

Women's History Month 2017



PART I: RESISTANCE

**March 1: Turf Wars and Professionalism: The Battle
for Legitimacy in the Academy of Nutrition and
Dietetics**

Join PhD student Kristen K. Smith for this exploration of the ways in which the field of dietetics has been both enabled and constrained by its gendered history.

SUB 168 Noon - 1

March 1: Lost Human: Slavery in Our Own Backyard

This panel discussion, featuring two FBI agents, an attorney, MSU Political Science professor Franke Wilmer and two survivors will focus on human trafficking and the tragic consequences here in Montana and beyond. This program is sponsored by the HEART Initiative with help from the Women's Center, the Leadership Institute and the VOICE Center. SUB Ballroom

A. Doors @ 6:30, program @ 7

**March 8 (International Women's Day): Women in the
Spanish Civil War**

Join MSU professor John Thompson for this discussion of the most radical feminist revolution in the history of humankind. Thompson will highlight the annihilation of women's rights during the Franco dictatorship, and where these rights currently stand.

SUB 168. Noon - 1

Events are sponsored by the MSU Women's Center and are free and open to the public: Call 994-3836 for more information

Yes, Women's Rights ARE Human Rights: An Ally's Perspective

By Thomas Donovan



(Letter to the Editor in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, reprinted with permission from the author)

In the wake of Trump's election, women took to the streets in nonviolent demonstrations across the nation and the world. I marched with ten thousand people in Helena. What a day, shaking me out of my cognitive-dissonant funk that had beleaguered me since November 8th.

Amidst the signs and banners, I found one that captured the rising spirit: "Women's Rights are Human Rights."

Oppressive discrimination directed at women is the first – therefore the oldest – form of anti-human behavior. Millennia later, it has not abated. I cannot think of one society that does not foist some type of control upon women. Women's rights are, therefore, human rights.

Whether telling women who they can marry; whether they can make their own decision between giving birth and choosing an abortion; how rape is their fault; if they can attend school; what they will be paid – on and on, the weight is unfathomable. Whether backed by law or by habits of culture, under physical threat or psychological compulsion, women's bodies and souls pay the price, and it is dear. Women's rights are human rights.

In America, the wraiths of retrograde attitudes about women are being beckoned to walk again. Rumbblings grow about de-funding Planned Parenthood; politicians rub their hands as they imagine the elimination of *Roe v. Wade*. Tragically, an epitome of hateful and fearful attitudes towards women, resides in the White House. Here at home, women's rights are human rights.

What took place after the inauguration indicates that we've entered a new landscape. "What would happen," asked poet-activist Muriel Rukeyser, "if one woman told the truth about her life? The world would split open." At the women's marches hundreds of thousands of women spoke the truth louder than ever: Women's rights are human rights. Can you feel the world cracking open?

Women's History Month: Part 2

Hip Hop Sovereign Nations: Including Women in the Hip Hop Remix Pedagogy for American Indian Reservation Students

Women's History Month Event, March 22, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Procrastinator Theater, MSU

Hip Hop cultural elements of deejaying, break dancing, graffiti art, and emceeing, etc., have foundational parallel elements found in many Indigenous cultures that are centered around themes of music, dance, art, language, creativity, resourcefulness, knowledge, social justice, self-determination, and sovereignty. **Richard White, Director of MSU's Office of American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success** grew up on the Navajo Nation reservation located in the four corners of the United States where he attended the Navajo Nation public school system and was introduced to Hip Hop. The culture has been a positive influence and provided a critical understanding of Indigeneity. Often Hip Hop has been portrayed as hyper patriarchal, misogynistic, and male dominated. However, there has been a legacy of female innovators who have created spaces unique within Hip Hop culture. With strategic use, Hip hop culture can be utilized as a form of resistance against colonial pressures, and provide an avenue for students to understanding many attributes of Indigenous thought and action.

