F-WORD MEETS P-WORD: PUNK ROCK AND FEMINISM

Maybe Punk rock isn’t your thing. The crunch of guitar and bass, the deafening drums, screams and guttural vocals might give you a headache. Punk style, the chains, the ever-present black and bondage gear might simply seem to be a fashion disaster, but there is more than meets the ears and eyes.

Embedded in the screaming and the jingle of chains on a black vinyl mini skirt is a powerful political message. Political punk rockers are feminist freedom fighters.

The Sex Pistols were pivotal in the creation of England’s Punk scene and in the rekindling of simply created to sell Punk-styled clothing at Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood’s shop, “Sex,” in London. The media played into the consumerist ploy by focusing their frenzy around the Sex Pistol’s Punk style of dress, pointing out its shock value and nothing more. Certainly, all Punk clothing is meant to challenge public perception, but Punk women’s dress offers an especially intense critique of traditional femininity and women’s perceived subordinate sexuality.

Picture from Thulsa Doom, “Desensitized” America’s late ‘60s proto-Punk scene, but they were

continued on page 3

SINGLE SEX EDUCATION

One arena of feminist struggle that effects many women in this country is the education system.

Typically used as instruments of patriarchy, with everything from administration to curriculum remaining largely male-centered, schools tend to educate their students not only in academic matters but also social adjustment and roles. Many researchers have focused on what is known as the “adolescent subculture” and its relationship to method of schooling (coeducational versus single-sex) and academic performance.

The adolescent subculture is defined in terms of the informal norms created within groups of students, which often go against the formal norms of the school itself. It is within this context that the equal rights advancements of the school systems (such as Title IX) become largely irrelevant in the daily lives of the students. For example, it won’t help a seventh-grade girl that there are
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S STUDIES AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

The Women’s Studies minor is growing at Alfred. After two semesters as Director, I am more conscious than ever of the concerted multi-disciplinary effort that defines our program. This semester, Spring 2000, we’re offering 7 courses cross-listed across the curriculum. Two minors graduated in December this year and five more will graduate in May. Their independent study projects are ambitious and diverse—from an internship concerning outreach and teen pregnancy with Planned Parenthood to an original anthology soliciting women’s writing about their religious convictions and experiences. WST 105 enrolled 22 talkative, passionate students, and 4 new students have declared minors this semester. This spring we’ll gather for our 5th annual Riley lecture in Women’s Studies. Patricia Riley will give the address on April 17th, right around the time we celebrate the achievements of our own minors. I look forward to seeing us all there as a busy semester winds down. In the meantime, don’t forget to check out our new webpages attached to the University address.

-Susan Morehouse

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE ALPHADELPHIAN

When I first started getting political my mother took me aside to impart some wisdom. She told me that a life of activism was a life of challenges, some good, some bad. This has proved to be true. She also told me that activism would take up more time than you could give it. This has also proven to be true and, as far as I’m concerned, it is the more devastating of the truths she told me.

Everyday those of us who are invested in making changes and exploring issues encounter a plethora of things we would work on, if we had the time. Even the structure of women’s studies at Alfred is against us. Work with women’s studies must always be done in addition to x and y.

As I look at other colleges and universities, I am jealous of their programs that allow faculty to work with gender studies as a perspective in every course they teach, boards of directors who can concentrate on the gender studies program, the feminist centers, the resources. I am jealous, but I do not wish I were at one of those schools as opposed to Alfred.

I am so proud of the people here who are constantly going beyond what is expected and making Alfred’s women’s studies program be so important and impressive. There’s a lot going on here that doesn’t happen even at larger universities and that wouldn’t be happening without dedicated faculty and students doing extras.

While I am bursting with pride at women’s studies accomplishments at Alfred, I am also worried. I have seen groups and movements flop because too few people take on too much. Like my mother said, activism will take up more time than you can give it. She’s right, but only because there aren’t enough people to help distribute the mass of work that needs to be done. We can lift burdens from the backs of people who are doing too much and make feminism a stronger presence on this campus by involving more people.

If more people took even a small part in women’s studies on this campus, we could help prevent burn outs. Women’s studies work will still be above and beyond, but perhaps, with a stronger movement, that could change ultimately.

I want to sincerely thank all women’s studies faculty on this campus for all of their work, particularly Robyn Goodman, Sharon Hoover, Susan Morehouse and Karen Porter, who were all of great help to me during the creation of The Alphadelphian and with other ventures too. Also, thanks to the students who contributed their time and efforts, they are much appreciated.

-Emilie Hardman
women.” Only in the past decade has the media recognized women as a part of Punk culture by focusing on the offshoot of Punk, riot grrl, even though women have been active in the, albeit male-dominated, punk scene from the beginning.

Proto-Punk’s Patti Smith in New York, and the howling Punk rock Poly Styrene from London whose voice was said to be so powerful it could clean the toilets of London’s popular nightclub, The Roxy, have been featured prominently in Punk history. Many Punk women have been and are active in redefining what it means to be a woman who makes music, listens to music and takes active part in a subculture.

The women’s movement ought to applaud a culture that provides support for women and actively works on issues of feminist concern. However, when the lesbian Punk band Tribe 8 played at the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival in 1994, many in the feminist community criticized the band and protested their performance, though most had never even heard the music or lyrics.

Reading feminist texts, one might not even know that there is a Punk movement that has worked against sexism and built a supportive community in which women have important roles.

