Summer 6-2004

UA68/18/1 Perspectives, Vol. 8, No. 2

WKU Women's Studies & Support Program

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Walking the Walk:
F.A.N. & Women’s Studies Help Make History

March for Women’s Lives
Washington D.C. April 25, 2004

Sunday, April 25, 2004, 1,150,000 people gathered in front of our nation’s capitol for the largest march in history—The March for Women’s Lives—in support of reproductive freedom and justice for all women. At 3:00 a.m. the morning before, twenty women and one man squeezed into two vans for the twelve-hour trip to Washington, D.C.

Excitement pulsed through the group—comprised of members of FAN (Feminist Activism Network), Women’s Studies minors, faculty, and staff.

Months of hard work by F.A.N. in the form of yard sales, bake sales, and other fundraisers, permitted several members of their group to attend the march. F.A.N. member and Women’s Studies minor/student assistant Shelly Glorioso made all the arrangements for transportation, hostel, and food for the trip. Women’s Studies provided travel scholarships to our minors so that they could attend.

Want the inside story from those of us who were there? Turn to page 5 for photos, pages 3 & 6 for journals.

We are here (somewhere),

fibers in a carpet of people stretched for over a mile.

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Newsletter Committee:

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Leann Farmer, Anthropology Major
Angela Fetty, WS Minor
Allison Harnish, WS Minor, Contributing Writer
Jenna Vondran, WS Minor
**From the Director’s Desk**

What a learning curve this semester has been! In my role as the interim director (interim meaning temporary, as in soon-to-be-over, as in not-for-long), I have been blessed to be able to lean on the expertise of the Women’s Studies office personnel, in particular our office associate, Trish Lindsey Jaggers. She knows things I will never know about how the office runs. Certainly, her knowledge of web design is a wonder. Also helping to keep the office running have been our instructor, Farrah Ferrell, our faculty fellow, Barry Brunson, and our student workers, Shelly Glorioso and Preethi Srinivasa. Shelly’s dedication to feminism and activism gives me hope for the future of feminism.

Our special events this semester kept us busy, to be sure. On January 21st, we hit the ground running when Vanderbilt professors Alison Piepmeier and Rory Dicker came to talk about third wave feminism. A capacity crowd of students and faculty welcomed them, and a lively discussion followed the presentation. Then, on February 4th, the Women’s Studies Program co-sponsored (with C.A.B) renowned poet Nikki Giovanni who spoke to a capacity crowd at Van Meter Auditorium. Also gracing our campus on March 2nd was Cynthia Enloe whose work on gender and militarization is path-breaking (and whose good humor was a joy). In addition, the Gender Images Film Series has grown by leaps and bounds, and all three of our spring films brought in solid numbers and intriguing discussions.

This semester, I also had the pleasure of being the faculty advisor for V-Day, an annual anti-violence event that includes a presentation of Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*. The greatest satisfaction I received from my limited role was to watch the enthusiasm of the young women (and a few young men) involved in all aspects of the production, which filled Mass Media Auditorium on February 25th. From the actors to the directors to the producers to the ticket- and cookie-sellers, all shared a happiness and a commitment that was indeed inspiring.

I was also fortunate to preside over the annual Women’s Studies Awards Luncheon. This year, for the first time, the two major awards recipients, Stacy Wilson and Alicia McDaniel, hail from Ogden College. Stacy and Alicia both work on the Girls to Women in Science Project. It is so important to expand the work of women’s studies beyond the traditional disciplines and to become as inclusive as we can in bringing a contemporary understanding of feminism to our campus and world.

Finally, I am pleased that Western was well represented by those who attended the April 25th March for Women’s Lives in Washington, D.C. Riding all day and all night in rented vans to get to Washington to participate in the largest mass demonstration in U.S. history, the members of F.A.N. and the WS minors, faculty and staff, made me proud to be part of a program that has done so much to bring focus to the vital issues affecting women’s lives.

With that, I sign off as the “interim” director—and look forward to my return to civilian life, as a member of the women’s studies faculty and committees.

—Kathryn Abbott

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**TALKING THE TALK**

Our spring semester nearly burst with speakers and events—even a march on the nation’s capital! In brief:

**January**

“Catching a Wave: Third Wave Feminism,” Alison Piepmeier & Rory Dicker shed some light on what is the new "third wave," and why the third wave is an important element in the feminist movement.

