

"THE DIGNITY OF A WOMAN IS UNIMPEACHABLE"

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ASIA

When we think of the idea of a woman's dignity from the perspective of Western culture, we may overlook the very real and dangerous indignities that women face in other cultures. Two speakers recently addressed these indignities, their sources and their solutions before an attentive crowd in the Knight Club in Powell Campus Center.

Sister Soledad Perpnan, founder and director of the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women in the Philippines, and Suraya Sadeed, founder and director of Help the Afghan Children, Inc., explained the problems that citizens in their respective countries deal with and how each of their organizations work to alleviate such problems.

Perpnan, who is referred to by her colleagues as "Sister Sol" because of both her name and her sunny disposition, offered tales of her work as an activist rescuing women who have been victimized by the sex industry in the Philippines.

"Women are used for recreational purposes," she said, using delicate terms for the deception and cruelty that young women and even children face as a result of sex industry trafficking. She cited the globalization of prostitution through the media and the popularity of prostitution on U.S. and other foreign military bases in the Philippines as situations that fuel the sex industry.

Perpnan described a typical scenario for trafficking, in which girls and young women are offered money and the chance to travel in exchange for signing a contract with a "talent" agency. What the girls do not know at the time, says Perpnan, is what awaits them and how hard escape can prove to be.

Perpnan decided to raise awareness of this problem and educate girls and women about the lurking danger in these agencies by presenting a play at a women's rights conference in Huairou, China. The play, titled

"They Are So Sweet, Sir," is based on a book by Belgian author Chris DeStoop.

It portrays the story of girls and young women lured into the sex industry who quickly discover the truth about their new careers. They react in different ways, and one group decides to get even. The women in this group deceive their captors and escape to the Philippines, where they take the head of their agency to court. However, the judge sides with the agency, which Perpnan said is a true story. The play ends with an affirmation of the women's freedom and their pledge to help others in the same situation.

After the opening of the play, Perpnan's organization, the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, began to form. Today, the group helps rescue women who are part of the sex industry by creating drop-in centers near areas where prostitution is common. They give the survivors somewhere to live and to learn practical job skills.

Perpnan emphasized the strength of the women who escape prostitution. They should be admired, not pitied, she said. Many of the survivors now work for the group, which holds support sessions in bars and other places where the victims work.

While Perpnan spoke of helping women empower themselves, Suraya Sadeed began her presentation by describing an image of peace: Afghanistan, pre-Soviet invasion. She reached the silent audience by talking about her own reaction to the events of Sept. 11, which was one of fear for what Afghanistan would face due to the actions of Osama bin Laden, "this unwanted guest."

Sadeed reminded her listeners that terrorism does not just affect America. "Afghans know how residents of New York feel when looking at Ground Zero, because Afghanistan is one big Ground Zero," she said.



Not Another Pretty Face
by Megan Gray, from Jennifer
Pepper's FNA 101 class (Seeing,
Perception and Interpretation)

Women's Studies Events Spring 2003

Mar. 5 — "Gay and Smiling: Tips From
My 40 Years as a Gay Activist," Barbara
Gittings

Mar. 6 — Bergren Forum, Jennifer Pepper,
12:20 p.m. in the Knight Club

Mar. 20 — Bergren Forum, Zakia Robana,
12:20 p.m. in the Knight Club

Apr. 21 — Eighth Annual Riley Lecture,
Susan Cahill (Editor of *Writing Women's
Lives: An Anthology of Autobiographical
Narratives by Twentieth-Century Women
Writers*), 4 p.m. in the Knight Club

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

As the new director of the Women's Studies Program, I am very excited about the opportunity to serve the feminist community in Alfred. Our Women's Studies Program is dynamic and growing thanks to the efforts of its many active students and faculty, and especially the work of the out-going director, Susan Morehouse. The exceptionally rich selection of Women's Studies course offerings for Spring 2003 is witness to the vitality of the program (*see list below*).

