

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

*An editorially  
independent  
newspaper*

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE



## **Women sustaining the American spirit**

Take Back the Night strives to restore the freedom  
women have lost in a culture of fear, page 6



## From the Editor American spirit abounds

The "American spirit" is a phrase that has come to symbolize qualities that include diligence, resilience and ambition.

The theme chosen by the National Women's History Project for Women's History Month 2002 is "Women Sustaining the American Spirit." In this special section, there are several accounts of women sustaining and exemplifying their "American spirit" by taking up space and making their voices heard.

The women spearheading Take Back the Night are using their right to free speech and their right to assemble to take back the night from predators. Judith Iriarte-Gross is using her diligence to

focus on women in science. Columnists Callie Elizabeth Butler and Kelley Anderson are using their voices to express their opinions on feminism and activism. Women's athletics are using ambition to achieve gender equality in university sports.

All around us, women are making contributions to our society. On a large scale, the women who make the most change are the movers and shakers willing to lay everything on the line for their causes – a quality long associated with the "American spirit."

Susan B. Anthony knew what she was talking about when she said, "Cautious, careful people always casting about to preserve

their reputation or social standards never can bring about reform. Those who are really in earnest are willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathies with despised ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."

Women have a rich history worth recognizing and a rich future to cultivate. I hope this special section inspires you to appreciate the women of the past and to become a crusader for equality of the future. Don't tiptoe; be anything or nothing, and bear the consequences for what you believe in.

Lindsey Turner  
Special Section Editor



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Cover design by Drew Huddleston / Illustrator.

# Celebrating the Contributions of Women Women's History Month 2002

### Thursday, March 7

12 p.m. – A lecture titled "Neuroanatomical Evidence for the Organizational and Activation Effects of Gonadal Steroids" will be held in the Davis Science Building, Room 130.

7 p.m. – Jennifer Swann, associate professor of biological sciences at Lehigh University, will present a lecture titled "This is Your Brain on Steroids." The lecture, held in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building, will pertain to hormonal and pheromonal relationships between genders and how a variety of social behaviors are sexually dimorphic.

### Friday, March 8

12:30 p.m. – "Graduate/Professional School in Science for Minorities/Women: Questions and Answers" will be held in the Hazelwood Dining Room of the James Union Building. There, several minority and women professors will dine with interested graduates and undergraduates in an informal setting where they can ask/answer questions. All students are invited. For more information, contact Amy Jetton at 898-5952.

### Monday, March 11

7:30 p.m. – Photographer Jane Screibman will conduct a slide/lecture presentation in the McWherter Learning Resources Center, Room 221. Following the presentation, a reception will be held in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery, where her photos are on display.

### Tuesday, March 12

12:30 p.m. – Maj. Julie Norman, an experienced Army officer from Fort Knox, Ky., will share her personal experiences in a presentation titled "Women as Leaders." She will

discuss the importance of professional values and ethics as a leader in a predominantly male profession. Drinks will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch. For information, contact Todd Overby at 898-2470.

### Thursday, March 14

11 a.m. – Catherine Middlecamp of the University of Wisconsin-Madison will conduct a lecture titled "What Do Race, Ethnicity and Gender Have to Do with Thermodynamics?" in the DSB, Room 100. Middlecamp will explore the connections and relationships between race, ethnicity and gender and teaching chemistry.

7 p.m. – Medical scientist Areta Kowal-Vern will present a lecture titled "Who Will Have the Last LAFF? Women's Academic Experiences from the Legal Perspective" in the State Farm Room of the BAS. Kowal-Vern's presentation will recount her experiences with the Loyola University Medical Center, where she was fired along with nine other individuals, five of whom were female and over 40.

### Monday, March 18

12 p.m. – Dance choreographers Ann Shea and Nancy Ammerman, Women's Chorus Director Angela Tipps, lighting and sound design director Sparkle Ritter and costume designer Lori Gann-Smith will present a short lecture prior to their performance titled "Women's Works in Music, Theatre and Dance – Spirit of Collaboration," which begins officially at 12:30 p.m. During the lecture, viewers can have an informal discussion with the artists involved. Coffee and desserts will be provided, and those interested in hearing the lecture will gather in the Tucker Theatre lobby at noon. For more information, contact Shea at 898-2640.

### Wednesday, March 20

3:30 p.m. – The International Poetry Reading will be held

in the Alumni Center. Participants from different nationalities will take part by reading poems by women poets from all over the world. For more information, contact Soraya Nogueira at 898-5024.

### Thursday, March 21

3:30 p.m. – Arleen Tuchman will present a lecture titled "Do Women Make Better Doctors?: 19th Century Ideas About Women and Medicine." Tuchman's lecture will explore the history of women and science and how it relates to women doctors now.

### Wednesday, April 3

7 p.m. – "On Men, Women and the Rest of Us" will be the topic of transsexual performance artist Kate Bornstein's presentation in the Tennessee Room of the JUB. Bornstein is the author of *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us* and a diverse array of plays and performance pieces. Born a male, Bornstein underwent a gender change and wasn't satisfied with her experiences as either sex, and now identifies as neither a man nor a woman. For more information, contact Elyce Helford at 898-5961.

### Thursday, April 4

9 a.m. – Bornstein will conduct a "Degendering the Self" workshop in Dining Room C of the JUB. Pre-registration is required. Contact Helford for more information.

### Tuesday, April 23

6 p.m. – Poet Jessica Care Moore will lead "Soul Food: A Rendition of Poetry" in the LRC, Room 221. Moore gained recognition in 1995 after her performance on *Showtime at the Apollo* and has since published several books of poetry and established her own publishing company. For more information, call Chris Montague at 904-8418. ♦



# Women's athletics move up with Title IX

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

Women's athletics have changed drastically since the implementation of Title IX in 1972.

Title IX states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program activity receiving federal financial assistance."

The passage of Title IX opened the door for women's sports to become a reality at the collegiate level. Before Title IX, Middle Tennessee women's athletics were obsolete. Basketball existed as a club sport as far back as 1943, but no women's sports were sanctioned before the late 1970s.

"Before the '60s, '70s, a lot of people played because they loved it and they wanted to play," Associate Athletics Director Diane Turnham said. "They bought their own shoes, and they drove their own cars to a game, and they probably didn't have their own dressing room, or if they did, it was a cubby hole somewhere. Those people truly had to want to play the sport because they did not have some of the luxuries."

In 1971, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women formed as an overseer of women's athletics. The AIAW had 280 member institutions the first year. The rules were very different from the NCAA, and athletic scholarships and off-campus recruiting were prohibited.

During the 1970s and early '80s,

the NCAA fought to limit Title IX jurisdiction. The NCAA argued that intercollegiate athletics shouldn't be included in Title IX. In 1973, the NCAA revoked its rule prohibiting female student athletes from competing for NCAA championships only under legal advice.

In 1981-82, the NCAA, which had considered implementing women's sports as far back as 1922, decided to offer championships for women and ended the AIAW. This came 75 years after the NCAA was founded and 60 years after the first NCAA championship was held.

