

Poet Rich opens celebration

Adrienne Rich reads her poetry, 7:30 in McGaw Wednesday evening

by WILLIAM VAN CLEAVE

Anyone participating in women's studies has not only heard of, but probably read, much of Adrienne Cecile Rich's poetry and essays. Rich, who was also on campus in 1978, will be the keynote speaker in the women's studies celebration next week.

Rich was born in Baltimore in 1929 and began writing poetry as a child. In 1951 she received her B.A. (cum laude) at Radcliffe College and *A Change of World*, her first book of poetry, was chosen for the Yale Younger Poets Award and published.

Rich has written over a dozen books of poetry, prose and essays since then which include *The Will To Change* (1951), *Necessities of Life* (1966), *Of Women Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution* (1976), and *On Lies, Secrets and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-78* (1978). *Of Women Born* and *On Lies, Secrets and Silence* are used in several women's studies courses at Wooster. Her two most recently published books are *Your Native Land, Your Life* (1986), and *Blood, Bread, and Poetry* (1986).

Rich spent 1961-62 travelling in Europe thanks to the Guggenheim Fellowship. She has been



ADRIENNE RICH

Thomas Victor

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Women's Studies celebrates 10th anniversary

Bell Hooks

by ELIZABETH WALSH

Bell Hooks, professor of women's studies and black studies at Yale University, will participate in a panel which will focus on "Feminist Theory and the 'Real World'" on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Freedlander Theatre. Other members of the panel will include Zillah Eisenstein, well-known feminist author; Mary Neagoy, Wooster class of '83; Susan Newton, professor of sociology and women's studies at Wooster; and Sally Tatnall, radical feminist theorist and activist.

Feminist historian Gloria Watkins, who writes under the name of Bell Hooks, has been interested primarily in the role of black women in the United States.

As a writer, Gloria Watkins has dealt with historical feminist perspectives and literary works. She

has written poetry, *And Then We Wept*, a dissertation on Toni Morrison (who is read in several courses at Wooster), and several studies on feminist and black women including *Black Women and Feminism*, *Feminist Theory From Margin to Center*, and *Ain't I A Woman*.

One of the things Hooks does in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, is to critique "the vision of Sisterhood evoked by women's liberationists [which] was based on the idea of common oppression." She says that "it was primarily bourgeois white women...who professed belief in the notion of common oppression. The idea of 'common oppression' was a false and corrupt platform disguising and mystifying the true

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From These Roots: The Growth of Women's Studies In Our Lives

Wednesday, April 20

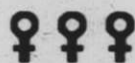
Adrienne Rich: Poetry Language, and Power

(McGaw Chapel, 7:30pm)

Thursday, April 21

Women's Studies: How The Inquiry Grew

(Freedlander Theatre, 9:30am)



Men In Women's Studies

(Freedlander Theatre, 1:30pm)



Feminist Theory And The "Real World"

(Freedlander Theatre, 7:30pm)

Friday, April 22

Women's Studies: Dutiful Daughter Or Disruptive Presence?

(Freedlander Theatre, 9:30am)



What Next? Women's Studies In The Next Decade

(Freedlander Theatre, 1:30am)

Jean O'Barr

by MAGGIE REDIC

O'Barr, editor of *Signs*, will be a member of a panel which will discuss "Women's Studies: How the Inquiry Grew," in *Freedlander Theatre on Thursday, at 9:30 a.m.* Other members of the panel will include Elizabeth Binhammer, Wooster class of '80; Joanne Frye, coordinator of women's studies and professor of English at Wooster; Faye Miller, Wooster class of '89; and Joanne Mills, Wooster class of '86.

Jean Fox O'Barr, editor of *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, has worked for 20 years to increase her own and others' knowledge of the ways in which politics, power, and gender operate to create a sexual asymmetry.

Using her understanding of that dynamic, O'Barr has co-edited 5 books and

12 of the over two dozen articles she has had published focus on women of the Third World and their interaction with their political systems.