We have already enjoyed a number of inspiring and polemical events. In the first Women's Studies Roundtable of the year, Abderrahman Robana, professor of business and administration, shared with us some examples of successful women entrepreneurs in Tunisia. For the October Women's Studies Roundtable, the Women's Issues Coalition (WIC) organized a panel of students who presented strikingly diverse points of view about issues of gender and sexuality in a variety of religions. The international focus of this semester's events was reinforced by a lecture on women in Asia, at which visiting activists Sister Soledad and Suraya Sadeed spoke about feminist initiatives to improve the lives of women in the Philippines and in Afghanistan, and by a lecture on "Gaining People, Losing Ground," by Werner Fornos, President of the Population Institute in Washington, D.C. The Roundtables this semester by Nicole Seibert-Davis and Kerry Kautzman continued to explore issues of women in the global community.

The spring semester will be particularly active for the Women's Studies Program. WIC has announced that we will again be putting on *The Vagina Monologues* in February, a very exciting project given last year's success. I would encourage everyone to participate in this enriching and ambitious endeavor. A number of activities have already been scheduled for Women's History Month in March, including a Women's Studies Roundtable by Linda Mitchell and Bergren Forums by Jennifer Pepper and Zakia Robana. Barbara Gittings, a pioneer in the gay and lesbian movement, will give a lecture titled "Gay and Smiling: Tips From My 40 Years as a Gay Activist," on March 5. On April 21, we are very much looking forward to the eighth annual Riley Lecture by Susan Cahill, an editor of a number of outstanding anthologies of women's literature including *Writing Women's Lives: An Anthology of Autobiographical Narratives by Twentieth-Century Women Writers* (1993).

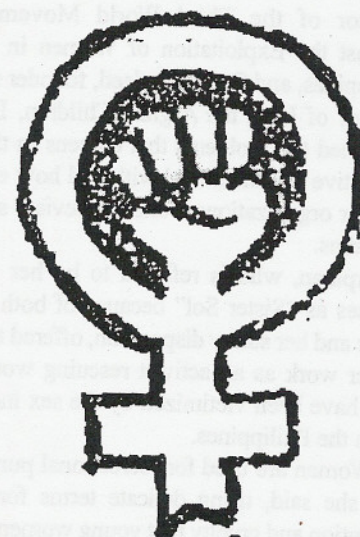
The Women's Studies Program is made up of a diverse, multi-disciplinary group of students and faculty. I would love to speak with all of you about your ideas for future events, about your experience and interests as feminists, about what women's studies means to you and the ways you would like to see our Women's Studies Program develop.

Cecilia Beach
Director of Women's Studies

Alphadelphian editor Sarah Guariglia would like to thank Susan Morehouse for help with the production of this issue. Thanks to Robyn Goodman, Cecilia Beach, Jennifer Pepper, Elizabeth Dill and Carol Burdick for their input on and patience with the editing of this semester's issue. Also, huge thanks to all writers and contributors.

SPRING 2003 WST COURSE LISTINGS

WST 105 001	Women in Society	04	Morehouse S
WST 120 001	C Non-Violent Crisis Intervention	01	Walker G
WST 206 001	D Poetry Workshop	02	Burdick C
WST 293 001	D A Place in the Universe	02	Burdick C
WST 305 001	Psychology of Women	03	Walker G
WST 308 001	Women Writers in the Middle Ages	04	Tolhurst F
WST 313 001	Spanish American Culture & Literature II	03	Huberman A
WST 324 001	Gay American History	04	Eaklor V
WST 350 001	Women in the Visual Arts: 1960s-Today	04	Pepper J
WST 350 002	Jane Austen & Her Contemporaries	04	Grove A
WST 350 003	Women in Theatre	03	Prophet B
WST 361 001	American Women: History and Herstory	04	Ostrower G



The Alphadelphian is published by the Alfred University Women's Studies Program. Inquiries, comments and requests for copies should be addressed to:

Cecilia Beach
Women's Studies Program
Allen Hall
Alfred University
Alfred, NY 14802
Phone: (607) 871-2883

CELEBRATION OF GAY HISTORY MONTH

A variety of events associated with Gay History Month brought queer cultural awareness to Alfred in October. Spectrum and other campus organizations helped arrange and sponsor a month-long series of academic, cultural and social events.

