The face of leadership is also predominately white. Where are people of color in elected office? Also, where are the women of color? The media refers to the competition for the Democratic nomination for President historic because we have a black man and a white woman competing for the nomination, but women of color are still not represented. Carol Mosely Braun did not receive the same type of attention that either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama are summoning. Once again, the voices of women of color are marginalized, even in "historic" circumstances.

It is still to be determined how our new female leaders will be represented in the media. I can tell you all of the phases of Hillary Clinton’s hair over the last decade: short, long, brown, blonde; and I know that Condoleezza Rice is a size six. I cannot say the same for high profile male leaders. Do any of us know what size shirt President Bush wears? Or how tall President Clinton is? Female leaders will never receive the same respect as their male counterparts as long as the attention focuses on their fashion savvy instead of their political savvy. As citizens, we must hold our media sources accountable for the way they portray females by sending letters to the editor. Public awareness is one of the best ways to combat this problem. We should demand more from our media sources.

Despite the pitfalls, and the work yet to be done, I am proud to have such strong competent women representing me. It speaks volumes about the success of the feminist movement and can help us develop a road map for where we must travel. As a movement, we should access what strategies have been successful in allowing women to have access to our high profile leadership positions and ensure that the strategies are truly inclusive. Are we reaching out to women of color the same way that we are reaching out to white women? What programs and strategies need to be implemented to eradicate racism as well as sexism? What about women from the lower economic classes? How are we addressing issues of poor healthcare and little to no access to childcare? What about raising the minimum wage to a truly humane level? The women's movement will be a successful movement when we can integrate the issues of all women into our work. As long as one of us are oppressed, all of us are oppressed.

I look forward to the coming election season (even though it is two years away!), and hope that we can hold all of our elected officials accountable when it come to issues of justice and equity no matter their sex, gender, race, color, creed, or political party. We must not wait for elections to make change.

Happy Reading,

Mandy Restivo
**Women’s Herstory Month Events**

**Feminist Film Series**
Screenings and discussions
Monday, March 5th  - *The Color Purple*
Monday, March 19th  - *Iron Jawed Angels*
Monday, March 26th  - *North Country*
All at 6pm in the Laurel Hall Movie Theater

**Keynote Lecture “Deadly Persuasion” and book signing: Dr. Jean Kilbourne**
Tuesday, March 6th
1pm, Alumni Lounges
Dr. Jean Kilbourne is internationally recognized for her pioneering work on the image of women in advertising. She will discuss the toxic, insidious effects of advertising in our culture. She is well known for her award-winning lectures as well as writing *Can't Buy My Love*.

**“Do Women Have a History?”**
Wednesday, March 7th
1pm, The Women’s Center
Presented by Ellen Ross and Karen O’Brien
Lecture and discussion led by two members of the Women's Studies faculty on the role of women in history.

**Worldly Women: International Students Sharing Experiences**
Wednesday, March 7th
5pm, The Women's Center
Join us for an informal conversation about the experiences of female international students at Ramapo College. Coffee, tea, and desserts will be served.

**In Conversation With…Tabu; actor/Indian film personality**
Thursday, March 8th
5pm, SC 136
Among other topics, this leading actor for the Indian film industry will discuss the politics of gender in cinema both in the context of Bollywood and international cinema.

**Book discussion: *Can't Buy My Love***
Led by Mary Cicitta, Acting Director of Publications, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Tuesday, March 20th
1pm, The Women's Center
As Jean Kilbourne points out in this fascinating book, the dreamlike promises of advertising always leave us hungry for more. Come share your thoughts on this revolutionary work.

**Margaret Cho Stand-Up Comedy Night:**
*I’m The One That I Want*
Wednesday, March 28th
9pm, J. Lee’s
The film combines elements of storytelling and stand-up. The primary focus of the material is on Cho’s ascension into stardom and her struggles with weight, drug addiction and sexual promiscuity. Cho also addresses racism, homophobia and other challenges.

**Closing Tea**
Thursday, March 29th
1pm, Friends Hall (SC 219)
Artist's Talk by Jackie Skrzynski
Jackie Skrzynski makes drawings and paintings about the feral nature of domestic life. She creates unexpected juxtapositions of animals, humans, flora and fauna from what she encounters in her daily routine. Like creatures from mythology, these figures become totems of strength for the modern family. Skrzynski's work describes her interest in the tension between two psychological places, one of control and one of instinct. Please RSVP to the Women's Center at X7468

**Reproductive Rights Conference trip**
Friday, March 30th- Sunday, April 1st
Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts
Last year, over 1,000 activists attended this national conference to learn, network, and strategize for reproductive rights and social justice. We would like to invite students to join us at this conference. Over the weekend, participants will learn about and share organizing experiences and strategies, broaden their understanding of reproductive rights, and make connections with other related movements and issues. For more information, come to the Women's Center.

