



# VOICES



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## The Modern Feminist: A Third-Waver?

Lauren Donnelly, Newsletter Editor

In the wake of the Clarence Thomas hearings, Rebecca Walker told a 1992 issue of *Ms. Magazine*, "I am not a post feminism feminist. I am the Third Wave." Marked as one of the first times the term "Third Wave" was used to give definition to the work of today's feminist, it has since been hotly contested, as the term encompasses a variety of meanings for the wide-variety of women it includes. Resting on the essential principal that women, and thus feminism, cannot be defined in any one way, Third Wave feminism rejects the idea of universalizing the model of the "good feminist" to incorporate varying cultures, global perspectives and rapidly developing technology.

A unifying quality of the third wave is its attempt to debunk one of the most commonly held myths of those who doubt the importance of feminism today, the notion that we are living in a "post-feminist world." Women *have* achieved a degree of equity with men that has been hard fought for, and we enjoy freedoms today that were unheard of for even our mother's generation.

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## UConn Learns to See 'Beyond Beats and Rhymes'

Lauren Donnelly

A self-professing hip-hop lover, Byron Hurt has made it his mission to look at the issues of violence, race, sexuality and gender as they are portrayed by his most beloved musical genre. As a college football star, Hurt remembers how easily he got caught up in the culture of violence, sexism and heterosexism that defines today's ideas of masculinity. Upon graduation he began working with all-male groups and athletic teams to advocate the need for male responsibility and accountability in ending the predominant rape culture we live in today. As he learned more and more about the deep roots of sexism, he began to turn inward, and found that he could not ignore how deeply entrenched these negative images of masculinity and violence were in hip-hop. So in 2000, he got a camera crew together and decided to make a documentary entitled "Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Hip-Hop Head Weighs in On Manhood in Hip-Hop Culture." On February 7th, the Violence Against Women Prevention



<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/images/pics/Beats1.jpg>

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## Third Wave Feminism



However, if women have achieved true equity, why is it that women are still making, on average, 77 cents to the dollar a man earns? Why is it that only 2-3% of the top jobs in major corporations are held by women? Why do women hold a mere 16% of the seats in Congress? What's worse, why is it that in the United States alone, a woman is sexually assaulted every 90 seconds?\*

Today's feminists are the first generation of young women to grow up with the emboldening sense of entitlement the work of the second wave enabled in women's lives. They are the first to expect laws against sexual harassment and rape to be clearly defined and strictly enforced. They are the first to grow up with the understanding that they could enter the work world on their own terms, and expect the same treatment as their male counterparts. For most women coming into feminism today, the gains of the second-wave have been a permanent fixture in our lives. That said, we have faced our own subtle, acute and complex hurdles in pursuit of gender equity. Third Wave feminism has strived to include a broader understanding of how other social factors such as class, race, size, sexual-orientation, disability and age come into play when overlapped with gender, and change the experiences and concerns of individual women. It has faced extreme opposition and social backlash. It attempts to combat such subtle prejudice as, "the glass ceiling" and racial profiling, the effects of which can be equally as devastating as their formal, institutionalized inequities ranging from being denied the right to vote to being excluded from higher education.

Essentially, as Ellen Neuborne, author of *Imagine My Surprise*, claims, one of the most important roles of feminism today is to, "...focus their fight on ensuring that anti-discrimination policies are enforced and practiced in real life, not just on paper." In this way, today's feminism relies on, as well as distances itself from the Second Wave of the 1960s and 70s. Perhaps more radical in its execution, feminists of the Third Wave must take the institutional changes won by past generations and take them a step farther. We have been forced to confront the reality that sexual violence exists and flourishes even when the vacuum of legislation is filled with seemingly comprehensive laws to improve the quality and the

safety of a woman's life. Complex issues around motherhood and reproductive rights have grown to encompass not only the freedom to abortive rights but, similarly, the right to abstain from this essential right, and furthermore, to expect support and respect from our feminist colleagues. We must tackle the knowledge that women of color face a radically different reality than white women, and that this diverse range of problems cannot necessarily be quantified or generalized into a concrete "plan of attack." Third Wave feminism has tackled these intrinsic complexities head-on, and emerged as determined as ever to fight for gender equity.

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## I ♥ Female Orgasm

Lauren Donnelly

Some might say that Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller have the best job in the world. The energetic pair tours the country, speaking to jam-packed audiences about sexuality. On Tuesday, January 30th, the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) and Health Education brought *The Female Orgasm* to the University of Connecticut. The Student Union Theatre was filled to capacity, and many students were disappointed to be turned away from the program which promised a combination of, "sex education and women's empowerment with a hearty dose of laughter." Most of the lucky students who made it in were there out of curiosity. The female orgasm is so culturally taboo and mysterious, most simply were there to get the facts. Sylvia Zywno was, "Just there to learn." Many other people in the gender-mixed crowd, such as Amy Chalifoux, were there out of, "support and concern about [their] body." No one left disappointed. Dorian and Marshall delivered their message with tact, intelligence and wit. The crowd was charged with giddiness as the program started, but the two tastefully began by demonstrating the seriousness of their message.