The month started off with a series of films and lectures led by Alfred professors. On October 1, Jennifer Pepper discussed *The Celluloid Closet*, an innovative documentary about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) issues presented through the eyes of current celebrities and queer icons. Later in the month, Vicki Eaklor presented a historical documentary called *Before Stonewall*. The movie documents the beginning of the gay rights movement in America. Eaklor, who is teaching Gay American History next semester, led an excellent discussion before and after the film.

Eaklor also presented a Bergren Forum titled "Who Was Steve Endean?" The lecture discussed the writing of gay history and how some figures are ignored while others are glorified.

Spectrum brought National Coming Out

Day to campus on October 11. NCOD is a national event organized by the Human Rights Campaign. It is based on the theory that if all the GLBT people in the country just came out, the country would never be the same again. The event started in 1988 after both the White House and the news media ignored a 1987 march on Washington for gay rights.

On National Coming Out Day, Alfred definitely could not ignore GLBT people or their allies. Spectrum members chalked the sidewalks of Academic Alley with phrases such as, "Come out, come out, wherever you are," and "More lesbians, less G.W. Bush." Spectrum also revived the "Coming Out Door" and hosted a table in front of the campus center with information on coming out.

That weekend, Spectrum also co-sponsored two exciting events. With the help of the Student Activities Board, Spectrum brought singer-songwriter Joseph Mulhollen to campus. He packed the Knight Club and played a mix of songs from his CD *Polar*, along with some politically relevant covers.

Spectrum and Hillel House also brought the acclaimed film *Trembling Before G-d* to campus. It is an intense documentary about the lives of gay/lesbian Orthodox Hasidic Jews. The film tells the stories of New Yorkers to Israelis struggling with issues of faith and passion.

Spectrum's biannual dance party, Glam Slam, attracted all the usual eccentric costumes and pageantry. It was topped off with neon work by Tamarah Roman, video projections and performances by three fantastic drag queens. Everyone had a great time, and Spectrum raised \$150 for AIDS Rochester.

Gay History Month concluded with a fun screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Live performances by students made this screening especially wild. Over 200 people attended it, and, with help of WIC and Alternative Cinema, Spectrum raised \$150 for the production *Quilt*, a musical centering around the AIDS Quilt; the show will be produced this spring.

— Steve Frost

Women's Studies Roundtables Spring 2003

Jan. 24 — Rabbi Linda Holtzman (Professor of Rabbinics, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia)

Feb. 21 — Claret Mapalad-Ruane (College of Business)

Mar. 21 — Linda Mitchell (Division of Human Studies)

Apr. 18 — Women's Studies Graduating Seniors

Roundtables are held at 12:20 in the Knight Club in Powell Campus Center



by Andrea Dibrell (FNA 101 — Seeing, Perception & Interpretation)

the vaginas are coming!

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* — on campus this February

contact Sarah Guariglia (guarigse@alfred.edu) or Christin Sell (ces3@alfred.edu) if you would like to get involved

EMMA: AMERICAN ANARCHIST

Emma Goldman was born in the lagging economy of 1869 Russia in a conservative Jewish household. Conflict quickly arose between the parents and their daughter Emma, for they saw her strong will and individuality as nothing more than a phase of youthful dreaming. Nonetheless, they ensured a proper education for their daughter, including private instruction in language and even music. In Goldman's youth, many Russians had turned towards revolution. The state fought wholeheartedly to silence dissidents and their dangerous ideas. At age sixteen, Emma left for America where she began factory work in Rochester, New York, while supporting her older sister Helena.

