

WOMANIFESTO

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Herstory: Ann Hutchings— A Compassionate, Plant-Based Response to HIV/AIDS in South Africa
- Tunnel of Oppression has finally arrived at MSU
- The President's Fine Art Series

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By Betsy Danforth

Each Spring, we look forward to Women's History Month to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of our foremothers. The National Women's History Project theme for this year's celebration is: "Women's Education— Women's Empowerment." For obvious reasons, this theme is particularly pertinent to a University population. We realize that education is often the road to self-awareness and certainly, self-betterment.

Many of us today take the benefits of Title IX for granted, but it was only a short time ago that equal opportunity in education was not readily available to girls and women. We cannot forget that less than 180 years ago, no chartered colleges admitted women; we cannot forget that Harvard, the first chartered college in the U.S., refused to admit women for almost two hundred years, and then, opened an Annex college -Radcliff— instead of admitting women; we cannot forget that single-sex education was the norm until the 1970's. Women's courses of study were often different from men's, and women had few role models since the vast majority of professors, and certainly top administrators, were male; we cannot forget that up until less than 100 years ago, women's sports were derided as a threat

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Letter from the Director's Chair

to femininity, reproductive health, and gender roles as a whole.

The public scrutiny of perceived athletic inequities supposedly fueled by Title IX will be examined by ESPN in their upcoming celebration of Women's History Month. The three-part video series will feature female sports writers and coaches who will discuss the impact as well as the pros and cons of this ruling. Panelists will also discuss the direct impacts that Title IX had on their careers, as well as the impact on gender notions in general.

Title IX has been publicly and repeatedly criticized for causing reverse discrimination in the field of sports. Writer and Title IX blogger, Kristine Newhall, addresses this critique: "It seems difficult to argue that Title IX is creating reverse discrimination when boys and men have always had and continue to have more opportunities." Instead, many argue, Title IX has yet to reach its full potential and promise.

Currently, more women than men are attending college. John Campanelli from the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* found that for the first time in history, the 2008-2009 aca-

demic year found more women earning Doctorate degrees than men in the U.S. In 2010, 57% of undergraduates in U.S. colleges and universities were women—in 1947, that number was 30%.

Clearly, women are as enthusiastic about education as our male counterparts. We have embraced learning and education with great zeal, and this is evident in our numbers and successes in academia. "The equal opportunity to learn, taken for granted by most young women today, owes much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendments...It has become the primary tool for women's fuller participation in all aspects of education...Indeed, it transformed the educational landscape of the United States within the span of a generation." (National Women's History Project).

In honor of Women's History Month this year, be sure to celebrate all those in your lives who have contributed to your educational opportunities: teachers, parents, coaches, professors, and even university administrators. Without them, you would no doubt have fewer interesting opportunities.

SACK LUNCH SEMINARS



SACK LUNCH SEMINARS

From Noon to 1pm

FEBRUARY 29

International Views of Women: Trends and Issues in Education

SUB 168

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, provides secondary-school teachers from Europe, Eurasia, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their

teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. TEA teachers travelled to the U.S. to participate in a six-week professional development program at MSU beginning in February. This event, presented by MSU's Office of International Programs in partnership with the Bozeman Public schools and MSU's Department of Education to welcome twenty-two English teachers to Bozeman, a handful of whom will discuss educational issues in their respective countries and how these issues affect them as women.

MARCH 7

The Awakening of New Womanhood in America

SUB 168

This women's history seminar, led by Mary Biehl, a PhD student in American Studies at MSU, focuses on the late 19th century American feminist ideal of the New Woman - a woman who pushed against the limits that society placed upon her between the 1890s and the 1920s. Rather than subscribe to the tenants of the Victorian-American Cult of Domesticity, most of the primarily middle-class New Women left the sphere of the home to pursue the "unfeminine" worlds of higher education, working professionals and politics on the grounds of there being equality between the sexes. Mary will discuss how aspects of New Womanhood intertwined with the suffragette movement into what we know today as First-Wave Feminism and will also visually trace the portrayals and perceptions of New Women through various mediums of turn-of-the century American culture, such as literature, advertisements, essays, art, theater, etc.

MARCH 21

Naturalizing Gender Hierarchies and the Invention of Sex in the Eighteenth-Century

SUB 168

Contemporary scholars are increasingly willing to discuss the construction of gender, but often overlook the historical construction of sex. Throughout the eighteenth-century, Enlightenment science encouraged the exploration and categorization of the natural world, leading to the invention of the biological sexes. Join Natalie Scheidler, graduate student in the MSU History program specializing in race and gender in U.S. History, for this discussion of the ways in which understanding how identities have historically been assigned to biological and gendered bodies assists in the understanding of contemporary sex and gender norms. More importantly, it identifies spaces for the reconstruction of conceptions of the biological sexes and the identities associated with the biological and gendered body.