**Memorial**
March 1st- April 10th, George T. Potter Library
A special art exhibition addressing breast cancer survivors.

These events brought to you by:
The Women's Center
The Women and Gender Studies Faculty
Student Activities Platinum Series
Feminists United
Omega Phi Chi
Ebony Women for Social Change
The International Student Organization
Ramapo College Art Galleries

For disability related accommodations, please call x7468 at least 48 hours in advance of program.
**Women’s Center Events**

**Beyond Beats and Rhymes film screening**
Thursday, March 29th
7pm, J.Lee's
Film screening and discussion
*Beyond Beats and Rhymes* is a ground-breaking documentary by director Byron Hurt. The film focuses on issues of masculinity, sexism, and homophobia in hip-hop culture and the larger American society.

Cosponsored by the Women’s Center and the Diversity Action Committee

**Female Friendly Funk**
Thursday, February 22
8pm, J.Lee’s
Female Friendly Funk is a monthly coffeehouse organized to empower women through the influence of music. Ramapo student musicians will perform anti-racist, non-misogynistic songs. Free food and fun in a comfortable atmosphere!

**Special Meetings**

**Queer Peer Services**
**Peer Support Group**
Every Monday
9:30 pm  Women’s Center (C 220)
This peer support group creates a safe space for members of the LGBTIQQ community to talk about issues faced on campus pertaining to sexuality, relationships, and dealing with homophobia and related issues. All LGBTIQQ* people and their allies are welcome!

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersexed, Questioning, Queer

Queer Peer Services website:
http://www.ramapo.edu/studentlife/gaypeer/index.html

**Feminists United**
Every Thursday
1 pm  Women’s Center (C 220)
Feminists United is a club dedicated to raising awareness about various issues such as reproductive justice, minimum wage, economic justice, women’s rights, racism, sexism, and many more. We want to make a change, but we need your help! Come join our fight for peace!

Feminists United Myspace:
http://www.myspace.com/feministsunitedatramapo

Feminists United group on Facebook:
http://ramapo.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2246655035

**Ramapo Pride**
Every Monday
1 pm  Women’s Center (C 220)
Ramapo Pride provides a safe environment for LGBTIQQ students and allies. The organization is built around providing activist and educational programming, but also providing a social network for LGBTIQQ students on campus. It organizes social, educational and activist programs for the campus at large.

Ramapo Pride group on Facebook:
http://ramapo.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2227619167

**The Changing Face of Leadership**

**Hillary Clinton**
**Woman president in U.S.: Will it ever happen?**
By Barbara Palmer
02-18-2007

On Sunday, Jan. 21, Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., formally announced she was running for the presidency. That decision officially ended speculation that began in 1992, when presidential candidate Bill Clinton remarked, “Buy one, get one free.”

There have been countless analyses of her candidacy. Will being a woman help her or hurt her? Will she be able to balance toughness with tenderness? Will female voters vote for her? What about her vote on the Iraq War? What's up with her hair?

But all of this raises the question: Why has the United States never elected a female president?

Even in Afghanistan in the first post-Taliban election, Hamid Karzai had a female opponent, Masooda Jalal, a 41-year-old doctor. In 1997, Ireland’s presidential contest featured five female candidates. The token male candidate finished dead last. Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland was the first democratically elected woman in the world to serve as a president. During her 16 years as president, from 1980 to 1996, children in Iceland grew up thinking only a woman could be president.

The Council of Women World Leaders, a network of female heads of government, has 36 current and former presidents and prime ministers as members. At least five countries have elected more than one woman: Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, the Philippines and New Zealand. Currently, women are leading countries as different as Chile, Sao Tome and Principe, Jamaica, Latvia, Germany and Liberia.

Tell us what you think about the articles in this newsletter by messaging us or leaving a comment on our newly updated Myspace:

http://www.myspace.com/rcnjwc
We tend to forget that several women have run for president in the United States. Victoria Woodhull ran in 1872 and Belva Lockwood ran in 1884, before women even had the constitutional right to vote. In 1964, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate, also was the first woman to be nominated by one of the two major parties. At the Republican National Convention, she came in second behind Barry Goldwater.

Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress, ran in 1972. The other Democratic candidates tried to exclude her from the televised debates, so she secured a federal court order that allowed her to participate. Rep. Pat Schroeder announced her candidacy in 1987. Unfortunately, instead of being known for running for president, she is well-known for the famous photo of her crying when she announced she was dropping out. In the 2000 campaign, Elizabeth Dole was a presidential contender. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, the first African American woman to serve in the Senate, ran in 2004.

There probably is no simple answer to the question of why we have never elected a woman to our highest office, but Laura Liswood, co-founder of the White House Project and the Council of Women World Leaders, probably has one of the best explanations.

It lies in the idea of American exceptionalism. During the Cold War, and particularly after the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, we saw ourselves as the undisputed “leader of the free world.” We tend to assume that our president will have some kind of military experience. This is a “warrior” image of leadership, and it is very gendered. While Jamaicans, for example, may be fiercely proud of their nation, they probably do not see themselves the same way.

For several years, polls have consistently shown that more than 90 percent of Americans say they would vote for a female candidate for president. Last September, Gallup conducted a poll asking a slightly different question: Whether respondents thought Americans were ready to elect a woman as president. Only 61 percent said yes.

Social scientists will tell you that this question is far more revealing than the first. Today, very few people would outright admit that they would not vote for a woman, so the first question tells us nothing. It is quite striking that almost 40 percent of the country does not think America is ready for a woman president. What this is really telling us is that there still are many people who have serious doubts about voting for a woman.

It also does not help when political pundits and talking heads in the media not only say that Hillary Clinton is unelectable, but that her loss will ensure that we will never have a woman president. When Bob Dole lost in 1996, I don’t recall hearing anyone say he had forever ruined it for white men over the age of 70. Somebody had better break that news to John McCain.

The Citizen Political Ambition Study found that when someone says they should run for office, men and women were equally likely to consider it. However, women were far less likely to be told to run, even by their own spouses. This does suggest, however, that the solution is quite simple. Tell women to run.

On January 4, 2007, Nancy Pelosi made history, breaking the marble ceiling to become the first woman to serve as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. For the last four years, Nancy Pelosi has led House Democrats with remarkable effectiveness as House Democratic Leader. Elected in 2003 as the first woman to lead a major political party in Congress, Pelosi has built consensus and unified the Democratic caucus. A recent study by Congressional Quarterly found that “over the past half-century, Democrats in the House were never more unified” than they were under Pelosi in 2005, voting together a record 88 percent of the time.

Pelosi comes from a strong family tradition of public service. Her father, Thomas D’Alesandro, Jr., served as Mayor of Baltimore for 12 years, after representing the city for five terms in Congress. Her brother, Thomas D’Alesandro III, also served as Mayor of Baltimore.

Pelosi graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Paul Pelosi, a native of San Francisco, have five grown children: Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul and Alexandra, and six grandchildren. While raising her five children prior to her election to Congress, Pelosi served in a number of positions including Chair of the California Democratic Party. She has represented California’s Eighth District, which includes most of San Francisco, since 1987.
Described by congressional expert Norman Ornstein as one of “the most savvy political figures around,” Pelosi and Congressional Democrats have offered a New Direction for America, which calls for strengthened national security, a competitive economy, expanded health care and educational opportunities, energy independence, a secure retirement, tough fiscal discipline to stop deficit spending, and strict congressional ethics and lobbying reform.

Pelosi has pledged to restore integrity and civility to the People's House and preside over the most honest and open Congress in history. As Leader, Pelosi authored principles for civility to reduce partisanship in House operations and to ensure the rights of the minority in all House activity. She also developed the Democratic Honest Leadership-Open Government initiative to cut the ties between lobbyists and legislators. Pelosi believes that by restoring high ethical standards and civility in congressional operations, Congress can better address the priorities of all Americans.

Pelosi brings to the Speaker's role 19 years of experience representing San Francisco in the House, achieving a distinguished record in intelligence and security initiatives, family and child policy, health care, human rights and environmental policy.

As the longest-serving member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Pelosi has worked to ensure that policymakers and military commanders are provided with timely and accurate intelligence. She has led efforts to strengthen our national intelligence by increasing the diversity and capabilities of intelligence officers and by promoting innovative technologies to improve our national security. In the wake of 9/11, Pelosi authored legislation to create the bipartisan, independent 9/11 Commission and led congressional reviews of the U.S. intelligence and security agencies. Under her leadership, Democrats have committed to fully implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations in the first 100 hours of the new Democratic Congress.

As a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Pelosi was the leading proponent for women, children and families, and the disabled. She won increased funding for breast cancer research, doubled the budget for National Institutes of Health, and is a vigorous supporter of life saving stem cell research. Since her first term in Congress, Pelosi has been a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, promoting increased funding for research and treatment that has extended the lives of millions, and supporting efforts to develop an HIV vaccine.

