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Women's Center newsletter, May 1-17, 2001

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The three Wendy Lustbader presentations are free but please pre-register with Maria Peck [359-6479, MPeck@ewu.edu, or fax at 359-6475] for the ones you plan to attend.

Persons with special needs in attending programs may make arrangements for accommodations for EWU programs by calling Micki, 359-2847, at the Women’s Studies Center, 72 weekday hours in advance.

**PROGRAMS**

**Healing the Generations**
Thursday, May 10, 2001, 1-4 p.m.

Explore how sorrow and trauma leave their imprint on the generations, unless we strive truly to understand our parents and the parents before them. Gain valuable insight from the book, *Forgive Your Parents; Heal Yourself*, which demonstrates exciting ways imagination and compassion can be put to use for our own families as well as our clients. **Wendy Lustbader** will discuss the specific needs of families with aging parents.

**Improving Communication Skills and Managing Difficult Behavior with Alzheimer’s Patients**
Friday, May 11, 2001, 9-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.
Riverpoint Auditorium

The nonverbal sensing ability in people with severe memory loss is frequently as keen as that possessed by young children. Instead of listening to a loved one’s words, people with dementia react to the anxiety in one’s tone of voice, body posture, and facial expression. This workshop teaches the art of speaking to feelings and how to convey these lessons to family caregivers. **Wendy Lustbader** also will explore the family dynamics around dementia.

**Feminist Research Series Speaker: Feminist Challenges to Reason and Rationality**
Tuesday, May 15, 2001, 12-1 p.m.
Monroe 207

A primary concern within philosophy is the distinction between better and worse reasoning. The history of philosophy has been masculine bias of this history. Mimi Marinucci, Ph.D., Philosophy, Assistant Professor, Women’s Studies and Philosophy, examines features of this model including the role of argumentation, as well as such ideals as objectivity and emotional detachment.

**Chastity Bono, Advocate for Gay and Lesbian Rights**
Thursday, May 17, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
Showalter Auditorium

Chastity Bono became famous as the daughter of the singing duo Sonny and Cher. Her fame increased in April 1995 when she proclaimed her lesbianism publicly on the front cover of the leading US gay magazine, *The Advocate*. Later she became a campaigner for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD), and was adopted as a spokesperson. Bono has written for *The Advocate* and was engaged by various US organizations as a consultant on lesbian and gay issues. Her first book, *Family Outing*, was published in 1999. She will discuss tolerance.

**WOMEN’S STUDIES PROGRAMS**

**2nd Issue, Spring, 2001**

**May 14-18 is Gay Pride Week at EWU**

**Cheney, Spokane 359-2847**

**The Bush Tax Cut Proposals and Counterproposals**
Tuesday, May 1, 2001, 12-1 p.m.
Monroe 207

**Susan Meggaard**, JD, Professor of Accounting and Information Systems, will focus on the tax cuts proposed by the Bush Administration and counterproposals from Congress. In particular, she will address the probable impact of the rate cuts without either a repeal or reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax, the failure of the cuts to address the need to simplify the Tax Code, the likely distribution of the cuts, and the myths surrounding the repeal of the “Death Tax” (Federal Estate Tax) and who benefits from such a repeal. Professor Meggaard will highlight the need for the public and Congress to consider the alternatives for cutting taxes and make informed choices.

**Feminist Research Series Speaker—Women in Leadership: The Trials in a Postmodern Society**
Tuesday, May 8, 2001, 12-1 p.m.
Monroe 207

**Denise Arnold**, Ph.D., will discuss how a postmodern society is affecting women in leadership. Through a qualitative research project, the stories of eight clergywomen revealed the challenges of the new millennium. Several themes emerged that indicated that old categories of the feminine are crumbling. Learning to deal with this can be frightening and cause a “backlash” by both men and women. Realizing or creating new categories can be difficult. Learn how women are making connections and supporting one another through the changes.

**HOME Tea Fundraiser for Childcare Scholarships**
Wednesday, May 9, 2001 From 3-5 p.m.
Monroe 205

You are invited to a tea hosted by Mrs. Ruthie Jordan and the HOME Advisory Board to benefit the H.O.M.E. (Helping Ourselves Means Education) Childcare Scholarship fund.

Student Rate: $15 before May 3rd, $20 at the door
Non-student rate: $20 before May 3rd, $25 at the door.

Make checks payable to EWU Foundation [HOME Scholarship]
Send reservation and check to the President’s Office, Attention Judith Siminne, Showalter 214. All but $5.00 of each donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you to the HOME Advisory Board, Dr. Steven and Mrs. Ruthie Jordan, EWU President’s Office, Provost’s Office, Event Planning, EWU Music Department, volunteers from the Spokane Unitarian Universalist Church Family Empowerment Project, and Chet’s Flowers.