In the 1887 massacre of the Harvester Company strikers, a bomb exploded during a protest of the International Harvester Company. The government responded by sentencing eight anarchists to be hanged. The judge himself said that, "not because you have caused the Haymarket bomb, but because you are Anarchists, you are on trial" (Goldman 87). The verdict destroyed any sense Goldman had left of America's so-called justice.

A lack of stimulation made Goldman uproot again, and the now-twenty-year-old moved to New York City on her own. This is where she met the love of her life, Alexander Berkman. Berkman, equally devoted to the cause of social change, wanted to take drastic measures. In 1892, Berkman failed in an assassination attempt on Henry Clay Frick's life. Frick was one of Andrew Carnegie's infamous overseers and strikebreakers. Goldman's love was sentenced to 22 years in jail, which was a place Goldman would later experience first-hand. One year later in a huge demonstration she "urged her listeners to invade the food stores and take what they needed to feed their families" (*Emma* xii). Two years in Blackwell's Island Prison were her punishment for this statement. There, she learned nursing and heard the first hand accounts of the lives of prostitutes and society's other disregarded women.

By 1901 she was out of prison, but her problems were far from over. Anarchist Leon Czolgosz shot President McKinley that year. Even though she had given up violence as a

tool for change, Goldman voiced sympathy towards Czolgosz, which resulted in a severe backlash from her friends and the national media. Nevertheless, she said that if she were called upon to nurse the President, she would do so. Her ups and downs continued. In 1918 she voiced opposition to the war. She was jailed along with Berkman and deported to Russia by President Hoover.

Goldman saw society's problems in a rather amazing scope. She worked towards true women's emancipation, saying the vote was not enough. She criticized contemporary Susan B. Anthony for "advising women to take the places of striking printers" (Goldman 207). She saw women's emancipation as a freedom developed inside oneself. She lectured against ownership of property, which she saw as the cause of prisons; against religion, which she saw as the domination of the mind; against the state, which she saw as the most violent entity by far; and against patriotism, which she felt led to war.

It would be interesting to hear what Goldman would have to say about today's increasingly violent world. Her stance on the war over oil is answered when she says, "if the production of any commodity necessitates the sacrifice of human life, society should do without that commodity" (Goldman 107). 133 years after her birth, her observations on the world are still amazingly legitimate, maybe even more so than in her own time.

South End Press, a Boston-based publisher, has just reprinted an updated version of Howard Zinn's play, *Emma: A Play in Two Acts about Emma Goldman, American Anarchist*. *Emma* was first written in 1975 and has been performed worldwide. Zinn is the author of numerous books, including the classic, *A People's History of the United States*. To get more information on Zinn's books or other progressive literature, check out www.southendpress.org.

Bib: *Anarchism and Other Essays*, by Emma Goldman, 1969, Dover Publications.
Emma: A Play in Two Acts about Emma Goldman, American Anarchist, by Howard Zinn, 1975, South End Press.

THE DIGNITY OF A WOMAN

continued from front page

As the founder and director of Help the Afghan Children, Inc., Sadeed works in many countries. However, she calls Afghanistan home. She emphasized not the poverty but the culture, diversity, religion, independence and peace of her country before the Soviet invasion. She referred to Afghanistan as "the richest land with the poorest people in it."

After two generations born and raised in poverty, terrorists began to use Afghanistan as a safe haven because the country had no strength or organized government to deter them, according to Sadeed.

Afghans still suffer from the remnants of the Soviet invasion. Sadeed noted that 25 percent of children die before the age of 5 in Afghanistan, and the ones who survive have the lowest education level of children in all Asian countries.

Education is one of the main goals of Help the Afghan Children, Inc. Children need education so that they can, as adults, "address the country's needs within its own context," said Sadeed. When the Taliban rule began, all education for women ceased, and men were given only a religious education. The organization helped open 17 covert schools for girls and helped them find healthcare.

In Afghan society, Sadeed said, there is a sense of ownership of women by men. However, the stringent restrictions on women are hurting the country's efforts to rebuild itself. About 60 percent of the population is female and ignoring them as a workforce is severely detrimental, she added.