Basketball, track and tennis all began in the late '70s at MT. These teams competed in the Ohio Valley Conference, which offered women's championships in basketball, track and tennis beginning in 1977. Cross country and volleyball championships were added within the next four years. In 1982, the NCAA offered the OVC an automatic bid to its championship tournament.

In 1988, Congress passed the Civil Rights Restoration Act as a supplement to Title IX. The act requires all educational institutions receiving direct or indirect federal funds to follow Title IX laws.

Title IX was created to provide equality.

"The importance of Title IX is to provide opportunities for women that are the same that men have," said Compliance Coordinator Ellie Kunkel.

Turnham said the MT athletics department has tried to implement Title IX since the law was passed in 1972. However, in the mid-'80s, the department started looking at it

more closely.

Janet Ross, who played basketball from 1983-87, said the major differences between when she played and now are travel, funding and academic advising. During Ross' tenure, men's and women's teams rode to games on the same bus with no bathroom. The only times teams flew to games, Ross said, was for the NCAA tournament. As more funding came, teams flew more.

In 1993-94, the Office for Civil Rights received a complaint about MT. A compliance investigation that corresponded with the arrival of Athletics Director Lee Fowler followed.

One area of concern for the OCR and the athletics department was the ability to receive coaching.

"Then I didn't think we stacked up very well," Turnham said. "Because, for example, I myself was coaching two completely different sports in basketball and volleyball."

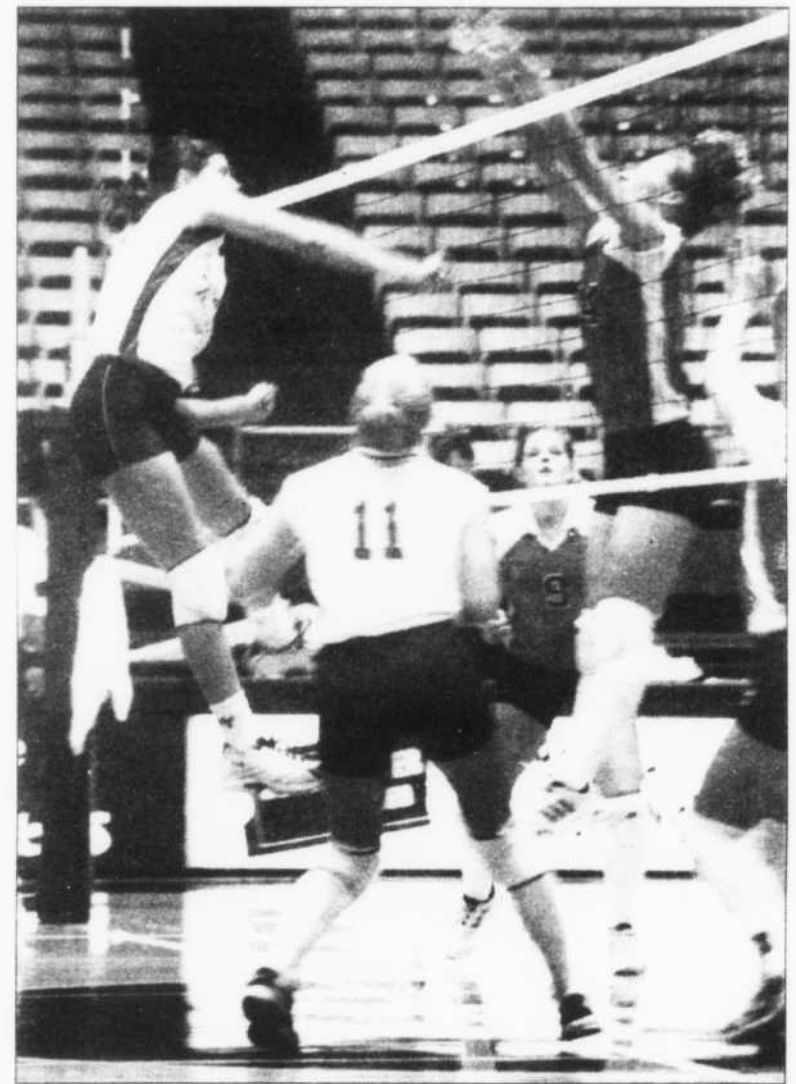
Many of the women's coaches had no assistant, coached more than one sport or were part-time coaches at that point.

"At that time, men's basketball had two full-time assistants and women's basketball had me, and I was coaching another sport," Turnham said.

Consequently, every major sport now has at least one assistant coach.

MT was found to be in compliance by the third prong. Title IX has three prongs, and as long as one of those is met, the school is compliant. The prongs state: 1) athletically related financial assistance be allocated in proportion to the

numbers of male and female students participating in intercollegiate athletics; 2) all other benefits, opportunities and treatment afforded participants of each sex be equivalent; and 3) the interests and abilities of students be effectively accommodated to the extent necessary to provide equal athletics oppor-



File photo

**Women's volleyball was added so MTSU would be compliant with Title IX laws enacted in the 1970s.**

tunity for members of both sexes.

"We have a history of adding women's sports," Turnham said.

This allows MT to be compliant with Title IX. In 1993, softball was introduced at MT, and in 1996, just a year after receiving the results of the OCR investigation, women's soccer was implemented.

"Our soccer program was a direct result of the OCR investigation," Turnham said.

Women's golf was added in fall 2001, and there is a possibility that equestrian will be added.

"That is a logical place for us to go when we decide we need to add another sport or financially we can afford to add," Turnham said.

Equestrian currently is a popular club sport with 40 participants, 30 being female.

While men's and women's athletics aren't necessarily equal,

women's sports at MT aren't far behind. According to Turnham and Kunkel, the facilities for women's sports are up to par. Turnham explained that, when she was the volleyball coach, the team played in the Alumni Memorial Gym. The volleyball team now plays in the Murphy Center.

The soccer team received a new field and practice facility, and a new outdoor track for both men and women was built. One thing the athletics department wants to do is build a new softball facility.

"We already know and have in our plan the statement that we know and want to get a softball facility," Turnham said.

Still, facilities are an area that is lacking, according to Turnham. She said the athletics department

**See Compliance, 10**

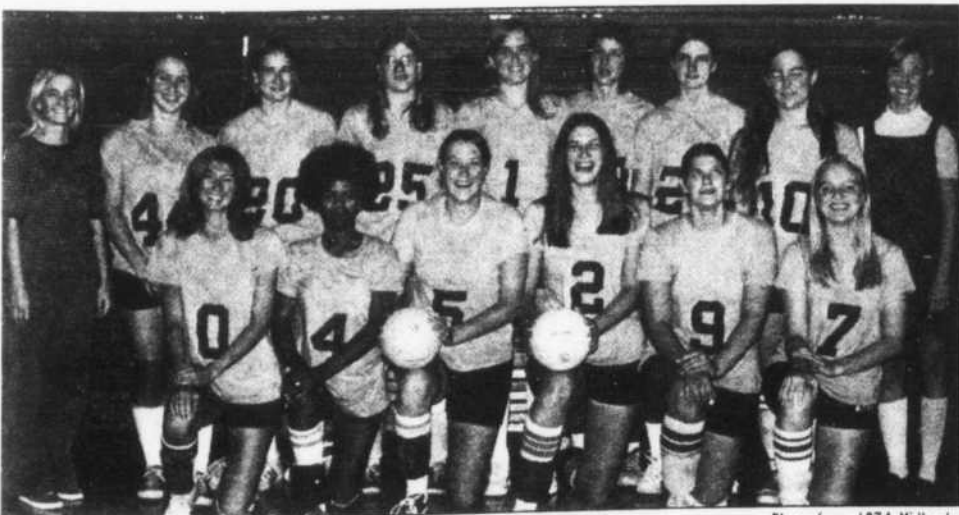


Photo from 1974 Midlander

**The 1974 women's volleyball team received very little funding and attention.**

# Diverse women chosen as this year's honorees

Compiled by Lindsey Turner  
Special Section Editor

Each year, the National Women's History Project ([www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)) honors several women they feel have contributed to the rich history of women and America.

