

February 2007

CENTER FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Women and Gender Equity (CWGE) of Pacific University is to support gender equality through dialogue, programming, service, research, and advocacy in order to facilitate collaborative, humane, and sustainable University, local and global communities.

Vision Statement

The board, staff and volunteers of the Center for Women and Gender Equity advocate a feminist paradigm shift to embrace and promote gender, cultural and racial equality; economic and social justice; and the intellectual and cultural growth of Pacific University students, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community. Programs and projects reflect and affirm the following values:

- the inherent worth and dignity of each person
- justice, equity and compassion in all human relations
- the right of conscience
- shared power and responsibility
- shared information access
- community building
- respect for the interconnected web of life
- the non-violent resolution of conflicts



UPCOMING CWGE EVENTS:

VAGINA MONOLOGUES by Eve Ensler



Sponsored by the Center for Women and Gender Equity of Pacific University

Friday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Saturday, February 10, 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 11, 2:00 pm

Tom Miles Theatre (go to www.pacificu.edu for map)

\$5.00 (Ticket proceeds to Bradley Angle House in Portland for women victims of same-sex domestic violence)

The Vagina Monologues was written by Eve Ensler based on over 200 interviews with women about their vaginas and sexuality. If your vagina could talk, what would it say? What does your vagina like to wear? The answer to these questions and many more, combined with individual women's stories, create the hilarious and poignant *Vagina Monologues*. *The Vagina Monologues* have become a

worldwide success, having been performed in Paris, Sarajevo, Pakistan, Rome, Sydney, and Manila, just to name a few. Celebrities have performed in it, and countless colleges have held their own productions. It's a piece that shows not only the importance of sexuality, but it also addresses the sexual abuse and violence that too many women have to deal with every single year. Featuring such monologues as "My Angry Vagina," "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy...Or So They Tried," and "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," *The Vagina Monologues* is an experience you will never forget.

Now that I've introduced the play, let me introduce myself. I'm Austyn, one of the 10 students performing in Pacific University's production of *The Vagina Monologues*. I've never seen the show. I wasn't even going to try out, but decided to go to the auditions and heard one of the actresses read the monologue "My cShort Skirt." It's a piece full of attitude and empowerment that reminded me of a postcard on PostSecret, a website where people can send in anonymous postcards with secrets written on them. The postcard was a photo taken of a woman from the waist down wearing a miniskirt. Written on the photo was "This is the skirt I was raped in last New Year's. Tonight I'm reclaiming it."

As soon as I heard "My Short Skirt," I knew I wanted to perform it, and I wanted to perform it for her. She deserved it. She, whoever she was, was very courageous, and I hold immense respect and admiration for her.

Another member of the cast, Kaely Summers, first saw the play performed a couple of years ago. "I felt very uncomfortable watching it at first," Summers explained. "But I left the theater feeling incredibly empowered, and actually more comfortable with myself." I know that each practice I

leave feeling more proud of my femininity and yes, my vagina.

Go and see the Vagina Monologues. You will leave the theater being a little more proud of being a woman. For you men, it's an amazing piece and you will leave with a newfound respect for the amazing vagina.

Molly Fischer in India with CWGE



THE GUERRILLA GIRLS!!!!

Thursday, April 5, McCready (go to www.pacificu.edu for directions), 7:30, \$5.00 students/\$10.00 non-students

In 1985, a group of women artists founded the Guerrilla Girls. They assumed the names of dead women artists and wore gorilla masks in public, concealing their identities and focusing on the issues rather than their personalities. Between 1985 and 2000, close to 100 women, working collectively and anonymously, produced posters, billboards, public actions, books and other projects to make feminism and social change funny and fashionable through the use of provocative text, visuals and humor. They have written several books and created projects about the art world, film, politics and pop culture. They travel the world, talking about the issues and their experiences as feminist masked avengers and develop new and original

plays, performances and workshops, street theatre actions and residency programs that dramatize women's history and address the lack of opportunities for women and artists of color in the performing arts.

From www.guerillagirls.com: "We're feminist masked avengers in the tradition of anonymous do-gooders like Robin Hood, Wonder Woman and Batman. How do we expose sexism, racism and corruption in politics, art, film and pop culture? With facts, humor and outrageous visuals. Our work has been passed around the world by our tireless supporters. We've appeared at over 90 universities and museums in recent years, as well as in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Bitch*, *Mother Jones* and *Artforum*; on NPR, the BBC and CBC; and in many art and feminist texts. We are authors of stickers, billboards, many, many posters and other projects, and several books including *The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art*. We're part of Amnesty International's Stop Violence Against Women Campaign in the UK; we're brainstorming with Greenpeace; and we put up a new billboard in Hollywood just in time for the 2006 Oscars. WHAT'S NEXT? More creative complaining! More facts, humor and fake fur! More appearances, actions and artworks. We could be anyone; we are everywhere." NOW THEY WILL ALSO BE AT PACIFIC UNIVERSITY!