She also spoke of the need for global politics not just to watch out for threats or potential profits, but to pay attention to the problems of the world.

"Afghanistan is a deep wound," said Sadeed. "And a quick fix of putting a Band-Aid on it is not going to work."

Her organization's focus on children is an attempt to go beyond the "quick fix" and help Afghanistan's future. This is done with an eye toward both the country's well-being and peace with other nations, she said. "Giving them food and blankets will help the children of Afghanistan survive this war, but giving them an education could prevent another war," Sadeed concluded.

NEWS FROM WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY

Cecilia Beach has been appointed the new Director of Women's Studies at Alfred University. Her article "Marie Lenéru and the Theater of Ideas" was published in *Women in French Studies* (2001) and a second article, "Women's Social Protest Theater in the Université populaire: Nelly Roussel and Vera Starkoff," is forthcoming in the same journal. In April 2002, she delivered a paper titled "Witnessing War in Women's Drama" at the Twentieth and Twenty-First-Century French and Francophone Studies, in Hartford, Conn.

Carol Burdick (CB) presented a paper titled "Ann Zwinger: Naturalist, Artist & Writer" at the second annual Rachel Carson conference in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. She is the author of a chapter in *Women Face Retirement*, an anthology to be published by Rutgers University Press in April 2003. Her Bergren Forum presentation on October 17 was somewhat optimistically titled "Flotsam & Jetsam or The Tide's Running Out But There's Still Some Good Stuff on the Beach." Her forthcoming spring lecture for Psi Chi will be titled "Aging in the Arms of Academia."

Luanne Crosby performed at a recital in August at the Chautauqua Institution with soprano Linda Larson and pianist Read Gainsford. The recital featured four songs by Maria Malibran and Pauline Viardot, both female composers from the 19th century. She repeated this performance in September at AU. It was a busy fall for Crosby, who also performed works by Louise Reichardt, Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann for an Elderhostel at the Chautauqua Institution.

Elizabeth Dill was delighted to sign on this fall as one of WIC's faculty advisers. She also published an article this semester in *The Eighteenth-Century Novel*, "A Mob of Lusty Villagers," on the sensational heroine figure appearing in the work of eighteenth-century American novelist Hannah Webster-Foster. Another article, "The Republican Stepmother," will appear this coming January in *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* about the post-revolutionary iconography of women and their shift from victims of violence to agents of it. She is currently putting together a manuscript that studies the ruined

woman as a feminist figure in early American literature.

Vicki Eaklor continues as Chair of the Division of Human Studies and has been writing encyclopedia articles: one on "homosexuality" (try squeezing that into 1500 words!) for the *Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinity*, and one on the Human Rights Campaign for the *Encyclopedia of American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History and Culture*. She delivered a paper, titled "Henry and Max: 'Educating' the (White, Male) Intellectual in a New Century," based on the short-lived TV show "The Education of Max Bickford," at the American Studies Assoc. in November. Her article "Striking Chords and Touching Nerves: Myth and Gender in Gone With the Wind" can still be found at www.imagesjournal.com. She will be teaching Gay American History in the spring; look for it under HSH, WST and CDS.

Robyn Goodman was recently granted an Alfred University sabbatical enhancement grant and NEH funding to conduct research on news coverage of China's May Fourth Movement, predecessor to the 1989 Tiananmen Square upheavals. She continues to review international communication texts for *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. Goodman recently created and chaired two panels on how U.S. journalists shape their foreign counterparts' news coverage at this year's Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Miami. She also received an award for advancing AEJMC's international interests. In addition, she participated in the National Lesbian and Gay Journalism Association's Philadelphia workshop on how to improve minority coverage.

Sharon Hoover spent most of her time this past year learning about recuperating from a mild stroke, and is now quite involved as a peace activist. Her book *Willa Cather Remembered* was published this fall, and she is currently working on an essay concerning Cather and Quakers. She will present it at the 2003 International Cather conference, where she will be an invited "fellow."