Punk style and the sometimes confrontational nature of Punk politics have probably scared off many would-be supporters. The medium of political communication, Punk music and newsprint zines has also discouraged those who might agree with Punk’s political stances. Society also instructs us that “freaky looking” people are dangerous, and, certainly, we should never take anyone with a mohawk seriously.

I am reminded of a song on the newest Anti-Product lp, “Modern Day F Word.” Despite Punk’s affinity for profanity, the “f-word” is, in this case, feminism. The song seems to be responding to members of the Punk community who have rejected feminism because of its general dismissal of them.

“Some say the label feminism confines women/ it’s not feminism which confines women/ but the system that labels our gender as inferior/... I’d rather accept this ‘label,’ this gift/... and run with it/ fly with it/ push its boundaries and expand its meaning/ so that it fits you, me, us.”

This sentiment has been expressed before. It comes up every time we remember the importance of making feminism a place for everyone. Punk reminds us we always need to push the boundaries, not only in mainstream society, but within the feminist community. We’re not all white. We’re not all middle class. We’re not all hetero. We’re not all conventional. We are all working for feminist causes, and that work should be respected, applauded and celebrated, regardless of the context in which it takes place—even if it is a Punk record.

- Emilie Hardman
Three of us went to Egypt—Robin, Leah, and me.

In Cairo, Arabic signs marked stores and streets, most women walked around fully covered, and minarets reached into the sky on every corner. We left our small clean hotel to eat, wearing long skirts and long sleeves. The guards of the neighboring synagogue shouted "Hello," and whistled. At the restaurant, the men stared. We walked home quickly, ignoring the comments.

The next day we would wear the traditional Muslim hijab (head covering).

The next morning when we stepped into Cairo's warm, smog-filtered sun, we were ignored. A group of Egyptian schoolgirls smiled at us. Suddenly, we were insiders in a culture not our own.

As we left the Egyptian museum, a thin dark man in his early thirties asked if we needed a cab. For 20 Egyptian pounds (about $6) he'd take us to Al Abram, the newspaper Leah needed to visit, wait for us, then take us to the Papyrus museum and back to our hotel. When he asked us if we were Muslim, we answered "yes" because we wanted to feel safe. He was excited. He said his Muslim sisters should feel at home in his country. We thanked him, feeling a little uncomfortable at our made-up identity.

He took us to the citadel area to see some mosques and a beautiful view of the city. "People will try to take your money and offer you tours. Don't do it. Walk alone and you will be fine. You'll see everything. You understand me?" We nodded and thanked him. When we were accosted by Egyptian men offering us tours, we replied in Arabic "la vhukran" (no thank you), a line that rolled off of our tongues by the time we left Egypt.

Ibrahim, the driver, next took us in his old Peugeot to Mamaluk Jewelry store. He told his friend we were "good Muslim women, not just tourists." We were served drinks within seconds. The friend showed us his jewelry and cut the prices significantly for "his Muslim sisters." A man flirting with Robin in the standard unsubtle Arab way, offered 25 camels to marry her. We said that we had to get her back to Palestine to finish her studies. They sent us off with Allah's blessing.

After lunch, we stopped at the Papyrus Museum, where we learned how to make "papyrus" and received more cool drinks and blessings from Allah. Ibrahim took us to see "the flowers." He led us into a large, beautifully furnished room with elegant blown glass bottles and perfumes lining the walls. A man brought us tea while Ibrahim told his friend we were Americans studying in Palestine. The man asked about our religious practice and we explained that our families were secular Americans but that we were starting to learn about Islam. He spoke seriously and from his heart "I think what you're doing is very commendable."

A Canadian couple came in while he was explaining the process of making the floral essences. We tried some of the scents. The price seemed high, but, when the Canadian couple left, however, the man made a deal for his "Muslim sisters."

That evening, we walked to the same restaurant as the night before. We suffered no harassment. It was amazing. It was the same time of day, the same street, but we wore our head coverings.

-Naomi Manon
Rie Hachiyanagi, AU assistant professor of studio art in the Human Studies department, had been introduced and welcomed.

Eagerly, the crowd at the 5th Annual (Re)Presenting Woman Conference waited to see Hachiyanagi's performance art piece, "Business Woman." The clapping had died down but Hachiyanagi was not to be seen. Where could she be? The audience rustled with confusion and chatter. And that's when they heard it.

From beneath a rounded oval of black plastic firmly duct taped to the institutional carpet on the stage, that the audience had questioned, but not fully considered, there was the sound of movement. It was faint at first, just a rustling. Then, sound exploded through air, frantic squeaks of sweaty hands against the tightly pulled plastic. The outline of balled fists, rounded knees, feet and fingers collided with the covering, pushing out.

A small opening finally gave way and hands, arms, and legs, flew into view. Punctured and stretched to its limit, the plastic gave way and Hachiyanagi appeared.

Though by no means recovered, Hachiyanagi rose and staggered to a briefcase on the side of the stage. The clasps snapped back firmly as she opened it. From the briefcase she extracted a dark business suit and began to dress herself.

The wide, padded shoulders suggested that it was a man's business suit jacket, and was quite large on her small frame. Bland business pants followed and as they were pulled on, it seemed a new persona was too. No longer panting and frenzied, Hachiyanagi seemed calm, directed, even steely and cold. Fully dressed, she snapped the briefcase closed. She stood, straightened her suit and then bent to dress herself.