This year's theme, "Women sustaining the American spirit," aims to celebrate women who have made major contributions to American culture and exemplified what it means to strive for equality, justice and freedom in everyday life.

## Alice Coachman

Alice Coachman exemplified her American spirit through her determination. In London, England, in 1948, during the Olympics, Coachman became the first American woman to win a gold medal in track and field.



Coachman

Coachman broke the previous world record in the high jump and challenged long-held assumptions about women's physical ability to participate in track and field.

She was born in Albany, Ga., in 1923. Denied access to public training facilities because of segregation policies, she ran barefoot on the back roads of Georgia. She used strings and ropes tied to sticks to create makeshift setups to jump over.

Overcoming the effects of segregation, she won 25 national titles as well as the Olympic gold.

After her Olympic victory, she returned to America to train other women athletes. Her legacy opened possibilities for future generations of women to participate and succeed in track and field.

Coachman has been honored with memberships in eight halls of fame, including the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the Albany Sports Hall of Fame.

## Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta's birth and life right after the infamous stock market crash of 1929 shaped her vision of the workforce — an issue she would champion throughout her

life.

Born in Dawson, N.M., in 1930, Huerta came to admire the strength, independence and ambition of her mother, who encouraged her to create her own life and her own sense of purpose.

Huerta graduated from Stockton College in the 1950s and began teaching in a farm workers' community. As she witnessed the devastating hunger of her students, she realized she needed to take direct action to eliminate the brutal conditions of poverty that defined their lives and their aspirations.

Huerta began organizing voters to participate in democratic reform. In 1962, along with Cesar Chavez, she co-founded what would become the United Farm Workers Union. Using non-violence, she organized a successful boycott of California table grapes that lasted five years and resulted in the California table grape industry signing a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the UFW.

She successfully lobbied for the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which grants farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions.

Huerta also tried to empower farm workers with information and skills to help them secure better living and working conditions.

## Patsy Mink

In the face of discrimination, Patsy Mink became the first woman of Asian descent to serve in the House of Representatives.

The granddaughter of Japanese immigrants, Mink was born in Maui in 1928. She began her political career when she ran for student body president in high school — a daunting task considering the anti-Japanese sentiment popular at the time. As a result of the election, she learned the importance of coalition building.

She enrolled at the University of Hawaii but transferred to the University of Nebraska, where she faced a policy of segregated student housing. Mink helped end the pol-

icy of discrimination. She returned to the UH and graduated with a degree in zoology and chemistry. In 1948, the 20 medical schools to which she applied refused to accept women.

Mink decided to study law and was accepted by the University of Chicago because they considered her a "foreign student." She obtained her doctorate of jurisprudence in 1951.

Mink became the first Asian-American woman to practice law in Hawaii. In 1956, she was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives. In 1965, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and began the first of six consecutive terms in the House. She was the first woman of color to be elected to Congress and served 12 total terms.

Mink introduced the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act and authored the Women's Educational Equity Act. She also played a key role in the enactment of Title IX of the Higher Education Act Amendments — a major staple in higher education, requiring that women's facilities and opportunities be equal with men's.

## Mary Louise Defender Wilson

Mary Louise Defender Wilson is a Dakotah/Hidatsa storyteller. Her stories connect the ancient with the present, the traditional with the modern and all life forms with each other. Her words testify to the complexity of America's history and the rich diversity of America's contemporary society.

Using the gifts passed down from her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother, she uses an ancient form of storytelling to convey her view of life's purpose. Her stories are based on the traditions of the Dakotah/Hidatsa people in promoting peace and respect among all people.



Mink

Wilson was born on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Shields, N.D., in October 1930. From her earliest years, she was immersed in the stories handed down through the centuries by storytellers who kept alive the legends of the past. Using the Dakotah and English languages, she began storytelling when she was 11 years old. Repeating the stories of her elders, she learned to respect and honor conflict resolution.

Her life and works blend traditional Dakotah/Hidatsa ways with those of contemporary America. She uses her storytelling to foster knowledge and respect for one's own culture as the bridge to communication and respecting the culture of others.

Today, she continues her work through radio programs and CD recordings and tells stories that celebrate the idea that all generations need to be connected with a sense of purpose and history.

## Dorothy Height

Born prior to World War I in 1912 in Richmond, Va., Dorothy Height was educated in public schools in Rankin, Pa. She quickly established herself as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills.

Height fearlessly expressed herself as a young girl and did not retreat from the racist and sexist actions of the times.

As a young woman of 25, she joined Mary McLeod Bethune and the National Council of Negro Women. Together, they strove for women's full and equal employment and educational advancement. By that time, Height's career as a civil rights advocate had begun to pick up as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system and create free access to public accommodations.

That same year, Height began her work with the National Young Women's Christian Association. There, she held several leadership positions. Assuming responsibility for developing leadership training activities for volunteers and staff, she developed programs to pro-



Height

mote interracial relationships.

Height was one of the major leaders of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. To create a dialogue about the Civil Rights Movement, she organized "Wednesdays in Mississippi," bringing together Southern and Northern white and black women. Her belief in honoring the diversity of America is seen in her promotion of interfaith and interracial movements.

## Gerda Lerner

Born in 1920 in Vienna, Austria, Lerner experienced the Nazi's rise to power and became involved in the underground resistance movement. With her family, she was imprisoned and forced into exile. In 1938, she alone was able to find refuge in America.

Arriving during the difficult time of the Great Depression, she worried about the fate of her family still living in Europe. She became a naturalized American citizen.

Her strong conviction about the importance of justice and equality for all people was demonstrated by her participation in grassroots, community movements. She worked to create an interracial civil rights movement, for better schools in New York City, for peace and social justice and against McCarthyism.

Lerner graduated with a Ph.D. from New York's Columbia University in 1966. As a scholar, she challenged long-held assumptions about women and their significance in history. Lerner is acknowledged as one of the foremost pioneers in the field of women's history. Her work now spans four decades.

Among her 10 books are *The Grimke Sisters*, *The Creation of Patriarchy*, *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness* and *Why History Matters*.

As a teacher, she demands that students re-examine old ideas about who women are and what women have accomplished. She has mentored hundreds of historians.