**Rape Is:** Molly Kerby introduced this eye-opening film to an almost-packed MMTH auditorium and led the discussion afterward.

**February**

Nikki Giovanni: this exciting poet, author, and activist was brought to Western by CAB, with assistance from Women’s Studies. **V-DAY Western Kentucky University 2004:** another successful V-Day event filled MMTH to the rafters! WS students organized and produced this program to raise awareness of, and help end violence against, women and children. Proceeds from the event totaling $2,505.41 were donated to Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc., a domestic violence shelter & program.

**March**

Cynthia Enloe: her talk, “Why Does the Pentagon Worry So Much About Women? Some Feminist Chex,” provided insight to the military’s ongoing cultivation of “woman-friendly” campaign ads—with the belief that women influence many men’s decisions about whether to join and, more importantly, to reenlist in the military. Women’s presence in the armed forces. Enloe said, remains token, at best. (See story, page 3.)

**Rosie the Riveter** Kathryn Abbott, History, WS Interim Director, introduced this film about the “life and times” of Rosie the Riveter to an eager crowd at MMTH Auditorium. The film provided a historical and critical look at women’s entrance into the industrial workforce, (with a focus on the genderization of the term “skill”), spurred by the vacuities created when men went to war, and the subsequent “outsizing” of the now self-sufficient, wage-earning, skilled women at the end of the war.

**April**

**Women’s Studies Awards Luncheon & Ceremony.** (See page 4.) **Whale Rider** Introduced by Dr. Kate Hudepohl, Anthropology genderations Colloquia Series: (See page 6.)

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**Et Cetera**

**Perspectives** is published twice yearly—spring and fall terms—by the Women’s Studies Program.

The Women’s Studies Center is located at 1532 State Street. Our mailing address:

Women’s Studies Program  
Western Kentucky University  
1 Big Red Way  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**Call us:**  
Phone: (270) 745-6477  
Fax: (270) 745-6861  
Email: Trish.Jaggers@WKU.edu or Jane.Olmsted@WKU.edu  
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**We are...**

Jane Olmsted, Director  
Trish Lindsey Jaggers, Office Associate  
Farrah Ferrell, WS Instructor  
Barry Brunson, Faculty Fellow  
Shelly Glorioso, Student Office Assistant  
Preethi Srinivasa, Graduate Assistant

---

I read and walked for miles at night along the beach, writing bad blank verse and searching endlessly for someone wonderful who would step out of the darkness and change my life. It never crossed my mind that that person could be me.

—Anna Quindlen
CYNTHIA ENLOW
"WHY DOES THE PENTAGON WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT WOMEN?"

Cynthia Enloe, Political Science professor and author of various feminist novels, including *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics and Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women’s Lives*, made a memorable appearance on Western’s campus Tuesday, March 2. The evening began with a roundtable discussion in the Fine Arts Center at 4 pm, proceeded into a lecture in the Mass Media and Technology Auditorium, and ended with a coffee house chat in the Women’s Studies Center.

During the roundtable discussion, Enloe made a point to involve the audience in her lesson by asking questions and relating the topic at hand to local situations and institutions. For example, Enloe used the Fruit of the Loom factory in Bowling Green to illustrate her theories on the feminization of cheap labor. According to her, there is no such thing as cheap labor; rather labor is made cheap through a process of increasing production, reducing benefits, internalizing worthlessness within employees, making the job appear temporary, and making the women workers to feel that their labor is not skillful.

Enloe’s arguments were astounding and persuasive, especially for a group of history students who were reading one of her books for their class. Chris Stefan, a sophomore in Dr. Formes’ Sex and Power course, was skeptical about Enloe’s philosophies on militarization. But after hearing her speak, he was more accepting and appreciative of her book *Maneuvers*. Enloe was very effective in helping students understand her work. When questioned about some of the points in her book, she explained them in a way that made more sense to me.