The wide, padded shoulders suggested that it was a man's business suit jacket, and was quite large on her small frame. Bland business pants followed and as they were pulled on, it seemed a new persona was too. No longer panting and frenzied, Hachiyanagi seemed calm, directed, even steely and cold. Fully dressed, she snapped the briefcase closed. She stood, straightened her suit and then bent to purposefully to pick up the briefcase.

Hachiyanagi then began the corporate march, dutiful, straightforward, arms swinging, not even a glance to the side. She could be any number of businesswomen striding to the office.

Then, the inevitable happens, Hachiyanagi's brisk steps bring her to the half-circle wall surrounding the stage. Not slowing and not flinching, she slams into the wall and falls. This continues, but each time she falls, the effort it takes to rise again is amplified. Her knees give way and she stumbles, trying to maintain composure as she walks forward, but again and again, she is met head-on with the wall's solid barricade. The point is, she could be any number of businesswomen.

"The apparent success of some women in the business world gives the impression that the contemporary society is liberated, though the struggles behind the scenes and the sacrifices women make to achieve success are often overlooked or ignored," said Hachiyanagi.

"We, as women, face so many invisible walls, it's hard to even image it. We fall and pretend it doesn't hurt," she continued.

Meeting over and over with the wall, falling and rising again, tiring of the struggle does seem to resonate with the experiences of many women in professional careers. As Hachiyanagi notes, not only must women work harder than men in order to prove they are as capable, they are also faced with pressure to be the perfect wives and mothers.

So what is to come of this struggle? This is question Hachiyanagi's piece asks, but does not fully answer. The ambiguous ending allows and even demands, personal interpretation and a good deal of reflection, which was Hachiyanagi's intent.

"I am always very interested in people's responses, because I can't view my piece as I could a painting. The way the piece is done is not even something I can anticipate like a play. I am not acting. I am living that moment," she said.

In the piece, after one particularly hard fall, while the stage was still vibrating with the force of her body's contact, Hachiyanagi again opened the suitcase and pulled out gleaming scissors.

While the audience sucked in fearful breaths, Hachiyanagi contemplated the scissors and then began to tear, rip, and peel off the business suit. Dangerously slashing the fabric, the tension in the auditorium was high.

"I was angry," she said. "I wanted to rip that form I was forced into apart, any way I could. I had struggled to get to that stage [as a businesswoman] and originally when I put on the suit, I was proud, nobody can get there." But, the piece suggests, perhaps accepting the wholly male tradition is limiting and even damaging to women in business, and other careers, who try to fit into that archetypal model.

From the plastic, Hachiyanagi fashioned a wedding gown and veil, which she wrapped around herself, clothing herself in the material she had come from. The steely, glinting scissors as her bouquet and a black train following her, Hachiyanagi slowly stepped with even glide of a wedding march out of the auditorium.

"When I was walking down the aisle, something moved me almost to tears. It could've been the exhaustion. It could've been the thoughts I had about all women's struggles," said Hachiyanagi.

- Emilie Hardman
FEMINIST INTERNSHIPS continued from page 4

Pro-Choice Public Education Project

The Pro-Choice Public Education Project (PEP) is the only pro-choice coalition in the United States that works exclusively to conduct pro-choice research, distribute pro-choice materials, and organize positive actions.

Interns work on development of the project including assisting with proposals and reports. Additional responsibilities include grassroots organization and general administrative assistance. PEP also has intern positions for students interested in developing the PEP webpage.

Full time positions are available in the summer and winter sessions. PEP offers both a stipend and academic credit. Contact Tall Mclean/ Pro-Choice Public Education Project/ 1657 Willett Avenue/ Port Chester, NY 10573-4326 for application details.

National Organization for Women Internship Program

The National Organization for Women Internship (NOW) is the largest feminist organization in the United States. NOW's program introduces interns to the work behind the struggle for justice and equality. The internship seeks to empower feminists and equip them with the tools to be an effective activist. Interns for NOW attend Congressional and U.S. Supreme Court hearings, press conferences, demonstrations and rallies. They are trained in lobbying, grassroots organizing, coalition building and networking.

Internships are offered on both a full and part time basis throughout the year, however, full time interns are preferred. Contact Anita Murano/ Intern/Volunteer Coordinator/ 1000 16th Street NW, Suite 700/ Washington, DC 20036 for more information and the application.

National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families

The National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families works with the media, national policy makers and researchers around the country making a difference for women and families. Interns may work on gathering information through research and interviews, writing draft articles, fact sheets and website material, attending and assisting with briefings on Capitol Hill and non-profit advocacy organizations.

Internships are available at all times. To apply, send a resume and a cover letter describing the dates and times that you would be able to commit to. Applications may be sent to cpr4wanda@msn.com.

SINGLE SEX EDUCATION continued from page 1

Girls' sports at her school, if being a female athlete is considered inappropriate by the subculture of her peers.

Granted, this is a slightly exaggerated situation, but it clearly parallels academic issues as well. How many adolescent girls keep quiet in class or play down their intelligence for fear of seeming “too smart” and thus intimidating or socially unacceptable?

In his 1990 study “Girls and Boys in School: Together or Separate?,” Providence College professor of sociology, Cornelius Riordan examines the appearance and effect of the adolescent subculture in various school settings.

Riordan notes that the subculture is “strongest in male single-sex schools and weakest in female single-sex schools, with mixed-sex schools in between.” He adds that “the adolescent subculture is diminished in all-girls schools, and the academic performance of girls in these schools exceeds that of their female counterparts in mixed-sex schools” and that, in turn, “both self-esteem and locus of control have been shown to be positively related to academic achievement.”

