender/gender.htm>

The **EMORY WOMEN WRITERS PROJECT**, directed by Sheila Cavanagh, carries forty-nine "edited and unedited texts produced by women writing in English from the seventeenth century through the nineteenth century." The project is designed to offer students the opportunity to edit early texts, and pedagogical instructions are included. Web address: <http://abelard.library.emory.edu/wwrp/index.html>

**ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**, from the Population Information Program at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, includes chapters on: intimate partner abuse, sexual coercion, the impact on reproductive health, and how health providers can play a role in interrupting such violence. The URL is: <http://www.jhuccp.org/pr/l1ledsum.stm>

The **EWHA WOMEN'S STUDIES** website, which includes the university's Korean Women's Institute, the Asian Center for Women's Studies, the Ewha Institute for Women's Theological Studies, and the Department of Women's Studies, offers a place to share news, research, and resources. The Web page for Asian Journal of Women's Studies is part of the Ewha site. English-language website address is: <http://ews.ewha.ac.kr/ews/eng/>

**FEMaid** gathers information from organizations fighting for particular women's causes, publishing them on a listing that includes their address, email, and detail of needs. Among the organizations currently listed are Saathi (in Nepal), Gabriela (the Philippines), and RAWA (the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan). Website address for FemAid is: <http://www.femaid.org/index.html>

**FRIENDS OF LULU** is the Web page for a "national nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote and encourage female readership and participation in the comic book industry." Included are a suggested reading list of comics and graphic novels, a list of women who are doing comics (with links to many Web pages), membership information, and more. Web address: <http://www.friends-lulu.org/>

**FUNDACION MUJERES EN IGUALDAD/MEI** (Argentina) sees its purpose as being to "develop strategies for the empowerment of women through coalition building, a qualitative training of politicians and by creating public awareness of gender issues." Workshops, seminars, a databank of women in decision-making positions, publications, and more are part of MEI's program. The organization's Web address is: <http://www.mei.com.ar/>

The **GENDER AND MEDIA MODULE** website of Virginia Tech's Women's Studies system includes



*Miriam Greenwald*

collections of links to a host of other websites on: Representations of women, Film and television, Print media, Pornography and censorship debates, and Arts and music. The URL is: <http://www.cis.vt.edu/ws/wsmodule/MediaModule.html>

**GURL GRANTS** offers grants of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to young women age 13-19 in the U.S. and Canada (except Quebec) for any special project they may want to undertake. Next round of applications are due July 1, 2000. Check out the first round of award winners and find out how to submit applications at: <http://www.gurl.com/grants/index.htmlPD1221>

**HOUSEHOLD WORDS: WOMEN WRITE FROM AND FOR THE KITCHEN**, an online project of the Department of Special Collections at the University of Pennsylvania libraries, features curator Janet Theophano's selection of cookbooks from the Esther B. Aresty collection on the culinary arts. Theophano's essay relates the cookbooks to the lives of women of the period and images offer excerpts from some of the books. Web address: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/special/gallery/aresty>

**IMAGES OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT ART**, put together for an art history course at Sweet Briar College,

examines representations of the female in ancient art, with a special section on the small but seemingly overweight figure known as "Venus of Willendorf." Web address is: <http://www.arthistory.sbc.edu/imageswomen/>

The **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH COALITION**, based in New York, "works with individuals and groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to promote women's reproductive and sexual health and rights," providing "technical, managerial, moral and financial support" to organizations working with women's health in Southern hemisphere nations. Their Web address: <http://www.iwhc.org/index.html>

The **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROJECT** website, based at York University's Centre for Feminist Research in cooperation with the UN's Division on the Advancement of Women and UNIFEM, carries information about the project, including resources on trafficking in women. URL for the site: <http://www.yorku.ca/research/iwrp/>

**KALLIOPE: A Journal of Women's Literature and Art**, offers on its website selections from its current issue as well as subscription information, a brief history of the publication, and information about its annual poetry contest. Website address: <http://www.fccj.org/kalliope/kalliope.htm>

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I** covers a great deal of ground about the queen's life, family, and the European arena within which she ruled, and provides links to recent films about her. Web address is: <http://www.elizabethi.org>

The **MAINE WOMEN WRITERS WEB RING** is seeking to pull together a web ring of women who either write about Maine or live in the state and write on any topic. An online registration form is provided. Web address is: <http://members.aol.com/RobFAM10/MWWWR.html>

**MARIAN ANDERSON: A LIFE IN SONG** is a "virtual exhibition" curated by Nancy M. Shawcross based on the original 1994 University of Pennsylvania libraries' exhibition on the famous African American operatic singer, whose papers were given to the libraries. The website includes an inventory of the papers available online, an online index to more than 4,000 photographic images, a browsable photograph site, and details of Anderson's life. The URL is: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/special/gallery/anderson/>



**MARRIAGE, WOMEN, AND THE LAW: A DIGITAL COLLECTION** is a demonstration project by the Research Libraries Group focusing on family law and domestic relations in the 19th century, primarily in the U.S., with some material on the U.K. To access, click on the CONNECT button. Contributing libraries and the focus of their contributions: New York Public Lib, (social conventions and status of women), New York Univ. Law Lib, (Comstock laws material), Harvard Univ. Law Lib. (accounts of trials), North Carolina State Archives (marriage in the South), U. of Pennsylvania Law Lib. (anti-miscegenation documents), Library Company of Philadelphia (miscegenation), Princeton University Libraries (polygamy and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), and Univ. of Leeds (British sources). Web address: <http://www.rlg.org/demo/scarlet.html>

**MEDSCAPE'S WOMEN'S HEALTH** page, geared to health professionals, carries a wealth of information in sections such as Today's Women's Health News, Treatment Updates, Conference Summaries, Clinical Management, Exam Room, and In Focus. Website address is: <http://WomensHealth.medscape.com/Home/Topics/WomensHealth/womenshealth.html>

**MENTORNET** is the National Electronic Industrial Mentoring Network for Women in Engineering and Science, which grew out of a program to retain women undergraduates by pairing students with engineers and scientists in industry. The website is located at: <http://www.mentor.net/>

**MOONDANCE** is an online 'zine subtitled "Celebrating Creative Women." Among the many departments are arts, fiction, opinions, poetry, song and story, and cosmic connections. A complete archives offers all past issues. Web address is: <http://www.moondance.org/>

The **NATIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY** is a membership organization that "facilitates networking and information exchange between women's groups and individuals concerned with women's rights." Based in the UK, the Network offers a bi-monthly newsletter and includes links to related organizations on its website. The URL is: <http://www.nwn.dircon.co.uk/>

The **ORLANDO PROJECT** pulls together the work of universities in Canada, the United States, England, and Australia in "writing the first full scholarly history of women's writing in the British Isles." Goal of the project is

several print volumes and an electronic database. Web address is: <http://www.ualberta.ca/ORLANDO/>

The **PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**, headquartered in Los Angeles, California, USA, works toward "improving women's health and well-being locally and globally." Their website offers special sections on adolescent health, women's rights and empowerment, reproductive and sexual health, and health promotion, prevention, and access. The URL is: <http://www.piwh.org/index.html>

The **PERDITA PROJECT** aims to create a database of some 400 manuscripts by early women writers (16th and 17th centuries) of the British Isles. The website includes some samples from the database, plus related information. Web address is: <http://human.ntu.ac.uk/perdita/>

**POWRE (PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN RESEARCH & EDUCATION)** is a program of the National Science Foundation that "supports activities that promote the development of scholarly and institutional leaders in research and education." Grants of up to \$75,000 are offered to women scientists or engineers with Ph.D. or equivalent experience for short-term projects to "enhance their professional advancement." Web address for guidelines: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/powre/start.htm>

**RAINBO: The RESEARCH ACTION AND INFORMATION NETWORK FOR BODILY INTEGRITY OF WOMEN** is an international organization working on issues of women's health and human rights, such as female genital mutilation and other forms of gender-based violence. The Web address is: <http://www.rainbo.org/>

**RENAISSANCE WOMEN WRITERS**, a class syllabus on the topic, includes images of many women of the period. Website address: <http://www.lang.uiuc.edu/complit/rw/index.html>

**SAID IT FEMINIST NEWS** is a monthly online magazine concerned with culture and politics, edited by Adriene Sere. Since March 1999 the publication has been appearing regularly, currently including such columns as Media Glance, Remember This, and One Way to Look at It, in addition to features. Web address is: <http://www.saidit.org/>

The **SOR JUANA INEZ DE LA CRUZ** website offers an electronic edition of the complete works of this great 17th-century Mexican poet. Luis Villar, developer of the website, includes a lovely portrait of the writer, background on her historical period, and a recent bibliography. The site's URL: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sorjuana/>

The **SUMMARY OF WOMENWATCH ONLINE WORKING GROUPS** on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action is available in pdf format. Some 10,000 women "met" online from September through December 1999 to share their ideas of what progress has been made in the five years since the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). You may access the summary at: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/ecn6-2000-pc-crp1.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/ecn6-2000-pc-crp1.pdf)

