The Enlightenment Center for Multicultural Affairs March 2017

Women Herstory Month



The Name Game:

Women's Student Union Changes to Fredonia Feminists

As the second wave of feminism began to swell in the 1960s, students from SUNY Fredonia were caught up in the tide and began to participate in the push for gender equality. A student group dedicated to this area of activism and throughout the years have had various names, including: the Association of Women Students (1960s), Women's Awareness Alliance (1973-79), Fredonia Women's Collective (1979-81), Women's Action Coalition (1981-89), and Women's Student Union (1993-2016). As of the fall semester of 2016, a new title has been added to this list: The Fredonia Feminists.

The theory of intersectionality has become increasingly centralized in the most recent wave of feminism, leading most to reject the idea that something can serve singularly as a "women's issue." Intersectional feminists attempt to recognize each juncture between each identity, acknowledging privilege, and toppling social institutions which cause others to be oppressed. Race, gender, social class, sexuality, and ability are just a few of the identities which participate in granting a person privilege or causing the experience of oppression.

Since intersectionality has been absorbed into feminist theory and activist



spaces, naming our group with 'women' in its header now seems reductive and exclusionary. Feminism and the fight for gender equality is not just for women or any one kind of woman. By changing the name to Fredonia Feminists, the group hopes to achieve a greater level of inclusivity, inviting all people to work to uplift and respect all intersections of identities.

Students from the E-Board of Fredonia Feminists explained why the change was important to them. "I think that WSU wanted to change its name because we had a lot of people think that only women could be in the club, and that's just not the case. Feminism is for every gender, and we wanted a name that better encapsulates that. That's why Fredonia Feminists is our new name, and I love it," said one member. Another commented, "We changed the name because Women Student Union was too exclusive as our club isn't composed of just women but all identities are welcome. Our group is about feminism, intersectional feminism to be specific and it's extremely important that we're not just talking about 'women's issues' but issues and experiences of all identities in relation to gender equality."

No matter who you are or how you identify, if you're interested in learning more about intersectional feminism, you should join the Fredonia Feminist at the General Body meetings on Mondays!

In Case you Missed It! Black History Month

Activist Jane Elliott during her "Power, Perception, and Prejudice Workshop"





Black and Brown All Around, cosponsored with Latinos Unidos, African Student Union, and Caribbean Student Union

The BSU E-board with guest speaker Leon Ford, a human rights activist and survivor of police brutality.



Afro-Latinas from past to present: La Lupe to Lauren Luna Velez

By Gerry Celeste

Today we live in an age of expansive and continually growing multiculturalism. Afro-Latino culture is incredibly diverse: there are a wide range of Afro-Latinos within different nationalities. For example, I am Afro-Latino. My family comes from the Dominican Republic and I am also American, so you can say that I am an Afro-Latin American-Dominican. Taking this into consideration, as Black History Month has come to an end

and we're entering Women's Herstory Month, it encourages me to think about the way that racial and gender identities intersect in the Afro-Latina community and of two women in particular "The Queen of Latin Soul" Guadalupe "La Lupe" Yoli and actress Lauren Luna Velez.



The Afro-Cuban Singer "La Lupe" was one of the first women to break into what we consider present day Salsa culture. She was born in 1936 in the rural town of San Pedrito, Cuba and was viewed as a "virtual fireball of passion and song," and even though her family forced her to become a certified school teacher, she could not resist her urge to perform. Like many artists, Fidel Castro exiled "La Lupe" during the Cuban Revolution, labeling her "a

bad influence on the Cuban people." Her exile forced her to relocate to the United States, where she arrived "penniless." Fortunately, she was able to connect with Latin music icons such as Mongo Santamaria and Tito Puente. They would go on to "bring the rhythms of the mambo and Guanguanco to New York City nightlife" and to record their hit single "Que te Pedi." Soon they parted ways, and "La Lupe's" solo career did not go as well as she had hoped. She faced some personal challenges and then fell into poverty. Fortunately her career experienced a resurgence in 1985 and an interest in her music rekindled. She performed until her death in 1992.

Actress Lauren Luna Velez was born on November 2, 1964 in New York City; she is an Afro-Puerto Rican American actor. After finishing high school, she received a scholarship from the Alvin Ailey Dance School, which led to her first job performing in the national touring company of the musical '*Dreamgirls*'. She later



was cast as an understudy for actress Phylicia Rashad, in Broadway's 'Into the Woods'. Her most visible role was that of 'Nina Moreno' on the cop drama *New York Undercover* (1994). With her varied performances and Afro-Latin background and appearance, Velez's success is considered a breakthrough for Latina actresses who do not fit the stereotypical 'Europeanized Hollywood' version of Latinx females, which has a contributed to a broad and diverse following.

