



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

WOMEN'S CENTER



Corner of Idaho and Line Streets

885-6616

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The Women's Center Newsletter is published six times during the academic year. It includes announcements and information about the many services and programs offered by the Center to the University and Moscow communities, as well as items of general interest about women's issues. If you have announcements or information you would like included in subsequent issues, please let us know. Suggestions for changes, improvements, or additional items are welcome.

Women's Center Hours
 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

The day will come when men will recognize woman as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in the councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, will there be a perfect comradeship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race.

--Susan B. Anthony
 (1820-1906)

Programs begin at 12:30 in the Women's Center lounge.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PROGRAMS 1992

November 3
 Tuesday

PRINCESS OF THE POW-WOW: A prize-winning documentary on the life of Ella Aquino, a Lummi Indian woman, who devoted her life to the advancement of Indian culture and concerns.

November 4
 Wednesday

SHORT CHANGING GIRLS, SHORTCHANGING AMERICA: GENDER BIAS IN THE CLASSROOM: This video describes the results of a 1991 study on girls education K-12. Discussion led by Moscow attorney Kathleen Hardcastle and AAUW President Jama Sebald. This program, as part of Diversity Week, will be held in the SUB.

November 10
 Tuesday

IN OUR OWN VOICES. Women's spaces have traditionally provided that safe place for women to "hear each other into speech." You are invited to share your own or your favorite poems, essays, journal entries, letters, songs, etc. to celebrate our individual and collective voices.

November 11
 Wednesday

COMPETITIVE ETHICS: OXYMORON OR POSSIBILITY? Sharon Stolls, Professor of Physical Education, will present a slide show and video showing that an athlete can be ethical and a good competitor.

November 17
 Tuesday

DEVELOPING CAPABLE PEOPLE: Whether one is a parent, spouse, teacher, or supervisor or friend, helping people develop into capable people is one of the most significant tasks a person can undertake. Dr. Laurie Stenberg, UI Assistant Professor of Home Economics, will discuss the techniques of this important educational process.

November 18
 Wednesday

THE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK: It's the time-honored tradition of the Thanksgiving Potluck. The Center will provide a BIG turkey and you bring the trimmings. Everybody will share the good times, good food, and good season. Feasting begins about noon.

December 1
 Tuesday

ANY WOMAN OR MINORITY WILL DO. Women and minorities at universities are often called upon to represent "their group". Georgia Yuan, director of special projects, and LaRae Donnellan, Extension Professor, will lead a discussion examining the importance of voice, position, sex, culture, and racial group in the business of academe, and will share strategies for dealing with tokenism.

December 2
 Wednesday

SAFER SEX FOR WOMEN. A woman only program by Sally Machlis of Planned Parenthood with up to date information for a safe and healthy life. Ms. Machlis will bring male and female condoms, dental dams, etc.

December 8
 Tuesday

CHOICES IN CHILDBIRTH IN THE PALOUSE. Pam Palmer, Certified Childbirth Educator who teaches at Pullman Memorial Hospital, will look at how the choices in childbirth locally have changed over the years. Are we where we want to be? She will show her own homebirth video.

December 9
 Wednesday

CROSS-CULTURAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY STORIES. Georgia Johnson, professor of Children's Literature in the College of Education will talk about feminist readings of Christmas myths by looking at cross-cultural nativity stories. Children are welcome; juice and cookies will be served.

WE KNOW THE TYPE ON THE NEWSLETTER IS SMALL. WE HAVE RECORDED IT ON AUDIO TAPE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A SIGHT IMPAIRMENT. LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BORROW THE TAPE AND WE WILL SEND IT TO YOU.

Excerpts from Cultural Etiquette: A Guide for the Well-Intentioned.

Ethnocentrism, according to the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, means "a tendency to view alien groups or cultures in terms of one's own" and "the belief in the inherent superiority of one's own group and culture, accompanied by a feeling of contempt for other groups and cultures." It is ethnocentric to use a generic term such as "people" to refer only to white people and then racially label everyone else. This creates and reinforces the assumption that white people are the norm, the real people, and all others are aberrations, and somehow a bit less than truly human. It is seeing white people as the center and everyone else as variations on the theme.

Within the cultures of many people, more value is placed on relationships, on the maintenance of tradition and spirituality, than on the development and acquisition of machinery. It is ethnocentric and racist to apply words like backward, primitive, uncivilized, savage, barbaric or undeveloped to people whose technology does not include plumbing, microwaves and microchips. Are people somehow more human or more humane if they have more technological toys?

Koreans are not taking over. Neither are Jews. Neither are the Japanese. Neither are West Indians. These are myths put out and maintained by ones who really have. It is a conscious and time-honored tactic for the white, straight, gentile males at the top to create situations in which the rest of us are encouraged to blame each other for our mutual oppression. Don't fall for it.

Draining the swamps, clearing the forests, taming the West, converting the heathens, manifest destiny, noble, suffering pioneers, intrepid settlers, brave explorers, are all romanticized, idealized, distorted and dishonest images of what was really a prolonged, unconscionably violent invasion and overthrow of many nations of perfectly good people and it is still going on.

No person of color can be a racist as long as white people maintain power. This is because racism is "power over." A person of color may have race prejudice, but until most of Congress, state, provincial and local governments, the Pentagon, the FBI, CIA, all major industries, the stock exchange, Fortune 500 members, the educational system, health care system, the International Monetary Fund, the armed forces and the police force are all operated and controlled by people of color and their cultural value, we do not have the kind of power that it takes to be racist toward anyone. Similarly "reverse racism" within the context of present society is a contradiction in terms.