That night, her presentation addressed the newest concerns that the government and, particularly, the military have regarding women’s “power over” men in the armed forces—with particular emphasis given to mothers and spouses—women who are not in the military. Where, before, ads for armed services were directed at the prospective enlistee, now the target has shifted—to the women in these men’s lives. More often than not, if women are not impressed by the “sell tactics” of the ads, their dissatisfaction will directly influence the men in their lives—which could subsequently reduce the number of men entering armed forces. Even though the number of women enlisted has risen—Enloe also underscored the under-representation of women enrolled in active duty.

Overall, Enloe’s presentation over the military’s “woman concern” was received well by her audience, and I found her to be a very individual. I was impressed by the effort she made to familiarize herself with the area as well as how eager she was to get to know those around her. I truly enjoyed the Cynthia Enloe experience and look forward to the Women’s Studies Program hosting such a warm and caring individual again soon on our campus.

By Allison Harnish, WS minor

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Goosebumps formed on my arms; I need to live in a place like this. A place where you can walk down the street and see democracy in action. Pumped with adrenaline, we began our march for women’s rights. It wasn’t long before we hit crowds of anti-choice. Some of them scared me. There were also anti-choice activists who actually threw ink filled eggs at the marchers. I have to admit, anger overpowered me when I saw signs that actually compared abortion to the Holocaust. How dare they compare the two! I shook my signs and yelled right back at them. We chanted our motto the loudest when surrounded by the anti-choice crowd.

More comments:
Katie Cielinski: “My community of feminists grew from a wonderfully passionate, yet small, group of people to a massive, diverse population from all over the world!”
Shelly Glorioso: “Nothing compares to dressing up as a pirate and marching in D.C. I can only hope to again come close to the overwhelming joy felt as I chanted that the current administration would “walk the plank” for painting women’s lives.”

We yelled things like, “My body my choice!” and “Hey hey, ho ho, George Bush has got to go!” I’ll never forget the empowerment and the strength of the women and men who participated that day. We were all there to prove a point, and I believe it was a huge success. Before and after the march I heard some very inspirational speakers including Hillary Clinton, who urged us to go out and vote. There were millions of women in 2000 eligible to vote who did not. Unfortunately, I was one of them. I regret my apathy, and I will definitely be at the precinct this November.

By Catherine Damron, Student

CHEYENNE HOFMAN: Thanks to being a WS minor, I became a part of women’s history, which I can’t say about any other field I’ve studied.

TRISH LINDSEY JAGGERS: We must reclaim the term “pro-life” because pro-choice doesn’t mean “anti-life”; it means pro-life for women and children, with the equal right to choose for all. Our first choice should be to vote. A single voice matters. Make yours heard!
WOMEN'S STUDIES AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON

Friday, April 2, 2004, Women's Studies held its annual Awards Ceremony & Luncheon in the Garrett Ballroom.

Kathryn Abbott, interim director, delivers remarks at the ceremony.

John Reiss accepts the Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award on behalf of Stacy Wilson.

Alicia McDaniel received the Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award, presented by Lowell Shank.

Misty York (left) receives WS Graduate Scholarship; Shelly Glorioso (center) and Katie Cielinski (right) receive the Valere Scott Scholarship. All presented by Richard Wilson.

Lindsey Ransdell receives the Catherine Coogan Ward Scholarship, presented by Richard Wilson.

Some Friends of Women's Studies attended the awards luncheon.

Two undergraduates tied for the Women's Studies Feminist Writing Award: Crystal Fodrey (right), for her poem “Melt,” & Charles Howard III, for his poem “Clemensky Strikes Back.” Presented by Dale Rigby (not shown). The English Dept. co-sponsored the award.
WALKING THE WALK: WS & FAN MEMBERS MARCH ON D.C.

Stop by the Women’s Studies Center and check out our bulletin board—full of color photos from the march!
LIFTING SIGNS, Raising Voices & CONSCIOUSNESS

About a year ago, I received an email from NOW, about a huge reproductive rights march that was being planned for April 25th, 2004 in Washington, D.C. As soon as I read that email, I made a promise to myself, and to women all over the world, that I would attend this march—with bells on. Thanks to travel funds from Women’s Studies, I found myself in the middle of democracy. Signs rose above voices. One sign that caught my eye, “I’m a pro-choice republican,” showed that republicans agree with a woman’s right to choose. My views on politics and women’s issues have changed dramatically over the past four years. Growing up, I was very much against abortion and believed it should be illegal. But then I realized that being pro-choice doesn’t mean you love the idea of abortion. It means that you believe that every woman should have the opportunity to choose for herself if— and when—she will have children.