Intersections of Indigenous Feminism and Native Women's Reproductive Healthcare— Sack Lunch Seminar, March 29, Noon- 1 p.m., SUB 168

As feminism advances in both theory and policy, it is important to consider that reproductive healthcare has specific implications for minority women and that particularly, reproductive justice for American Indian and Alaska Native women concerns itself with many concepts, issues and ideas not necessarily a part of mainstream discourse. Join **graduate student in Native American Studies, Abbie Bandstra** for a presentation and discussion that considers how Indigenous feminism can help us to understand what is at stake for Native women in questions of reproductive justice within the healthcare system and how to advocate for meaningful change in these arenas.

Women's History Month Reception and presentation of the Student of Achievement Awards

Wednesday, March 29th, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Great Room of the Alumni Building, South 11th Ave., MSU

The Women's Center and the MSU Alumni Foundation present the 25th annual Women's History Month Reception and presentation of the Student of Achievement Awards. This year's keynote speaker will be **MSU Professor of Psychology, Dr. Jessi Smith** who will discuss "Bragging Rights (and Wrongs): The Social Psychology of Achievement." Please register for this event at:

www.msuaf.org/womenshistory17 or RSVP to: danforth@montana.edu

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

March 2017

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

By Betsy Danforth

As many have noted in various media sources, things didn't turn out quite the way we'd expected in the 2016 elections. I've spoken with friends and colleagues who have said this might be a good thing to get people motivated and engaged. I wouldn't go that far (the downside is clearly becoming much too slippery), but, there is a valid point here-- we need to continue to be engaged citizens of this great country, and use our voices in the political process. I see now that I should have been campaigning alongside my students (thanks Fran and Lolo!) for my candidates. I should have been calling state and federal representatives often with concerns, opinions, and issues. I got lazy, took things for granted, and assumed (always a bad idea!) that the turnout of the 2016 elections would be different.



Boy was I wrong! Though the various protests have been energizing, empowering, and, at times, even fun, they are also (to my thinking) a necessity. After what has been dubbed by critics as a post-apocalyptic style Inauguration speech featuring an extremely dark world view, the new administration set off on their tear to get what is mostly a shockingly conservative agenda passed-- apparently hoping to turn the clock of progression back for decades. This is not proving to be a uniting force for our extremely divided country. The day after the Inauguration, as we all know, there were a series of massive protests around the world.

An Executive Order to implement a travel ban for those green card holders and/or citizens from seven chosen Muslim-majority countries, including those who face almost certain death at home and who hoped to emigrate to the U.S. as refugees of a horrifying war, have been stopped dead in their tracks. More massive protests erupted spontaneously in airports and on streets around the U.S. and in the world. An international Gag Ruling (ironically signed with an all-white male audience with one exception) silences doctors and disrupts reproductive health care for some of the world's poorest women. Building a wall on the U.S./Mexican border and imposing a tariff on imports to pay for it served to actively antagonize Mexico's President Nieto. And appointing the least diverse and most conservative administration seen in decades ensures that life as we know it is clearly at an end. It sounds as though we can look forward to other disturbing agenda items: the possible elimination of the Environmental Rights Protection Agency; the de-funding of Planned Parenthood; turning back hard fought battles for gender pay-equity, LGBTQ+ rights; and even the defunding of PBS have been rumored. One thing is for sure, progressives will lose much ground in the coming months (I can't even bring myself to say years)!

Is there any way we can avoid decades' worth of social regression for our citizens? What kind of power do we, the people, really have? Grassroots organization is key, say many political strategists-- gather in smaller groups, decide a plan of action, contact your reps daily or weekly, donate to causes you believe in (and be sure to do your research on their political/business connections and budgeting), and speak out as a consumer through your selection of products--choose companies that support the employment of a diverse workforce, those who practice inclusion, and support women's, immigrant's and LGBTQ+ folks' rights. Check out the "Grab Your Wallet" site for lots of great information, and make those calls to the stores you choose to boycott! It worked for Nordstrom's! Of course, be sure to attend those protest marches and rallies, have a sit-in at a legislator's office when you don't agree with their policies, hold fundraising events for candidates you do believe in and support. The point is, if you are feeling powerless and defeated, rise up and seize the opportunity to organize and energize. Admittedly, it's an opportunity most of us didn't *really* want, but an opportunity just the same.

