



Issue 13



March 2009

Save the Dates: Upcoming FLAME Info

- April 11-16: It Affects Me Week!
- April 11: Take the Stage Against Violence, 6 - 8 pm in front of the Aeropostale store at Eastland Mall
- April 16: The Guerrilla Girls at ISU, 7 p.m. Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom



A History of Women's History

Two significant factors contributed to the emergence of women's history. The women's movement of the sixties caused women to question their invisibility in traditional American history texts. The movement also raised the aspirations as well as the opportunities of women, and produced a growing number of female historians. Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, one of the early women's historians, has remarked that "without question, our first inspiration was political. Aroused by feminist charges of economic and political discrimination . We turned to our history to trace the origins of women's second-class status."

Women's history was also part of a larger movement that transformed the study of history in the United States. "History" had traditionally meant political history—a chronicle of the key political events and of the leaders, primarily men, who influenced them. But by the 1970s "the new social history" began replacing the older style. Emphasis shifted to a broader spectrum of American life, including such topics as the history of urban life, public health, ethnicity, the media, and poverty

The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. The week including March 8, International Women's Day, was selected. In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month.—by Borgna Brunner

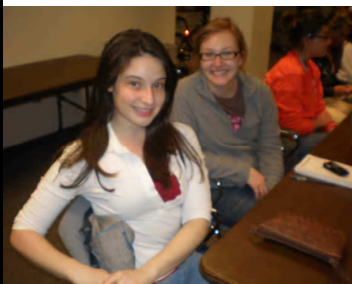
“Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation”—Susan B. Anthony



F.L.A.M.E. Tabling in Schroeder



Elise, Brigid, & Liz



Waiting for the Meeting to Start



Brandy & Annie

Cosmetics: How Important Are They?

On March 30, Kristen Braun, a graduate student in Clinical Psychology, came in to talk to us about cosmetics and why we use them. She said that there were many different reasons a person chooses to use make-up such as to blending in, for professional reasons, social pressures, and many others. She emphasized that reasons can be complex. The overlapping phrase of the night was “it depends.” She gave us the dictionary.com meaning of beauty which is a beautiful person, especially a woman. Kristen said that historically beauty is attributed to femininity and society expects people to obtain beauty. This of course puts pressure on women to do things to make them selves look “beautiful.”



It is important to look at what drives women to use cosmetics. In “The Beauty Myth,” Naomi Wolfe says that with every advance for women there is a stronger backlash in beauty ideals. In other words, the more equal become the more society uses beauty to hold women down. Kristen said cosmetics are a component of that.

Then we were able to take the cosmetics salience scale that would discover our motivations and attitudes about wearing make up. We talked about advertising for make up. Elise brought in a Mary Kay ad that made women feel empowered. We talked about the effectiveness of ads that make women feel positive instead of making them feel ugly. We then looked at the cost of time and money of cosmetics. With this, she pointed out that we must look at the ends we go to fit in. Do we wear make up because we feel like we need to but it takes 20 minutes out of our day? Would we rather be late for class than be seen without make up? Do we spend a lot of our disposable income on make up? These were the types of questions Kristen asked us to consider. Kristen was a very informative and interesting speaker, and F.L.A.M.E. was happy to host her! —Julie Wachtenheim



Drew Anastasia

On Monday, March 16, former F.L.A.M.E. President and female-to-male transgender, Drew Anastasia came to speak to F.L.A.M.E. and a room full of new and interested faces.

Drew began by sharing his credentials. He received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and is currently attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison in their doctoral program. Drew was a music performance major when he attended ISU, therefore his voice transition was very important to him. His research is focused on the voice transition of transgendered individuals. Some of his transition milestones had to do with his relationship with his singing and his ever-changing voice. He still finds it interesting to hear the voice clips he recorded of himself before and during his transition. He commented on the unique situation of being in the women’s choir at ISU and in the male choir at University of Wisconsin.

Drew’s transition has been a very complicated one. At one point in his life, he has identified as a lesbian separatist, a gay male, and as part of a heterosexual couple. Now, Drew identifies himself as a sexual being, and is open to all possibilities. He has found a community that is unique to his gender identity and the spirits of the people he chooses to surround himself with. —Kati Cruger



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