MARCH 28

Pow Wow Planning 2.0 *Procrastinator Theater, SUB*

Join us for this informative session about the intricacies of planning a large scale university pow wow. MSU's April pow wow is the only free university pow wow in Montana. Come and learn about the depth and breadth of planning, organizing and fundraising that the MSU students do in order to present this stellar event for the campus and community year after year!

HerStory: Ann Hutchings— A Compassionate, Plant-Based Response to HIV/AIDS in South Africa

By Kathleen Rausch

The MSU Women’s Center sponsored a Sack Lunch Seminar last fall titled, “AIDS: 30 Years and Counting.” Laura Mentch, Health Educator at BridgerCare, along with several guests, shared compelling personal and medical histories of AIDS in the U.S. Over the past three decades, AIDS has morphed from an unknown disease with varying manifestations that mysteriously claimed individual lives, to a pandemic threatening populations around the world. I appreciated learning more about the history of AIDS in the United States and the significant markers along these past 30 years.

Much of my own knowledge about AIDS has come from my interest in South Africa, which has one of the highest incidences of HIV infections worldwide. According to South African government statistics, an estimated 5.24 million people are living with AIDS in South Africa, a shocking 10.5% of their total population. In the province of KwaZulu Natal, an estimated 39.5% of women accessing antenatal clinics are infected with HIV.

South Africa also has an enormous variety of plant species. One of the six global Floral Kingdoms resides within the borders of South Africa. This small country, so rich in plant diversity, accounts for 10% of the world’s flowering species. Many of the plants have a long history of medicinal use by indigenous populations and varying degrees of use by the modern population.

In 2005, I traveled to South Africa and had the opportunity to work with Anne Hutchings, a Research Fellow in the Department of Botany at the University of KwaZulu Natal, to learn more about the intersection of AIDS and medicinal plants. In 1999, Anne was invited to collaborate with an HIV/AIDS clinic at Ngwelezana Hospital, where she introduced creams she had developed using locally grown plants for the treatment of skin problems commonly encountered in

the area. She was also able to introduce a plant called *Sutherlandia frutescens* and two other medicinal plant products for the treatment of various opportunistic infections. All of Hutchings’ research was conducted with informed and consenting patients.

I originally learned of the plant *Sutherlandia* through Credo Mutwa, a traditional healer from South Africa. A hearty vetch, *Sutherlandia* grows in the Western Cape of South Africa and the hills of Zululand, and repairs nitrogen in the soil through nodes on the roots. *Sutherlandia* is a beautiful plant with brilliant red flowers and balloon shaped seedpods. Recognized by indigenous residents of Southern Africa, *Sutherlandia* is used to support people in times of physical and emotional distress. The Sotho call the plant *motlepele*, meaning “bring back the heart,” and employ it as a traditional treatment for shock and stress. The ancient Zulu name, *insiswe*, means, “that which dispels darkness,” alluding to a mood elevating quality as well as a tonic for numerous health ailments. In modern Zulu, the plant is called *umwele*, or “hair” referring to the quality of hair-pulling despair that the plant is purported to help relieve. Afrikaners (white settlers of Dutch descent) who developed an intimate connection with the harsh landscape, also developed an affinity for the plant, calling it *Kankerbossie*, or Cancer Bush. I found my attention catalyzed by this plant, both as a pharmacological agent and for the subtle energetic qualities apparent in these indigenous labels.

In my research about studies focusing on *Sutherlandia*, I repeatedly came across Anne Hutchings’ name. I tracked her down, contacted her through the University of KwaZulu Natal, and told her of my interest in the plant and my intended trip to South Africa. Anne graciously invited me to stay in her home and join her on her daily rounds with the clinical trial and hospice visits. I discovered a person embodying the true spirit of gen-

erosity in Anne, and met her at her home in Empangeni, near the university where she and her late husband raised their children. Her garden was magnificently overgrown, and I didn’t get the sense that the security gate was all that secure, or that Cleo, the ancient German Shepherd who no doubt was once a feared guard dog would now effectively protect Anne or her home. Instead, I sensed an exhausted relaxation of the apartheid era vigilance and surrender to the new South Africa. In the true paradox of South Africa, Anne would not let me carry her camera to the local mall for fear of my being robbed, while her own actions exhibited an inner determination to build security through service.