In 1981, she became the first woman in 50 years to be elected president of the Organization of American Historians. ♦



Lerner



Wilson



Huerta



# Work for Afghan women hardly over, Leno says

By Jessica Kent  
Staff Writer

Imagine being forbidden to attend school or work outside the home. Imagine being forced to wear a burqa, a shroud covering the entire body with only a small mesh-covered opening over the eyes. Imagine being stripped of your civil rights.

Women in Afghanistan haven't had to imagine this; they've lived it. Under Taliban rule since 1996, Afghan women have had their civil rights and lives stripped away. Now that the Taliban has been overthrown and an interim government has been appointed, women are slowly gaining back their rights.

The Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid was the first effort to increase public awareness about the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan. The first step of the campaign was to increase awareness and help women get their rights back.

Mavis Leno, chair of the campaign, spoke Feb. 12 at a fund-raiser in Nashville about the next step: making sure these women feel safe enough to go out of their homes and enjoy their new freedoms.

Although the Taliban has been overthrown, women still can't go out of their homes without wearing a burqa or go to a job without fearing that they'll be kidnapped, raped or even killed by Taliban supporters.

"Obviously, all the Taliban didn't get thrown into jail," Leno said, "and many of the Northern Alliance people are nearly as fundamentalist as the Taliban."

In order to ensure the safety of women, Leno said it's important "to rebuild a legal structure and protective structure in the country so women can use the freedoms they have theoretically been given."

A Ministry for Women's Affairs recently has been established in

Afghanistan to ensure that women's rights will be protected during the rebuilding of Afghanistan and that women will be included in the rebuilding.

Women were vital to the infrastructure of Afghanistan before Taliban rule.

Leno said it would be impossible to get enough trained personnel into the country to get it back up and running without using the women who are already there.

Leno urges people to send petitions to the government asking them to send more funds and aid to Afghanistan.

"The United States urgently needs a peaceful, stable friend in the Islamic world," she said. By giving Afghanistan the funds needed to rebuild and restore their country, the United States will make a friend.

In the United States, Leno said, feminism has come to have some negative connotations. Feminism means "you believe men and women should have equal responsibilities and privileges in their society," she said.

"All women want is to hold up our half of the sky," Leno said. "We just want parity, that's all."

The success of the first part of the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid was possible, Leno said, because all women of the free world spoke in one voice.

"Every free woman has a responsibility to speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves," she said.

Leno said the Feminist Majority Foundation has accomplished the goal they originally set out to accomplish, but that their work in Afghanistan is far from over.

For more information, visit [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org).



Leno

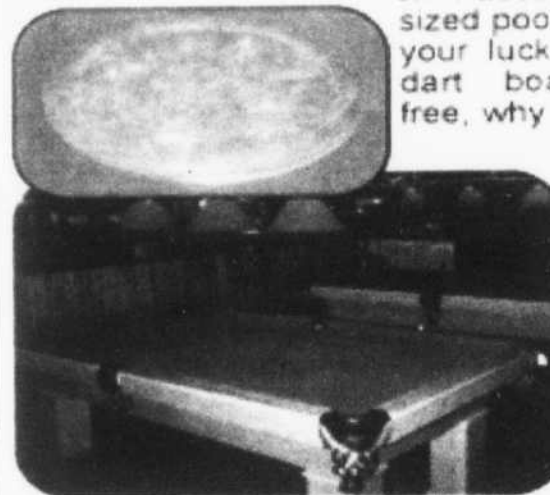
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	<b>4th ANNIVERSARY PARTY</b> Monday, April 1, 2002					

# RECLAIMING WHAT ONCE WAS THEIR OWN

Take Back the Night strives to empower women and restore the freedom they've lost in a culture of fear

By Jennifer Cathey  
Staff Writer

Concerned women and men will use their right to free speech April 11 as they march through Murfreesboro in protest of violence against women.

The annual Take Back the Night march, held in many cities across the globe, seeks to bring awareness to the growing problem of violence against women, namely rape.

Approximately 132,000 women every year in the United States report that they have been victims of rape or attempted rape, and someone is sexually assaulted every five seconds.

In a society with statistics like these, gathered from the National Organization for Women and the National Victims Center, it's clear why this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Week is so important. The events of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Week will culminate in the annual march.

The marches, which began in the 1970s in England and the United States, are continued now on college campuses across the nation.

Tennisha Smith, the coordinator for this year's Take Back the Night rally, said she thinks women simply aren't aware of the high rates of sexual assault and hopes to educate women about the dangers of it.

"I think that it is an eye opener for a lot of women," Smith said. "A lot of women probably think that it can never happen to them."

Smith said she believes that having the rally at night is symbolic of women taking back the streets from sexual predators.

"The night is a metaphor for fear," Smith said. "By having it at night, we're claiming our streets to be safe at night."

According to a press release issued by the June Anderson Women's Center, the sponsor of Take Back the Night, "By participating in Take Back the Night, women symbolically reclaim their bodies, their homes,

their workplaces, their streets and their lives by taking what might otherwise be private experiences of injustice and publicly naming these wrongs; hence, breaking the silence."

This year's event is going to be a communitywide rally, with different community organizations and churches involved.

"We're trying to get the community involved," Smith said. "We want to get men involved, as well as women."

Amie Lee King, who, along with her band Cuddle Core, will be playing at Saturday's Take Back the Night benefit concert, said she believes displays like marching through the streets are symbolic of women taking control of their lives.

"I thought it was a great idea for women to reclaim the territory that is too often lost to their harassers and predators," King said.

Beth Cameron of Forget Cassettes and Sincerity Guild, both of which will be playing at the Red Rose for the benefit concert, said she believes the strength of the rally itself lies in the number of women who come out and support it.

"The more we unite and support each other, the more we can accomplish," Cameron said.

Cameron also warns that, although not every woman is a victim of sexual assault, every woman should be aware of the horrors of the crime.

"Every woman needs to be aware that there are ways to prevent it," she said. "Even if we ourselves have never been assaulted or raped or abused, we have to stand up for the women that have or we can not expect this movement to flourish."

Since 1993, Take Back the Night has been a part of the MTSU Sexual Assault Awareness Week and is sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center.

The rally will be held April 11 at Central Middle School in Murfreesboro. For more information on Take Back the Night or sexual assault, contact the JAWC at 898-2193. ♦