From a feminist standpoint, single-sex education would aide female students by ridding them of some disadvantages of coeducation. Single sex education would also give women “more supportive views of equal sex roles,” says Riordan.

Additionally, more positive female role models would be presented. As Riordan puts it, “in all-girls schools the heroines are neither athletes nor homecoming queens; the valedictorians and scholarship winners are girls, not boys. In mixed-sex schools, on the other hand, the role models are successful male athletes or scholars, homecoming queens and cheerleaders, and male as well as female staff.” continued on page 7

WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS, FALL 2000

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<td>Women in Political Thought</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1:00–2:15 TTh</td>
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<td>American Women</td>
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Perhaps one of the more egalitarian solutions to the possible problems in mixed gender schools is to work toward the creation of a positive academic subculture. According to Riordan, "Our challenge is... to create an academic subculture sufficiently powerful to counteract the adolescent subculture, yet politically sensitive enough to allay the fears of those groups whose relatively equal educational opportunities have been hard won and recent."

As idealistic as this concept sounds, it could improve educational systems immensely if executed well. The creation of a working academic subculture would benefit those who have been discriminated against not only by gender but also by race and class. Changing the academic subculture could offer benefits of a single-sex education, which is currently only offered by mostly private schools, to all women.

-Sarah Guariglia-

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RURAL JUSTICE

"In rural areas like Allegany County, women are more likely than in urban areas to be hit, badly beaten, raped and even killed," said Bill Hall, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences during his presentation at the Bergren Forum.

Hall’s talk, "Battered Women and Rural Justice: Problems and Perspectives" began by rejecting solutions to domestic violence that have been put forth by psychologists and sociologists. Hall says that the only perspective from which the problems of domestic violence can really be understood is a feminist one.

"The feminist perspective focuses on gender and examines the structure of patriarchal society," said Hall. This is particularly important, said Hall, because rural society is more patriarchal than urban society, and patriarchy has an impact on domestic violence.

Rural society’s patriarchy can be divided into two spheres: the private and the public. Private patriarchy encompasses "at home" activities that limit women and place them in specific roles such as cook, caregiver and cleaner. Public patriarchy includes the trend of men as the major occupiers of powerful continued on page 8
Women who have social and economic capital are not as apt to become trapped in this situation, said Hall. Those who are dependent are more likely to stay in a situation where domestic violence is occurring and more likely to take a partner back in after an incident of abuse.

The systems in place to help women who are in abusive situations tend to be quite frustrated when abusers are allowed back into the home. However, Hall says that this is exactly what we could expect would happen and it is because of the system that governs these women.

Police officers who are to aid battered women often feel that the woman who allows herself to be in the abusive situation again is “asking for it,” because they may hold patriarchal attitudes themselves.

The judicial system has likely had, at times, unhelpful responses to women who allow abusive partners back into their lives. Orders of protection, issued when a victim files a complaint of abuse, are void if the woman lets her abuser into a home with her.

“The orders of protection empower a woman when she has nothing else to support her, taking that tool, or weapon away from her denies her agency,” said Hall.

Hall believes that the improved communication between the police departments, judicial system, and victim’s services such as Allegany County’s ACCORD, which provides care for battered women and their children, will be helpful. However, training in sensitivity will also be needed to improve conditions for victims of domestic violence in this area, Hall said in closing.

- Emilie Hardman

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**continued from page 7**

Positions in the community and men as the primary “breadwinners” who control the family’s capital. As controllers of capital, men dole money out, as needed, to women who must assume a subservient role as their dependant.

Public patriarchy limits women’s ability to get the training for full-time jobs, which limits their economic resources, makes them dependent and ultimately affects their self-esteem and development of identity.

“Because we are in this structure, it means that when a man hits a woman, she has to decide, if she makes the choice to leave, ‘where will my next paycheck come from?’” said Hall. Additionally, she must account for the loss of her partner and possibly, her children. The possibility of these losses, due to public patriarchy, effectively trap the abused woman.

**continued from page 7**

Change the topic every so often to keep viewers interested in the space that has been created. Again, use a computer for text and keep the space looking professional.

- **Leaflet.**
  When you’ve got a bit more time to spare, try leafleting. Design a street flyer with very short and easy to read text and one clear picture or graphic on a third or half sheet of clean cut paper. Be sure to include contact information. Have the leaflets designed in advance so you can use them at any time. Also, keep a “design file” so that new information can be laid out in an old leaflet design. Leafleting is not for everyone and if you shy from speaking with people or do not understand your issue well enough to be articulate, calm and collected when talking about it, do not do it. Position yourself in a safe public space and try to be with a friend. Approach people with a friendly air, maintain eye contact and hold the leaflet so the title can be seen. When people ask questions, keep your answers quick and avoid arguing.

- **Table.**
  Again, another option for when you’ve got a bit more time. Tabling is actually a lot easier than it sounds though and if well organized, it is a minimal time commitment. You can table for a particular reason or just to raise consciousness. In advance, you will need to reserve space and a table in a safe public space. Also in advance, write local activist groups like Planned Parenthood in Hornell, Rochester National Organization for Women, and so on. Ask these groups for literature that you can distribute. Ask a few friends to commit to an hour or so and plan to have your group at the table for a certain amount of time. Advertise this in advance. When it comes time to table, spread out your literature and a sign-up sheet for interested people in a neat way on the table. Bonus additions to your table are a donation can, colorful posters and a tablecloth.