For the few weeks that I spent with Anne, she invited me to join her on clinic days where we met patients who had no doubt made complex arrangements to be there, and who were lined up long before we arrived. Anne greeted each one with genuine kindness, asking about their families and the details of their daily lives. She doled out portions of coconut flakes and cookies, purchased out of her own grocery budget, and chronicled their health through weight, photographs, and extensive note-taking, as it was impossible to collect regular CD4 test results. She distributed *Sutherlandia frutescens* capsules along with *Warburgia salutaris* and African Ginger, in standardized extracts, developed by Dr. Nigel Gericke, depending upon each patient’s symptoms. Many patients also received Anne’s homemade creams that seemed to give immediate relief for a variety of skin conditions.

(Continued on page 4)

HerStory: Ann Hutchings— A Compassionate, Plant-Based Response to HIV/AIDS in South Africa (Continued)



The results of Anne's studies and other scientific investigations show that the application of Sutherlandia, when used in appropriate doses, and in conjunction with healthy lifestyle choices, can improve appetite and weight gain in HIV/AIDS patients, enhancing sleep and exercise tolerance. According to information compiled by Sutherlandia.org, "Most wasted patients show an increase in weight within six weeks of starting treatment. Weight gains of 10-15kg have been documented in wasted cancer and AIDS patients. Interestingly, weight-gain is typically not seen in people without underlying wasting conditions." Rather than being a cure, Sutherlandia might best be considered a "quality of life tonic" so desperately needed by AIDS patients.

In addition to our days at the clinic, we made home hospice visits along with government hospice workers. Anne instructed caretakers in the fundamentals of massage, recognizing the human need for touch. She helped to bring down the barriers and fear that often leave patients feeling isolated. Anne also took me to see Sister Priscilla Dlamini who runs the Holy Cross Hospice, and they made quite an impression as two determined and loving women facing a major epidemic in a hands-on, no nonsense manner.

As much as I began my journey to Africa with an interest in medicinal plants, I found myself equally inspired and touched by this human connection. I was moved by Anne's professionalism, determination, and compassion. In Anne Hutchings, I met a

human being who has taken up the call to be of service, finding a way for her gifts to uplift her community in the face of overwhelming need. I hope the seed of service I witnessed in Anne has the opportunity to grow in me.

www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022010.pdf

www.avert.org/south-africa-hiv-aids-statistics.htm

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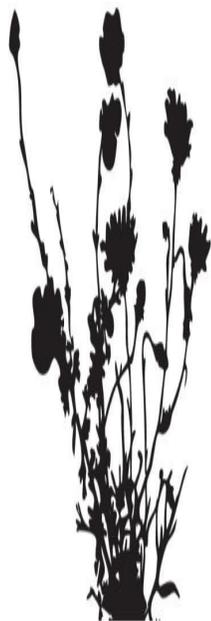
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www.sutherlandia.org/aids.html

www.naturalnews.com/028085_cancer_bush_wasting_diseases

S T A F F B I O ' S



Director Betsy Danforth has been the director of the MSU Women's Center for nineteen years. and studied Women's Studies and History at Pitzer College. She has been a Bozeman resident for 25 years where yoga, reading, volunteering, hiking, playing volleyball, and spending time with loved ones are a few of her favorite activities.

Assistant Krystal Fischer is a senior working on a double major in Business Management and Political Sci-

ence, and a minor in the Entrepreneurship program. When her 3-year old son isn't keeping her busy, she likes reading biographies, watching The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, and football.

Assistant Kelsey Joronen is a Graduate Student studying Architecture here at MSU. She is originally from Livingston, Montana, and enjoys the great outdoors. Other hobbies include reading, spending time with friends,

and being creative.

Volunteer Kathleen Rauch is new to Bozeman and is the mom of two teen-aged daughters. Kathleen is a Family Constellation Facilitator and Spiritual Counselor.

Volunteer Abbie Bandstra is a senior in English Literature and loves playing in an adult soccer league, reading, writing, playing in the great outdoors, and volunteering with local youth programs.

"A strong woman is a woman determined to do something others are determined not to be done."