Throughout her career, Pelosi has led bipartisan efforts for international human rights in all parts of the world, including China, Central America, Tibet and most recently in the Sudan.

For six years, Pelosi served on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee). She was one of four House Members to serve on an Investigative Subcommittee to examine the conduct of former Speaker Newt Gingrich and a member of the bipartisan task force to update Ethics Rules and Procedures.

One of Pelosi's proudest accomplishments was assuring the preservation of the Presidio National Park of San Francisco as the nation's largest urban national park. This law created a public-private partnership to ensure the Presidio would achieve self-sufficiency while providing access to the park and its exquisite beauty. A leader on the environment at home and abroad, Pelosi authored the provision in the International Development and Finance Act of 1989 requiring the World Bank and other development banks to review and publicize the potential environmental impacts of development projects they fund. This “Pelosi Amendment” has become a significant tool for indigenous, non-governmental organizations around the world.

http://speaker.gov/about/

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Drew Gilpin Faust

Harvard names Drew G. Faust as its 28th president

February 11, 2007

Drew G. Faust, an eminent historian and outstanding academic leader who has served since 2001 as the founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, will become the twenty-eighth president of Harvard University, effective July 1.

An expert on the Civil War and the American South, and the leading figure in Radcliffe's transformation from a college into one of the country's foremost scholarly institutes, Faust was elected to the Harvard presidency today by the members of the Harvard Corporation, with the consent of the University's Board of Overseers.

The appointment concludes a search launched in the spring of 2006, involving far-reaching consultation with faculty, students, staff, alumni, and others nationwide.

"This is a great day, and a historic day, for Harvard," said James R. Houghton, the senior member of the Harvard Corporation and chair of the presidential search committee. "Drew Faust is an inspiring and accomplished leader, a superb scholar, a dedicated teacher, and a wonderful human being. She combines a powerful, broad-ranging intellect with a demonstrated capacity for strong leadership and a talent for stimulating people to do their best work, both individually and together. She knows Harvard and higher education, and her interests extend to the whole of the University, across the arts and sciences and the professional domains."

"Through her service as founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute, she has shown uncommon skill in designing and fulfilling a forward-looking agenda of institutional change," said Houghton. "Through her decades as a leading faculty member at Penn and at Harvard, she has invested herself in both education and research with passion, imagination, and a devotion to the highest ideals of academic life."
"Drew wears her extraordinary accomplishments lightly," said Houghton. "Her many admirers know her as both collaborative and decisive, both open-minded and tough-minded, both eloquent and understated, both mindful of tradition and effective in leading innovation. Her qualities will serve Harvard well as we plan ambitiously for the future - not only in the college but across the schools, not only in the sciences but across the disciplines and professions, not only in Allston but throughout our campus. We share with Drew an enthusiastic commitment to building on Harvard’s strengths, to bridging traditional boundaries, and to embracing a world full of new possibilities."

"I am deeply grateful for the trust the governing boards have placed in me," said Faust. "I will work with all my heart, together with people across Harvard, to reward that trust."

"I am a historian," she said. "I've spent a lot of time thinking about the past, and about how it shapes the future. No university in the country, perhaps the world, has as remarkable a past as Harvard's. And our shared enterprise is to make Harvard's future even more remarkable than its past. That will mean recognizing and building on what we already do well. It will also mean recognizing what we don't do as well as we should, and not being content until we find ways to do better."

As the first dean of the Radcliffe Institute, Faust has guided the transformation of Radcliffe from a college into a wide-ranging institute for advanced study. Under her leadership, Radcliffe has emerged as one of the nation's foremost centers of scholarly and creative enterprise, distinctive for its multidisciplinary focus and the exploration of new knowledge at the crossroads of traditional fields. In recognition of its roots in Radcliffe College, the Institute maintains a special commitment to the study of women, gender, and society. To support its mission, Faust has directed a comprehensive administrative restructuring, secured the Institute's finances, attracted major new gifts, and undertaken an extensive renovation of Radcliffe's historic campus.

During Faust's deanship, Radcliffe's flagship fellowship program has become a prized opportunity for established and emerging scholars throughout the academic world. The Institute currently receives nearly 800 applicants for approximately 50 annual positions as fellows, and more than 45 Harvard faculty members have held Radcliffe fellowships since 2001. Radcliffe also engages the broader Harvard community in a variety of ways. Working with Harvard departments, the Institute has mounted annual science conferences on such topics as tissue engineering, privacy and security technology, and computational biology. Undergraduates participate in the life of the Institute through the Research Partners Program, which pairs students with Radcliffe fellows.