Dorian, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 26, spoke from the heart when she started her presentation with the strong message that knowing and being comfortable with one's body can literally save your life. Emotionally, she told that it was an innocent sweep across her chest that detected the lump, and it was comfort with her body that gave her the strength to check it out. Having changed the

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# Women's Center Calendar of Events ~ March 2007

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## Women's Herstory Month

### *Generations of Women Moving History Forward*



- 15<sup>th</sup> *The Significance of Black Feminism* (Thursday, 7 pm, Women's Center)  
Dr. Evelyn Simien is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut and author of *Black Feminist Voices in Politics*. She has developed a sophisticated measure of black feminist consciousness and has examined the simultaneous effects of race and gender on political behavior. The program will be followed by a book signing.
- 19<sup>th</sup> *Valuing and Reclaiming Motherhood* (Monday, noon, Women's Center)  
Enough about the "Mommy Wars!" Join us as we take a deeper look into the diverse aspects of motherhood and who and what is fueling the so-called Mommy Wars. Panelists will include Barbara Gurr, Angie Beeman, Bandana Purkayastha, and Anne D'Alleva. Bring your lunch; dessert will be served.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> *What's Race Got to do with it?* (Thursday, 7 pm, Women's Center)  
Despite 15 years of diversity programs and initiatives, many of our discussions about race remain mired in confusion. Even a casual observer can't help but notice how structural racism is ignored, how multiculturalism is confused with equality, and how many campuses remain hamstrung in their efforts to become more inclusive and welcoming of everyone. Ironically, in responding to surveys, many students claim they already know all they need to know about "diversity" and shy away from opportunities to engage in interracial dialogue and understanding. Discussion following the film.
- 27<sup>th</sup> *Enrique's Journey, Pulitzer Prize Winner Sonia Nazario* (Tuesday, 4:30 pm, Dodd Center)  
Sonia Nazario, author and journalist who covers Latinos in the U.S. and immigration issues, will discuss her latest research and the harrowing journey that an estimated 48,000 immigrant children take each year to enter the United States from Central America and Mexico. Based on the Los Angeles Times newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, the book *Enrique's Journey* is a true story of families torn apart, the yearning to be together again, and a boy who will risk his life to find the mother he loves. <http://www.enriquesjourney.com/>
- 29<sup>th</sup> *Paving the Way: The Rise of Social Justice Feminism* (Thursday, 4 pm, Women's Center)  
Linda Burnham is co-founder and executive director of the Women of Color Resource Center in Oakland, California. Burnham has worked for many years as an activist and writer focused on women's rights and racial equality. She was a leader in the Third World Women's Alliance, an organization that grew out of a women's caucus in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and that, early on, challenged the women's movement to incorporate issues of race and class into the feminist agenda. Join us for an interactive discussion on social justice feminism – a new framework for women's activism in the 21st century.

For a complete listing of all of our programs and co-sponsors,  
visit our website at [www.womenscenter.uconn.edu](http://www.womenscenter.uconn.edu)

## Female Orgasm *(continued from page 2)*

energy of the crowd, they turned to the students to engage in a serious dialogue about female sexuality. They covered every topic from myths about the female orgasm, to sex education, to anatomy, encouraging the audience to participate and enrich the conversation with their own experience.

They then split the audience by sex, giving each group an opportunity to ask candid questions and openly share their stories in a comfortable environment. Both Dorian and Marshall understood the embarrassment that can dangerously inhibit genuine exchange, a necessary part of understanding. When the groups came back together, the pair got down to the basics. They showed slides of female genitalia, and covered many subjects that students nationwide are seeking answers to, including the clitoris, vibrators, the mysterious G-spot, Kegal exercises and many more. To conclude, Dorian encouraged women to explore their own sexuality, to become comfortable with their bodies, and to have fun with sex when they feel they are ready. As the crowd stood up to leave, the air buzzed with energy. They had gotten what they came for, a serious discussion that answered their every question with candid professionalism. ♀



**WELCOME!**

### *New Women's Center Staff*

**Alissa Becker** - VAWPP

**Nathan Bedard** - Program Assistant

**Chloe Coenen** - VAWPP Assistant

**Amanda David** - VAWPP Intern

**Alexandra Deeb** - VAWPP Intern

**Brenda Myers** - VAWPP Intern

**Marian Sampong** - Generalist/Political Process

**Barbara Williams** - Generalist/Political Process

**Jessica Zager** - VAWPP Intern

**Chandra Zambruno** - VAWPP Intern

## Group Offerings



### *Between Women*

A discussion group for women who love women... or think they might. Come join us and discuss fun topics, movies and much more with women who share your feelings and experiences.