**Challenges and Rewards of Caregiving**
Thursday, May 10, 2001, 9-12 p.m.
Showalter Auditorium

With a lighthearted spirit **Wendy Lustbader** challenges and encourages caregivers, addressing issues such as how much care is enough, the many varieties of guilt, and how to handle difficult emotions in the caregiver and the care receiver. Lustbader is a nationally acclaimed speaker on caregiver issues. She is the author of *Taking Care of Your Aging Family Members and Counting on Kindness: The Dilemmas of Dependancy*. Ms. Lustbader is a social worker and affiliate assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work.

**Movie: Relax ... It’s Only Sex**
Wednesday, May 16, 2001
Time and place to be announced in focus.

Infused with some of the funniest and most honest writing about sexual and romantic relationships within a group of friends, *Relax... It’s Only Sex* unflinchingly tackles potent issues surrounding gay and straight lifestyles. *Relax... It’s Only Sex* sets itself apart with its realistic, yet playful portrayal of both gay and straight relationships. Breaking boundaries with previously taboo subjects, director Castellamotta’s second feature combines naturalistic dialogue with alternating hilarious and poignant scenes. The characters are intelligent and astutely portrayed by the ensemble cast. *Relax... It’s Only Sex* is, above all, about the modern-day trials and tribulations of sex and love. This movie is cosponsored by SAFE [Student Alliance For Equality], WYSIWYG, and the Women’s Studies Center.
More Than One Solution

When we talk about personal safety, most of us envision girls doing side kicks and martial arts moves. That’s one strategy, and a good one. But not every situation calls for punches. Some dangers are emotional, while others are physical. You can help your daughter by giving her lots of strategies to choose from when her boundaries are violated. Then, if one solution fails, she has another to fall back on.

Walk the walk. Teach her to walk away from people who feel threatening. Say, “You don’t need to take care of the other person’s feelings. Take care of yourself.”

Use clear, directive language. This is your daughter’s most valuable strategy. Role situations with her in which she tells someone to leave her alone. Remind her that if she says something declarative with a smile or a giggle, her body language negates her words. Teach her to speak firmly when she says, “I feel uncomfortable when you say that” or “Stop. Step back. You’re too close to me.”

Be her route out. If friends violate her boundaries, your daughter may need to use you as her excuse for leaving. Tell her she can always say, “My dad will ground me if I do that” or “My parents said I had to be home early.” Remind her that she can always call you and you’ll come and pick her up, no questions asked.

Daughters, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2000

The Whole World As 100 People

If we could shrink the earth’s population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

There would be:
- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South America)
- 8 Africans
- 52 would be female
- 48 would be male
- 70 would be non-white, 30 white
- 89 would be heterosexual, 11 homosexual
- 59% of the entire world’s wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people and all would be citizens of the United States
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 1 would be near death, 1 would be near birth
- only 1 would have a college education and only 1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

Author Unknown, http://www.weboculture.com/home/community.html

Virtual Ceiling

Is she thinking or just typing? That’s the question to ask about the computer courses your daughter takes in junior high and high school. Studies by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) find girls underrepresented in computer science and design classes, while they outnumber boys in data-entry and clerical courses. Check the courses at your daughter’s school, and make sure she is solving problems and thinking critically at the keyboard. To learn more, order “Tech Check for Schools” from AAUW at (800) 326-2289 or online at www.aauw.org.

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For more depth on the broader issues with regard to gender and technology, you may be interested in a new report titled “Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age.” The AAUW Web site is www.aauw.org, then select What’s New under Shortcuts. Some clips from Tech-Savvy:

“Computer games don’t have to be the virtual equivalent of GI Joes and Barbies. We have to think less about ‘girls’ games’ and ‘boys’ games’ and more about games that challenge our children’s minds. When it comes to computer games and software, girls want high-skill, not high-kill,” argues Sharon Schuster, president of the AAUW Educational Foundation. Violent electronic games and dull programming classes turn off more and more girls.

“The commission makes it clear that girls are critical of the computer culture, not computer phobic,” said Sherry Turkle, professor of sociology at MIT and co-chair of the commission. “Instead of trying to make girls fit into the existing computer culture, the computer culture must become more inviting for girls.”

Tech-Savvy is the culmination of two years of work by the AAUW Educational Foundation Commission on Technology, Gender, and Teacher Education. The report combines the insights of its 14 commissioners (researchers, educators, journalists, and entrepreneurs) at the forefront of cyberculture and education, findings from the Foundation’s online survey of 900 teachers, qualitative focus group research with more than 70 girls, and reviews of existing research.


ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that the EWU Women’s Studies Center is back in Monroe Hall upon the near completion of its remodeling. Please come by to attend our programs, to study, or to enjoy some coffee or tea in our lounge at 207 A. We have a library, a scholarship file, and a resource file. HOME also has returned to Monroe, helping returning, re-entry low income, and parent students with needed resource information.

Sallie Mae is granting 12 grand prizes—one every month until 2/15/2002. The prize is a voiding of your Sallie Mae student loan up to $25,000. Drawings occur on the 15th of each month. The earlier you register, the greater your chances of winning. To enter, go to www.salliemae.com. You will be asked to give your SallieMae ID.