



PUBLICATION OF THE LUTHER DIVERSITY CENTER

LUTHER
COLLEGE

The VOICE, VISIBILITY & LEADERSHIP for Diversity

SYNERGY



March 2005
Volume 3 Issue 6

CONVERSATION WITH SHEILA

Straight from the desk of Executive Director Sheila Radford-Hill

Women's History Month

Michelle Wallace will give a lecture at Gettysburg College this month. Michelle is the black feminist who wrote Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman back in the late 70s. Black Macho called into question the practice of controlling African-American women by accusing them of emasculating black men. Wallace is a woman of courage because she raised issues of sexism at a time when neither black men nor women had any interest in openly addressing this problem within the black community, especially in light of the battle being waged to defeat racism. Yet, without some 'push back' from the sisters, any independent action by a black woman could be misconstrued as a willful attempt to emasculate black men or to subjugate the black community. Standing up to black men was tough but black women were not too interested in feminism. For one thing, many knew about white women's racism because they had experienced it while working as domestics. Others knew about it from experiences with white women in the labor market. Still others remember how their mothers or other mothers had explained the problem to them. On the whole, black women were very suspicious of any movement that required building coalitions with white women.

Being a black feminist was challenging to say the least. For instance, it seemed impossible back in the 70s and 80s to tell folks that black men were not so fragile that they required the subservience of women to prosper. Then, there was the difficulty of explaining that it was sexism not feminism that eroded the stability of the black or any other ethnic community.

Patriarchal traditions subvert the aspirations of powerless males by using race, class, or nationality, ethnicity or religion to socially sanction access to women. This access/control acts like an escape valve that allows the pressures and tensions that build up in the struggle of the dominated by the dominant to be released. As you might imagine, men whether powerful or powerless can benefit from controlling women. This valve can allow the most desperate and degenerate systems of male power to maintain three important privileges: 1) the male members of the powerless group are allowed to subjugate women within their group. 2) dominant

males have the right to control women whose status comes from being favored by a powerful man, and 3) the dominant male has the right to control women who have neither status or power.

The presence of this 'escape' valve encourages men within the same ethnic group to try and erect systems of subjugation similar to what they experience in the broader society.

In the early days of black feminism, Michelle Wallace reminded us that despite the long and bloody work against race discrimination, men could still close ranks against women who wanted to fight for gender justice. As an activist, Michelle Wallace was one of the founders of the National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO). She is one of the most prolific organizers and activists involved in helping black women to confront gender oppression in their communities.

Chicana feminist Gloria Anzaldua died in 2004 but should be honored during this Women's History Month. While Michelle Wallace and others, such as, the late Toni Cade Bambara, Barbara Smith, and the late Audre Lorde were defining black feminism; Gloria Anzaldua was defining Latina feminism. As a lesbian, she provided a glimpse of life in the shadows of an alienated culture. Gloria's best known work, Borderlands, is part history and part memoir. In the book, Anzaldua captures the experiences of sexism, homophobia, and violence the Chicana women of her childhood faced as they crossed the Mexican border in search of a better life. Anzaldua's social critiques elevated cultural knowledge and 'women ways of knowing' to a feminist critical epistemology. Her insights enrich the work of Patricia Hill Collins (Black Feminist Thought), Paula Giddings (When and Where I Enter), and Lani Guinier (Miner's Canary). This women's history month, please take time to discuss the work of these writers. They are the women on whose shoulders we stand.

GROUP CORNER: Focus on an LDC group

BTQ: Beta Theta Omega

BTQ (Beta Theta Omega) is a women's leadership organization that promotes the development of leadership skills in women for the good of their personal growth as well as for the contributions they may make to campus and eventually, to the larger world. BTQ's motto is Truth-Honor-Personal Integrity.

The organization's first chapter was founded in November 2000 at the Upper Iowa University. In May 2002, 11 students and one staff member founded a chapter of BTQ at Luther. Although BTQ carries a Greek name, it is not affiliated with any Greek organization at Luther. The Greek name is used to indicate BTQ's bond with its sister chapters at Upper Iowa, Wartburg College and Hamline University, which are all Greek organizations.

In recent semesters, BTQ has done a number of service projects and outreach events. The group has taken trips to women's centers in Waterloo, IA and Chicago, IL. Last year, they also organized a progressive dinner, which involved Decorah town residents. BTQ also donated funds to Live on Winnebago, and each year sponsors a family for Christmas Cheer. Currently BTQ is working on organizing its second annual high school women's leadership conference, which will draw high school age girls from the N.E.Iowa region.

BTQ seeks new members each fall. However, there is a membership drive this March. Please contact Wintlett Taylor-Browne (brownewi@luther.edu) or Nana Amu (amunan01) for more information.