Every Monday, 8:30 pm, at the Women's Center

### *Stronger*

A support and discussion group for UConn Women.

“I've lost myself.”

“What is a healthy relationship?”

“How do I ‘get strong’ after an abusive relationship?”

“How do I heal from sexual assault or abuse?”

For more information and to register for the next group, contact Betsy Cracco at 486-4738 or [elizabeth.cracco@uconn.edu](mailto:elizabeth.cracco@uconn.edu).

### *The South Asian Tree (TSAT)*

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. Do you identify with one of the countries listed above either through self or family? If so, come join in on dialogues of balancing South Asian heritage with North American ideologies and the implications it has on day to day experiences including life at UConn. For more information contact Bidya Ranjeet at 6-5460.

### *Support Staff Brown Bag Lunch*

This group is an effort to bring support staff together for professional development and networking, with the goal of enhancing the workplace climate and to support the personal and professional growth of women. Activities include bringing in guest speakers, participating in professional development workshops, viewing videos, etc. Bring your ideas and your lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided. All meetings will be held at the Women's Center, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

For more information contact Carol Millette at 486-4738 or [carol.millette@uconn.edu](mailto:carol.millette@uconn.edu).



## ∞ Double or Nothing ∞

African-American and female.  
Female and African-American.  
One does not precede the other, trump the other, veil the other.  
It has been referred to as a “double oppression.”  
What is my impression of this double oppression?  
It has not stopped others...  
Sojourner, Harriet, Madam C.J. Walker, Maya Angelou, Oprah  
She spoke her Truth, demanded to be heard  
She liberated herself, and scores of others, refused to be deterred  
She was an innovator, business person and evidence of progression  
She awed and inspired the masses with her lyrical expression  
She believed in her dreams and became a voice for those forgotten  
Each are Woman and Black, Black and Woman, yet not downtrodden



These women have pollinated our future with the possibility of change  
They have challenged dominant authority and gave reality more range.  
You cannot curtail courage, cannot feign faith  
You cannot pierce promise or drive determination away  
This myriad of women were blessed with these character traits  
And although the “double oppression” is real, it obviously can never seize strength  
Lo and behold, as these women have shown  
You cannot oppress one’s soul.

Double

Or nothing.

*Written by Chandra Waring, Women’s Center Program Assistant*

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### Byron Hurt *(continued from page 1)*

Program sponsored the debut of this remarkable film at the University of Connecticut, wowing the community with its fresh, honest look at hip-hop culture and the impact on sexual and gender violence.

Hurt left no stone unturned as he revealed his own inner conflict between the love for his music, and the rejection of the messages that it exalts. He interviews people from every part of the hip-hop world, from top executives, to the everyday fan. He speaks to experts on gender and violence, as well as young, college-age women and men, asking everyone the hard-hitting questions that force introspection and critique. Hurt recognizes that intrinsic sexism is not unique to hip-hop, and makes clear that he is simply using hip-hop to reveal aspects of American culture at large. Hurt says that he believes that this is the perfect time to begin questioning the direction of the genre, and hopes that his film will inspire others to listen critically to the music and videos they love, and make the necessary changes to re-frame ideas of gender and violence. ♀

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### Thursday Night at the Movies

March 22nd, 7 pm

*What’s Race Got To Do With It?*

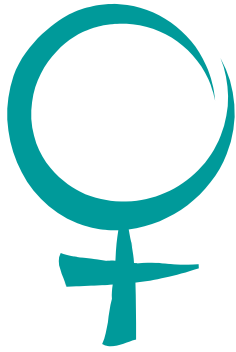


Despite 15 years of diversity programs and initiatives, many of our discussions about race remain mired in confusion. Come and discuss how college campuses should engage in an interracial dialogue that could lead to better understanding.

April 12th, 7 pm

*I Was a Teenage Feminist*

Why is it that some young, independent, progressive women in today's society feel uncomfortable identifying with the F-word? Armed with a video camera and an irreverent sense of humor, Therese Shechter talks with feminist superstars, rowdy frat boys, liberated Cosmo girls & Radical Cheerleaders, all in her quest to find out whether feminism can still be a source of personal and political power.