"Drew Faust is a historian with her eyes on the future," said Susan L. Graham, the Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Emerita at the University of California at Berkeley, president of Harvard's Board of Overseers for 2006-07, and a member of the presidential search committee. "As an academic, I've been particularly impressed with how Drew has shaped a robust role for science in building the Radcliffe Institute, while playing an active role in important activities throughout the University. As an Overseer, I've admired her remarkable talent for creating a sense of common enterprise, for setting ambitious goals, for fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, and for advancing the Institute's agenda. As an alumna, I have come to know her as someone who cares deeply about enhancing the educational experience of our students and creating a sense of intellectual excitement that will continue to draw great people and great ideas to Harvard."


As dean of Radcliffe, Faust has been an influential member of Harvard's Academic Advisory Group, which brings together the president, provost, and deans to consider matters of university policy. A devoted teacher and mentor, she is currently leading an undergraduate seminar on the Civil War and Reconstruction. In the spring of 2005, she oversaw the work of Harvard’s Task Forces on Women Faculty and on Women in Science and Engineering. In 2004, she served on the Allston Task Force on Undergraduate Life.

Before coming to Harvard, Faust served for 25 years on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. She was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of American Civilization in 1976, associate professor in 1980, and full professor in 1984. She was named the Stanley Sheerr Professor of History in 1988, then served as the Annenberg Professor of History from 1989 to 2000. She chaired the Department of American Civilization for five years, and was director of the Women's Studies Program from 1996 to 2000. She was twice honored at Penn for her distinguished teaching, in 1982 and 1996.

While at Penn, Faust served on a broad array of university committees, in such areas as academic planning and budgets, academic freedom, human resources, the university archives, and intercollegiate athletics. She was a member of Penn's presidential search committee in 1993-94 and chaired the presidential inaugural committee in 1994. From 1988 to 1990 she chaired the President's Committee on University Life, which addressed such issues as diversity on campus, interaction among faculty, students, and staff, and Penn's relations with its neighboring community.

Raised in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Faust went on to attend Concord Academy in Massachusetts. She received her bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr in 1968, magna cum
laurea with honors in history, and her master's degree (1971) and doctoral degree (1975) in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

Faust has been active both as a member of nonprofit boards and in a range of professional societies. She is a trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Humanities Center, and Bryn Mawr College, where she chaired the trustee committee on student life from 1998 to 2003. She also serves on the educational advisory board of the Guggenheim Foundation. She was president of the Southern Historical Association in 1999-2000, vice president of the American Historical Association from 1992 to 1996, and an executive board member of both the Organization of American Historians and the Society of American Historians from 1999 to 2002. Faust has also served on numerous editorial boards and selection committees, including the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in history in 1986, 1990, and 2004 (chair). She is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Society of American Historians.

Founded in 1636, Harvard University is the oldest institution of higher education in the United States and a worldwide leader in education and research. It comprises nine faculties, in the arts and sciences, business, design, divinity, education, government, law, medicine, and public health, together with the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and an array of museums, research centers, and the largest university library system in the world. The president is the chief academic and administrative officer of the University.


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**Feminism in Pop Culture**

**I Am Woman**

The biggest milestones in pop feminism

By Rachel Giese

March 8, 2005

Feminism may seem to have as much connection to pop culture as, well, a fish has to a bicycle. But since the beginning, the women's movement has had a savvy grasp of the power of pop: think about the punk rock antics of the protest of the 1968 Miss America pageant, or Gloria Steinem's stylish mini skirts and aviator glasses. And the feeling was mutual: no sooner had The Feminine Mystique author Betty Friedan identified the "problem that has no name" than entertainment industry executives wondered if there was money to be made in solving it. In honour of International Women's Day, March 8, here's a look at some of the most significant convergences of feminism and popular culture.

**The Phil Donahue Show (1969-1974)**

If your suburban, stay-at-home mom was talking about multiple orgasms, abortion or natural childbirth in the early 1970s, it was probably because she had heard about it on this groundbreaking talk fest. Phil Donahue, the original “sensitive man,” once said that his show “got lucky because we discovered early on that the usual idea of women's programming was a narrow, sexist view.” Donahue trusted that his female audience had brains and opinions, and thus created a televised consciousness-raising group each afternoon, covering such taboo topics as homosexuality, domestic violence and abortion. Donahue's show stayed on the air, in various incarnations, until the mid-1990s. Though Donahue was eclipsed (to put it mildly) by Oprah Winfrey in the 1980s, he remains a pioneer in popularizing women's issues through the power of television.