The **SURF REPORT on Women's History**, from the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board, covers websites useful to K-12 students under the topics General (women's) History, Suffrage and Rights, and Biographies. Web address: <http://www.ecb.org/surf/women.htm>

**THIS IS MY WAR, TOO!** is the title of a "cyber exhibit" on women in the Women's Army Corps, put together by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Photographs of WACs on duty and of their various uniforms are supplemented by brief text and a bibliography. Web-site address: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/mywartoo.html>

**UNDERWIRE**, Microsoft Network's own women's online magazine, covers everything "from the politics of marriage to the state of the nation." In addition, there are "experts on fitness, relationships, sex, etiquette and car care." Web address: <http://www.UnderWire.msn.com/Underwire/cover.asp>

**UNPACKING ON THE PRAIRIE: JEWISH WOMEN IN THE UPPER MIDWEST** includes sections on "The Journey," "Life Inside the Jewish Home," and "Life Outside the Jewish Home" (each with several subsections), all describing the struggles of Jewish families trying to carry their faith and tradition into a sometimes hostile environment. Website address: <http://www.jewishwomenexhibit.org/>

**US WOMEN CONNECT** intends to link women and girls in the U.S. working for women's rights and empowerment with activists working elsewhere around the world. Five online working groups are currently evaluating the progress made by the U.S. government in implementing the Platform for Action (from the Fourth World Conference on Women) and the U.S. National Action Agenda. The URL is: <http://www.uswc.org/>

**VICIT VIM VIRUS** ("Virtue conquers power") website offers advice on dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace. "Created by working women who have successfully fought against sexual harassment and retaliation in the workplace," says the website. The VVV Newsletter includes such sections as: Assertive Comebacks, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Questions about Sexual Harassment." Web address is: <http://www.gojobrights.com/>

Two **VIDEO SUPPLIERS** have new websites: Women Make Movies, with a catalog of more than four hundred films and videotapes, may be found at: <http://www.wmm.com/>; and Groupe Intervention Video, a Canadian distributor, is on the Web at: <http://www.givideo.org/>

The **VIRTUAL VIDEO CLUB FOR SCHOOLS (VCS)** is a project designed "to improve access to computer science for young women" (age 14-18) through video conferencing activities. URL for the project is: <http://www.dcs.qmw.ac.uk/~vcs/>

A report on **WELFARE REFORM** and its initial impact on single-mother families is available on the Web from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Between 1995 and 1997, the report says, the "income of the poorest 20 percent of female-headed families with children. . .fell an average of \$580 per family." View the entire report at: <http://www.cbpp.org/8-22-99wel.htm>

**WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, GRANDMA?** - an oral history of women of Rhode Island during World War II - was put together by students in a high school honors English class. In addition to the interview transcripts, there are introductory essays, a bibliography, and photos of the women interviewed. The URL is: [http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII\\_Women/tocCS.html](http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/tocCS.html)

**WOMEN AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (WRED)** is "dedicated to enhancing the sustainability of rural Ontario communities," promoting "business development, life skills, networking, access to capital,...information,...markets, business diversification" and more. The website address includes a listing of resources: <http://www.wred.org/>

Another Canadian website on women's economic development is **WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (WESBC)**: <http://www.wes.bc.ca/>

Several **WOMEN AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY PROJECT SITES** were recently mentioned in an issue of AAC&U On Campus With Women: **Portland State University**: <http://www.horizons.pdx.edu/~fem-sci-lit/>; **Rowan University**: <http://www.rowan.edu/mars/depts/biology/faculty/tahamont/RschSem.htm>; **University of Arizona**: <http://w3.arizona.edu/~ws/newweb/wsl/project.html>; and **St. Lawrence University**: <http://it.stlawu.edu/~hypatia/courses.html>

**WOMEN ARTISTS IN HISTORY** carries information on artists from the medieval period onward. Many of those listed have websites of their own, and there are also links to a number of other sites on women artists. Web address of this one is: <http://www.wendy.com/women/artists.html>

**WOMEN IN POLITICS: BEYOND NUMBERS** is a project of IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) intended to "enhance women's effectiveness in political positions" and "strengthen their impact in decision-making forums." The text of a handbook of ideas and strategies is included on the website, at: <http://www.idea.int/women/index.html>

**WOMEN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, TRADES AND ENGINEERING** Web page offers reports on women in high tech fields in British Columbia, dual science-career couples, statistics on women's participation in science and engineering, and on women's enrollment in computer science. Check their website at: <http://taz.cs.ubc.ca/wistte/>

**WOMEN WORKING WORLDWIDE**, based in the UK and started in 1983, "supports the struggles of women workers in the global economy through exchange and international networking." Tools include networking, publishing, conferences, and campaigns to promote fair trade and draw attention to the plight of low-paid workers around the world. WWW's Web address: <http://www.poptel.org.uk/women-ww/index.html>

**WOMEN'S EARLY MUSIC** website features a webbing "tour" of early music women composers, articles on a variety of music topics, links to arts pages, pieces on Japanese music and arts, in short a host of information from the International Association of Women in Music. Their URL: <http://150.252.8.92/www/iawm/pages/>

**WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS NET (whrNET)** is "a collaborative Information & Communication Technology (ICT) project developed by an international coalition of women's organizations." Information and links on the site are divided into issues, advocacy/strategies, news and urgent action alerts, UN/regional systems, and capacity building. Web address: <http://www.whrnet.org/home.htm>

The **WOMEN'S INTERNET COURSE**, put together by Denise Østed and offered through the WomenSpace website, includes six modules, from "The Absolute Basics" to "Think About the Future." Each module features a brief intro to the topic plus a collection of links to other sites on the subject. See what you might pick up at: <http://www.womenspace.ca/Campaign/WomensInternetCourse/intro.html>

A directory of **WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS AND CAMPUS WOMEN'S CENTERS IN THE U.S.**, compiled by Geri Gribi, also offers PDF-format mailing labels for the programs and women's centers. See her directory at: <http://creativefolk.com/directories.html>

**WOMENTOR** is a small, women-owned business intended "to develop in women the skills needed to mentor others - and themselves" in the business field. The group offers instructional materials, training, and consulting. Web address is: <http://www.womentor.com/>

The **WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN 2000** U.S. website (under the auspices of N.O.W.) is in process of expanding its planning information for the scheduled October 15 march on Washington, DC - setting up a delegation, special needs, housing suggestions, sponsoring organizations, and the like. Web address: <http://www.now.org/issues/global/events/march2000/>

## EMAIL LISTS

*(Below is a very small sampling of new email discussion lists, just some that have come to our attention over the last few months. For a much more complete listing, try Joan Korenman's Web page at: <http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/forums.html>)*

**E-voices** is a list that grew out of an "Emerging Voices" panel at the National Teleconference on Women in Higher Education at the University of Minnesota this March. The presenters want to continue the communication about how

to improve the status of women in higher education through this list (based on the website of The Feminist Conspiracy). To subscribe, send email to Emi (list administrator) at [emi@survivorproject.org](mailto:emi@survivorproject.org) with your name and a brief introduction.

The **WIDEFORUM-L** discussion list encourages participation by the public, but women's groups in particular, to help develop Women's Initiative strategies for the WIDE (Web of Information for Development) project of the United Nations. To subscribe, send a request to [WIDEFORUM-L@LYRIS.BELLANET.ORG](mailto:WIDEFORUM-L@LYRIS.BELLANET.ORG) with only one line in the message body, saying: *subscribe WIDEFORUM-L yourfirstname yourlastname*.

### **NEW WEB PAGE ON WOMEN, GIRLS, AND EDUCATION**

A new page recently compiled by Phyllis Holman Weisbard for the WSSLINKS site (Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries), covers a variety of Web-based resources on Women, Girls, and Education. Topics range from curriculum and pedagogy to gender issues in

education and organizations. The site may be reached from our own Web page (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/womened.htm>) or from the WSSLINKS page (<http://libraries.mit.edu/humanities/WomensStudies/wscd.html>).

## **FEMINIST PUBLISHING**

**WOMEN IN PUBLISHING** is celebrating its **twentieth anniversary**. The organization was established in 1979 when about a hundred women attended a London meeting with the intention of organizing themselves to "provide a forum for discussion of ideas, trends and subjects of interest" to women in publishing, "encourage networking and support," share "information and expertise," provide training in the field, publicity for women's achievements, and generally "promote the status of women within publishing." There are now sister organizations around the world, in Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, and

the United States. A regular publication, *Wiplash*, keeps the membership informed about meeting speakers, training opportunities, news from the publishing field, and the like. The group recently produced a thirty-two-page glossy commemorative of their history and founders (from which the above quotations come), including recollections of their years working for women in the publishing trades. Send congratulations to: Information Officer, Women in Publishing, c/o The Publishers' Association, Third Floor, 1 Kingsway, London, WC2 6XF, UK; website: [www.cyberiacafe.net/wip](http://www.cyberiacafe.net/wip)

# NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

## CUBAN/CUBAN AMERICAN WOMEN

K. Lynn Stoner with Luis Hipólito Serrano Pérez, **CUBAN AND CUBAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2000. 189p. index. (Latin American Silhouettes). \$95.00, ISBN 0-8420-2643-6.