Go ahead, try your hand at some of these easy actions for activists. Once your imagination gets rolling you’ll also come up with lots of different activities that can work just as well or better than some of these.

- Emilie Hardman

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**drawing by Demetra Messoloras**
WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

Achilles Heel
Web-magazine geared toward pro-feminist men with interesting articles and resources on gay issues, misuse of power, rage and more.

Feminist BBS, “The Room of One’s Own”—
http://www.feminism.net/
This site provides a (cyber) space for discussion of gender issues, has a gopher service for information on gender issues in all categories, and a newsgroup.

Lesbian.Com
http://www.lesbian.com
Everything from the arts, to health issues, to activism, to parenting is included on this site dedicated to lesbians. Very comprehensive.

Planned Parenthood
http://plannedparenthood.org/choices
Become an electronic activist! Sign up for e-mail alerts about current choice issues.

Support Network for Battered Women—
http://snbw.org/
This network provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, support groups, and legal assistance to help get women out of abusive situations.

VOICE: Feminism and Young Women Today—
http://celeste.list.to/
This site is primarily a student resource that explores contemporary feminist issues and questions.

The Women of Color Website
http://www.lib.usc.edu/~reiter/pit.html
Bibliographies, articles, interviews, and electronic resources geared toward women of color.

Visit the WST Bulletin Board

Be sure to visit the Women’s Studies bulletin board on the second floor of Seilllin Hall across from the office of our director, Susan Morehouse. Current issues in the news, scholarships, internships, fellowships, programs, jobs, conferences, calls for papers, activism, health and more for those interested in gender and sexuality. Feel free to bring additions. First the bulletin board, then the hall, then the world. It’s “feminist sprawl!”

MYTHS ABOUT LESBIAN BATTERING

MYTH #1: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOESN’T OCCUR IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIP. WOMEN DON’T DO THAT TO EACH OTHER.
Some women do batter other women, and men too. The myth that women have no capacity for violence comes from the belief that women do not learn how to use power and control over others the way that men do.

MYTH #2: LESBIAN BATTERING IS JUST A “CAT FIGHT” AND BOTH PARTNERS ARE PARTICIPANTS.
Just like in heterosexual relationships, abuse in lesbian relationships is not mutual battering. Battering is not just a fight, it is the use of power and manipulation.

MYTH #3: PHYSICAL INJURY ISN’T AS GREAT IN ABUSIVE LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS.
As with any abusive relationship, the size of the batterer doesn’t determine the amount of damage sustained by the violence.

MYTH #4: BATTERED LESBIANS ARE AS LIKELY TO CALL THEMSELVES VICTIMS AS ARE HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN.
Denial by lesbian victims is often quite great because of the myth that women don’t learn violence. This makes it very difficult for lesbian victims to speak out. There are also fewer resources available for lesbian victims of abuse. In addition, many lesbians are protective of the image of lesbians which is portrayed to society in general due to the already overwhelming oppression of lesbians.

MYTH #5: IT IS NO MORE DIFFICULT FOR A BATTERED LESBIAN TO SEEK HELP THAN IT IS FOR A HETEROSEXUAL VICTIM.
It is hard for anyone in an abusive relationship to seek help, but it can be even harder for lesbians. There is little acceptance of battering in the lesbian community, and many battered women’s services are not sensitive to the particular needs of lesbians. Also, coming forward could “out” a woman who is not ready to be.

MYTH #6: CHILDREN ARE NOT AN ISSUE FOR BATTERED LESBIANS.
Many lesbians are mothers and custody issues are more complicated for them.

MYTH #7: MEN ARE MORE VIOLENT AND CAUSE MORE HARM.
Never discount or minimize a woman’s fear of the violence in her relationship because she is a lesbian and her partner is another woman.

IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL MY SISTER’S PLACE: 202-529-5261
FEATURED FACULTY

Vicki Eaklor is just completing her Human Studies, and a two-year stint in January as Chair of the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History, an affiliate of the American Historical Association with international membership. She continues to work (slowly) on researching the history of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian/gay rights organization, and on writing a pamphlet on teaching lesbian/gay history. She had two articles forthcoming: "Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going, and Who Gets to Say?" for an undergraduate reader in U.S. lesbian/gay history, and an entry on Catalina de Eraus, a notorious 17th century cross-dressing female adventurer also known in Latin America and Spain as "Lieutenant Nun," for the Encyclopedia of Homosexuality, Volume 1.

Robyn Goodman, professor of communication studies, has had a publication on U.S. prestige press coverage of U.S.-China relations during the past decade in a Sage journal, Gazette: The International Journal for Communication Studies. She's begun writing book reviews on research texts about the Chinese and Eastern European media for Journalism Quarterly. Robyn has made some time for travel though, presenting two papers in Ohio at Ohio University's International Media Conference 2000. One paper was on U.S. coverage of China's May 4th Movement (the predecessor to the Tiananmen Square Massacre), and one focused on the current problems with the Bulgarian media's attempts to produce a post-Cold War democratic press system. She also took a quick trip to NYC to talk at the College Media Advisor's Convention in NYC for students to help them improve their interviewing techniques, and offer congrats to the Fiat Lux for winning a national award for editorial writing. She has been honored by inclusion in both Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Who's Who of Professional and Business Women. Also, Robyn was appointed for a second year to serve as the Women's Status Officer for the Association for Education in Journalism, Mass Communication's International Division.