The lives of these two Afro-Latin women have recently intersected in the realm of pop culture. In 2012, Lauren Velez began working on a bio-picture called "They Call me La Lupe" that depicts the life of the "Queen of Latin Soul." This is an exciting and important tribute from one Afro-Latina to another. Women of Afro-Latinx descent in entertainment often find themselves challenged by pre-existing Europeanized stereotypes of Latina and Black women and/or they're told that they can't be casted because they simply don't fit the character type or they feel pressured to choose one of their multiple identities. This film is important because society has separate concepts of race and culture when it comes to being Latinx or being black, especially in entertainment. Adding gender to that mix further complicates identity. The Center for Multicultural Affairs is sponsoring an event with....

R

HERE



Sister Circle is designed to empower women by providing an open environment for all, to establish and build new positive relationships

> Who: Sister Circle When: March 3rd @ 7pm Where: William Center MPR

A celebration of women of color, who are often overlooked in both black and women's history.

Refreshments will be served first to those with a ticket

The Walk Along the Rabbit-Proof Fence

Reviewed by Karolyn Karsten



Native Americans and other aboriginal people all too often found themselves subject to campaigns to "assimilate"– to eradicate their history and heritage. Young women suffered in particular ways as boarding schools, first founded in the United States in 1860, arose as the institutions that could most effectively repress native cultures throughout the world. Their struggles and the ways they resisted the dehumanizing boarding schools should be honored as Fredonia marks Women's Herstory Month.

The movie Rabbit-Proof Fence relates the true story of three young girls that were taken by the Australian

government in 1931 to attend one of the boarding schools. The justification for taking these children from their culture was to breed out their native history over the course of a few generations. Girls were the most vulnerable in these times, as these children were promised to full bloods, (whites), as servants. They were subjected to abuse and racism while facing the risk of being forcefully impregnated to carry on the white gene.

Rabbit-Proof Fence is a remarkable movie that shows the heroic tale of three young girls who escape the compound in which they were housed – which was over 1,000 miles away from their family. Men ran the school where the girls were held, nuns being the only other supervision. Learning basic English, sewing, cleaning, and cooking were the girls' main responsibilities.



Molly, the oldest, was the most aware of what staying at the school meant to her future and that of her sister and cousin. Demonstrating courage and endurance, Molly used her knowledge to guide her young sister and cousin

home through unfamiliar terrain. For example, she knew precisely when to leave: during a rainstorm, when the deluge would cover their tracks to prevent immediate detection from the trackers. Without the upbringing of their culture, they would not have survived the journey. Across the continent there was a fence, the longest

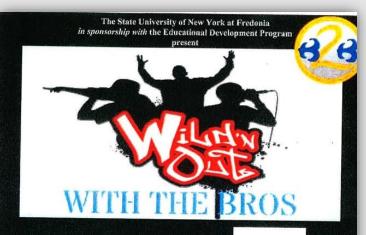


in the world at that time, which served as their guide back home. As the movie progresses, one can very much begin to feel how it would be like to be in an unfamiliar territory with only your background knowledge to guide you home. This is a remarkable tale that educates about the time period when the phrase, "Kill the Indian, save the man," was commonly accepted as a goal to improve "civilization." The strength of aboriginal women is strongly portrayed, as women in native culture are often held to the highest degrees of respect.

Upcoming Events!!!







WHEN FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017 AT 8 PM

WHERE WILLIAMS CENTER MPR

TICKET PRICE EARLY BIRD \$3 REGULAR STUDENT \$5 General Admission \$8

Tickets go on sale February 1 in the ticket office

Follow Usion:

🕥 firstagram: fredonia_b2b

Facebook: Fredonia's Brother 2Brother



Special Guest Host Brandon Williamson



Featuring DJ OneWay

General Body Meetings

Black Student Union

Native American Student Union

Fredonia Feminists

Pride Alliance

Latinos Unidos Hillel Williams G103C/Mondays,7:00pm Williams S204D/Thursdays 8:00pm

Williams S204ABC/Mondays 8:30pm

Fenton 153/Tuesdays 9pm

Williams S204D/ Wednesday 7:00pm Williams S204E/ Wednesday, March 8 7:00pm



The Center for Multicultural Affairs welcomes our new director, Khristian King. Most recently serving as the Multicultural Affairs Program Assistant here at Fredonia, Khristian is looking forward to bringing her knowledge, leadership and energy to the CMA and the Fredonia campus community.

E125 Thompson Hall

(716) 673-3398

Multicultural.affairs@fredonia.edu

Website: www.fredonia.edu/cma

Facebook: Fredonia CMA

Twitter: SUNY Fredonia CMA

Instagram: Fredonia_cma

Multicultural Affairs Director: Khristian King

Secretary: Kim Miller

GA: Lee Coletti

Contact us for more information or stop by any day between 8:30 AM - 5 PM!