Sponsored by The Center for Women and Gender Equity, Departments of Art, Theatre and Dance, Feminist Studies.

Brown Bags:

Tuesdays, Noon to 1 p.m.
Fireside Lounge,
UC/Washburne Hall

2/6 Women & Mormonism

2/20 Report from India
3/6 Men Respond to Domestic
Violence
4/3 Exotic Dancers & Feminism
4/17 Witchcraft, Wicca, & Paganism

Special Events

2/9-11 The Vagina Monologues by Eve
Enslar
3/8 Take Back the Night Rally
4/5 Guerilla Girls
4/24 Equal Pay Day



CWGE India Program 2007
Pacific Students in Madurai, India

Women and Men Unite! Take Back the Night!

The Pacific University/Forest Grove
Take Back the Night

Thursday, March 8, 2007

7:00

Trombley Square, Pacific Campus
Keynote Speaker, Candlelight Vigil, and
Open Mic

Take Back The Night is a protest against the gendered violence upon women, children, and sexual minorities. This violence manifests itself through sexual assault, abuse, and harassment, rape, domestic violence, incest, and homophobic and transphobic-motivated hate crimes. Spousal abuse, date rape, and child molestation are violations that occur all too often in all communities,

including ours. Take Back The Night will be a march, rally, and vigil, held on the Pacific University campus and in Forest Grove to show solidarity and resistance to patriarchal violence as survivors and allies. We hope to partner with many groups, including men's organizations such as fraternities, various community groups, and other departments at Pacific University. The responsibility of ending violence motivated and sustained by patriarchy is everyone's responsibility.

The first Take Back The Night march to occur in the United States took place in 1978 in San Francisco. Survivor speak-outs have become a defining feature of Take Back The Night events, allowing survivors of violence to affirm their transition from victim to survivor. Take Back The Night originally started as a women-only event but has come to serve as an empowering event for all individuals to assert their right to be free from violence. As stated by the Headquarters for Take Back The Night, "The unifying theme throughout these diverse topics is the assertion that all human beings have the right to be free from violence, the right to be heard, and the right to reclaim those rights if they are violated." Pacific University and Forest Grove will be joining the hundreds of other schools and communities who participate in the Take Back The Night event and taken a stand against gendered violence.

GENDER IN THE GROVE (& BEYOND)

"Erase Hate" Bracelets

Rainbow coalition is selling the Mathew Shepard Foundation "Erase Hate" bracelets. One bracelet is \$2, three bracelets are \$5. All proceeds from the bracelets will go to Rainbow Coalition for Darcelle in March!

Make-Your-Own Gender-defying Coloring Book Workshops: Exploring gender with author Jacinta Bunnell

Wednesday, Feb 28, 7pm

In Other Words, Women's Books and Resources

8b NE Killingsworth St.

Portland, OR 97211

503-232-6003

www.inotherwords.org

Have you ever wanted the chance to turn Rapunzel into a national football hero? Hercules into a world-class jazzercise? Make Bert and Ernie their very own queen-size bed that they actually get to sleep in together? Now's your chance! Let the synthesis of your feminist sensibilities and all the fairy tales that have hurt your feelings bring your imagination and creativity to a whole new level. Come hang out with other boys who always wanted to be the Little Mermaid, women who engineer dare-devil roller coasters, and everyone in between. These engaging, hands-on workshops are akin to spending an hour and a half in the arts and crafts cabin at your favorite summer camp. Using found images from popular and unpopular children's media, you will transform these ordinary images into a subversive coloring book, writing new scripts for characters you always wanted to rebel against. Now you can set them free! The pages you create will be combined with the other participants' pages, forming a collectively-made coloring book. Each participant will later receive a copy of the book!

Darcelle

Coming up in March, Darcelle XV will be on campus, thanks to the Rainbow Coalition. Darcelle XV & Company are the oldest company of female impersonators in the United States, and have been entertaining for over 37 years with their Las Vegas style cabaret, glamour, and comedy. Their show will

be on campus March 13th at 9 pm in the Milky Way. The show is free to Pacific students. To learn more go to <http://www.darcellexv.com/index.php>.