Susan Morehouse had just returned from presenting papers at two conferences: the Associated Writing Programs Conference (Kansas City, MO) and the Northeastern Modern Languages Association Conference (Buffalo, NY). She plans to stay in Alfred for a while now where she is Director of the Women's Studies Program, Director of Alfred University's Writing For Your Life conference, and associate professor of English. She is currently at work on a collection of short stories titled, The Way We Live Now, and her biographical essays on Kate Chopin, Emily Dickinson and Audre Lorde appear in the new encyclopedia: Women In World History.

Karen Porter, professor of Sociology, has been awarded a sabbatical for the fall semester, 2000. Karen plans to continue her research on the effects of county-wide efforts to reduce domestic violence. The research entails analyzing several data bases that she has been collecting with the help of one her students this semester, Stephanie Thomas. Karen is exploring the connections between law enforcement agencies, the prosecutor's office, the courts, and victims' services programs. It appears that the complex relations between these agencies is as important an aspect to study as victim and offender characteristics or family setting. The sabbatical will provide the much needed time to gather and analyze these multiple data sources.

Pamela Schultz, professor of communication studies, had a chapter on Megan's Law published in a book entitled Balancing the Secrets of Private Disclosures (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates) in January. She is about to deliver her updated dissertation to the Edwin Mellen Press for publication. The dissertation is a critical analysis of the narratives of adult survivors and perpetrators of child sexual abuse. A former AU student, Cristina Pinton, has done the cover art for the book for her. On another exciting note: Feb. 27th 2000 Pamela gave birth to a 9lb 4oz baby girl named Eileah Miriam Pye. Eileah was conceived on a trip Pamela and her husband made to Ireland last May and she already shows signs of having that strong-minded, Celtic spirit, future feminist that she is...

Sandra Singer just gave a presentation on April 11th at the University of Buffalo about her research. The talk was for faculty and graduate students from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender, and the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education. The title of her talk was "Before Women Were Human Beings: Adventures of the First American Women at the German-speaking Universities, 1868-1915," She is continuing to work on a book-length manuscript about the reasons that American women studies abroad at the German-speaking university around the turn of the last century, the experience of these women at those universities, and the contributions upon their return to America.

FORMER MINORS

Cheryl Hurst, '98, is in the social work program at NYU earning her master's degree in social work. She visited Alfred recently and told us how much she enjoys her program and her life as a Resident Director for one of the high-rise undergraduate residence halls. She even has her own "penthouse" apartment! Cheryl is specializing in international social work and will attend a month long program in Puerto Rico this summer learning the culture and the Spanish language. She plans to be fluent in Spanish by the end of her stay.

continued on page 12
The Alfred University women's studies program organizes roundtables every month. Our own distinguished faculty, visiting scholars, activists and community members are all invited to present different roundtables monthly. These roundtables are devoted to issues of gender and sexuality. The topics often bring a diverse group from the campus and community to our roundtables. This year we are very pleased to have noted a significant growth in attendance at these events and hope that the trend continues in the future.

September 10, 1999
Cecelia Beach peeked into the past with her presentation, "Discourse, Dynamite and Drama: Louise Michel's Anarchist Theatre." The late 1800s French playwright and renowned anarchist Louise Michel empowered and educated her audiences with drama that stressed politics over plot. She also worked to deconstruct traditional gender roles by entering into the sphere of revolutionary politics through marches, demonstrations, rallies and battles, for which she dressed in men's clothing. Michel was exiled to a penal colony in New Caledonia for a brief period of time, but according to Beach, Michel "probably avoided execution because the government feared the public's reaction to her death."

October 8, 1999
Robyn Goodman brought some of the newest research on the effects of media to the roundtable with her talk, "Gender, The Media and 'Volatile' Bodies." Goodman discussed three papers she brought back with her from this summer's Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The first paper examined the use of American women's co-option of an ethnic body paint used by women in Asia for specific celebratory occasions called mehndi. Goodman argued that the appropriation of mehndi sexualizes and devalues Asian women. The second paper was concerned with the media's role in perpetuating eating disorders and the final one with the lack of female role models on children's television programs. Goodman said all women need to counter the negativity of these trends. "If we all do even little things, we can make a big difference," she said.

November 12, 1999
Members of Alfred's student group, the Women's Issues Coalition, made the November roundtable a musical affair. Carolyn Corrido, Madeline Baker, Amy Garbark and Jake Amoroso played or read their favorite musicians and slam poets in order to illustrate "lyrical feminism." Backed by selections from musical artists Ani DiFranco, Tracy Chapman and Tori Amos and slam poets Kristin Knowles and Sarah Jones, the WIC members spoke about women's strength, domestic violence, coming to terms with sexuality, sexism and personal pride. "This music is a source of inspiration for me, and the lyrics help give me ideas about feminism," said presenter Carolyn Corrido.

January 28, 2000
Linda Mitchell moved the roundtable audience with her presentation, "Me and My Shadow (On my Mammogram): Breast Cancer as Epiphany." Having recently gone through surgery and chemotherapy for breast cancer, Mitchell boldly and with a surprising, but very welcome sense of humor, delivered a narrative about her experience with breast cancer. Her talk explored women's relationships to doctors and the stress that illness puts on relationships, but Mitchell explained, her dealings with breast cancer were not wholly negative. "My experience was basically a series of epiphanies," said Mitchell, "and the best thing I've learned from having breast cancer is that my life is a gift."