March Events

March 4 10:00 am Ethnic Arts Chapel *CFL Main Hall*

March 5 Ethnic Arts Festival *CFL Main Hall*

March 11 7:00 pm Vagina Monologues Performance *CRH*

March 12 7:00 pm Vagina Monologues Performance *CRH*

March 13 3:00 pm Vagina Monologues Performance *CRH*

March 12 9:00 am – 3:00 pm BTQ Women's Leadership Conference *Olin 102*

March 29 7:30 pm Judy Shepard Lecture *CFL Main Hall*

April 3-9 Pride Week

March is Women's History Month. Please see the Women's Studies schedule on page 5 for more exciting March events!

International Students Corner

Hopefully everyone has had a great start to the semester! Ethnic Arts!!!! 2005 Theme is *Art Beats: Rhythms of the World*. Call the LDC if you want to get involved. There are LOTS of ways to get involved. Bring friends it's not just for international students!!!!

1 - Work Permits - If something has changed in your financial situation that would require you to work off campus this summer, *now is the time to apply*. Work permits take *at least* 90 days to be processed, and sometimes much longer.

2 - OPT - If you're planning to work under Optional Practical Training after May graduation, now is the time to apply as well. You cannot apply after you have graduated

3 - Driver's Licenses - Luther's policy on drivers of college vehicles is strict. You must have had a license for two years before you can drive a Luther van or car. This means if you want to apply (in the future) for the International Student Assistant position, you should make sure you get a U.S. driver's license now. The Facilities Management Office *will* however, allow for time you've had an International Driver's License. Questions? Call Amy or Wintlett.

4 - Income Tax Workshop

Income tax workshops for international students will be on Tuesday, March 8. Workshop for non-treaty countries will be at 7 pm. Workshop for treaty countries (Japan, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Poland) will be at 8 pm. Please bring your passport and a pen and **ALL W-2s**. The workshops will take place in Olin 208.



**Diversity Center Groups
Leaders for Spring Semester**

Asian Student Association

Yee Seir Kee, Sanae Yamaura, Molly Sheppard,
Shovit Bhari, Jennifer Dait

Black Student Union

Eliot Williamson
Alex Nugent

Luther Feminists

Carissa Sojka
Kathryn Hobson

Beta Theta Omega (BTQ)

Nana Amu
Kathy Patten

Muslim Student Association and Allies

Hodo Hersi
Sadad Ali

Student Diversity Action Coalition

Meghan Karels
Carly Elmgren
Lissa Flaaten

PRIDE

Samantha Kemp, Lindsay Sumner, Andrea
Nelson, Thaddaeus Morelock, Mischa Turisch,
Josh Boetcher, Mandy Robbins.

- ⇒ Have questions?
- ⇒ Need information?
- ⇒ Have suggestions?

Please contact us at
diversity@luther.edu or
phone 1014

**Important Reminder for
International Students:**

The Residence Halls will be closed during Spring Break. The only open residences will be Towers (Miller and Dieseth), Baker Village, College Apartments and the Language Houses. If you cannot find a room to stay in at one of those buildings, please contact the Residence Life Office for assistance (x. 1330).

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dara Stull
- 1 Steve Bennett
- 3 Andrea Trimble
- 4 Maria Savage
- 11 Megan Sheppard
- 11 Molly Sheppard
- 12 Janice Mensah
- 12 Alexandria Lancaster
- 14 Nicole Gamez
- 15 Chien Mai
- 16 Thomas Cardinal
- 22 John Williams
- 25 Lindsay Sumner
- 26 Eric Abaka
- 26 Gayan Agalawate
- 26 Katie Sauter
- 27 Illana Stanley
- 31 Kweku Banka
- 31 Brajesh Lacoul

Work Opportunities !!!

We are still looking for suitable applicants to fill the following positions for 2005-2006:

- ⇒ International Student Assistants (2)
- ⇒ Outreach Assistant
- ⇒ Resource Assistant
- ⇒ P&J House Coordinator
- ⇒ Customer Service Assistant

All Applicants must :

- have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- have taken at least one diversity course on or off campus, or posses relevant diversity experiences
- have a working knowledge of Microsoft works suite
- be able to work independently

Applications are available in the LDC office. Completed applications are to be returned by March 9, 2005.



March International Days of Celebration

- ◆ 4th -Sri Lanka National Day: independence from Britain in 1948
- ◆ 5th - Mexico Constitution Day: adoption of a national constitution in 1917
- ◆ 9th– Lunar New Year: observed by many Asian countries and communities during the first three days of the first lunar month.
- ◆ 9th– Christian Ash Wednesday: the beginning of Lent a 40 day period of fasting & self examination.
- ◆ 11th Japan National Foundation Day: accession of Emperor Jimmu Tenno to the throne
- ◆ 14th– USA Race Relations Day: started in 1924 to encourage understanding among all races.
- ◆ 19th Nepal– National Democracy Day: introduction of democratic government and the 1952 adoption of a constitution
- ◆ 21st– USA Presidents’ Day: celebrates birthdays of George Washington & Abraham Lincoln
- ◆ 21st– Bangladesh Martyrs’ day: honors martyrs who died in 1952 when Urdu was made the official language.
- ◆ 26th– Baha’i Intercalary days: time of rejoicing generosity and welcoming neighbors in preparation for fasting March 2-20.
- ◆ 27th- Dominican Republic: independence from Haiti in 1844

PRIDE Members Attend Midwest Conference

Over 20 members of Luther’s PRIDE group attended a conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota February 18-20. The conference, known as MBLGTACC (Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Ally College Conference) occurs every February at a different university in the Midwest.