CWGE NEWS

Return from India

On December 31, 2006 fifteen students and one professor embarked on a journey sponsored by the Center for Women and Gender Equity to Southern India. Myself along with fourteen other students followed our fearless leader Professor Ajoy Koomer into the most foreign country imaginable. We spent the majority of our time in the state of Tamil Nadu, city of Madurai at Lady Doak College you can check out the college at

<http://www.ladydoak.org/intro.htm>.

The Language spoken in Tamil Nadu is Tamil, which spoken or written does not even slightly resemble anything any of us had ever heard or seen.

The total unfamiliarity of the language carried to everything else about the culture. You don't even eat with the same utensils one would see in the United States; instead you eat with the fingers of your right hand. Swimming involved full clothing and, for your average Indian woman not getting into the water much over their knees.



Nuevo Amancer

The CWGE has been running the Nuevo Amancer, or New Dawn, program for the last couple of years. This program teaches Latina custodial workers English, with the Center's staff providing educational enrichment for the children of the workers. The class is one hour and meets twice a week at the UCC Church.

(Below picture courtesy of Austyn McPherson. Two New Dawn students, along with one of their children, eat dinner with their teacher Pamela and her assistant before winter break.)



CWGE's Slam Poetry Festival

The CWGE slam back in October was awesome! Poets Chatterbox and Trevino came to showcase their work. In addition to our featured guests, we heard a smorgasbord of excellent student poetry with topics ranging from love, religion and politics, to feminism, sex and humor. The CWGE gave away prizes to three students. Miriam Kramer, Matthew Trotter, and Megrez Mosher won for their excellent renditions of their work. And who knows? Perhaps you could be the one with the prize next time! If you make our next poetry slam, that is. You should...all the cool poets are doing it.



Slam Poetry Winner Miriam Kramer



Slam Poetry Winner Megrez Mosher

Rampton Recognized Regionally

Rampton earns "Staff/Faculty of the Month" for the month of October by the Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls.

Pacific's chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) has received the regional "Of the Month" awards for October by the Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (PACURH.). These awards honor the people, organizations, and programs that work to make living in residence halls a richer experience.

Martha Rampton, History Professor and Center for Women and Gender Equity Director, was recognized as "Staff/Faculty of the Month" for her exceptional work in planning meaningful

events for students through the CWGE.

THE FACE OF CWGE:

Callie Vandewiele



When Callie Vandewiele first began taking classes at Clackamas Community College at the age of sixteen she thought she might try being a music major; after all, she had always loved music. She was a proficient pianist and vocalist and found that the music classes she took at CCC (Clackamas Community College) were the highlight of her education. It was when she was introduced to a music theory textbook that she decided maybe she'd try something that she had more of a background in. So Callie set out to get a degree in history. Her first two jobs had been working at living history museums (one of them a replica of Columbus's Nina) and as a relatively inactive Civil War and Renaissance re-enactor Callie was convinced that History would be interesting ...and it was. Callie just didn't want to clean antiques or teach high school. She was however fascinated by English Literature. So Callie decided to try a degree in either one or both of those fields. That was until she met Professor Derr, who scared the hell out of her and taught many of the first and second year English classes at CCC. So Callie

decided not to take first and second year English and as a result not to get a degree in English or Literature or English Literature.

That was when it hit Callie that it was theater that called out to her. Having been introduced to the stage at age five she'd been in over fifty productions as an actor, singer or techie in addition to directing full length productions. She'd also competed on the CCC speech team and won two national titles and she figured that communications credits could easily transfer to a degree in theater. This lasted one entire term until Callie graduated from CCC and transferred to Pacific University. She has decided to major in Political Science

Besides actually getting an education Callie enjoys Crew Rowing, has blackbelts in Tae Kwon Do & Kyushu Jitsu, misses her cat, loves working for CWGE, directing the Vagina Monologues, and still holds out hope that the tin foil really will keep the alien brain waves out.

GENDER SPEAKS

(send your letters to Gender Speaks at cge@pacificu.edu)

Dear Gender Speaks:

I want to buy a Vagina Monologues T-shirt. Where can I get one.

Signed: Missed the chance.

Dear Missed the Chance:

You can still get VM T-shirts, pussy-pops and buttons. Just call the Center.

Director: Martha Rampton
Assistant Director: Cecelia Warner

Project Coordinator of Psychological

Services: Michelle Conley
School of Professional
Psychology (SPP)

Jaime Larson (SPP)
Jessica Bolton (SPP)
Donna Fogg (SPP)

Project Directors:

Lesley Bart (**Student Director**)
Devin Cusack
Celeste Goulding
Austyn McPherson
Erin Murray
Callie Vandewiele
Mel Yeates

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