

# **AS Board of Directors Proposal for Gender-Targeted Programming**

Presented by Devin Majkut & Shawna Held  
Associated Students Women's Center

This year the Associated Students Women's Center is proposing to offer *four* gender targeted programs. This proposal is designed to give you an introduction to the purpose of each of these programs, as well as to give you a background in our understanding of why it is important for these programs to be targeted at Women-identified students and community members.

## **October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bike Night @ The HUB Bikeshop (gender targeted)**

This event offers women-identified students the chance to participate in a bicycle skills and maintenance workshop at the HUB community bike shop in Downtown Bellingham. This workshop is beneficial in two primary ways, the first in that it gives women-identified people a chance to learn more about and have more access to bicycle maintenance and safety. Secondly, it offers women-identified students the chance to "get off campus" and head downtown to the HUB community bike shop. As this is our second event of Fall Quarter and it happens a week after our Feminist Connection kick-off event, our hope is that this event will be a chance for new students to get to know their bicycles and get to know Bellingham!

This event its part of a series that encourages women-identified students to participate in bicycling as a mode of transportation, and teaches bicycle safety skills for women-identified students. We will be offering multiple bicycle safety & maintenance workshops in both Fall &

Spring quarter, as well as organizing a minimum of two women's bicycle rides in the Spring so that women have the chance to explore Bellingham and Whatcom County by bike.

We value having this program be gender-targeted towards women-identified students because it promotes community building amongst women-identified students in a safe and supportive way. Additionally, this program is based in awareness that bicycling communities, bicycle shops, and bicycle maintenance are male-dominated arenas which are often times not inclusive to, and intimidating to women-identified bikers.

As the Women's Center staff, we seek to encourage safety for women-identified students, particularly new students as they explore the city of Bellingham. We are excited about how bicycle safety and bicycles as a mode of transportation offer safe options for women to travel, and would like to use these workshops as a way to introduce women-identified students to bicycling in Bellingham!

**November 2, 3, & 4<sup>th</sup> and Winter Quarter 2010: The Vagina Memoirs Process & Production (gender exclusive)**

Beginning with the Open Call for Casting on November 2, 3, & 4<sup>th</sup> and the following quarter of weekly process meetings and the February 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> production dates, the Vagina Memoirs are one of our most powerful and valuable events that we offer. As the last three years have modeled, we are seeking to have a trans-inclusive program for the Vagina Memoirs that offers the chance for women-identified people to participate in both the process and production. This production is based in empowering women's voices, stories, and experiences and to highlight the marginalized voices of women. This program specifically addresses stories related

to the historically silenced issues of women's bodies, sexuality, reproductive rights, and violence against women. Due to the gendered nature of how we view these issues in our society, we believe it is valuable to offer this program and process to women-identified students.

However, we do support the inclusion of all genders, specifically male-identified students in supporting the process and production, volunteering at the production itself, and participating in the multi-gender workshops that are to precede and follow the production as part of VWEEK itself. Although this program is targeted at women-identified individuals we believe it is incredibly important that people of all gender identities have the chance to support and witness the production of the Vagina Memoirs at Western this year. We are currently developing strategies for integrating more volunteers to support the production itself and welcome audience members and dialogue participants from any gender.

**Winter/Spring Quarter 2010 (date to be decided): Women Rock! (gender targeted)**

This event is coordinated with the Student Recreation Center (SRC) and will be offered in the Winter/Spring of 2010. "Women Rock!" is a chance for the rock climbing area at the SRC to be available to women-identified students of any background and experience with rock-climbing to have a chance to learn about, participate in, and enjoy a women's rock climbing night! This event will take place for four hours during a Wednesday or Thursday evening, and will give the chance for the rock wall to be closed except for use by women-identified participants in the event. Rock-climbing safety and skill lessons will also be taught, in order to make the event more available to all women-identified students who wish to attend.

The purpose of having this event be gender-targeted is to provide a space for women to participate in athletics and physical activity regardless of their background in rock climbing and to feel safe and supported by other women at Western in doing so. Our intention is that this event will challenge women-identified students to try something new, while also building community amongst those women on campus who are interested in rock climbing. We are excited about the possibility of having this event later this year!

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Take Back the Night March (gender exclusive)**

This April the Women's Center will be offering our annual Take Back the Night March. This event is part of a series of events on April 16<sup>th</sup> including a speaker, a rally, and a march through Downtown Bellingham. The speaker and rally segment of this event will be inclusive of all genders. However, we are requesting that the March through Downtown Bellingham be only for women-identified students and community members. This event has historically been gender targeted at women-identified students and community members due to the nature of the event being for "women to take back the streets" and to make a stance about safety and against violence. This event is intended to honor women's voices, women's spaces, and women's safety and therefore, we hope to have the March be for women-identified students and community members only.

However, the other segments of the event are open to all genders and historically the Men's Violence Prevention Project has offered a Candlelight Vigil during the March in order to give male-identified people a chance to participate in all aspects of the event to some extent. This event will be occurring this April on campus and in Downtown Bellingham and we are excited to draw in many participants and new students to this event.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we are excited to work with you more on these events!