The conference opened on Friday afternoon with initial workshops and a keynote speaker, Mandy Carter. She spoke about the intersections of racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism and homophobia. On Saturday, there were more workshops and several keynote speakers. Interestingly, Luther was one of the best-represented schools at the conference. Luther PRIDE brought 24 students to the conference, which is roughly 1% of the Luther student body! Comparably, Luther brought more students than most other Iowan schools, including the big universities.

Two PRIDE members, Thaddaeus Morelock and Joseph Glazebrook, presented workshops at the conference. One workshop described how to construct a non-hierarchical GLBTQA group. The other addressed some of the issues and concerns of GLBTQA groups on small campuses. The workshops were a big success, drawing significant numbers of participants. Luther PRIDE has made a name for itself in the region. PRIDE hopes to continue this legacy of a supportive community and successful student organizing on campus, in the region and in the nation.

PRIDE wishes to thank all individuals and department who sponsored its members to this conference.

Vagina Monologues are at Luther!

Last year over 1100 communities hosted V-Day benefits around the world raising funds and awareness towards ending violence against women. From Oklahoma City to London to Cairo, V-Day benefits celebrated the work of local ‘Vagina Warriors,’ women and men working toward ending violence against women at the community level. These highly successful events raised over \$4 million through performance of Eve Ensler’s award-winning play, “The Vagina Monologues.” Hot on the heels of their success, Luther College has joined this global movement as part of the V-Day 2005 College Campaign. For the fourth year in a row Luther College will present a benefit production of “The Vagina Monologues” in the Recital Hall of the CFL on March 11th, 12th at 7 pm and March 13th at 3 pm on behalf of the V-Day 2004 College Campaign. This benefit production is sponsored by the Luther College Feminists. Tickets go on sale on Friday, February 25, 2005 and can be purchased for \$5 per person at the box office in the CFL.



March is Women's History Month: Women Empowered

The initial rumblings of Women's History Month occurred on March 8, 1957 when garment workers in New York City staged one of the first organized protests by women. Years later, in 1978, a Women's History Week was declared in March. By the early 1980s, the week had become a month. In 1987, Women's History Month was officially declared after the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to make the entire month of March a commemoration and celebration of women.

The Women's Studies Department at Luther College sponsors a multitude of events during Women's History Month, including brown bag discussions, lectures, drama and chapel speakers. Check out the awesome events:

February 1-March 18	<i>Women Pioneers in Design</i> by Aaris Sherin	Preus Library Upper floor	Fri., Mar. 11	<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	7 pm CRH
Feb.-March	Women Artists from the Luther College Fine Arts Collection	Preus Library Main and Upper floors	Sat., Mar. 12	Opening for <i>VM: Surviving</i> by Andrea Lach Dean	5:30 pm, CRH
Mon., Feb 28	<i>Eve</i> Performance by Michele LaRue	12:30 pm, TBA		<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	7 pm, CRH
Tues., Mar. 1	<i>Dishes</i> Performance by Michele LaRue	10:30 am, CFA Studio II	Sun., Mar. 13	<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	3 pm, CRH
Tues., Mar. 1	Sihier Lecture: Christie Neuger	7:30 pm CRH	Mon., Mar. 14	Women's Hist. Month Chapel: Sandra Peter and Pike Kor	10 am, CFL
Tues., Mar. 1	Women's History Month Kick-Off & official welcome to the new Women's Studies faculty member, Wanda DeiFelt, (Religion and Philosophy).	3:30-5 pm Peace and Justice House-Women's Center	Thur., Mar. 17	"Stories of Women in Science" Dr. Jodi Enos-Berlage and Dr. Olga Rinco	12:30 Borlaug Room, Union
Wed., Mar. 2	"Hey Man, Are you a Feminist?" A panel of men talking about feminism	11:30 Mott Room, Union	Fri. Mar. 18	Senior Chapel: Andrea Nelson	10 am, CFL
Mon., Mar. 7	Women's Hist. Month Chapel: Deirdre Egan	10 am, CFL	Tues., Mar. 29	Judy Shepard (mother of Matthew Shepard), Lecture	7:30 pm, CFL Main Hall
Tues., Mar. 8	<i>Surviving</i> by Andrea Lach Dean (a one person play about an African woman with AIDS)	8 pm, Marty's	Thur. Mar. 31	Women's Hist. Month Chapel: Bill Craft	10 am, CFL
Wed., Mar. 9	"A theology of Human Bodies" Dr. Wanda Deifelt	11:30 Mott Room, Union	Fri. Apr. 1	Women's Hist. Month Chapel: Sarah Stadler-Ammon	10 am, CFL