(Continued from page 2)

## What is UConn saying about Third-Wave feminism?

**Professor Margaret Robinson** (Women's Studies 215) asserts that while it is on some level important to give social movements period distinctions to recognize change and progress, she worries that it narrows and simplifies the scope of feminism, forcing feminists to continually "reinvent the wheel". She encourages people to step back and examine women's history with a more comprehensive view to see how women have always fought hard to improve their lives, not simply during the designated waves.

**Professor Richard Hiskes** (Director of the Human Rights Minor) believes that the importance of Third-Wave feminism is that it, "continues to puncture certainties we believe we have [such as] equality or rights" and that it seeks to continually, "root out discrimination" on many levels.

**Professor Serena Parakh** (Professor of Philosophy and Human Rights) notes that the sensitivity to diversity and culture that defines the Third Wave is great, but it complicates creating a universal feminism (as opposed to other philosophies, e.g. Marxism, capitalism). It's challenges how we, "...ascribe to norms such as justice, freedom and authenticity." What's more, these real, living tensions in the movement are great! They do not reveal fatalities or shortcomings, instead they are, "...sparks that motivate us to action." ♀

\*<http://www.feminist.com/>



**"Feminism** is the *radical* notion that *women* are **people** !/!"

-Cheris Karmarac & Paula Treichier

## Clothing Drive for Women @ NEXT STEP

Round up all the women's clothing you no longer wear and put them in a box! (clothes should be clean and in good condition). This effort, being led by Carolina Pires, Women's Studies intern, will assist women in the Next Step\* program in Willimantic who are re-entering the community after incarceration. Please help us to publicize this worthwhile project!



*\* Next Step is a work release and treatment program designed to help women re-enter the community after incarceration. The program assists women who want to become independent and responsible members of the community. Individual and group counseling deals with aspects of a client's life that have led her to incarceration, such as relationships, abuse issues, and substance abuse.*

**Drop boxes can be found at the Women's Center & Beach Hall room 409 through April 27.**

## From the Director...

As most of you know, March is Women's History (or as we prefer to call it "Herstory") Month. It is a time to recognize the remarkable achievements of women - as writers, politicians, activists, scientists, and more as well as take the time to examine the impact that women have had in shaping the story of our world. Here at the Women's Center, this year's Women's Herstory Month comes at a particularly historic moment for us - our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We will be spending 2007 celebrating 35 years of education, activism, advocacy, and support services on the University of Connecticut campus. We are going through old files that came with us in the move to our new space in the Student Union to paint the full picture of where we have come from. We will be calling on old friends to help us to tell that story. We are planning opportunities to bring together the numerous folks who have played a role in shaping the Women's Center over the past 35 years. In other words, 2007 could be called the Women's Center's Herstory *Year!*

We hope this year will be one of reconnecting as well as a time to cultivate new forms of support for the Women's Center. In the coming weeks, many of you will be receiving a letter from Nancy Naples, the Interim Director of the Women's Studies Program, and me. We ask that you *all* take notice of the pledge form that is included in this newsletter. Both the letter and our newsletter are ways of letting you know what's been going on in our programs. They are also ways for us to encourage you to keep in touch with us. We are always interested in the ever-evolving lives of the students, staff, and faculty who have been involved with our programs, and we hope you will share your updates with us. And finally, they serve as ways for us to ask you to support the very programs, services, and educational programs that have impacted your experience with us. So please consider financially supporting the Women's Center - \$35 for 35 years might be a great way to start!

Best,

*Kathleen Holgerson*



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# Women's Center Pledge Form



The University of Connecticut  
**FOUNDATION**  
INCORPORATED

2390 Alumni Drive Unit 3206  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3206

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION THAT APPLIES TO YOUR GIFT

I / WE CHOOSE TO DESIGNATE OUR GIFT TO:

- Women's Center (#20447)  
 100 Years of Women Scholarship (#30231) **DM0307**

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD** now for a total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to pay in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ months

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

VISA       MASTERCARD       DISCOVER       AMERICAN EXPRESS

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK** (payable to *The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.*) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**PLEDGE** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please send me a reminder in the month of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Should your spouse/partner receive joint credit for this gift with you?       YES       NO

Spouse/partner's title       Mr.       Mrs.       Ms.       Dr.       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

First      Middle      Last      Suffix

This gift is in memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish for my/our gift to remain anonymous.**

To contribute on-line click [here](#), and please be sure to use the Women's Center designations as listed above.

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS:

Are you a UConn alumnus/a?       YES       NO

Is your spouse/partner a UConn alumnus/a?       YES       NO

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_

School/College: \_\_\_\_\_

School/College: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My/My spouse/partner's employer will match my gift. Please see your Human Resources office for a form and details.

My company is \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My spouse/partner's company is \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send me information about Planned Giving opportunities. I will consider including UConn in my will or trust.

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