February 25, 2000
Randi Hewitt, Public Affairs Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of the Southern Tier, came to Alfred to tell us that we are getting very close to living without legal abortion. That's why Hewitt is talking about choice issues 27 years Roe vs. Wade. That's why she is encouraging people everywhere to get involved now, before, as she says, it is too late. She stressed that our generation had always lived in a time with reproductive freedom, but the time could be coming when we won't be. Hewitt urged the audience to get involved in the pro-choice movement. Historically a quiet group, pro-choicers need to start speaking up. The easiest way to do that is to vote for pro-choice candidates and pro-choice legislation. "Voting however, is the absolute minimum level of activism," she said.

March 24, 2000
Susan Morehouse gave a fiction reading in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Writing for Your Life Conference at Alfred University, which she also put together. Morehouse read a short piece of her original fiction called, "The Way We Live Now." The story's main character is a woman who has put a bit too much on her plate. No one can figure out where Morehouse might have gotten the inspiration for such a busy character. Other characters in the story include a 10-year-old daughter, an aging dog, and a husband who is living in the basement. Attendees were extremely moved by Morehouse's wonderful presentation and words. They laughed, they cried, and that is fact, not fiction.

April 21, 2000
Unfortunately, The Alphadelphian could not cover this roundtable due to its late date. It is a tradition of the women's studies program to devote the final roundtable of the year to our graduating seniors. Seniors will be presenting their research or final projects and some will talk about their internships or field experience.
"Powerful is an understatement," wrote one visitor on the AIDS Memorial Quilt's signature square when several panels of it were displayed at AU.

The Quilt display began with a somber, reflective opening ceremony that featured eight volunteers unfolding and displaying each of the Quilt panels. Christa Nyman, chair of the Quilt committee at Alfred, and Garry Upton, a member of the NAMES Project in Syracuse, made opening remarks.

Nyman began by explaining the purpose and historical significance of the AIDS Quilt. She noted that it is the largest continuous community arts program worldwide.

Nyman also said that viewing the Quilt has brought her closer to the AIDS tragedy.

Before she viewed the Quilt, Nyman knew of no one who had died of AIDS, but, "today I know hundreds," she said.

Following the unfolding of the Quilt sections, Upton, a 1973 graduate of Alfred, spoke of the Quilt as a "lasting memorial" that cried out to humanity.

Upton is currently the treasurer for the Syracuse chapter of NAMES, the national AIDS awareness organization that sponsors the AIDS Quilt.

He spoke of the "sorrow, anger, love, and hope" that the Quilt embodies, but noted the 42,060 panels that makes up the entire AIDS Quilt represent only 20 percent of U.S. AIDS related deaths. Upton kept his talk brief, giving some general background on the Quilt sharing an emotional story of an AIDS patient he knew.

Following the opening ceremony, visitors were able to view each of the panels on the various quilt sections. Friends of family of the deceased create each panel to represent their loved one who has died from AIDS related disease. The measurements of the panels are three feet by six feet, the size of a human grave.

As visitors perused the Quilt sections, volunteers read the names of those who have died from AIDS related disease. After viewing the Quilt, visitors were able to share their thoughts and feelings on a signature square, which is now a part of the Quilt.

Women's Religious Journeys. She has received submissions for the work from all over the world and will be looking for a publisher in the next few months. She will be attending Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia next year so that she may study to become a rabbi. Nomi has been selected to represent Alfred in Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, was awarded the Bortz Family Award for fostering Jewish life on campus and received an AU leadership award this semester.

Molly DeStafney has been working on an independent study with Dr. Vicki Eaklor this semester vaguely called Women and Film, concentrating on the American Film Institutes list of "100 best films of all time." She wished that she had enough time to watch all 100...
Increased economic and social freedoms in modern society have replaced curfews and restrictive rules for women, but women are not taught how to stay safe and become empowered in our violent culture.

“I look back with a sense of nostalgia. Women then did not have the chances they have today, but we had a sense of safety that women do not have today. We need to find safety for women in this world,” said Patricia Riley during her lecture at the 5th annual Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lecture in Women's Studies at Alfred University.

Riley, A.U. Class of 1965, is currently Senior Assistant U.S. Attorney for Legislation in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. She was formerly Chief of the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section.

Riley's lecture, "Dangerous Liaisons: Sex, Substance Abuse, and Violence," stressed that women should claim agency for themselves in order to be protected from sex crimes and violence. Based on her years of experience and supervision of several thousand sex offense cases, Riley shared her ideas about how women can avoid victimization.

"I thought about calling this lecture, "Never Get Into Bed With A Naked Man" to lighten the mood, because certainly, this is heavy stuff," Riley said. But even the story behind Riley's humorous alternative had a serious message.

Women, especially young and inexperienced women, sometimes allow men to spend the night in their homes or dorm rooms. These men will promise not to engage sexual activity, but will "change their minds," said Riley.

Abigail Allen, one of Alfred's founding mothers, dedicated her life to working for the advancement of women in higher education. Her efforts have benefited Alfred University greatly, having improved both the quality of women's education on campus and in the wider community of Alfred.

With the annual Abigail Allen Award, the Women's Studies Program seeks to thank and honor women and men on campus who have contributed in the spirit of Abigail Allen to the women of Alfred University. The award is given yearly to a faculty or staff member and a student or an alumna.

This year we are delighted to bestow this award on AU professor of Sociology Karen Porter and alumna Patricia Riley.
AU's Sexual Assault Victims' Advocacy Program, or SAVAP, is a student group "trained in crisis response," according to advocate Bethany Carpenter. A 24 hour a day, 7 day a week confidential counseling service, SAVAP works with victims of sexual assault and their friends, partners, family members, and loved ones.