Looking forward to the day when the U.S. blockade of Cuba is lifted, when U.S. scholars will be able easily to avail themselves of archival and published material on Cuban women uniquely available in Cuban repositories, this bibliography identifies, describes, and locates hundreds of items awaiting them. Included also are works available in U.S. libraries about Cuban and Cuban American women, for a total of 1, 636 entries. Most of the items are in Spanish; annotations are in English. The material was painstakingly researched and compiled with the help of several Cuban librarians and archivists and Cuban-American graduate students. Conditions in Cuba are not conducive to modern research techniques. Not many bibliographers today would have the determination to sustain the process Stoner describes in the Preface:

Researchers in Cuba and the United States were willing to surmount obstacles of distance, international communication, the embargo, language, bibliographic style and technology, and political views.

Our project has been a lesson in the strength of friendship and commitment to knowledge. A word must be said about the effort that our Cuban colleagues have made to bring this work to fruition. Travel between home and work has been "complicated" since 1989 and nearly impossible between 1993 and 1994. Bus service was reduced by 60 percent in 1993, and gasoline for the few who owned cars was and remains scarce and expensive. Unannounced blackouts darkened buildings and erased computer entries. We compiled source lists by hand and then entered them into a computer database. We went from archive to archive on foot, as no computer links archival holdings to a single screen. At times I arrived at meetings by riding on the flatbed of a truck in the pouring rain. The only thing to do was shake out my hair, laugh, and get to work. For Cubans, these events are not funny because they are not just working on a summer project.

It took six years.

The book is divided into periods of Cuban history: nineteenth century and independence, 1868-1898; the Early Republic, 1898-1958 (with a separate chapter on guerrillas and popular underground resistance against Fulgencio Batista, 1953-58); the Cuban Revolution, 1959 through

material published in 1997; and the exile experience of Cuban-Americans during this same period. An additional chapter lists other helpful bibliographies. Each chapter has an introduction describing the period in Cuban history, singling out events and forces shaping women's history during the period.

The strength of the bibliography lies in the discovery and description of archival and published resources in Spanish and located primarily in Cuba, but there are also citations that will be useful to student researchers who know no Spanish. Frequently cited English-language journals include *The Americas*, *Action in Latin America*, *Phylon*, *Cuba Review*, *Cuban Studies*, *Estudios Cubanos*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *International Journal of Women's Studies*, *Industrial Labor Information*, *Pan American*, and *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. The bibliography is not, however, a comprehensive resource for English-language material. A search of *Women's Resources International* database turned up many additional citations, such as "Women's Status in Contemporary Cuba: Contradiction, Diversity, and Challenges for the Future," by Marie Withers Osmond, in *Women and International Development Annual*, v.3 (1993), pp.147-180, and "Women's Studies in Cuba," by Ann Froines, in *NWSA Journal* v. 5, no. 2 (Summer 1993), pp. 233-245. For English-language citations, the book should therefore be used in conjunction with *Women's Resources International* and other databases covering material readily available in the United States.

## DATE RAPE

Scott Lindquist, **THE DATE RAPE PREVENTION BOOK: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN**. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2000. 209p. index. \$12.95. ISBN 1-57071-474-6.

The publicity packet that accompanied our review copy of *The Date Rape Prevention Book* says that crime prevention specialist Scott Lindquist has "made it his life's work to eradicate rape as an issue for American women." That's a pretty tall order, and something that won't be accomplished by a book, however terrific. Yet *The Date Rape Prevention Book* can go a long way to help women who date reduce the chances that they will be victims of this crime. Writing in a straightforward, almost conversational style, Lindquist covers what makes a woman vulnerable (false sense of security or intimacy, misleading appearances, ignoring warning signals, intoxication), "the date rape triangle" (criminal intent, alcohol/drugs, and isolation), danger spots (bars, fraternity houses, and college athletic parties), the ABCs of date rape (how men and women have different agendas, beliefs, and communication patterns and signals), weapons/martial arts/self-defense (don't use if you aren't prepared and confident of what you are doing), and what to do if you are confronted with a bad situation.

The graphical presentation enhances the readability. Chapters are to-the-point and further subdivided by large-font headings. Each chapter includes boldfaced "reality checks" –

highlighting statements such as "At any age or any stage of arousal, a man is in complete control of his sexual behavior," and "You are five times more likely to be raped by someone you know than by a stranger." Useful suggestions are set off in screened boxes ("Fifteen Ways to Prevent Date and Acquaintance Rape"; "Prevention Tips for Alcohol and Date Rape Drugs"; "Ten Things You Must [or Must Not] Do If You Have Been Raped").

Lindquist also presents four personality types of perpetrators, because different responses may work with the different types. The "gentleman rapist" or "power reassurance" personality commits seventy percent of reported rapes. He is called "gentlemanly" because he doesn't consider what he did to be rape, and afterwards will even offer to drive the victim home. "He believes in a fantasy of the encounter, actually thinking that he and the victim have just had a good time together," says Lindquist (p.53); the best way to prevent his attack is to break through his fantasy by screaming, fighting, and otherwise resisting him, by telling him what he is trying to engage in is "rape." The "control freak" or "power assertive" personality commits about twenty-five percent of reported rapes. He is more violent than the "gentleman rapist" and doesn't care about his victim. The woman should try to get him to make eye contact or find some other way to get him to see her as a real person. "Revenge rapists" (anger/retaliatory) and "sexual sadists" (anger/excitative) commit the remaining five percent. Both are dangerous, and the best hope a woman has is to flee.

Other sections of the book discuss sexual harassment, stalking,

domestic violence, and recovery from sexual assault; one chapter is addressed specifically to men. The book concludes with resource listings: hotlines and prevention programs, Internet sites, and suggested readings.

The *Date Rape Prevention Book* is highly recommended for high school, public, undergraduate, and women's center libraries.

## GEOGRAPHY

Linda McDowell and Joanne P. Sharp, eds., **A FEMINIST GLOSSARY OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**. London: Arnold, 1999. 372p. bibl. \$65.00, ISBN 0-340-70659-7; pap. \$24.95, ISBN 0-340-74143-0. Co-published in the United States by Oxford University Press, New York.

"Border/borderlands," "cultural imperialism," "deterritorialisation," "sex tourism," "city," "place," and "the West/Westernisation" are several of the terms defined in this glossary that non-geographers would expect to find in such a work; but "beauty myth," "desire," "gaze," "phallogocentric," "self"? These and other such terms are a surprise in a geography book, until one reads the introduction and even more so, the entry for "feminist geography." Feminist geography, or geographies, aims to

"demonstrate the ways in which hierarchical gender relations are both affected by and reflected in the spatial structure of societies, as well as in the theories that purport to explain the relationships and the methods used to investigate them." (p.90, quoting the editors' companion work,

*Space, Gender, Knowledge: Feminist Readings* [Arnold, 1997], p.4)

Feminist geographers, continue McDowell and Sharp, have moved from the study of material inequalities between men and women to the significance of language, symbolism, representations, and meaning, and a greater emphasis on the "spatial constitution of subjectivity, identity, and the sexed body." In other words, feminist geographers worry about physical and social space – how women (and men) in different locales experience place and space. Also, in McDowell and Sharp's view, feminist geography is marked by a commitment to change. In light of the interests of feminist geographers, the *Glossary* can serve as a more general guide to understanding theoretical concepts common to feminist scholarship, as well as a resource for geographers.

The entries range from a few sentences for simpler concepts ("homeless," "nostalgia," "transport") to two or more pages for those that are more complex ("post-coloniality/post-colonialism," "Freudian theory," "Sub-

ject/subjectivity"). All are signed by contributors, most of whom are British academics. Spellings in the Arnold edition follow the British (medicalization, for example), but the works cited in the definitions and seventy-two-page bibliography draw on North American as well as British sources.

## GREEK AND ROMAN WOMEN

Marjorie Lightman and Benjamin Lightman, *BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN WOMEN: NOTABLE WOMEN FROM SAPPHO TO HELENA*. New York, Facts on File, Inc., 2000. 298p. bibl. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-8160-3112-6.