**The Mary Tyler Moore Show (1970-1977)**

This was one of the first TV shows to feature a single working woman as its title character, a fledgling TV producer who was “gonna make it after all.” Mary was both nervous and strong-willed. She happily lived alone in an adorable bachelor apartment and spent the night with her dates (a television first), but found it difficult to stand up to her gruff boss. Depicting Mary's struggle to balance feminism with femininity, the show perfectly captured the reality of women who were beginning to assert themselves in traditionally male arenas.

**Helen Reddy, I am Woman (1971)**

This unbridled feminist anthem appeared on Reddy's debut album, I Don't Know How to Love Him, and was a breakthrough hit for the singer. Declaring “I am woman hear me roar, in numbers too big to ignore,” Reddy made female listeners feel as strong and invincible as she did.

**Maude (1972-1978)**

One of Norman Lear's watershed social issues sitcoms from the 1970s, Maude was a spinoff of All in Family and starred Bea Arthur as an outspoken feminist. Tackling hot-button issues like menopause, racism and classism, the show became an instant hit. Most notably, in the first season, 47-year-old Maude had an abortion. This had never happened on American television before - and it was another 32 years before another character on U.S. network TV had an abortion (on the WB drama Everwood).

**Pam Grier in Coffey (1973) and Foxy Brown (1974)**

Even the silliest of B-movie schlock was elevated by Grier's riveting and intelligent screen presence. But it wasn't until she starred as a vengeance-seeking nurse named Coffey (“She'll cream you!”) in this pair of blaxploitation films that she became a bona fide cult star. Whether she was karate-kicking pimps or running down drug dealers, Grier's girl power was explosive, appealing to black and feminist audiences. At the height of her fame, she appeared on both the cover of Ms. Magazine and in a nude spread in Playboy.
This harbinger of so-called “jiggle TV” featured a trio of sexy female crime fighters who worked for a mysterious patriarch named Charlie, going undercover as convicts, prostitutes and roller derby queens in order to save an innocent victim, usually another woman. Embodying the tensions that existed as women entered traditional male jobs, the premise was equal parts exploitation and liberation. The angels appeared in bikinis and wet T-shirts as often as possible, yet they were portrayed as smart, strong and more than capable of holding their own against bad guys.

Nine to Five (1980)
This satirical workplace revenge romp played perfectly to the frustrations of the growing female workforce in the 1980s. It starred Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton as (respectively) a struggling divorcee, an ambitious career woman and a secretary fending off her sleazy superior’s advances. The women wind up kidnapping their male chauvinist boss and smashing the glass ceiling to bits when they successfully overhaul the office in his absence.

Eurythmics, Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves (1985)
As the Scottish band was transforming itself from Euro artsies to international pop stars, singer Annie Lennox released this thumping disco duet with Aretha Franklin, triggering the Motown majesty’s 1980s comeback. The song, which declared that women “were standing on their own two feet and ringing on their own bells,” remains a staple at Women’s Day events and Take Back the Night marches.

Thelma & Louise (1991)
This much-discussed movie starred Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis as a pair of friends who find an unexpected liberation on the lam after one shoots a would-be rapist. Critics were split into two camps: those who saw it as a smart and lively reinvention of the buddy/road movie; and those who read it as a violent, anti-male polemic. (One reviewer called it “Bitch Cassidy and the Sundress Kid.”) With its loving portrayal of friendship and its ambiguous ending, the film gave new meaning to the observation that “freedom is just another word for having nothing left to lose.”

Riot grrls (1990s)
An offshoot of the grunge and punk scenes, the Riot Grrl movement created a female-friendly culture of bands, zines, fashion and festivals within the macho trappings of the alternative music world. Inspired by pioneering musicians like Patti Smith, groups like Bikini Kill, Bratmobile, L7, Tribe 8 and Sleater-Kinney rose out of musical hotbeds like Seattle and Olympia, Wash., as well as San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

What's Love Got To Do With It (1993)
Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne gave two of the best performances of their careers in this 1993 biopic of Ike and Tina Turner - the music world's version of The Burning Bed. With a rock-hard body and an attitude to match, Bassett played Turner as a battered soul survivor who fights her way back from abuse, divorce and destitution to find inner peace and a place at the top of the music charts. Whether she's growling through Proud Mary, dancing like a high-heeled dervish or finally giving like the whaling he deserves, Bassett gave female empowerment a rock and roll bite.