Advised by Cathie Chester and Dana Rothrock of the counseling center, SAVAP is comprised of advocates Carpenter, Kim Tracy, Sarah Scavone, Brittany Morgenegg, Matt Katz, Rachael Downey, Bethany Carlson, Mike Campbell, Ally Berger, and Anna Belenki.

According to Carpenter, "Anyone who has had any experience with sexual assault whether it is recent or sometime in the past can call.

A group member will inform the caller of his or her options and will transport the person to the hospital or assist the victim in any way that they can.

About her fellow advocates, Carpenter gushes. "The people who are involved in the group are very warm and caring," she says. Working with a positive crowd of people is a good thing, because "the subject matter is a scary one."

She continues, "Personally, I would rather know that the group is here in case it is needed, than not to have it in existence."

Carpenter states, "The important thing is that we're here to listen."

SAVAP member Anna Belenki agrees. She explains that the members serve as listeners for victims. "Our role as advocates is primarily to be witnesses of what people need to say," she remarks.

Belenki also feels that working with the group has been "very informative about legal and health issues and emotional strains that victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse experience. We're learning about not just the immediate impact but also the residual effects."

Belenki explains that incidents of sexual assault and sexual abuse are "much more prevalent than people think."

Belenki continues, describing the benefit of the organization. "The effects of sexual assault and abuse are wide ranging and can impact in ways that people don't expect. There can be a lot of confusion," she says.

"When people experience confusion, it's important to know there's a place they can go."

Belenki further asserts the importance of having a peer group where victims can be anonymous. "It's really important that there's a peer counseling service where students don't feel intimidated because they are anonymous."

- Jasmine LeLlo1c

1 in 4 college women have been raped or suffered attempted rape.

More than half of college rape victims are attacked by their dates.

35% of college men indicated that they would rape a woman if they knew they could get away with it.

Only 16% of rapes are reported to the police.

1 in 10 men will experience rape or attempted rape at some point in their lives.

61% of all rape victims are less than 18 years old.

1 in 12 male college students surveyed had committed acts that met the legal definition of rape. 84% of these men said it definitely was not rape.

Statistics from University of Virginia
She has prosecuted cases in which rapes occurred under similar circumstances.

Riley noted that fewer rapes occur in public places, so refusing to allow men who are not trusted friends into private spaces, like houses, dormitory rooms, or even offices, is the best plan. Although, even good friends, especially if they have been drinking, can attack and rape women, she said.

Checking to make sure that men are who they say they are before allowing them into a home is also advisable. Riley relayed the story of a woman who opened the door to her apartment for a man who claimed to be her building’s maintenance man. As soon as he was within the privacy of her apartment, he attacked the woman and raped her.

Riley said that women are often afraid of questioning authority, whether it involves checking out a man who claims to be a police officer before allowing him in, or being suspicious of doctors who initiate sexual activity under the guise of medical procedure.

"Women need a strong sense of self in order to navigate the sometimes murky waters of modern life," Riley said.

Self-esteem will benefit women greatly by helping them to question authority, be concerned with their own safety before other's need and wants, call attention to attacks in progress by yelling for help and report attacks to the law enforcement.

"You must report it. I'm still struck by the level of college students particularly who do not report rapes. You must," she stressed.

Another piece of advice that had the ring of importance for college students specifically was to monitor drinks at social gatherings.

"So-called date rape drugs are incredibly prevalent and they can stay in the system up to three days," said Riley.

The drugs, which can make a person lose consciousness, are very popular on college campuses. Riley warned the audience to always keep an eye on their drinks and even to hold their hand over the top of their cups to prevent someone from slipping a drug in.

Old-fashioned advice of the maternal kind was also offered.

"Stay in a group! Didn't your mother tell you that?" Riley asked. Staying alert to who is with you in a group of friends can thwart rape attempts even when the potential victim has been drugged, she said.

Riley noted that women should not feel limited by her guidelines, but that freedom was not possible until women knew how to act on their own behalfs, even dangerous situations and say "no" to uncomfortable or undesirable sexual relations.

"Telling you these things is not meant to scare you and freeze you. In fact, I am telling you them for just the opposite reason—to free you to protect yourself," she said.

The Riley lecture series is made possible by a gift from Pamela Riley Osborn '62; Patricia A. Riley, '65; and Melissa Riley in memory of their parents. Elizabeth, '36, was a local activist involved in issues such as pay equity for women. Charles was a 1935 graduate, who supported his wife and her efforts.

-Emilie Hardman

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**YOUNG PEOPLE MISSING SAFE SEX MESSAGE**

Case of sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, according to new statistics from Britain's Public Health Laboratory (PHLS). The statistics indicate that many young people are ignoring messages of safe sex and engaging in more casual sexual relationships. The PHLS investigation found that one in 10 teens has contracted gonorrhea through unsafe sex practices. Experts are calling for more safe sex campaigns and asking schools to focus efforts on education. They also are asking for schools to increase availability of condoms and dental dams. PHLS spokesman, Dr. Mike Catchpole, says that if more aggressive measures are not taken, young people will continue to engage in unsafe practices with the result of more HIV cases and even increased infertility due to contraction of sexually transmitted diseases at young ages.

Crandall Health Center at Alfred University on Park Street has condoms and dental dams available on the honor system. You can pick them up anonymously in the Center during its regular hours of operation.