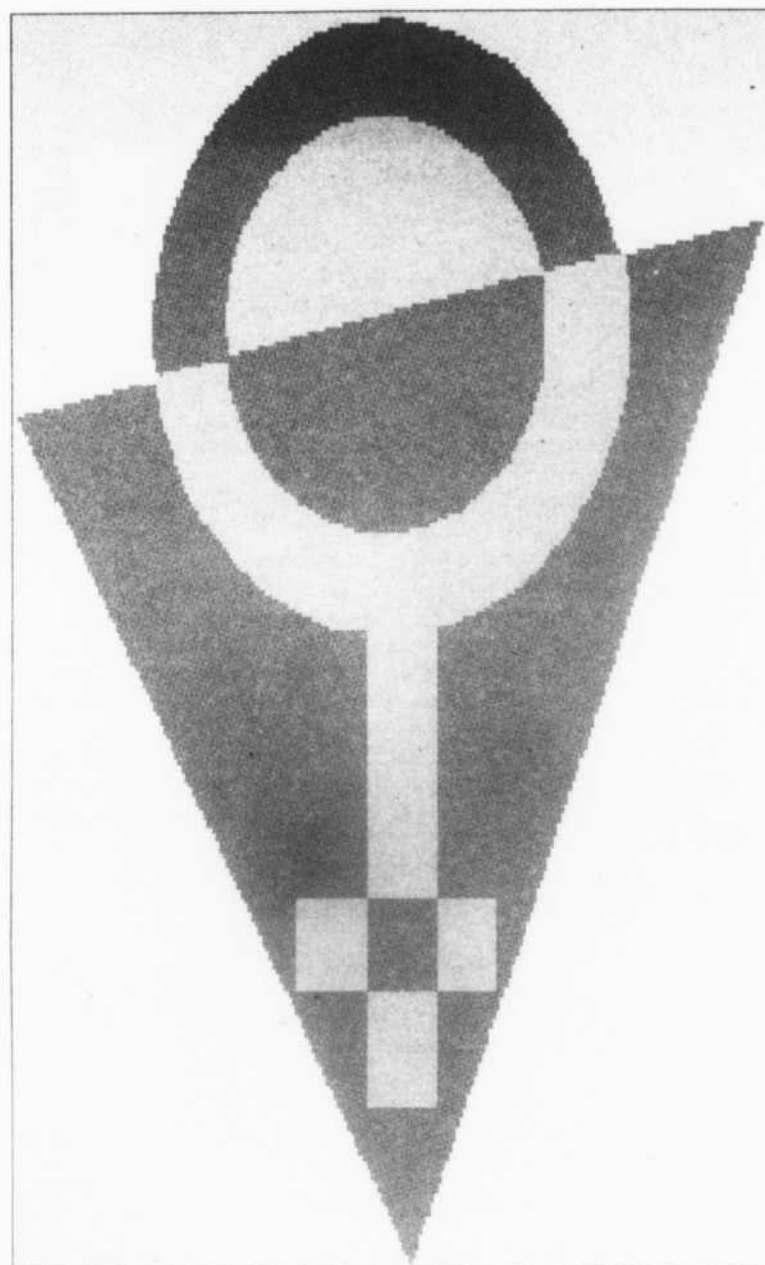


Photo provided

Students at the University of North Texas march in Denton, Texas, during their Take Back the Night March April 26, 2001.

## Rape facts

- Somewhere in America a woman is raped every two minutes, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.
  - In 1996, 307,000 women were the victim of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey.
  - The most common reason given by women for not reporting sex crimes is the belief that it is a private or personal matter and that they fear reprisal from the assailant.
  - In 1996, only 31 percent of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement officials, less than one in every three, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey.
  - Approximately 68 percent of rape victims knew their assailant, according to Bureau of Justice Statistics.
  - Approximately 28 percent of victims are raped by husbands or boyfriends; 35 percent by acquaintances and 3 percent by other relatives, according to Bureau of Justice Statistics.
  - According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one of every four rapes take place in a public area or in a parking garage.
  - Twenty-nine percent of female victims reported that the offender was a stranger.
  - Sixty-eight percent of rapes occur between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
  - Seventy-five percent of female victims require medical care after the attack.
- Information gathered from [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)



# Concert at Red Rose to benefit Take Back the Night, fight against violence

Four bands and sneak peak at documentary in store for \$5

By Jennifer Cathey  
Staff Writer

The Red Rose Cafe will rock Saturday to help stamp out violence against women.

The Red Rose will host a benefit concert for Take Back the Night, an event dedicated to helping women take back the night from predators.

This year's benefit should be an awesome show, with the bands Forget Cassettes, Sincerity Guild, Perfect World of Cranes and Cuddle Core.

Feminism will be a major component of the night's festivities.

"Murfreesboro needs a big heaping of feminism," said Amie Lee King of Cuddle Core. Cuddle Core is a feminist punk band that specializes in political music.

Before the bands rock the night, a documentary film about the riot grrl movement of the early '90s will be shown to inform the audience about its history.

The film, *Don't Need You*, is a 30-minute documentary Kerri Koch compiled for her master's thesis at the City College of New York.

King said she feels very strongly about Take Back the Night and what the event does for women.

"It raises awareness because women are in the streets ... yelling, screaming, demanding their space and their respect," she said. "It is very physical, present and alive. The event is a way feminism or feminist theory is taken into everyday life for any and everyone to see and be involved in."

King also said she believes the sense of community and self that feminist events such as Take Back the Night foster is very valuable.

"I involve myself in as many feminist activities as I can," she said. "It is important to do so

because I am not only helping raise awareness; I meet new people."

"Through that, new ideas are spawned, new friends made, networks made and just the sense of community is important to me," King said.

Beth Cameron, of Forget Cassettes, is looking forward to the concert as well.

"Forget Cassettes is just me right now," she said.

"I try and rock as much as one woman can, but I've given myself a lot of space to explore lyrically and musically."

Like the music of Cuddle Core, Cameron's music has a strong element of feminism.

"Feminism has always been an active part of my music, sometimes underlying, sometimes not so underlying," she said.

Cameron will be pulling double duty for the benefit concert — she's playing with both Forget Cassettes and Sincerity Guild.

"The Sincerity Guild is an instrumental band. It's pretty straightforward rock — two guitars, bass, drums," she said.

Despite all of Cameron's experimenting with music, playing with Sincerity Guild is still a new experience for her.

"I get to really expand my guitar playing, and it's the first band that I've been in that the majority is male," she said.

Cameron is hoping for a large turnout for the benefit concert.

"I hope that it will be a huge turnout," she said. "I will be surprised if it's not."

The Take Back the Night benefit concert will begin at 8 p.m. March 8 at the Red Rose Cafe on 528 W. College St. in Murfreesboro.

A \$5 donation will be taken up at the door to help benefit Take Back the Night. ♦