Sci-fi and fantasy conventions got a whole lot sexier in the 1990s, when these two chick-driven TV series were launched. The first, Xena: Warrior Princess, set in ancient Greece, followed a reformed warlord on her quest to atone for her past crimes. The second, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, told the story of a contemporary California teenager with a gift for battling evil creatures. With an eye to camp - and, in Buffy's case, with some astute social commentary - both series played with the machismo of the genre and upended the cliché of the weak female victim.

Sex and the City (1998-2004)
Following the dating lives of four modern Manhattanites, this bellwether HBO television series tackled everything from the pleasures of twentysomethings and pregnancy, the tricks and pitfalls of the perfect-on-paper marriage to the pain of infertility and the struggle of coping with breast cancer. Underneath the fluff veneer of Manolos and Cosmopolitans, the show was a post-feminist celebration of independence, sexual exploration and sisterly solidarity.

Building on the radio-friendly feminism of 1980s and 1990s pop/hip-hop/soul acts like Salt-n-Pepa and TLC, Destiny's Child penned this song for the 2000 film version of Charlie's Angels. Directing “all the honeys making money” to “throw your hands up at me,” the song honours women who pay their bills, buy their own shoes and who are “50-50 in relationships.”

http://www.cbc.ca/arts/media/iamwoman.html
Musings
Submissions by Women's Center staff, employees and supporters

Consent: When It Comes To Sex, Saying No Can Be Mistaken For Yes
By Kate Brown

When I was ten, my DARE teacher, Officer Engold, told us to just “Say No”. He brought samples of drugs, so that we would know what we would be getting ourselves into if we were ever offered drugs. I remember 25 fifth graders crowded around Engold’s display case, enticed by the forbidden. Every one of us wondering if we would ever have the chance to say No and make him proud or maybe if we would ever have a chance to say Yes.

Unlike Officer Engold with his case of illegal substances, I barely remember the sex talk. I remember Xerossed quizzes about how babies are made. I remember talking about condoms and birth control pills. Best of all, I remember that abstinence (from kissing-sex) is the best way to avoid any STDs, unwanted pregnancies, depletion in self-respect, and fun. I remember all of these things that make sense on paper and seemed to be the biggest, most important issues. But something was left out: When did we talk about consent? When did any teacher ever talk about consent in middle school or in high school? The one message I can glean from my education about consent is "Just say No. No means no." The problem is that in our society NO actually means MAYBE. It means TRY HARDER or if you could just WEAR THE PERSON DOWN, you'll get your way.

I didn't figure out that No means No when it comes to sex until later in life. Only then did I figure out that I wasn't being heard, which was weird, because the person I’d be saying it to would be right next to me. The idea that there are other ways of saying No than just verbal communication was one that had not been addressed until very recently in my life. Like, I'm gonna say, last summer. In my head if you didn't say NO, you were saying Yes. With this reasoning, encounters I have had in my life which were not consensual were permissible because I did not say NO. I never thought about how I had turned my head away to avoid a kiss, changed the topic of conversation when it was getting too out of hand, or how I had made excuses to leave. These are all ways of expressing my discomfort, making these situations non-consensual. I had spent so much time beating myself up for "letting this happen," placing all the blame on myself. I had been saying No for years, and feeling confused and upset with myself for just as long.

I started talking with other women about saying No. I talked to them about feeling silenced, being pressured by someone to engage in (unwanted) physical activity and not being able to speak, opening the mouth with nothing coming out. We discussed how our lives seem to be about pleasing people and how our lives seem to be all about saying "Yes" all the time, and never saying No. The discussion always led to the mentality of just "Getting through it": Kissing someone or what have you just to get them off your back. It feels easier to just play the part than to say No. What are we so afraid of? What am I so afraid of? I can only speak for myself here: There is the seizing fear of not being liked (sounds so retro to say it out loud in an age where I feel women are more empowered than ever, but here I am dealing with a seemingly ancient problem). I suspect that no matter how many public service announcements there are about how a woman should not need a person’s approval to validate themselves, there is still a void that needs to be filled by a lot of women and there will always be women who Get Through It, go along with the sexual act because she feels silenced or like she has no choice.

Not everyone is able to say No, but if you look closely, more women than you might think are saying No. With averted eyes, blank expressions during sex, stiff bodies. Much different that my DARE experience, there was no t-shirt that came with the completion of my Sex Ed. class. There was no ceremony with a gym full of happy parents content in knowing that their child will never engage in illegal or self-destructive activity because now they Know Better. Instead parents lay in their beds at the end of the day breathing sighs of relief that Everything Was Explained. But now I can see that that wasn't the completion.

of my education about sex anyway. Eight years later I am still learning about my body, who I am as a sexual being, where my boundaries lie. Instead of a certificate with my name embossed in raised black letters, I get a little more comfortable in my own skin when I learn something new about myself or come to understand something once frustrating. Like this whole Saying No Business.