O'Barr began her inquiry at Indiana University, where she graduated with a B.A. (honors) in political science. In 1965 she earned her M.A. in political science from Northwestern University, and by 1970 she had completed her Ph.D., also in political science, from Northwestern. She completed her formal education with several visits to Kenya and Tanzania where she conducted field research. Following these studies, she wrote several articles, including "The Role of the Ten-House Cell Leader in Tanzania," and "Making the Invisible Visible:

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Elizabeth Higginbotham

by JENNIFER SIMMONS

Higginbotham is one member of a panel which will discuss "Women's Studies: Dutiful Daughter or Disruptive Presence?" on Friday of next week, at 9:30 a.m. in Freedlander Theatre. Other members of the panel will include Susan Figge, professor of German and women's studies at Wooster; Gail Griffin, coordinator of women's studies and professor of English at Kalamazoo College; and Josephine Wright, acting director of black studies, and professor of music and women's studies at Wooster.

Dr. Elizabeth Higginbotham is currently a professor of sociology at Memphis State University, and has been highly involved in research on women, including developing grant proposals, writing manuscripts, and directing The

Center for Research on Women at Memphis State. She is particularly interested in the role of black women in women's studies, as well as the treatment of issues of race within women's studies. She has also taught at such schools as the University of Pittsburgh, University of Massachusetts, Boston State, and Columbia University.

The recipient of several fellowships and grants, Higginbotham is also presently on the editorial board of *Signs*, a feminist journal to which Wooster's women's studies courses commonly refer. Moreover, she is a member of quite a number of professional associations, including Alpha Kappa Delta and the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Among Higginbotham's pub-

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Zillah Eisenstein

by JULIE BUDDEN

Eisenstein, author of the forthcoming book *The Politics of the Body: Difference and Engender Discourses in the Law(s)*, will participate in a panel discussion, "Feminist Theory and the 'Real World,'" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday Apr. 21 in McGaw Chapel. Other members of the panel will include Bell Hooks, professor of women's studies and black studies at Yale University; publicist Mary Neagoy, Wooster class of '83; Susan Newton, professor of women's studies and sociology at Wooster; and Sally Tatnall, radical feminist theorist and activist in Cleveland.

Zillah Eisenstein is the current chair of the department of politics at Ithaca College in New York. She received her B.A. at Ohio University and earned her doctorate in political science at the University

of Massachusetts. She is the author of three books, with her most recent forthcoming, *The Politics of the Body: Difference and Engender Discourses in the Law(s)*. She has penned several articles and papers, and she is an avid participant and organizer of feminist conferences.

Although she said that she prefers not to do phone interviews, Eisenstein spoke on the phone for a few minutes from her office at Ithaca. She said she has been committed to feminist studies for twenty years, noting she was active in feminist studies classes as a graduate student. She has been teaching feminist studies for 16 years and has been active in the feminist movement since 1969.

"I don't think there is a more

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WS: Looking into the past, looking into the future

by WILLIAM VAN CLEAVE

The women's studies program at Wooster has officially existed since 1978, just ten short years ago. But women's studies began before that with courses like Women In Sport, and Women In American History. Before women's studies ever became the program it is today, Jim Turner, professor of history since 1969, offered Women In American History, and in a bold endeavor proposed and taught the first section of Introduction to Women's Studies ever in Wooster's history. Turner (who passed away summer before last) also assisted Joanne Frye in planning Women's Studies Seminar, the other core course to what

is today the women's studies minor.

Yet, from the beginning, women's studies was a team effort. Deb Hilty, who is presently secretary of the college and also a professor of women's studies and English, was also a part of this team effort. Hilty remembers that most professors who were teaching women's studies then were doing it as course overload. One of the first courses she taught, Women In History and Literature, was with Turner. They taught it in a small house from 4 to 6 p.m. in the afternoon. From there, Hilty went on to teach Poetry by Women partially because students were interested in the "unfamiliar territory."

The professor who taught the first women's studies course at Wooster, however, was Vivian Holliday, professor of classical studies and women's studies. She proposed the course Sexual Antagonism in Literature "for the purpose of treating in more detail some issues in...the feminist perspective." She and Glen Bucher, Dean of Faculty and professor of religious studies, team-taught the course. In 1968, when that first course was proposed, Holliday recalls that several members of the senior faculty said "had anyone else proposed that course, we would have voted against it..." but Holliday, a trusted member of the faculty, received support to teach

the course. Holliday also feels that she contributed to women's studies as Dean of Faculty from 1977 to 1985, where she helped to get the program on "firm footing."