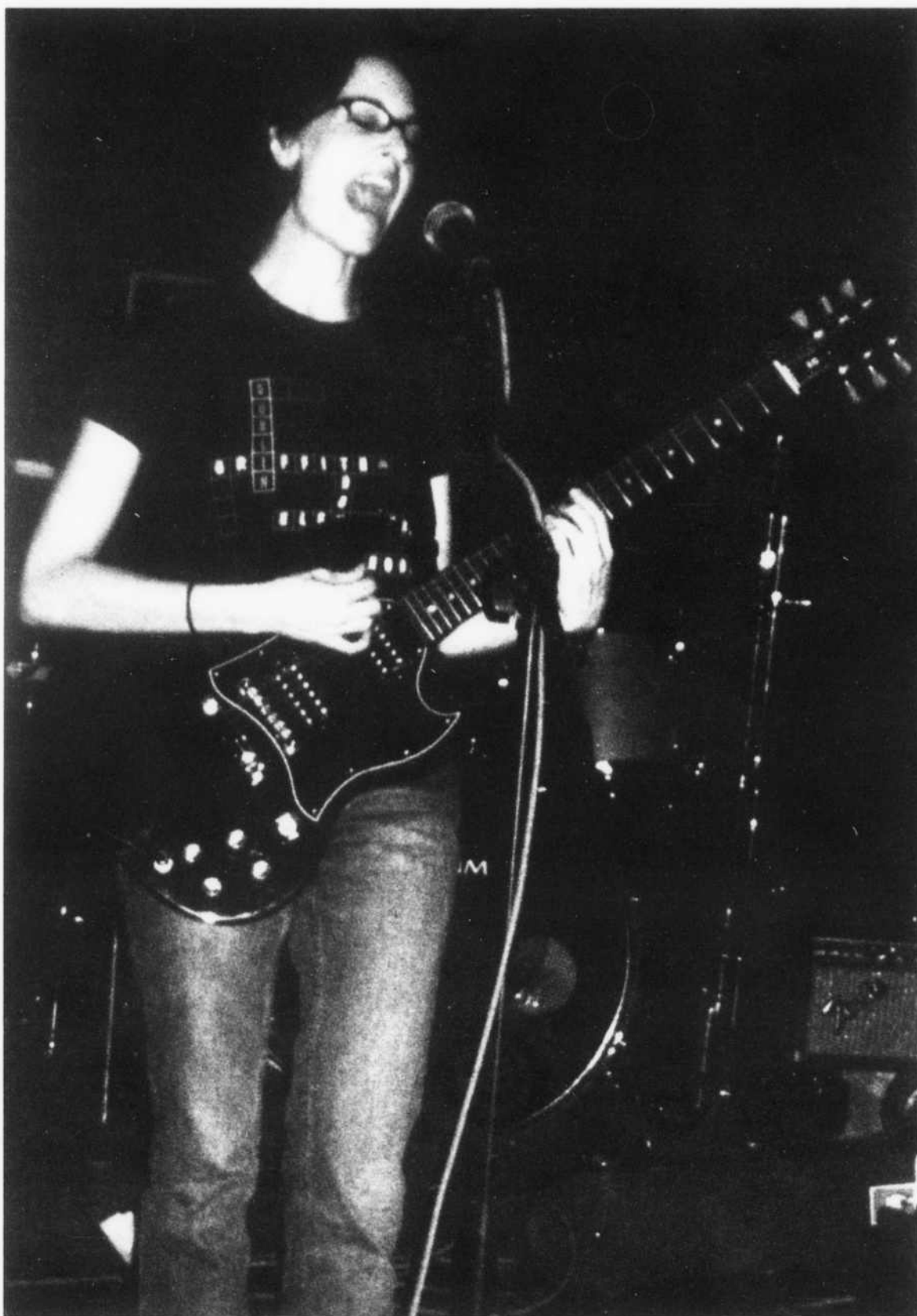


Photo provided

Beth Cameron, of Forget Cassettes and Sincerity Guild, will perform at Saturday's benefit for Take Back the Night that also will feature Cuddle Core and Perfect World of Cranes.

# Classrooms to be open to non-enrolled students

By Patrick Chinnery  
Opinions Editor

Female contributions to academia will be the focus of several classes this month, which will be opened to students and the general public not originally enrolled.

The open classroom series, titled "Women in the Curriculum 2002," began Friday with an English 2330 class, "What makes a poem feminist?" and will conclude April 25 with a biology 1030 class, "Environmental Estrogens and Breast Cancer."

Every class in the series is open to the public, and everyone in the Murfreesboro community is invited to attend.

Nicole Turrill Welch of the biology department considers the classes to be essential to a well-rounded education.

"I believe it is important to make the entire campus a much more open forum," Welch said.

"I think this [series] is a great idea to let people on campus know what's going on in every department."

All professors were sent an e-mail last month from the women's studies program, asking for volunteers to open their classes and conduct special women's issues lectures. Professors from seven different departments – history, foreign languages, English, philosophy, women's studies, health and biology – responded.

Welch said she feels that, while breast cancer is seen as a predominantly women's issue, all students should feel welcome to attend her lecture.

"I feel breast cancer is a topic people need to be aware of," Welch said.

"When I've taught it in the past, this lecture has brought the most interest from past students."

While most teachers plan on discussing only female contributions during these classes, Ron Bombardi of the philosophy department plans on taking a different angle in his series of lectures.

"I plan on taking a post-feminist approach," Bombardi said. "Rather than dedicating an entire class period to one woman



Photo provided

**Transsexual performance artist Kate Bornstein will be in Elyce Helford's Women and the Media class April 3.**

philosopher, my approach will be, 'If they come up, they come up.' To get the full effect, people need to attend the whole month's worth of classes."

For those with less time on their hands, take note – all other lectures are one-time events and last 50 minutes to an hour. ♦

## Schedule of open classrooms

The following is a schedule of the open classrooms to be offered as part of Women's History Month.

### "Women and Televised Sports"

Held March 11 from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m., Peck Hall, Room 218. This class is a part of WMST 3500, Women and the Media. The lecture will be conducted by Ruth Chananie.

### "Women in contemporary French public life: A round-table discussion"

Held March 15, 9:10-10 a.m., Boutwell Dramatic Arts, Room 303B. A round-table discussion led by undergraduate and graduate students, French and American, will focus on women in public life in France.

### "Empowering women in informal settlements as HIV/AIDS peer educators"

To be held March 21 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in Murphy Center, Room 100A. The course is part of HLTH 6100, Health Education and Behavior.

### "Speak up or speak out: How women and men use language differently"

Held March 21 from 4:30 to

5:30 p.m., in BDA, Room 307, as part of FL 6700, Introduction to Linguistics, taught by Richard Morris.

### "Contributions of Women Philosophers"

Lasts throughout March, held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:25-1:15 p.m., James Union Building, Room 202. Female philosophers will be integrated into this History of Modern Philosophy course.

### "Kate Bornstein: Undoing Gender"

To be held April 3, 1:30-2:20 p.m., in PH, Room 215. Transsexual performance artist, author and activist Kate Bornstein will instruct attendees how to undo gender as part of WMST 3500 and WMST 2100.

### "Environmental Estrogens and Breast Cancer"

To be held April 25, 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., in PH, Room 103A as part of BIOL 1030. The lecture will explore possible causes of breast cancer, in light of recent research that has discovered only 5 percent of all breast cancer cases are genetic. ♦

# Housing to show 'strong women' films through March

## More than 10 flicks in store for residents

By Kelley Hire  
Contributor

This month's Residential Life Film Series focuses on the history of women.

Forget paying a bundle, the

sticky floors, the outrageously priced concessions, the woman with the beehive in front of you and the loud, giggly people behind you.

You can save those \$7 and your sanity by watching some of your favorite flicks from the comfort of your own dorm room. If you live on campus – or know someone who does, you can now see movies for free on Blue Screen Channel 19. Because March is National Women's

History Month, Blue Screen Channel 19 offered the university's Women's History Month Committee the opportunity to select the films for the month, and with the help of student input, the selections were made.

The films include romantic comedies, action films, dramas, historical characters and stories of success and failure.

Featuring actresses such as Julia Roberts, Sigourney Weaver, Kathy Bates, Jodie Foster and Demi Moore, the movies represent a variety of interests, talents, personalities and contributions of women.