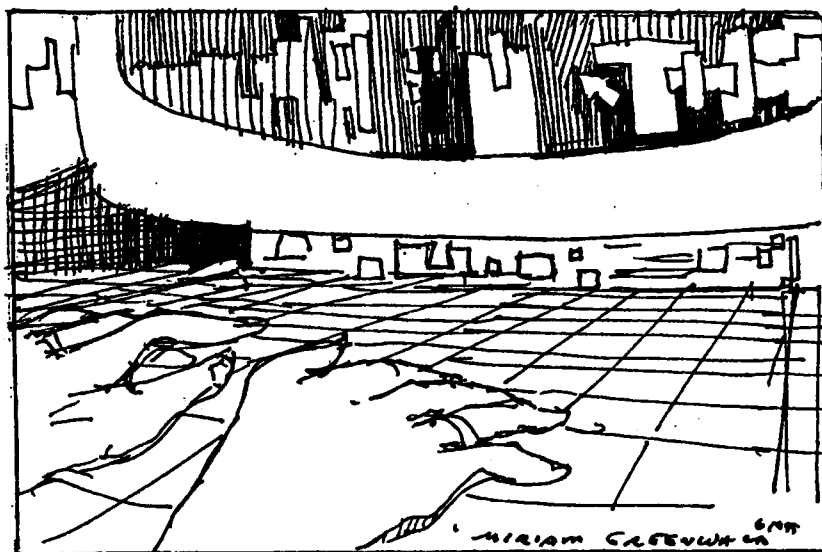
Mothers, wives, poets, political powerbrokers, conspirators, hard-hearted women, rulers, stoics, adventurers, philanthropists, priestesses, orators, victims – these modern-sounding women lived in Greece,

Rome, and their empires before the rise of Christianity, and along with a variety of other women are the subject of this reference work, which reflects a distinctly modern view of classical women.

Written in a clear and contemporary prose style, these 447 short biographies, ranging from one column to a page in length, are crafted to illuminate the lives of women as they have come down to us in the ancient sources while at the same time taking into account the modern scholarship that has begun to discuss "the center of power and authority in the Greco-Roman society that includes women" (p.xvi).

Each article is accompanied by brief bibliographic references, generally including both classical texts and recent scholarly writing. An additional useful feature is a "Registry," which lists all of the women included, providing information about their relationship with other women in the book plus a short appellation matching that of the biographical entry – such as "reformer," "witness," "adulterer," "lawyer" – along with each woman's approximate dates and places of residence. A brief glossary, followed by bibliography and index, completes the work.

The book also includes a thoughtful introduction describing the nature of women's roles in ancient Greece and Rome as well as the biases, both ancient and modern, of the writings about these women and their lives, and the nature of contemporary scholarship. The focus, the authors tell us, is on "what a woman did, who she was,



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and what the consequences of her actions were" (p.xvi), in contrast to earlier works both ancient and modern that have attempted to praise or pass judgment.

Because of the nature of what is known of the lives of classical women, many of these women were prominent members of the upper classes. As presented here, their lives and actions were very much integrated into the politics, arts, and economics of the Classical world, and the descriptions provide interesting insight into these long-ago times. Although classical women may be found in encyclopedias and dictionaries aimed at a scholarly audience, I know of no other recent biographical work on the period in which women are similarly the center of attention. Further, the clarity of the prose and the attempt to place these women in a larger context of families and activities makes each entry into an interesting essay, easily accessible to a nonspecialist or general reader as well as to a student.

The design and layout are pleasing to the eye and easy to follow. Illustrations are few and in black-and-white, but add to the aura of authenticity since, aside from one map of the region, they consist of portraits of some of the women on coins of the time. This biographical dictionary will be a useful addition to high school, college, and public libraries.

[Barbara Walden, author of the above review, is European History Librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.]

## HISTORY

Kathleen C. Berkeley, *THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AMERICA*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1999. 225p. ill. index. (Guides to historic events of the twentieth century) \$39.95, ISBN 0-313-29875-0.

This week brought a call from "Brian," a high school student from a rural town in central Wisconsin. With the help of a college instructor friend, Brian and fellow student "Dolores" hoped to write a performance piece based on the early days of the modern women's movement. They wanted suggestions of books, magazines, websites, and anything else I could think of to give them some background about dramatic events and personae from the '60s and '70s. I rattled off some of my standard recommendations of non-technical books that present the era: Flora Lewis' *Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960* (Simon & Schuster, 1991) and Marcia Cohen's *The Sisterhood: The True Story of the Women Who Changed the World* (Simon & Schuster, 1988), tossed out the names of women's liberation magazines (with a warning to expect to read them on microfilm), and emailed the students the website addresses for N.O.W. and the Feminist Majority. Yet I also wanted to give them something that would have more of the trappings of a guidebook, and so I eagerly dug out *The Women's Liberation Movement in America* from my pile awaiting review. Does it fill the bill?

Mostly, yes. There are a chronology section to situate readers, a beginning chapter that discusses the linkage between First and Second Wave feminism and what transpired in the inter-

vening years, two chapters hitting the highlights of the women's liberation movement through 1980, biographies (from one-page to several each) of major leaders, a glossary, an annotated bibliography of books and websites, and primary documents including extended excerpts from *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) by Betty Friedan; "Lesbians and Women's Liberation: In any Terms She Shall Choose" (1971), an essay by Vivian Gornick defending full participation in the women's movement for lesbians; and a "name withheld" *Position Paper* (November 1964) submitted to the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee by women members concerned about sexism within that civil rights organization. In addition, *The Women's Liberation Movement in America* has a chapter on the efforts of the political right to chip away at equal rights and reproductive freedom from 1972-1992 and an epilogue that assesses the current status of American feminism and looks ahead to the new century.

What's the downside? Although advancements made by women from the '70s through the '90s are described in the second of the two chapters on the movement and are picked up again in the epilogue, because of the structure of the chapters, I think novice readers like my high schoolers would be more likely to conclude that the history was uphill through the early '70s, then downhill after that. Likewise, the chronology for the '80s and '90s provides a litany of abortion clinic bombings and retrenchment of abortion rights, but leaves out the establishment in 1991 of the Women's Health Initiative at the National Institutes of Health and the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 – both important feminist gains in the '90s with roots in the objectives of the Women's Liberation Movement.



So I can give only a qualified recommendation of *The Women's Liberation Movement in America* for all types of libraries. Academic libraries should be sure they also have *The Women's Movement: References and Resources*, an annotated bibliography and guide to sources, by Barbara Ryan (G.K.Hall, 1996).

## LAW

Josée Bouchard, Susan B. Boyd, and Elizabeth A. Sheehy, **CANADIAN FEMINIST LITERATURE ON LAW: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY/RECHERCHES FÉMINISTES EN DROIT AU CANADA: UNE BIBLIOGRAPHIE ANNOTÉE**. Toronto, Ont., Canada: University of Toronto Press, 1999. 597p. Also issued as Vol. 11, no. 1 & 2 of *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, ISSN 0832-8781.

This bibliography picks up where an earlier volume (*Canadian Feminist Perspectives on Law: An Annotated Bibliography of Interdisciplinary Writings*, 1989) by Sheehy and Boyd left off. Yet the new one is over seven times bigger than the seventy-nine pages of entries amassed for that edition! The 1999 work spans the decade 1988-1998 in English, but reaches back to 1980 for French material, which was less comprehensively cited in the first edition. English citations are annotated in English, French in French.

The introduction makes interesting points about the continuities and discontinuities in the literature since the 1989 bibliography. An overarching theme of much of the writing is about diversity, with material on lesbianism showing the greatest growth, alongside material on racial and ethnic discrimination and disability rights. The

authors point out that topics such as whiteness; the experiences of disabled women law students, professors, and lawyers; and legal attention to the rights of the mentally impaired were not even mentioned in the 1989 work. Welfare reform draws more scholars to studies of poverty, though more general analyses of class are still sparse. French-language feminist scholars study the impact of different social and political contexts in Québec and the rest of Canada. The Private Law section now reflects interest in the use of civil suits to provide individual or social justice for rape victims, and the topic of sexual harassment dominates the work section. In the theoretical realm, the compilers see a trend away from formal legal equality and towards more complex approaches. As to who is doing the writing, the compilers found that many authors who were prolific in 1989 remain figures a decade later, joined by many new authors. Most are women professors in law and related disciplines, with somewhat more literature by graduate students than earlier. More citations are to work by Aboriginal (akin to the term Native American in the United States) women, women of color, and men, although none of these categories is large.

The work is divided into subject areas, which are in turn subdivided by topics. Sections that will have uses beyond legal scholarship are Aboriginal women, social welfare, popular culture, human rights, work, family law, immigrant and refugee women, language, health, sports, theory, reproduction, and intersecting oppressions (Anti-Semitism, class and poverty, elderly women, disability, lesbianism, racism, and general citations are the subcategories used). Legal education,

criminal law, and other sections on areas of law will probably most interest lawyers and legal scholars. Sections on Québec's Charter of Rights and Freedoms and on the Canadian constitution may have limited attraction to non-Canadians.

The compilers aimed to capture literature that is feminist as opposed to all literature about "women and the law." Their definition of feminist literature is work that "assumes some measure of inequality between women and men and among women, and evinces a commitment to eliminating that inequality" (p.xv). That meant that they excluded from the sexual assault section government documents, reports, and proposals that did not take a feminist approach to the issue. Included throughout are citations to women's law journals (*Aboriginal Women's Law Journal* and the parent journal, *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* in particular), other law journals, women's studies periodicals, book chapters, and whole books. Most of the publications cited are Canadian. Annotations are short paragraphs in length. There are no indexes by author or title.

Because the topics are of more general interest than "law" or "Canadian" conveys, this bibliography is recommended for general reference collections in universities.