In the 1978-79 academic year the Committee on the Status of Women, based on the some 6 to 8 courses already being taught on women, proposed a minor in women's studies. There were questions and controversy over whether women's studies was a "passing fad" as Frye, chair of women's studies, remembers it. But when it finally came before the faculty in February of 1978, the minor in women's studies received widespread support.

In 1980 the first women's studies minors graduated from Wooster. At that time the curriculum committee on women's studies ran the program, and Frye was named to head up that committee. In the fall of 1986 a position was created to allow a professor to run the women's studies program and Frye was chosen for that position. Frye says that it "is a 3 year, 1/2 time position filled on a rotating basis." This means that her term will end after the 1988-89 academic year is over, and a new member will be chosen to hold the position.

Women's studies works from the

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Concert Requiem

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Margret Kommel, formerly of the Wooster music department.

During her years as an undergraduate student at Wooster, Turner sang with The Wooster Chorus, The Wooster Concert Choir, the Wooster Gospel Choir and was active in the annual Black Arts Festival directed by Professor Annetta Jefferson. In addition, Tur-



ELIZABETH TURNER

ner served as a manager of the Stage Right Repertory Company, a summer theatre program at the College. Currently Turner works as a free-lance singer in the Twin Cities and is a member of the staff of a legal assistance company.

Also a student of Professor Dale

Moore, Paul Fletcher graduated from The College of Wooster in 1981. While at Wooster, Fletcher sang in The Wooster Chorus and the Wooster Concert Choir. He sang the role of Figaro in the college's production of *The Marriage of Figaro* and was, subsequently, a member of the Ohio Light Opera Company.

Fletcher was a scholarship student in singing at the graduate school of the University of Missouri, where he also sang in several opera productions and was the baritone soloist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City.

He received a masters degree in choral conducting from the University of Illinois where he held a graduate assistantship in the opera department. Currently, Fletcher is an assistant professor of music at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, where he teaches singing and conducts the choirs. In addition, Fletcher is director of music at First Lutheran Church in Duluth.

The history of The Wooster Choral Union spans a period of well over 60 years and this choir has always been the foundation of Wooster's choral program.

Known variously as the Wooster Oratorio Society, the Wooster

Bach Choir, and the Concert Choir, this college-community



PAUL FLETCHER

choral organization was conducted for many years by Richard Gore, emeritus professor of music.

Currently its membership comprises more than 120 Wooster students, faculty and staff as well as many people from Wayne County.

Since its earliest beginnings, The Wooster Choral Union has been dedicated to the performance of larger choral works, frequently with orchestra.

Hooks

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nature of women's varied and complex social reality. Women are divided by sexist attitudes, racism, class privilege, and a host of other prejudices."

A historian concerned with the development of feminism in the black community, Hooks has responded to many of the critiques of both the Feminist Movement and the Civil Rights Movement. She has examined the role of sex-

ism and its impact on America and how it effected women during slavery and after.

Her role as a feminist scholar and her writings have played an important role in the development of women's studies courses and kept issues of black women in the forefront of contemporary feminist theory and curriculum. In the introduction to *Ain't I a Woman*, Hooks says about her book that,

Higgenbotham

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lished articles are "The New Scholarship on Afro-American Women," "We Were Never on a Pedestal: Women of Color Continue to Struggle with Poverty, Racism and Sexism," and "The Costs of Exclusionary Practices in Women's Studies." She is presently working on a book which examines the interaction of race and class. The book, called *Too Much to Ask: The Cost of Black Female Success*, is a combination of interviews and questionnaire data, and explores the educational and social experiences of black women raised in working and middle class families. Higgenbotham did her undergraduate work at the City College of the City University of New York, where she graduated *cum laude*. She received her M.A.(1975) and Ph.D.(1980) in sociology from Brandeis University.

O'Barr

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African Women in Politics and Policy."

O'Barr further expands her understanding of a patriarchal bias by seeking to encourage and advise educators on the ways in which they can best restructure college curricula to include a recognition of the current imbalance. This imbalance, she feels, exists not only in the present neglect of a Third World understanding but also within American attitudes toward women within the work force and higher education. Of special interest to her are the dynamics of dual career families and education for the elderly.