The flicks were chosen by the committee based on the theme of "Strong Women," said Laurie Witherow, associate dean for Residential Education.

"These strong images are present, and the movies also offer educational as well as entertainment value," Witherow said. ♦



Photo provided

Sigourney Weaver stars in *Gorillas in the Mist*.



Photo provided

Oscar-winning Jessica Tandy stars in *Fried Green Tomatoes*, playing in residence halls on Channel 19 March 10-16 and 24-31.

## Film showings

March 1-9: *Madame Curie*, *Marie – A True Story*, *Gorillas in the Mist*, *Public Law 106*

March 10-16: *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Out of Africa*

March 17-23: *Erin Brockovich*, *Contact*, *G.I. Jane*, *Amelia Earhart*, *the Final Flight*

March 24-31: *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Marie – A True Story*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Public Law 106*





MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

“FRESH AIR” WITH

TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

## Compliance:

Continued from 3

would like to add a couple more facilities.

Scholarship money for women's sports has drastically improved over the years. All women's budgets have increased to the NCAA allotment.

Money has been added to the women's budget for travel and food so that women have the same opportunities as men. For example, if only two males stay in a hotel room on road trips, it should be the same way for females.

Kunkel pointed out that the budgets aren't necessarily the same because you have to look at the needs of the program. For example, football would have more needs than soccer.

Dressing rooms still need improvement but are continually being upgraded. Seating at track meets and soccer games along with marketing of women's sports are areas where improvement is still needed.

"I don't think it's major, but it's money, and, unfortunately, sometimes it's hard to find those extra dollars," Turnham said.

While fan support at women's games isn't very high, Turnham said she feels this is a university problem. The problem exists at other schools besides MT as well.

"When I hear things like the University of Kentucky has taken 1,500 seats from their students because they weren't showing up to get the free tickets and they're now selling them to people who are killing to get those tickets, we aren't the only people having trouble," Turnham said. "If Kentucky Wildcat basketball can't get students there, then I can see why we can't."

MT has hired a person to do women's promotions in hopes of fixing the problem. Total equality between men and women certainly hasn't been achieved because of Title IX. Problems such as women coaches not coaching male sports still exist. There is no NCAA rule prohibiting this, but it's just not something that is seen.

"I think there are a lot of women qualified to coach men's sports," Kunkel said, "but as a society, it's just never happened. That's just not been the status quo so it's hard to break into that. Society has just dictated this one way, and it's tough to break out of it." ♦

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# OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 11

## Political, social activism is necessary work

### Out of Bounds



**Kelley Anderson**  
Staff Columnist

Women have been at the forefront of progressive social movements in America since these movements have existed, often beginning with women's ideas of things that need to be changed and then branching out to wider reform.

Some particularly focused on "women's issues," such as the right to vote, but others embraced reform that benefited every member of society, such as child labor laws, union rights, prohibition, anti-war demonstrations and antitrust legislation.

Some feminists have, at times, pointed to religion as a form of

oppression and a means to restrict the roles of women, but for many others, it has been a source of empowerment and guidance. This is evident in the Women's Christian Temperance Movement that brought to attention the ill effects of alcohol on the family, such as abuse and poverty.

There were many women's clubs made up mostly of middle-class women who sought meaningful work (as most jobs were reserved for men) and took on socialist causes.

The New York Consumers League formed in 1890, and, later, the National Consumers League sought to make the buying public aware of labor conditions when purchasing goods.

The vote was a prominent issue in early American politics, especially when taken up by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who consolidated their efforts into the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The settlement house movement sought to better urban slums

by offering a place for children to play, serve working mothers with daycare, gyms and health clinics and provide an alternative to saloons for men to spend their leisure time.

They later saw that these community-oriented efforts were not enough and then organized on larger scales to push for the building of public playgrounds, juvenile courts, worker's compensation laws and legislation against child labor.

My favorite figure in history is probably Emma Goldman, who was an idealist from Russia who protested WWI conscription laws and often mixed sexual politics with anarchism. She was once arrested for distributing birth control pills and, later, because of her involvement with anti-conscription leagues, was deported back to Russia.

You know you are a threat to the status quo and the established system when you are deported from the country.

Political activism is not always

fun – it is a necessary work. Sometimes apathetic comments like, "I don't wanna hear it" can be met with, "Well, I don't wanna say it," but I go through the daily chore of pointing things out that can be analyzed in terms of gender, race and class because this is the world I live in, and my personal experiences are not isolated events, but are part of a whole and occur in a political context.

When you've found your "work" it no longer feels like work, though it's equally draining (sometimes more), but it's what you love. The work becomes a means to an end.

I'm an advocate of working from the inside out and the importance of activism within your own community.

There are women being oppressed in Afghanistan, and there are women in Murfreesboro who are being beaten in the privacy of their own homes by people who are supposed to love them. I'm weary of overusing the word "oppression" so as not to water

down its meaning, but living in a state of constant fear is oppression.

Being the subject of violence because of one's gender is oppression. The fear that women experience walking to their car in a mall parking lot that is all too common in a rape culture is oppression. These are no longer "women's issues."

They affect us all and as has been said before, "We can't get there until we all get there."

I am in debt to the strong women and progressive men (whose roles also should be noted) who have come before me, and I am even more in debt to the children who will come after me.

We must use our privilege to keep oppression out of our lives by beginning with the individual and our own community as a means of example and a source of support for the rest of the world, just as the reformers of the past thought beyond themselves and helped progress the equal participation and status of women. ♦

## Why is 'feminist' a dirty word, again?

### Wit and Wisdom



**Callie Elizabeth Butler**  
Staff Columnist

I know. It's gotten to me through the grapevine. They told me. Yes, I heard.

"Feminist" is regarded by many as a dirty word. Somehow, some way, this eight-letter word has become a term that evokes a variety of assumptions about those labeled as such. One of the many times I've been clued in concerning this reali-

ty was in one of my English classes as I sat beside another member of the class who happened to notice a pin upon my jacket with the word "feminist" in bold, white letters.

"Ewww ... you're a feminist?" "Yes."

My reply was followed by a number of stereotypical assumptions: feminists hate men, feminists believe men are beings of a lower evolutionary ranking and so on. These common assumptions seem to circulate throughout the university or at least in the majority of my classes that remain unrelated to women's studies.

This misconception could easily be put to rest by simply opening a dictionary.

Feminism is generally, within the great Webster's Dictionary, defined as "the theory of the politi-

cal, economic and social equality of the sexes."

In other words, ladies, if you think you are equal to a man with in all spheres of being, you're a feminist.

I hate to break the news to you, but if you think you're equal to that guy seated beside you, you're one of us. And gentlemen, if you feel that the capabilities of women generally match your own, well, you're a feminist, too.

Yes, the secret is out – men can be feminists.

Certainly, there are branches of feminism that endorse the idea that males are horrid beings and inferior, but this is not the overall message of the feminist movement, only that of some.

Feminism is primarily a movement aimed toward equality, not

domination.

Yet, the media's attention has been focused upon only the more radical side of feminism, embracing only the sensational and shocking elements. These representations and assumptions are incredibly flawed.

Honestly, feminism has helped to improve my relationships with men.