Robert J. Munro, Sharon Rush, and Betty Taylor, **FEMINIST JURISPRUDENCE, WOMEN AND THE LAW: CRITICAL ESSAYS, RESEARCH AGENDA, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**. Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman, 1999. 1109p. bibl. index. ISBN 0-8337-1224-6.

This (huge!) volume began as a research project at the University of Florida College of Law and blossomed, thanks to an ALA grant, into a useful reference work for those interested in researching the relationship between law and gender. The book is a good starting point for researchers searching for feminist perspectives and philosophies on the law. Law students and professors could also use it as a resource for introducing much-needed feminist perspectives to topics taught in law school.

This volume covers a broad range of subjects, from topics one would expect feminist jurisprudence to address (sexual harassment, abortion, domestic violence, sex discrimination in employment, pornography, prostitution) to topics not immediately identifiable as subject to feminist analysis (rules of evidence, language, literature and law, religion, tort law). The bibliography also addresses the emerging field of legal issues regarding lesbian and other marginalized sexualities.

The organization of the bibliography is around key topics and issues in forty-one subject areas. There is also an index. Checking related subjects is a good idea because topics tend to overlap. Many of the bibliography entries are citations to law review articles, which may be a bit specialized for readers who are not lawyers or law

students. However, there are plenty of citations to books and journal articles that may be more accessible to non-legal readers.

If the bibliography entries seem daunting or too specialized, the critical essays are certainly accessible to any reader. Written by the leading feminist legal scholars in the United States, these essays are informed and thought provoking resources that educate the reader about the background of the legal topic, and from that background springs the research agenda. The essays will help the reader find good questions to ask about the relationship between gender and the law. For example, Katharine Bartlett's essay, "Perspectives in Feminist Jurisprudence," introduces the field, and twenty-six other essays zero in on predictable ("Rape Trauma Syndrome Evidence") and unconventional ("Feminist Torts Scholarship") legal zones ripe for feminist research. I applaud the authors for providing the legal community with a comprehensive resource focused on feminist issues.

[Jennifer Kitchak reviewed the second title. She is a third-year student at the University of Wisconsin Law School and also a student assistant at the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian.]

## POLITICS

Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, **FROM SUFFRAGE TO THE SENATE: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN WOMEN IN POLITICS**. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1999. 2 vols. ill. bibl. index. \$125.00, ISBN 0-87436-960-6.

The year 1999 closed out a century of momentous gains for women

in American politics, commemorated coincidentally during the year by new books from several reference book publishers. Oryx issued *Encyclopedia of Women in American Politics*, Greenwood provided a *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women*, Westview covered both women and minorities (*The Almanac of Women and Minorities in American Politics*), and in December, ABC-CLIO weighed in with this two-volume contribution with historical and contemporary entries on people, issues, court cases, organizations and events. Since the *Encyclopedia of Women in American Politics (EWAP)* has the most similar sweep, a comparison is in order.

There's quite a bit of similarity of structure between the two works. Both use a simple alphabetic arrangement for their main sections and frequent black-and-white photographs. Both have introductory overviews and appendices for chronologies, tables on the number of women in each Congressional session, and other charts, primary source documents, and extensive subject indexes. *From Suffrage to the Senate* (hereafter *FSTS*), adds a separate bibliography, but has fewer references at the ends of entries. *FSTS* lists relevant Internet sources as a section in the bibliography and frequently cites them as part of the references – a plus in my mind. *EWAP* has a section of contact information and description of women's political organizations. The biggest difference between them is that entries in *EWAP* are from scholar-contributors (most signed), whereas *FSTS* is entirely written by one author – the nod in this case goes to *EWAP*. Entries are somewhat longer in *FSTS*; the single-column typeface is larger, and the photographs are both larger and clearer. Because the *EWAP* has two columns per page, smaller pictures,

and bigger overall dimensions, the relative amount of material is close.

In terms of content, though of course there are numerous entries appearing in both (particularly for people), there are many unique to each. *FSTS* uniquely includes Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first African American women's Greek-letter sorority; Gertrude Simmons Bonnin (Zitkala-Ša), Native American lobbyist; the Revolutionary cause supporting Daughters of Liberty [mentioned in passing in the introduction to *EWAP*]; Black Panther Party leader Kathleen Cleaver; *Taylor v. Louisiana*, a 1975 Supreme Court decision that ended gender discrimination in jury selection; and Women's Policy, Inc., a nonpartisan research organization founded in 1995. *EWAP* alone includes entries for the Danforth Amendment (1988) to the Civil Rights Restoration Act, under which recipients of federal funding may, but are not required to pay for abortions; family leave/ "mommy track" policies; and Sherri Chesson Finkbine, who in pre-*Roe v. Wade* days engendered debate about unequal options for rich and poor women, when she flew to Sweden for an abortion after she discovered that thalidomide, the drug she was taking, caused birth defects.

Both books are well worth having in all types of libraries.

## SCIENTISTS

Pamela Proffitt, ed., **NOTABLE WOMEN SCIENTISTS**. Detroit: Gale Group, 1999. 668p. \$85.00, ISBN 0-7876-3900-1.

Current interest in women scientists has given rise to several biographical dictionaries. Among these, *Notable Women Scientists* aims to

document the contributions of women in a male-dominated scientific community and to tell the stories of how women have struggled to be recognized as members of that community and the impediments they faced due to their sex.

The work includes 485 women who worked in the "natural, physical, social, and applied sciences" (p.vii). Although a vast majority are from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, some effort has been made to include women scientists from antiquity to the present. The entries span a variety of nationalities and ethnicities, with over a third describing American women of various ethnicities.

Individual subjects were selected "from a wide variety of sources, including science indices, other biographical collections, periodical articles, and awards lists" (p.vii). Scientists were chosen for discoveries, inventions, awards, impact on scientific progress, notable first accomplishments (degrees earned, positions held, or organizations founded), or involvement or influence in education, organizational leadership, or public policy. The list of women to be included was reviewed by an advisory board comprised of Margaret Alic, author of *Hypatia's Heritage: A History of Women in Science from Antiquity through the Nineteenth Century*, and Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Women's Studies Librarian of the University of Wisconsin System.

The narrative entries are easily accessible. They are written in a simple and approachable style. Each entry is 400-2,000 words and includes name, birth and death dates, nationality, occupation/field of study, a list of selected writings of the scientists, and a few suggestions for further reading.

Some entries include photographs or illustrations. The narrative sections describe the women's backgrounds and careers, including any pivotal events in a woman's background that helped determine her career choice. For example, the entry on Isabella Lucy Bird, a British travel writer and naturalist, describes the physical ailments that led her to travel, giving rise to her writings.

Indexing is complete, offering access by individual, field of specialization, nationality and ethnicity, and subject. The subject index is exhaustive, offering entries for both subject individuals and other individuals mentioned, specific topics of study, publications, and awards, honors, and prizes. A selective timeline of key events is included.

Though each entry is signed, no information is provided about the contributors. The volume is more seriously compromised by an excess of typographical errors, grammatical mistakes, and errors in layout; these are so frequent as to be distracting. The volume would also benefit from the inclusion of relevant organizations and Internet addresses. For example, the entry on Maria Mitchell could reference The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association and the Association's Web site at <http://maria1.mmo.org/>.

Though there are now several biographical dictionaries of women scientists on the market, each seems to have a unique list of subjects, with some overlap, especially of the more prominent figures. Others include:

Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, *Women in Science: Antiquity through the Nineteenth Century: A Biographical Dictionary with Annotated Bibliography*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1986.

Lisa Yount, *A to Z of Women in Science and Math*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1999.

Benjamin F. Shearer and Barbara S. Shearer, eds., *Notable Women in the Physical Sciences: A Biographical Dictionary*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997.

*4000 Years of Women in Science*. [Tuscaloosa, AL]: University of Alabama, [1999?]. <http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS>

Ideally, a library would obtain more than one of the genre. Despite some shortcomings, this particular title would be a good addition to a public, high school, or undergraduate college library collection.

[*Barbarly Korper McConnell is Head of the Kleene Mathematics Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.*]

## TELEVISION

Denise Lowe, **WOMEN IN AMERICAN TELEVISION: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA**. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1999. 515p. ill. bibl. indexes. \$75.00, ISBN 0-87436-970-3.

Recently ABC aired a made-for-TV movie, *Mary and Rhoda*, that revisited the best friend characters developed by Mary Tyler Moore and Valerie Harper thirty years ago in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (1970-77). Critics who warmly remembered the original sprightly series centered around a single, career newswoman generally panned the attempt to cash in on that nostalgia by again placing Mary Richards, now age sixty, in a news-

room where her values and experience clash with her thirty-something boss. Harper's character, Rhoda (also featured in a spinoff by that name, 1974-78), has left a second husband in Paris and descended on her medical student daughter in New York City, where she reunites with widowed Mary. Where the original was funny, this was serious. "Stuffy," "boring," and "preachy" senior citizen Mary can't compete with the memory of "perky" and "spunky" Mary, also hailed at the time as a role model of the liberated "new woman" who moved beyond the suburban homemaker. That wife/mom role had been typified by character Margaret Anderson (Jane Wyatt) on *Father Knows Best* (1954-1963), June Cleaver (Barbara Billingsley) on *Leave it to Beaver* (1957-1963), and especially Harriet Nelson (*The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* (1952-1966), who, as *Women in American Television* notes, never had any adventures herself, but was always there for her family (p.121).