The recipient of almost 20 grants, O'Barr currently teaches as an associate professor (adjunct) of political science at Duke University and is the director of women's studies there. She also teaches African Politics.

Eisenstein

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important political forum that women and men face in the 80's," Eisenstein said about feminism and feminist studies. "I try to address the political issues of the day."

Eisenstein has had well over a dozen articles published within the past decade; she has delivered several lectures as well and participated in conferences at Smith College, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Wisconsin, and even a conference in Madrid, Spain in 1982.

"Power," one course Eisenstein presently teaches at Ithaca, examines power distributions among class lines, heightened by sexual and racial dimensions of power.

She claims that there is a parallel between feminism and politics.

"I have a commitment to questions raised from feminism to politics and politics to feminism."

Poet Rich

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the recipient of numerous grants and awards. In 1974 she received the National Book Award for *Diving Into The Wreck*. Rich would not accept the award as an individual, but rather accepted it with Alice Walker and Audre Lord "in the name of all women."

Current Biography says that "the social upheavals of the late 1950's and the 1960's radically changed Adrienne Rich and her poetry. Even so, some of the perceptiveness, concern, and integrity she brought to poems informed by the surging women's movement and the struggle against patriarchy had been present in her first collection."

She was the Phi Beta Kappa poet at Harvard (1966), lecturer at Swarthmore College (66-68), an adjunct professor of writing at Columbia University (67-69), a visiting professor of creative literature (1972-73), and a professor of English at the City College of New York (1974).

Diana Loercher, a *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent, said that Rich is "a woman whose diminutive size and fragile appearance belie her authoritative, unequivocal manner" (taken from *Current Biography*).

Rich recently wrote an article for *Ms. Magazine* (March 1987)

entitled "Resisting Amnesia" which includes the following passage:

"Recently, at a college in Florida, a young white man asked me, 'Don't you think women have enough equality now that the ERA has passed?' What [this] suggests to me is not just amnesia, but the ignorance that a privileged existence can permit."

This is Rich's second visit to The College of Wooster in 10 years. In February of 1978 students had the opportunity to listen to her read her poetry in Freedlander Theatre, discuss issues with her in various classes she visited, and visit with her in the Women's Resource Center.

In the forward to *Blood, Bread, and Poetry* Rich says "My fifteen or so years in the Women's Liberation movement have been spent as a writer, a teacher, an editor-publisher, a pamphleteer, a lecturer, and sometimes an activist." With this multitude of accomplishments, Rich should prove to be one of the best speakers at Wooster in a long time. At 7:30 p.m. in McGaw Chapel, Rich will open the women's studies symposium with poetry reading and commentary entitled "Poetry, Language, and Power."

WS: Past and future

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"relationship between explicitly interdisciplinary courses and courses that are housed in traditional disciplines or departments which are cross-listed with women's studies," explains Frye.

When asked what she sees for the future of women's studies, Vivian Holliday responds that if we knew the answer to that, it would make it "less exciting." She does, however, see more mainstreaming, more refinement, and more individual faculty members teaching individual courses in the women's studies program.

Today, the program shows no sign of slowing down. The faculty teaching women's studies which started with 10 members, has more than doubled. There are currently 17 declared minors and 7 declared majors. (Students may elect to do a major in women's studies by designing a special major.) Already one man has completed a minor at Wooster, and one each of the current minors and majors is male.

Moreover, Deb Hilty says that next week's "symposium represents an extraordinary effort on the part of the women's studies curriculum committee [and] that it reflects a major commitment [to the program] on the part of the institution."

The number of majors and minors, the fact that both men and women are participating in the program, the support of the college, and the increasing interest faculty members have in teaching women's studies are positive signs that the program is on the rise as an influential part of Wooster, and moreover, of the U.S. For the first time in the history of the program there were three sections of Introduction to Women's Studies offered during this academic year, and they all filled.

As women's studies continues to grow, so will its contributors. Each writer, each speaker, each professor, each student who actively takes a part in the women's studies program at Wooster is contributing to a better understanding of women, of men, and of the socialization which surrounds and inhibits people in societies around the world. Also important is these students and teachers' better understanding and interaction with interdisciplinary studies. Not only are they participating in a relatively new program, with much relatively current material, but they are discovering the importance that women's experiences have to all disciplines.