During slavery, white masters routinely raped African women. This practice was so widespread that there are virtually no African-American people who do

not have some European ancestry. This is why there is such a wide variation of skin color and hair texture among Africans born in the Americas.

The media images we see of poor, miserable, starving, disease-ridden "third world" people of color are distorted and misleading. Nowhere among the tearful appeals for aid do they discuss the conditions that created and continue to create such hopeless poverty. In point of fact, these countries, even after they threw off the stranglehold of colonialism, have been subjected to a constant barrage of resource plundering, political meddling and brutal economic manipulation by European and American interests. Most non-Western countries could function quite adequately and feed themselves quite well if they were permitted political and economic self-determination.

Asians are not "mysterious," "fatalistic," or "inscrutable." Black people do not have unusually large genitals. Native Americans are not vanishing, stoic or mystical. Latin people are no more hot-tempered, hot-blooded or emotional than anyone else. Jewish people are not particularly rich, clannish, or experts in money matters.

Do not use a Jewish person or person of color to hear your confession of past racist transgressions. If you have offended a particular person, apologize to that person. But don't (please don't) just pick some person of color or Jewish person at random, or who is unrelated to the incident, to confess to and beg for forgiveness from. Find a priest or a therapist. Also don't assume that Jews and people of color necessarily want to hear about how prejudiced your Uncle Fred is, no matter how terrible you think he is. It is often painful for us to listen to this type of thing.

Do not equate bad, depressing or negative things with darkness. Observe how language reflects racism: a black mood, a dark day, a black heart. The meaning of the word denigrate is to demean by darkening. Be creative. There are thousands of adjectives in the English language that do not equate evil with the way people of color look. How about instead of "the pot calling the kettle black" you say, "the pus calling the maggot white"? Think of and use positive dark and black imagery. Dark can be rich and deep and cool and sweet. Black is a sacred color in many religious traditions.

Never, ever ask any person of color: "Why are you so light-skinned?" "Why is your hair so straight?" "Why is your hair so light?" "Why are your eyes so light?" "Why aren't your eyes slanted?"

Let us face a hard reality: 20th century white society is culturally addicted to exploitation. Cultivate an awareness of your own personal motivations. Do not simply take and consume. If you are white and you find yourself drawn to Native American spirituality, Middle Eastern religion, African drumming, Asian philosophies, or Latin rhythms, make an effort to maintain some kind of balance. Don't just learn the fun and exciting things

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1992 NETWORKING CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					31/1
2 Seminar: A Feminist	3 Future for Theology "Princess of The Pow-Wow"	4 "Gender Differences K-12"	5	6	7/8
9 Lesbian Supper Club 6:30 pm	10 "In Our Own Voices"	11 "Competitive Ethics"	12	13 Sarah Weddington	14/15
16	17 "Developing Capable People"	18 "The Traditional Thanksgiving Potluck"	19	20	21/22
23 Lesbian Supper Club 6:30 pm	24	25	26	27	28/29
30	1 "Any Woman or Minority will Do"	2 "Safer Sex for Women"	3	4	5/6
7	8 "Choices in Childbirth in the Palouse"	9 "Cross- Cultural Children's Holiday Stories"	10	11	12/13

For more information about these events, see this newsletter or call the Women's Center, 885-6616.

*Lesbian Supper Club, the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, 6:30pm until 8:00pm. For more information call 335-6830

about us and then go home to your safe, isolated, white, privileged life. Learn about the history of the people whose culture you're dabbling in. Learn how our history relates to your own, how your privilege connects and contributes to our oppression and exploitation. And most importantly, make it a fair exchange--give something back.

Sometimes white people who are drawn to other people's cultures are hungry for a way of life with more depth and meaning than what we find in 20th century Western society. Don't forget that every white person alive today is also descended from tribal peoples. If you are white, don't neglect your own ancient traditions. They are a valid as anybody else's, and the ways of your own ancestors need to be honored, remembered and carried on into the future.

Condensed from the pamphlet, Cultural Etiquette: A Guide for the Well-Intentioned, by Amojo Three Rivers. Available from Market Wimmin, PO Box 28. Indian Valley, VA 24105

TELECONFERENCE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Division of Student Affairs in conjunction with the Affirmative Action Office and Human Resources Services, will sponsor a teleconference on campus on Thursday, Nov. 12, 1992, from 10:30-12:30 in the SUB Borah Theatre. This presentation, entitled "Confronting Sexual Harassment on Campus," will be an interactive teleconference produced by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), with sign

interpretation provided throughout the program. A panel will discuss various forms of sexual harassment, the myths and facts surrounding sexual harassment, and the development of a campus action plan. Please let Carolyn Youmans (885-5886) know your plans to attend.

ATHENA MEETING, Thursday, November 5. Provost Tom Bell will talk on the dilemma for university women faculty: nurturing and advising vs. the university priority for research. An opportunity for discussion will follow. Meetings will be held in the Morin Room, located in the Wallace complex. For more info, please contact Kathy Clark, President, 885-0200.

SEMINAR: "A FUTURE FOR FEMINIST THEOLOGY" The fifteenth annual Roger Williams Symposium featuring Elizabeth Bettenhausen will be held November 2 and 3 at Washington State University. Registration fees are \$30, and you must register by October 30. For more information, please call 332-2611.

SARAH WEDDINGTON, the attorney who wrote Roe vs. Wade, will speak at the UI Law School on Friday Nov. 13. For time and place, call Lei Seeger at 885-6521.

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