SUSAN WICKLUND FUND PRESENTS

VOICES OF CHOICE



Enjoy an afternoon of conversation with a community of women who continue to fight for reproductive choice. Reconnect with other supporters over wine or tea and learn about the current work of the Susan Wicklund Fund. Engage in an exciting panel of speakers who will cover the history of abortion, the reality of being an abortion provider, fighting for policy reform and today's challenges to providing access to reproductive choice. \$40 per person, includes wine, tea, and light hors d'oeuvres.

Sunday, March 19th, 2017 3:00-6:00pm
Baxter Hotel Ballroom

Get tickets and find out more at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-of-choice-tickets-31791890400>

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is!

By Frances Ambrose

"This generation coming up – unselfish, altruistic, creative, patriotic ... You believe in a fair, just, inclusive America; you know that constant change has been America's hallmark, something not to fear but to embrace, and you are willing to carry this hard work of Democracy forward." Barack Obama



President Obama made this statement in his farewell address in January. He continued with a call to action for millennials and forward-thinkers to believe in their own abilities to bring about change. Days later, Obama's words seemed prophetic when an estimated half a billion people across the world marched in opposition to the incoming administration in the White House. Though folks of all ages were, and continue to, rage their battle cries, millennials have shown ourselves as exceedingly powerful and unified in our fight for a better America. After years of some Baby Boomers telling us that we are lazy, self-centered, and advantaged, the new generation of Americans has proven to be passionate about the rights of all people. More than that, millennials have demonstrated our work ethic and impressive abilities to organize for our causes. Protests against cabinet picks, executive orders, and the new Presidential policies have erupted everyday across the country and the globe. Now, this is not all that the new generation has in the works...next, we are hitting conservatives where it hurts—in their wallets.

Millennials are not "just marching and yelling" because we "don't have jobs," as many critics have claimed. The younger generation is putting our hard earned money where our mouths are as well. Studies have shown that millennials are the most philanthropically inclined generation, and that 2/3 are more likely to invest or buy from a company that gives back in some manner. A new movement called #GrabYourWallet has made waves in the stock market. The campaign targets companies that sell Trump merchandise, advertise for Trump companies, or have invested in Trump's campaign; this movement calls for a complete boycott of their products and services, and most importantly, a request to contact those companies and tell them exactly why. Apparently, these companies are listening and responding. Nordstrom's dropped their Ivanka Trump line (and watched their stock price soar in the process☺) and it is hopeful that sister companies will soon follow suit. So Millennials: if you want to keep fighting, keep marching, attending town hall meetings, calling and writing to your representatives. Call these businesses and companies to voice your boycott reasoning, vote, and **grab your wallet**. Some companies to boycott if your politics do not align with the current administration's: Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Dillard's, Amazon, and Zappos (who all sell Trump family products); L.L. Bean, New Balance and Miller/Coors (all huge Trump campaign donors). We know, it's sad, some of your favorite stores and websites, but they'll come around soon and you'll be able to shop with them again! And be sure to recheck the list, some of these companies may have already acted by the time you read this article.

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

March 2017

The 2017 *Bozeman Monologues*

Stories, written by Bozeman for Bozeman, of gender, sexuality, relationships, and everything in between.



March 30th
at 7 pm
@ the Emerson
Center Theatre

\$3 for students
\$5 for adults



All proceeds & donations benefit
the Survivor Fund.