Jennifer Pepper was recently an invited artist in residence at The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. There, she created new work in both drawing and sculpture for a March and April exhibition at Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute, School of Art in Utica, N.Y. Pepper's work was also recently exhibited in a group show in West Cork, Ireland. In Spring 2003 Pepper will be teaching FNA 301, "Women in the Visual Arts: 1960s - Today," a course that will look at a number of the important achievements indebted to individual women artists, collaborative groups, art historians and theorists who continue to present enormous shifts in aesthetic practice and cultural politics.

Pamela Schultz spent the past summer working on her book prospectus, "When Silence Speaks: Listening to the Stories of Child Sexual Offenders," a compilation of interviews since 1995 with incarcerated sex offenders. She also wrote a chapter for a proposed book, titled "The Moral Panic Over Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Abusers," which was accepted for presentation at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu this January. She participated in a roundtable titled "Communication in Action: Ethical Considerations in the Issue of Voice" at the National Communication Association annual convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is also having a fabulous time as "the mom of a rambunctious toddler who just started preschool and already seems much smarter than I am."

Fiona Tolhurst is currently finishing an article for *Historical Reflections* about how female figures in medieval literature and history help us see that there is no clear dividing line between these two genres in the Middle Ages. She is also working on a short biography on C. S. Lewis for *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*. In the meantime, she is outlining a book that traces a feminist tradition in medieval historical and mythological texts from the 12th through the 15th centuries. In January she is taking students to Rome with Linda Mitchell, and in May she is taking members of her On the Road with King Alfred course to southern England.

WOMEN'S ISSUES COALITION WORKS TO RAISE AWARENESS

The Women's Issues Coalition, or WIC, has started the 2002-2003 school year off with a bang. It has been involved in several events on campus that have drawn much Alfred community participation.

WIC, which was formed in the early 1990s, welcomes both female and male members. It deals with significant women's issues and tries to increase feminist activism on campus. WIC was founded by Pam Strother, who is now the leader of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalism Association. The group is presently led by co-coordinators senior Sarah Guariglia and junior Fenna Mandolang and by faculty advisers Jennifer Pepper and Elizabeth Dill.

WIC has supported many activities this semester including a Women's Studies Roundtable, informational tables, and even a radio show on WALF. WIC members helped put together the candlelight vigil held last year in response to the attacks of Sept. 11; this year, they helped commemorate the one-

year anniversary of the event by helping with another vigil in memory of that fateful day.

The Women's Studies Roundtable, titled "Love Thy Neighbor: Gender, Sexuality, and Religious Orientations," included a diverse panel of students from WIC, Spectrum and other groups. These students shared historical perspectives on sexuality and religious beliefs, as well as some of their own experiences.

WIC members staffed a table during lunchtime on Halloween about "good witches," offering information on the persecution of women as witches, the contemporary definition of witches and their history. Later in the semester, they also organized an informational table on alternative media outlets, especially sources of women-oriented news.

WIC also runs a weekly radio show, called "Just a Girl," which airs from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Monday nights. The show, co-hosted by Guariglia and WIC Secretary Melissa Barley, has welcomed guests who have dis-

cussed everything from drag queens and cross-dressing to the role of lesbians in cinema. The show also offers "vagina-friendly" music.

Returning next semester is Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, an unconventional production that focuses on women's issues and gives its proceeds to charities that seek to end violence against women. The show received critical acclaim when performed at AU last February. WIC is helping with sponsorship of the performance, and WIC members will take active roles both on stage and off. Also coming up in 2003 is Women's History Month, which WIC hopes will include movie nights and discussions about important achievements by women.

WIC meets at 5:20 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Multicultural Suite in Powell Campus Center. All are welcome to attend.

— Rachel Maldonado

Women's Studies Program
Allen Hall
Alfred University
Alfred, NY 14802

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"Be radical, radical to the core."

— Abigail Allen