I have found myself better able to maintain cooperative and communicative relationships with the opposite sex.

This is all due to the fact that I believe myself equal to any man and do not allow gender stereotypes or roles to alter who I present myself to be.

I feel free within my relationships with men, not confined to a particular model I feel pressured to

subscribe to.

Feminism is a social and political movement that empowers women to be productive within society and stand up against gender-based injustice. Feminism is a doctrine that says a woman can dance along the moon, be the president of the United States, cure cancer, teach children the wonders of the world or even stay at home and dedicate her life to her children.

Feminism brings together women of differing nationalities, cultures, creeds, sexualities, backgrounds, economic statuses and ideologies.

Essentially, feminism is the belief that a woman can be anything, and gender is no barrier.

So, tell me again. Why is "feminist" such a dirty word? ♦

# Chemistry prof wants to focus on gender

By Lindsey Turner  
Special Section Editor

The unofficial focus of this year's Women's History Month activities is women in science, thanks to Chair Judith Iriarte-Gross.

Iriarte-Gross, who joined MTSU's department of chemistry in 1996, joined the women's studies counsel soon after she was hired.

"One thing I noticed was that there were not very many women in the sciences active with the women's studies group," she said, adding that it's important for women faculty to become involved in women's studies.

Once she joined the counsel, she helped implement women in science topics during Women's History Month, as well as plan gender-and-science-themed brown bag and off-campus expert lectures throughout the year.

Iriarte-Gross said she wanted to be chair of Women's History Month since she signed on at MTSU, but she was advised to wait until she received tenure to accept the nomination.

As chair this year, she said she wants to let the public know what women in science are doing. Women in science are not nerdy, she said. They can have families and do neat science also.

Iriarte-Gross said she hopes to expand the awareness of women and science beyond WHM and create a class involving gender and science. Jackie Eller, a professor of sociology and former director of the women's studies program, asked her to look into a gender and science class several years ago. Iriarte-Gross is now working on creating such a class.

She also is forming a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation that would allow a gender equity program for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, due the end of March.

Iriarte-Gross has been met with some opposition in her department regarding her work in gender studies and science.

"I've heard some comments saying, 'Why are women special?' 'Why do you need to do this?'" she said. However, she said she thinks such a class is important because there are significant reasons why women don't traditionally go into sciences. Among them, she said, are the facts that women think differ-

ently from men, and women like to work in groups.

Iriarte-Gross cited a book by Sheila Tobias, titled *They're Not Dumb, They're Different*, in which Tobias conducts a study that follows five non-science students – four women, one man – through hard science courses. The study required them to keep a diary of their experiences in the courses. The women responded that, the way science is taught, there's no connection between different topics and no sense of community. The women also expressed a feeling that they were patronized by male professors if they didn't understand certain concepts.

"It was that community idea that really hit me," Iriarte-Gross said.

Another proposal she is working on with Student Affairs would create a learning community for women in the sciences to supply that sense of community.

Iriarte-Gross said she tries to incorporate community into the classroom by having students do group work. One thing studies have shown, she said, is that, through middle school, females are as capable at science and math as males, but by puberty, their scores drop below males'. The pressures placed on young girls to emphasize their appearance and personal relationships over academics and success could be a major factor in this discrepancy.

To remedy this, she helps with the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference for middle school girls. She became involved with EYH in Texas, where she originally taught. When she came to Tennessee, she noticed there was no EYH conference in the state and immediately began forming a group to plan one. Tennessee's first EYH conference was held in 1997, and Iriarte-Gross is now planning the sixth one.

Iriarte-Gross said the conference prompts girls to think about whether they want to do science as a career, so they can focus on the sciences and math in high school and do well and not have to take remedial classes when they get to college.

Having professional women in sciences mentor the girls and conduct workshops allows the girls to see women doing things they thought they couldn't do, Iriarte-Gross said.

"We have to turn away girls

because we do not have the space," she said. The program's popularity has exploded, and there are now 250 to 300 middle school girls from all over the mid-South.

Iriarte-Gross chose a career as a scientist, although she originally loathed chemistry.

"I hated chemistry in high school," she said. At the time, she was a scholarship student in a Catholic girl's school in Maryland that didn't offer physics or calculus to the girls.

"I felt really deprived when I got to college," Iriarte-Gross said. She was terrified of math.

When her high school wrote her a letter soliciting alumna donations for a new track and field, Iriarte-Gross replied and told them she would not donate money until they began teaching calculus to the students.

However, Iriarte-Gross didn't go to college directly out of high school.

"I got married, had a kid and got divorced," she said. "I didn't want to be a secretary all my life."

Several years after her high school graduation, Iriarte-Gross enrolled in Prince George's Community College in Maryland, where her interest in chemistry emerged thanks to a mentor she found there.

"I kept getting A's in chemistry and thought, 'I must be a chemist!'" she said.

Iriarte-Gross transferred to the University of Maryland, where she earned a bachelor's and a master's degree.

She then enrolled in graduate school at the University of South Carolina in 1990. At USC, there were no women professors of the sciences, she said, which made it a little difficult to find a mentor who understood her dual duties as a student and as a single mom. She found a male professor however, who coached her through the process.

During her graduate assistantship, she would take her son (now 29, employed in financial management) with her to set up experiments on the weekend. He didn't think she had a real job.

"Doing Ph.D. research is work," she said. "It's not a 40-hour a week job. You can't tell your reaction when to stop."

Iriarte-Gross would put 60 to 80 hours per week in her research sometimes and spend massive amounts of time writing proposals



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

**Judith Iriarte-Gross, right, watches as Joanna Velasquez, a sophomore chemistry major, creates a tornado in a beaker.**

and looking for jobs toward graduation.

She received her doctorate degree three days before her son got his high school degree. Her dissertation involved synthesis and analysis of the carbon and oxygen families, which led to four other spin-off projects, one of which only three people in the world were doing. It took 48 hours to get an answer out of one experiment.

Compared to most other schools, including USC, MTSU's chemistry department is unique because of the number of women teaching. About nine of 24 faculty are women.

"You don't see that in chemistry departments," she said. However, there is only one woman professor in physics, Martha Weller, and none are in the astronomy department. Iriarte-Gross attributes these absences mainly to a lack of women available to fill those slots, not necessarily to any discrimination.

However, Iriarte-Gross warns against thinking that gender equity has changed for the better in the workforce. She worked for a plas-

tics company in Ft. Worth, Texas, and when the secretary was absent one day, she – the only other woman on staff – was asked to make coffee and answer the phone.

She quit.

Her career path led her to teach, and she eventually moved to Middle Tennessee. Her current research involves making glass at room temperature. She works closely with other students and has mentored two graduate students.

Iriarte-Gross advises students to make sure they take their time and find the right research mentor. Her mentor at USC understood when she had to do "mom" things and forewarned her on which faculty members to take for classes and which ones to avoid.

Iriarte-Gross said she is still surprised that she has a doctorate's degree and is teaching chemistry at a major university.

"Here I am. I would have never thought it," she said. "A former secretary of Blue Cross Blue Shield. I'm still amazed at that, and that's part of the culture. Women are told that they can't do these things." ♦