One of the wonderful things about *Women in American Television* is that it doesn't accept the conventional premise that Mary of the 1970s should be regarded as a feminist icon. Author Denise Lowe points out the many subtle ways in which Mary was much closer to the old stereotype: her co-workers and friends were positioned like the bio-logical families on the earlier shows, and Mary acted as supportive, caring adviser to them in their troubles. Although supposedly an executive, Mary dressed not in the skirted suits that were the common attire of women managers in the '70s, but rather in brightly-colored dresses, jumpers, skirts, and sometimes pantsuits — clothing worn by clerical workers. She was never shown doing

more than handling mail, taking messages, filing, etc. — "...the majority of visuals [on the show] presented the character in stereotypically feminine pursuits or surrounded by symbols traditionally associated with femininity." While she occasionally stood up to her boss, Lou Grant, according to Lowe, these instances were always temporary, and unfailingly she eventually deferred to his judgment: "...when all the layers are peeled away, Mary Richards was a 1950s nurturing mother transplanted to the work environment of the 1970s, an improvement in the limited roles allowed women, but not a radical change" (pp.206-209).

It is refreshing, too, to have a Preface begin, as Lowe's does, "I am an avowed feminist. . ." (p.xiii), which means that she was motivated to include discussions like the above in addition to providing biographical information on women television actors, characters, directors, and writers, and descriptions of all TV series lasting over six months with female characters in lead roles. There are numerous topical entries, some specifically addressing gendered aspects of their subject, such as "Name Game: Females With Male Names," "Female Impersonators," and "Detective/Police Drama Series," and others mostly explaining something important for readers to understand about television. Of the second type, the entry "Intertextuality vs. Allusion" should be singled out for its lucidity. Television, says Lowe, is a self-referential medium that primarily uses direct allusions rather than subtle use of "culturally accepted images or myths to direct the viewer's understanding of a situation" (p.170). This season the wildly successful HBO series *The Sopranos*, about a depressed New Jersey mob boss Tony and his



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family, is the current standard-bearer of the tradition Lowe describes. The show plays both with bald allusions, as when the mobsters sit around discussing which scene is their favorite in *The Godfather* movies, and with the suburban wife/mom of the '50s in the character Carmela, Tony's wife.

There are more than four hundred A to Z entries in *Women and American Television*. About one-third the volume consists of various appendices. In the first appendix, women directors are listed alphabetically. Under each name is a list of programs she directed. Women writers receive similar treatment. (Unfortunately, the specific episodes written or directed are unnamed, and there are no entries in the main section of the *Encyclopedia* for most of these writers.) Next, women Emmy winners are enumerated, chronologically, followed by a short list of women (and one program, *I Love Lucy*) in the Television Hall of Fame. These are followed by a bibliography and general index.

Although it is clear from what she writes and from the bibliography itself

that Lowe has made use of feminist scholarship, it is a shame that either she or her editor chose not to list *any* references at the end of each entry. This severely limits the ability of researchers to use the *Encyclopedia* as a springboard to further work. Nevertheless, the volume contains a great deal of useful information for the general reader interested in television and women, and it will likely receive heavy use in libraries where undergraduates write term papers on (ever) popular culture topics.

## WRITERS

Carol Kort, *A TO Z OF AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS*. New York: Facts on File, 2000. 274p. index. \$40.00, ISBN 0-8160-3727-2.

Facts on File "A to Z" books can be counted on to provide accurate, well-written biographies of women

who have come to prominence among women of their background or in their chosen field. Like *Native American Women* and *Women in Science and Math*, *American Women Writers* was written by an experienced freelance writer with background in the subject area. That accounts for the consistent readability of the entries, laced with characteristic quotations from the biographees, such as Susan Sontag's statement, "What we are getting is not the demise of art, but a transformation of the function of art" (p.204), Anaïs Nin's "The personal life deeply lived always expands into truths beyond itself" (p.154), or Anne Rice's admission about why she writes of vampires: "... I remember having a dream. . . that said, 'Go where the pain and the intensity and the fear is' "(p.184).

Kort set out to chose 150 writers whose work is readily accessible and about whom she could supply bibliographic references, who represented the full spectrum of literary genres, from novels, short stories, mystery, science fiction, and horror fiction, through poetry, drama, children's literature, journalism, and various forms of personal narratives. She also wished to include women from each period of American history, geographic region, and cultural and socioeconomic background. She succeeded very well. Each of her selections is justifiable, if in most cases predictable. The major nineteenth- and early twentieth-century writers of the feminist canon, including Stowe, Jewett, Alcott, Dickinson, Chopin, Gilman, Wharton, and Cather, are all here, as are numerous African American writers (Truth, Wheatley, Wells-Barnett, Dunbar-Nelson), and more

contemporary authors (Angelou, Dove, Morrison, Naylor, Deavere Smith, and Shange). Included are homegrown writers (Jong, Hurston), immigrants (Yeziarska, Kincaid), and part-timers (Nin); city folks (Parker) and nature protectors (Carson); Hispanics (Mohr, Cisneros) and Asian Americans (Chin, Kingston, Uchida, Tan).

There are websites about most of these authors, and numerous works out of copyright are available in full-text on the Internet. Some recognition of this would have enhanced the volume, but this biographical dictionary will be quite useful nevertheless to high school and college students encountering many of these wonderful

writers in their English classes and leisure reading.

## BRIEFLY NOTED

Joan Nordquist, comp., **WOMEN AND CYBERSPACE: GENDER ISSUES: A BIBLIOGRAPHY**. Santa Barbara, CA: Reference and Research Services, 1998. 64p. (Contemporary social issues, no.52). ISBN 1-892068-02-8; ISSN for the series: 0887-3569.

When we received this bibliography it was put into immediate use in our office, and we forgot to include it

in a timely manner in this column. Even though it is now two years old, and the "Internet Resources" section may have some dated URLs, the sections of citations to books and articles on gender issues are well worth a look by anyone interested in sex discrimination and harassment, political activity, computer-based learning, and women and cyberspace in general. Articles cited appeared in women's studies, social science, and computer science journals, news magazines, and occasionally, major U.S. newspapers.

○ Phyllis Holman Weisbard  
(except as noted)



## Speaking Out:

### Women, Poverty, and Public Policy

Edited by Anne Statham and Katherine A. Rhoades

**Now available online in pdf format!**

See our website at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/homemore.htm#bookpubs>

This 265-page collection of papers from the conference **Speaking Out: Women, Poverty, and Public Policy**, the twenty-third annual conference of the University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Consortium, offers a variety of viewpoints on the topic of "welfare reform." The authors provide historical perspectives and policy critiques, examine how welfare reform is being worked out in other U.S. states, and report on what the idea of welfare means in other countries. Some studies offer resources and strategies for teaching about poverty in the classroom, while others discuss the experience of welfare recipients, and some analyze literary explorations of poverty. Several scholars speak from the viewpoint of having themselves been poor and/or on welfare at some point.

For a free print copy (while supplies last), write to: Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706, or email: [wiswsl@library.wisc.edu](mailto:wiswsl@library.wisc.edu), but we encourage you to access the online version, in pdf format.

# PERIODICAL NOTES

## NEW AND NEWLY DISCOVERED PERIODICALS

**AVIATION FOR WOMEN** 1998- . Ed.: Peggy Baty. 6/yr. \$25 (U.S.); \$35 (outside U.S.). Single copy: \$4.50. ISSN 1525-7762. Women in Aviation, International, 3647 S. R. 503 South, West Alexandria, OH 45381. (Issues examined: November/December 1999; January/February 2000)

Feature articles in the sample issues focus on such flying women as Pat Andrews, head of Mobil Corporation's international business aircraft operations, firefighting air tanker pilot Kerri Ballard, elite World War II pilots, vintage pilot Louise Thaden, who scored a number of firsts in the 1920s and 30s, and Laura Benson Putney, owner of a flight training school in Kentucky. Departments cover people in the news, "Sources and Resources," "Professional Development," "Living Well" (in one issue, on flying during pregnancy), and Women in Aviation News.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 2000- . AABD (Anti-Anorexia/Bulimia/Dieting Project), c/o Isthmus Psychotherapy & Psychiatry, 222 S. Bedford St., Madison, WI 53703; email: dzucker@chorus.net (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 2000)

Though only four pages at its outset, this newsletter of the Anti-Anorexia/Bulimia/Dieting Project here in Madison seeks to be part of "a growing and international dialogue among women, men and young people" on the topic of eating disorders. Participants meet every other week to "unpack the multiple meanings around fitness, health, body-size, the pursuit of thinness" (p.1). A readers forum, piece on "reflecting teams," and a note about AABD's interesting archives are part of this initial issue.