~ Marge Piercy

2012 Montana State University's President's Fine Art Series Celebrates National Women's History Month!

Reel Women Film Series and Discussion

A slate of thought-provoking, humorous, and inspirational films that both celebrate and cast light on the multiple facets of the female experience. Screenings will be followed by an informal discussion and will be held in **VCB 182 (Corner of 11th and Grant) at 7 p.m.**

Thursday, March 1st *Dance, Girl, Dance* presented by Victoria O'Donnell

Thursday, March 8th *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*

Thursday, March 22nd *Girls Rock!* presented by Bozeman High School's Project X²

Thursday, March 29th *Git Along, Little Dogies (Short) & Mating for Life* presented by Cindy Stillwell

Premier Film Screening

Miss Representation - Film Screening/Panel – The film explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence. Director Jennifer Siebel Newsom will be present at the screening and will participate in a panel discussion. Other panel members will be MSU President Waded Cruzado, Arlynn (Arni) Fishbaugh, Executive Director of the Montana Arts Council, and Joe Thiel, MSU Student Regent. **Tuesday, March 20th at 6 p.m. in The Ellen Theater.** This event is free; however, seating is limited. Tickets are available on www.theellentheatre.com or by calling 406.585.5885.

Art Exhibits

Pioneers of Modernism: **Dean's Gallery in the College of Arts & Architecture Dean's Office (217 Cheever Hall). March 1st thru March 30th**

Identity/Representation: Student and Faculty Exhibition from the School of Film & Photography. **Helen E. Copeland Gallery. March 1st thru March 7th**

Personal Vision: **Cheever's Lower Gallery. March 5th thru March 30th**

Concert Performance

A Celebration of Women in Music **Tuesday, March 27th with the pre-event reception starting at 6:30 p.m. in Reynolds Recital Hall.**

Architecture Panel

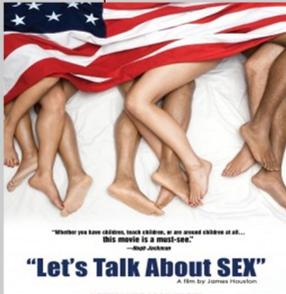
Architecture Friday – *Building Their Voice* - A panel of women presenting and discussing current issues: Have women found a voice in architecture? The balancing act between a professional life and a personal life. **March 30th at 5:30 p.m. in Gaines Hall 101.** Reception immediately following in Cheever's Lower Gallery.

PFAS is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors: MSU Office of the President, Ilse Mari and Denny Lee, MSU Leadership Institute, ASMSU, MSU Women's Center and MSU College of Arts and Architecture.

Montana Advocates for Sexual Health presents

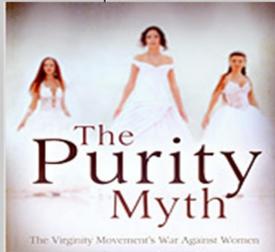
WTF!

Women & Their Future



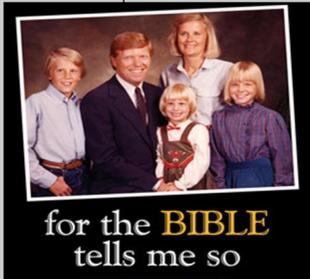
February 22nd @ 7 pm
Procrastinator

A revealing look at how American attitudes towards adolescent sexuality affect today's teenagers. Fear and silence around sex and sexuality also permeate our culture, and teens are paying a terrible price.



March 6th @ 3.30 pm *(co-sponsored by Students against Sexual Assault)*
Procrastinator

A look at "the virginity movement," an unholy alliance of evangelical Christians, right-wing politicians and policy intellectuals who exploit irrational fears about women's sexuality to roll back women's rights.



March 21st @ 7 pm
Procrastinator

Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Through the experiences of very normal, very Christian, very American families we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child.

Each film will be followed by a discussion panel

*A partnership of Planned Parenthood of Montana and Bridgencare
Co-sponsored by SASA, Students for Choice, Womens Center, and VOICE Center*

THE TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION COMES TO MSU

By Abbie Bandstra

The Diversity Awareness Office on the campus of Montana State is coordinating a unique and interactive event for the Strand Union Ballrooms on February 27th and 28th. The space will be transformed into a tunnel of interactive displays and exhibits engaging participants with issues of oppression.

The Tunnel of Oppression was first developed on the campus of Western Illinois University as means for students and members of the community to experience contemporary issues of oppression in an active, hands-on way. The tunnel is meant to highlight questions and issues surrounding power and privilege. Student and community organizations join together to create displays that consider and exemplify oppression around the world.