Sexisn

Linguistic Misogyny in Reproductive Education

By Andrea Lawrence

The 2016 elections, and some of President Trump's notable comments on the road to the White House, made it ever more apparent that sexism is still alive and well. Some contemporary media outlets, while covering the election, focused on demeaning women for taking charge of our lives, while praising men who do the same. Often times, the media is still letting women down. It perpetuates "alternative facts" about our bodies and pursues the current government's agenda: taking away the ability to choose what is best for ourselves. A social aspect from which I have been considering this perpetuation is the way in which information is given to us on the topic of medical reproduction.

One should assume that the language of Reproductive Biomedicine would enlighten us with just the facts, but the filtration of biological terminology is inherently misogynistic. Anthropologist Emily Martin, explores this idea in her article titled, "The Egg and Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." She explains the language used to describe the biomedical behavior of the egg and sperm as well as the language of biology textbooks and how human behavior can be attributed to this language. Martin suggests "[we learn] about cultural beliefs and practices as if they are a part of nature" (Martin, 1991). Similarly, Lisa Campo-Engelstein, Ph.D and her colleagues studied how cultural beliefs affect our nature. She analyzed textbooks from differing grade levels and notated the amount of information available for both egg and sperm by examining both sentence structure and overall gender neutrality. She found "many textbook accounts of fertilization read like a fairy tale—specifically like a courtship or romance—with the sperm as the 'knight in shining armor' and the egg as the 'damsel in distress'" (Campo-Engelstein, 2013).

Although slightly exaggerated, "facts" such as these are normalizing gender stereotypes in the classroom. By creating a gender-neutral learning environment from an early age, we can allow teachers to educate their students without bias and as a result both sexes and all genders can feel safe in both their biological and social environments.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES

BY FRANCES AMBROSE

Students for Choice and the F-Word co-hosted an event on Inauguration night that was initially intended to be a celebration of our country's first female President. Things didn't quite turn out the way we'd hoped, but we decided to make lemons into lemonade. We celebrated the anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision with a night of women's history and reproductive health trivia to give students and community members an alternative to perseverating over the most divisive inaugural speech in United States history! Between 30-40 people attended to make posters and swap contact info for carpooling to prepare for the **Women's March on Montana**, and to compete in three rounds of reproductive health and women's history trivia!

On Saturday, January 21st, Students for Choice as well as F-Word members carpooled and caravanned with friends, teachers, and neighbors to Helena to join the **10,000 Montanans** marching in solidarity in the Women's March Montana on Washington. The traffic in Townsend was probably the worst the town has ever seen based on the confused looks on the locals' faces. The March crowd was overflowing with positivity, love, and a strong will to fight against oppression, misogyny, xenophobia, and intolerance. Through the hours of chanting, singing, and listening to motivational speakers, Montanans demonstrated their grit while standing in a foot of snow in the chilled afternoon. By the time the crowds had dispersed, MSU students and club members had gathered together to begin planning our next move towards positive action. As activists, students and citizens, we appreciated the unified voice reminding us that it is our duty to fight against oppression because this country belongs to the people.

This semester, the **F-Word** will continue to meet every **Tuesday at 7PM in SUB room 235**. Presentations and discussions will center around diverse topics including: misogyny in video games, women's issues and religion, feminism in Turkey, gender and LGBTQ intersectionality--and that's just the first few weeks! In April, S4C and F-Word will join with Planned Parenthood of Montana for a film night and discussion. Be sure to look for updates on your email from msufword@gmail.com, or email us if you have questions about our meetings. Because of our concerns about the new administration, we are adding an option for folks to stay after formal meetings to discuss recent developments in Washington. We decided to set aside this time so that members have a safe space to voice their concerns with like-minded people. The work of F-Word and Students for Choice is needed now more than ever as politicians are quickly stripping away the rights of women and minorities across the globe, and placing the lives of refugees and Muslims in jeopardy. As feminists, activists and citizens, our club will continue to work toward a safer and more diverse community on our campus.

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

March 2017



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