**GENDERNEWS** 1997?- . Ed.: Heléne Combrinck. 4/yr. Gender Project, Community Law Center, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7535, South Africa; email: hcombrin@uwc.ac.za (Issue examined: v.3, no.2, October-November 1999)

The eight-page, nicely laid-out sample newsletter we received contains articles on the impact of globalization on women textile workers, the dangers of a loophole in mandatory sentencing for rape crimes, the legal status of sex work in South Africa, and brief notes on other legal cases and questions. Brief reviews of new books in the Project's collection complement the informative articles.

**JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES** 2000- . Ed.: Diana Fox. Susan B. Anthony Women's Center, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Online only: <http://www.mcla.mass.edu/academics/sba-womenctr/index.htm>

Provided as "a forum for scholars, activists, and students to explore the relationship between feminist theory and various forms of organizing," the journal hopes its online format will encourage responses from readers. Articles in the first issue: "Feminist Consciousness and the Potential for Change in Campus Based Student Staffed Women's Centers" (Teri Ann Bengiveno); "Sorting Out Voices on Women's Rights in Morocco" (Sumi Colligan), and "Women's Movement and Change of Women's Status in China" (Yuhui Li); plus poetry by Elizabeth Brownell Balestrieri.

**KE NAKO: IT'S TIME** 1995- . Editorial board. 4/yr. Private Bag 00342, Gaborone, Botswana (Issue examined: v.14, June-September 1999)

Produced by the Women's NGO Coalition of Botswana, this newsletter carries news of various women's organizations and events, such as Worldview, which works in rural Botswana to educate both women and men about women's role in development; the Shelter Project to address domestic violence; a Mahalapye sub-district micro loan project; and the Kgetsi ya Tsie (Unity is Strength) poverty eradication program.

**PASSIONFRUIT** 1999?- . Ed.: Michele Jin. 4/yr. \$18 (U.S.); \$26 (Canada or Mexico); \$34 (elsewhere). Single copy: \$4.50 (U.S.); \$6.60 (Canada). ISSN 1527-6945. 2917 Telegraph Ave., PMB 136, Berkeley, CA 94705; email: michele@passionfruit.com; website: [www.passionfruit.com](http://www.passionfruit.com) (Issue examined: v.3, Spring 2000)

"A women's travel journal" is the subtitle, and the mission statement describes this as "a forum where women can share journey tales and discuss global issues." The substantial sample issue includes three feature articles (a transatlantic sailing tale plus stories of grieving and of an indigenous people in Costa Rica), plus numerous departments, from first-person perspectives to U.S. journeys to "nightmare" trips, profiles, early women travelers, and book reviews. Lots of territory is covered in a single issue.

**SAID IT** 1999- . Ed.: Adriene Sere. 10/yr. \$15.00; \$10.00 (low income); \$25 (international). P.O. Box 75035, Seattle, WA 98125; website: [www.saidit.org/](http://www.saidit.org/) (also available in PDF) (Issues examined: v.1, no.8, November 1999; v.2, no.3, May 2000)

This almost-monthly online magazine, subtitled "Feminist News, Culture & Politics," carries columns such as Media Glance, Remember This, and Activist Alert in addition to features. From articles on saving the great Narmada River of India from exploitation to questioning of the socialization process that takes place in schools, *Said It* strives to be "a feminist free speech venue of news sharing and analysis, essays, bitch-talk, and calls to action" (March 1999 issue).

**SCREAMS FROM INSIDE** 199?- . Ed.: Carissa. 4434 Ludlow St., Philadelphia, PA 19104; email: [hopscotharmy@juno.com](mailto:hopscotharmy@juno.com). (Issue examined: No.7)

Within this 'zine's fifty pages (focus of the sample issue is "Punk Girls") are a number of pieces from the editor (mostly reflections or fiction), but also short articles on nonviolent resistance and a brief biography of Emma Goldman, plus interviews with several other 'zine publishers and a band member/'zine producer. There are also a cartoon by Fly and reviews of books, music, and 'zines.

**WOMAN POWAH** 1999- . Editorial Board. 4/yr. National Resource and Documentation Centre for Gender and Development, Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, 1 Water & Cornhill Streets, Stabroek, Georgetown, Guyana; email: [nrdocgd@sdpn.org.by](mailto:nrdocgd@sdpn.org.by) (Issue examined: No.1, October 1999)

"Designed to provide information primarily about Guyanese women, their activities, their concerns and their status in society," says the editorial in the inaugural issue. The nineteen pages of this introductory issue include information about the Ministry's work and its woman leader, the Women's Affairs Bureau, the National Commission on Women, the Resource and Documentation Centre itself, and other organizations and efforts. Readers' contributions are invited, as the newsletter aims to "encourage the creative and artistic expression of women."

**WOMEN, LAW & DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER** 1999- . 1350 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 407, Washington, DC 20036; website: [www.wld.org/news.html](http://www.wld.org/news.html)

This publication, whose sponsoring organization has "consultative status" to the U.N., is available both in print and online (pdf format). The organization works to advance respect for human rights, education, and legal literacy of the world's women. Recent issues of the newsletter have included articles on threats to women human rights activists, the consequences of privatization, a human rights training program for African women, and the trafficking of women refugees from Kosovar.

**WOMEN OF ASIA MAGAZINE** 1998- . Ed.: Mallica Vajrathon. Website: [www.women-of-asia.com/index.html](http://www.women-of-asia.com/index.html) (Issue examined: Issue 4, August 1999)

Subtitled "A Quarterly Magazine for Executives and Leaders," this online publication "examines critical gender issues in the age of globalization as a follow-up" to the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women. The magazine offers sections on "Current Issues" (news tidbits on women heads of companies and the like), "Leisure" (including travel and health/fitness), and "Women in Focus" (featuring leaders in art, academia, aviation, and other fields). Covers women in all parts of Asia and the Pacific.

## SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

**HOMENET** no.11, June 1999: "Threadlines Embroidery Workshop." Subscription: £50. c/o Maquila Solidarity Network, 606 Shaw St., Toronto, Ontario M6G 3L6, Canada; email: [perg@web.net](mailto:perg@web.net) (North Am. address)

This "Newsletter of the International Network for Homebased Workers" features photos and news from a gathering of thirty-six women from seven countries who met in March 1999 for an embroidery workshop in Anandagram, near New Delhi. Women from India, East Pakistan, Portugal, Sumatra, Brazil, Indonesia, and Thailand shared their long embroidery traditions as well as information on locating new markets, establishing trade unions, and plans for support and training. Other brief news tidbits also focus on what is primarily women's work.

**WORK AND OCCUPATIONS** v.26, no.4, November 1999: "Ethnicity, Race, and Gender in the Workplace." Guest ed.: Jennifer L. Glass. Subscription: \$59.40 (indiv.); \$248.40 (inst.). Single copy: \$20.00 (indiv.); \$73.00 (inst.). ISSN 0730-8884. Sage Publications, P.O. Box 5084, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359; email: [order@sagepub.com](mailto:order@sagepub.com); website: [www.sagepub.com](http://www.sagepub.com)



Contents: "The Tangled Web We Weave: Introduction" (Jennifer L. Glass); "An Establishment-Level Test of the 'Statistical Discrimination Hypothesis'" (Donald Tomaskovic-Devey and Sheryl Skaggs); "'I Don't Feel Right Sized; I Feel Out-of-Work Sized': Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and the Unequal Costs of Displacement" (Roberta Spalter-Roth and Cynthia Deitch); "Glass Ceilings and Glass Escalators: Occupational Segregation and Race and Sex Differences in Managerial Promotions" (David J. Maume, Jr.); and "Job Leaves and the Limits of the Family and Medical Leave Act: The Effects of Gender, Race, and Family" (Naomi Gerstel and Katherine McGonagle).

## ANNIVERSARIES

**ESSENCE**, for years the largest circulation magazine targetted to Black women, celebrates its thirtieth year of publishing with the May 2000 "Collector's Edition" issue (v.31, no.1). Editor Susan Taylor, who has guided the magazine for almost twenty years, is also turning over the reins to Monique Greenwood beginning with the June issue. The celebration issue includes thirty "women to watch," thirty life lessons, and a wonderful photo/essay

section on "Black women trailblazers," titled "Ya Done Good, Girl." *Essence's* subscription address: Neodata, P.O. Box 2606, Boulder, CO, 80322.

**FEMINISM & PSYCHOLOGY** is celebrating its tenth year of publication, beginning with v.10, no.1, 2000, which includes a special feature "reappraising Suzanne Kessler and Wendy McKenna's 1978 classic, *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*." Send congratulations to: Sue Wilkinson, editor, Dept. of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU, UK.