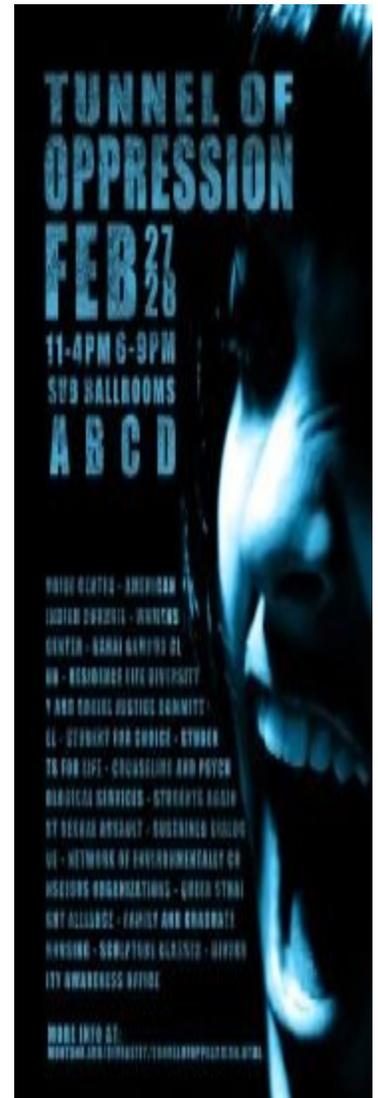
The experience of the tunnel is designed to place the participant in situations of op-

pression so they can engage both physically and emotionally. A tour guide leads groups through the tunnel providing information about each exhibit and allowing time for participants to interact with the display. The goal of the tunnel experience is that participants will be exposed to an array of issues surrounding oppression, lending to a greater awareness of diversity. The desired outcome is not to condemn or push any type of agenda, but rather to provide contact with several very important issues in contemporary society. In the provision of this exposure, it is the hope that dialogue about diversity and oppression can begin to happen in an informed way.

Criticism surrounding the Tunnel of Oppression on other campuses is mostly rooted in the Tunnel being too dependent

upon the use of emotion; either that it is too emotional and does not involve enough discussion, or the extremity of some displays seems unrealistic, causing emotion to be void. Some Tunnel's incorporate skits or other performances and this seems to be where most of the negative comments and experiences arise.

At MSU this month, the Tunnel of Oppression will feature exhibits by many student groups and university offices including the VOICE Center, American Indian Council, the Women's Center, Students for Choice, Residence Life Diversity, Bahai Campus Club, Counseling and Psychological Services and many others. Tours will be held @ 11 a.m - 4 p.m. and again from 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. on both days. Students and community members are encouraged to come by and experience this first-time MSU event.



SASA CAMPUS PROVOCATIONS

Tuesday, February 28th, SASA will host a discussion titled Major Division: College Gender Stereotypes. Several panelists will facilitate this conversation, including Nora Smith, Assistant dean of MSU's College of Agriculture. The dialogue will surround issues of gender stereotypes that encourage students to choose certain majors and careers.

Major Division is part of SASA's Campus Provocations

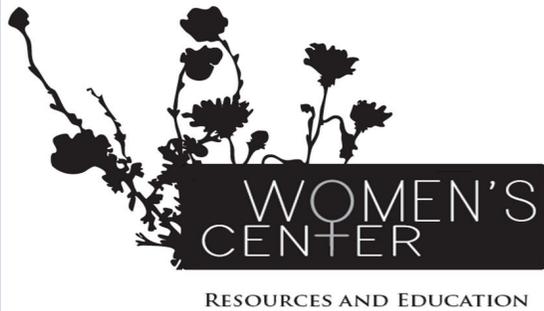
series. **The event begins at 3pm and will be held in room 168 in the Strand Union Building.**

The next film being shown for SASA's Screen It series will be *The Purity Myth*. This documentary explores what has been known as the "virginity movement": the affront to women's independence that includes a push for the abstinence of all teen girls. A discussion

will follow the film screening.

Montana Advocates for Sexual Health and the Women's Center will cosponsor *the Purity Myth* screening held at **3:30pm on Tuesday, March 6th in the Procrastinator Theater of the Strand Union Building.** **For more information on upcoming SASA events, please go to samsu.webs.com**





372 Strand Union Building
(Between the VOICE Center and KGLT)
Montana State University

Phone: 406-994-3836
Fax: 406-994-6900
website: [http://www.montana.edu/
wwwomen/](http://www.montana.edu/wwwomen/)
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MSU->

**Open 9am to 4pm Monday–Friday during
the academic year.**

Mission Statement:

The MSU Women's Center is a department in the division of Student Success. We are open to all students, staff, faculty and community members, and work toward promoting greater responsiveness to the needs of MSU women. Our focus is to empower women and men to create a campus environment that is equitable and supportive.



Women's Center
372 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717-2100

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