Inside the Women's Center
By Rory Warde

During my second year as a freshman, I was in hopes of finding a new job. Honestly, I crossed my fingers on getting a job in the Women's Center. My main motive was to try to understand women and LGBT issues in the campus community and the country. My first semester of work was not what you would call a get-to-know-my-co-workers environment. Why? Well, 1) I started in the middle of the semester. 2) My hours were mostly in the morning, so meeting my co-workers was in little spoonfuls. 3) I was pretty nervous. I sometimes catch myself wondering if I should really be in the Women's Center. I mean if it's named the Women's Center, then it must be for women only, right?

To my surprise, I was very wrong about that. In actuality, the Women's Center is a lounge area where faculty and students can talk. Also, this office has a wide variety of books about sexuality, relationships, race and the history of women that our high school text books seem to forget (trust me, you'll hear more about the books later).

As for me getting around to knowing my co-workers, it's been said from many people outside looking in, that the Women's Center staff acts like close-knit family. Most of the co-workers talk and understand where each other comes from, so by default, the environment becomes a place of work and enjoyable conversation. Getting to know my co-workers like Chris, Courtney, Elyse, Jenny, Kate, Mat, Rachel, Sam, Sarah, and Will make you appreciate the many students that work to plan events for the campus community. It's kind of funny knowing some people would consider the campus boring with the multitude
of events that are held every week. People should just get out there. Before I go too far off subject, I found that my co-workers in the Women’s Center are very friendly. When I first started getting hours with my co-workers, I’m sure they were as unsure about me as I was about them. When I was thinking “I wonder what I could say to join in the discussion?” They could have been thinking “I wonder what I could do to make Rory actually say something…anything?” Like I said earlier, social interaction was not my strong suit when I started working here.

I can’t forget my two bosses. The first one is Kat who is in law school. She is open to talking about the ups and downs of going for a J.D. For a law major like me it helps to hear from someone who is going through the process, so I can anticipate the challenges ahead. Mandy is the other, or importantly, the head of this work place. If you want to believe it or not Mandy is a great leader. If you ever get a chance to find out her past positions on this campus, you will be amazed. With Kat and Mandy working together to help build a closer and more peaceful work station, I think I’ll enjoy working here for a while.

**Book Review**

By Rory Warde, Women’s Center Librarian

You know you’re working as a librarian when your primary job hazard is paper cuts. You might be surprised to find that a lot of books in the Women’s Center aren’t just about the great women in history and homosexuality; though if you are interested in those books, we have them. There are also many authors that spend their time writing about relationships, masculinity/femininity, and tell stories about living in different situations around the world. Here is a book that I had to stop and read for a week just because its title caught my eye:

*May I Kiss You?:* I’m sure that in college we have all thought of that moment where your eyes meet with that man/woman you have been seeing for a while and you just know that it’s the perfect moment to get that first kiss… and it blows up in your face! Yeah, you weren't really expecting that were you? Well, I have to ask this: Have you ever just asked? Hey men, have you ever asked for a kiss on date? How about the women out there? Well, if you never ask yourself these questions or even consider them, then maybe you should get a quick read of this book. *May I Kiss You?* Goes into an in-depth look at dating, respect, and communication and challenges you to take a different approach to the dating world. The book gives little challenges from how to correctly read body language to how to deal with rejection if you try any one of these methods. I could guarantee that this book will make you wonder why you haven't used one of its suggestions. Pick it up today!

**On the Web**

Visit the Women’s Center website at

http://www.ramapo.edu/studentlife/womenscenter/

for even more information!

**Activism Corner**

*How can we support women leaders?*

Learn more about Hillary Clinton’s campaign for presidency in 2008, visit her website at

http://www.hillaryclinton.com

Vote in the next Presidential election!

Investigate Nancy Pelosi's stances on political topics by visiting her website at

http://www.house.gov/pelosi/

Write to Harvard University’s President’s Office to congratulate Drew G. Faust:

President's Office
ATTN: Drew G. Faust
Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

If you see a woman leader represented unfairly in the media, write a letter to the editor or media source explaining how disrespectful the portrayal was.

*How can we support feminism in pop culture?*

Write to your local media outlets urging them to provide more coverage of feminist issues

See photos from Women’s Center events at:

http://s101.photobucket.com/albums/m59/RCNJWomensCenter/

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Newsletter created by Elyse Jankowski