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK (WIN) NEWS** is moving into the new century with twenty-five years of publishing under its belt. Editor Fran Hosken says in v.26, no.1 (Winter 2000 issue) that the magazine for a quarter of a century "has reported on key issues by and for women worldwide, providing a unique record and contacts for networking," with the ideal of changing "the fundamental relationship of all societies, that between women and men" (p.1). WIN's address is 187 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02420-2126; email: [winnews@igc.org](mailto:winnews@igc.org)

○ Compiled by Linda Shult

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# WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The **CORE LISTS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES 2000**, compiled by the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, now includes some new topics. The lists include only books currently in print, with focus on the United States, and are intended to help collection development librarians and teaching faculty in selecting appropriate books for research and teaching. Lists are updated each January. The new titles this year are:

American Literature, by Carrie Kruse  
British Literature, by Stefanie DuBose

Information Technology, by Kelly Barrick Hovendick  
Mexican Women, by Rachel Murphree  
Military, by Susan Macicak  
Popular Culture, by Jennifer Gilley

Each of these plus the other twenty-nine topical lists are available on our website at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/core/coremain.htm>

# ITEMS OF NOTE

A Winter 2000 report by the Ford Foundation entitled **NOW IT'S A GLOBAL MOVEMENT: A SPECIAL ISSUE ON WOMEN** tells the stories of women and men from China, Mexico, Indonesia, India, and other countries who are working to advance women's progress. Included are a list of recent Foundation grants and a poster on "Three Decades of Progress" for women. To request a copy contact the Ford Foundation, Office of Communications, 320 East 43 Street, New York, NY 10017, USA; on the Web at <http://www.fordfound.org>. Also available in microform from Bell & Howell Information & Learning Company, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA.

**KOREAN WOMEN NOW** (1999), a forty-one-page book from the Korean Women's Development Institute, provides information on aspects of Korean women's lives such as family, education, employment, the law, culture, and welfare. The book's goal is to raise awareness of Korean women's position in society and further their movement towards equality. For more information, contact KWDI, 1-363 Bulgwang-dong, Eunpyung-gu, Seoul, Korea; telephone: 02-356-0070; fax: 023847167; on the Web at <http://kwdi.re.kr>.

The latest publications from the Institute for Wisconsin's Future include the following titles: **THE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM ON WISCONSIN'S HMONG AID RECIPIENTS** (December, 1999), written by Thomas Moore and Vicky Selkove, examines the Wisconsin Works program's negative effects on Hmong families including lack of skill training, communication barriers, and a drop in financial assistance, and suggests changes in

accordance with the Hmong population's needs. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN TRANSITION FROM WELFARE TO WORK: BARRIERS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE W-2 RESPONSE** (September, 1999), also written by Thomas Moore and Vicky Selkove, looks at the difficulties battered women face in maintaining employment and/or completing education or job training. The report, providing possible solutions, also discusses the W-2 program's relative inability to identify domestic abuse victims and provide them with proper support. For details, contact the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, 1717 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street #203, Milwaukee, WI 53204-3300, USA; telephone: 414-384-9094; fax: 414-384-9098; email: [iwf@execpc.com](mailto:iwf@execpc.com). Both summaries of these Institute papers, as well as others published by the Institute, are available in pdf format on the Institute's website: <http://www.execpc.com/~iwf>.

**WORDS INTO ACTION: THE NAMIBIAN WOMEN'S MANIFESTO** aims to increase Namibian women's participation in politics as leaders, voters, and activists, raise awareness about gender issues, and encourage political leaders to address gender imbalances in accordance with the National Gender Policy and Plan of Action. For further information, contact *Sister Namibia*, P.O. Box 40092, Windhoek, Namibia; telephone: 061-230618 or 230757; fax: 061-236371; email: [sister@iafrica.com.na](mailto:sister@iafrica.com.na).

The January 2000 publication, **MICHIGAN: A "SMART STATE" FOR WOMEN?: WOMEN AND HIGHER EDUCATION**, discusses the importance of higher education in improving the lives of women and the obstacles many Michigan women face in becoming educated. The report ends with policy recommendations for increasing women's access to higher education. Published by the University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women, 330 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2289; telephone: 734-998-7080; website: <http://www.umich.edu/~cew>.

○ Compiled by Ann Lauf

# Books & AV Recently Received

**A TO Z OF AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS.** Kort, Carol. Facts on File, 2000.

**BECOMING CITIZENS: THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, 1880-1911.** Gullet, Gayle. University of Illinois Press, 2000.

**BELLE MOSKOWITZ: FEMININE POLITICS AND THE EXERCISE OF POWER IN THE AGE OF ALFRED E.**

**SMITH.** Perry, Elisabeth Israels. Oxford University Press, 1987; repr. Northeastern University Press, 2000.

**BIGGER THAN THE SKY: DISABLED WOMEN ON PARENTING.** Wates, Michele & Jade, Rowen eds. Women's Press, distr. Trafalgar Square, 1999.

**BLACK WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES.** Warren, Wini. Indiana University Press, 2000.

**A BRIEF, LIBERAL, CATHOLIC DEFENSE OF ABORTION.** Dombrowski, Daniel A. & Deltete, Robert. University of Illinois Press, 2000.

**CANADIAN WOMAN STUDIES: AN INTRODUCTORY READER.** Amin, Nuzhat, et al., eds. Inanna Publications operating as Canadian Woman Studies, 1999.

**CHARTBOOK ON WOMEN AND DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES.** Jans, Lita & Stoddards, Susan. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, 1999.

**CITIZENSHIP RITES: FEMINIST SOLDIERS & FEMINIST ANTIMILITARISTS.** Feinman, Ilene Rose. New York University Press, 2000.

**CLASSROOMS & COURTROOMS: FACING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN K-12 SCHOOLS.** Stein, Nan; foreword by Pat Schroeder. Teachers College Press, 1999.

**COSMODOLPHINS: FEMINIST CULTURAL STUDIES OF TECHNOLOGY, ANIMALS AND THE SACRED.** Bryld, Mette & Lykke, Nina. Zed; distr. St. Martin's, 2000.

**CRITICAL CONDITION: FEMINISM AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.** Gubar, Susan. Columbia University Press, 2000.

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**THE DATE RAPE PREVENTION BOOK: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR GIRLS & WOMEN.** Lindquist, Scott. Sourcebooks, 2000.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE GODDESS, DAUGHTERS OF IMPERIALISM: AFRICAN WOMEN STRUGGLE FOR CULTURE, POWER & DEMOCRACY.** Amadiume, Ifi. Zed, 2000.

**DECENTERING THE CENTER: PHILOSOPHY FOR A MULTICULTURAL, POSTCOLONIAL, AND FEMINIST WORLD.** Narayan, Uma & Harding, Sandra, eds. Indiana University Press, 2000.

**EDNA AND JOHN: A ROMANCE OF IDAHO FLAT.** Duniway, Abigail Scott. Washington State University Press, 2000.

**EFFIE MARQUESS CARMACK: FOLK MUSICIAN, ARTIST, AND WRITER.** Carmack, Noel A. & Davidson, Karen Lynn, eds. Utah State University Press, 1999.

**ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE: A LIFE.** Weir, Alison. Ballantine Books, 2000.

**EMBODIED GEOGRAPHIES: SPACES, BODIES AND RITES OF PASSAGE.** Teather, Elizabeth Kenworthy, ed. Routledge, 2000.

**ENCOUNTERS WITH STRANGERS: FEMINISM AND DISABILITY.** Morris, Jenny, ed. Women's Press; distr. Trafalgar Square, 1999.

**EVERYBODY'S GRANDMOTHER & NOBODY'S FOOL: FRANCES FREEBORN PAULEY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.** Nasstrom, Kathryn L. Cornell University Press, 2000.

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- WOMEN IN WORLD HISTORY: A BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA: VOL. 5 EAD-FUR.** Commire, Anne & Klezmer, Deborah, eds. Gale Group, 2000.
- WOMEN OF OTHER WORLDS: EXCURSIONS THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION AND FEMINISM.** Merrick, Helen & Williams, Tess, eds. University of Western Australia Press, 1999.
- WOMEN & POWER: FIGHTING PATRIARCHIES & POVERTY.** Townsend, Jane, et al. Zed, 2000.
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# Women's Resources International

## General Information

**Available Formats:** CD-ROM, WWW

**Dates of Coverage:** 1972 to present

**Databases:** 11

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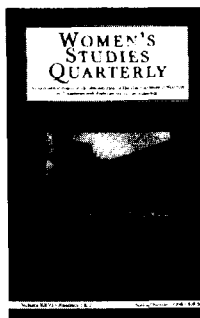
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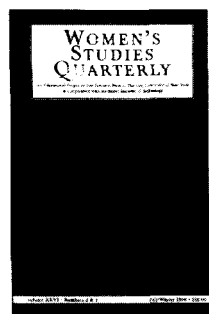
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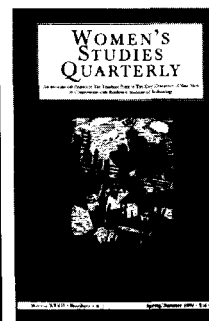
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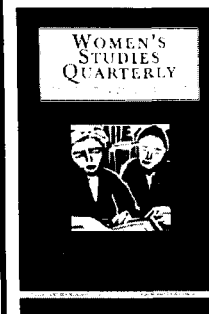
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