The march also emphasized the importance of voting and making sure people were registered to vote. This is something that is very important to keeping and advancing reproductive freedoms. Getting people registered and motivating people to vote is something Fan will be working on in the fall. We need to keep the vibe of the march going, by raising awareness here on campus and in the Bowling Green community. So if you, or someone you know, are not registered to vote, take control of your body and your voice. Register. VOTE!

Jenna Vondran, WS Minor

I'M CATHOLIC; I'M PRO-CHOICE

I have struggled with the whole idea of “pro-choice” and “pro-life” most of my life. I was raised Roman Catholic and constantly assaulted with messages like “Adoption not Abortion” and “Choose Life.” Yet, on the other hand, I became involved in the women’s movement in the 1970s and worked as a feminist organization in the early 1980s in New York City. The never-ending issue and polarization of abortion became a problematic point placing me in the middle of what I always saw as an unnecessary political debate that pitted religion against State.

In the surprising way that life unfolds, I ended up agreeing to drive one of the university vans to D.C. I paid my registration the next week, and it was set—I, a cradle-born Roman Catholic, was going to Washington to march in a pro-choice rally! What would my mother think? During the weeks to follow I had to come to terms with some of those issues I had chosen not to face about abortion. Could I possibly be Catholic, or even a Christian for that matter, and still be “pro-choice”? How can I be an effective women’s studies instructor and be “pro-life”? I put all of my apprehension in check, set my alarm for 1:30 a.m. on April 24, met the army of eager young feminists at the Women’s Studies Center, and headed for Washington, D.C.

Though I have attended protests in the past, I have never been involved in a march of this magnitude. It was astronomical! And, quite frankly, was the most inspirational event I have ever attended. As one of our students put it, “I was like being with a million of your closest friends.” I do not think that anyone at the event will ever look at the issue of abortion the same again. In searching for a way to summarize my feelings on abortion, I came upon the following rather contemporary definition:

Pro-choice: “a political view that believes that abortion should continue to be legal and accessible. Pro-choice is not necessarily pro-abortion, but merely being in support of a woman’s having the option available. People who follow this view would not necessarily opt for abortion themselves, but do not wish to deny others the option. Pro-choice is not an antithesis to pro-life; while the pro-life view would force women to give birth, pro-choice would not force them to abort.” (http://www.urbandictionary.com)

Molly Kerby, Public Health

THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE

A march volunteer shouts in her megaphone, “Show me what democracy looks like!” Chills of excitement run down my body and warmth fills my spirit as I shout back with the 1000’s of people surrounding me, “This is what democracy looks like!”

I think to myself, this is what democracy looks like: 1.15 million people gathering together for the March for Women’s Lives to advocate reproductive freedom; to say yes to CHOICE; to say no to the global gag rule; to demand safe, affordable, and accessible birth control (of all forms); to tell our government that sex education should be one of the priorities in our children’s schools; and to remind our government that women are not going to tolerate our bodies being political terrain.

I have learned a valuable piece of wisdom by participating in this historical event—have faith in democracy. Social inequalities persist, poverty plagues our people, but democracy will bring us justice. I have faith in feminists to exercise democracy as it is meant to be implemented—being involved in our communities and our government, voicing our concerns, and demanding EQUALITY and CHOICE and accepting nothing less. So, show me what democracy looks like—and get active—NOW!

Farrah Ferrell, Women’s Studies Instructor

More “Journals” on page 3
FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

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* indicates life member or life patrons

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PERSPECTIVES
FALL 2003 & SPRING 2004
WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATES:
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Congratulations to those who completed their undergraduate

Amanda Hall
Candislyn Heller
Sarah Lawrence
Tara Regan
*Melissa Y. Smith
Sara Summarell

Congratulations to those who completed their requirements for
the WS Graduate Certificate in December 2003:

Paula Sue Bowles

"Class is in inverse proportion to its relevance."
Minette Walters

**Remember, to cast your vote in this year’s presidential election, you must register by October 4, 2004. VOTE!"