

Immigrant Raids: What Happens to the Children?

By Becca Chase

When Dolores Huerta visited campus on April 26-27 for the Women's and Gender Studies Symposium, uppermost in her mind were the upcoming demonstrations on behalf of immigrant rights. One march that did not gain national attention was held on April 29—the Justice for Immigrant Children March in San Jose, which was co-sponsored by the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Nearly a thousand demonstrators gathered to decry the plight of children who are caught in the crossfire when undocumented parents are arrested.

Since last May, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has been conducting a terror campaign against immigrant workers called Operation Return to Sender. Agents have been locking down workplaces during the day and making mass arrests of both legal and undocumented workers, and raiding homes in the dead of night.

When agents make the arrests, they sometimes leave children home alone. State social workers take others, and some children opt to go to jail with their parents rather than be separated from their parents. As news of the arrests spread, relatives and friends retrieve the children and care for them. One of the worst cases for the children resulted from the March 6 raid of a New Bedford, Massachusetts clothing factory, which ironically holds a \$92 million military contract. Some parents, even nursing mothers, were separated from their children for several days.

Child psychologists are weighing in on the effects the arrests have on the children. Those children who witness their parents being taken into custody lose trust in their parents' ability to keep them safe. As families go underground to escape arrest, they learn that they cannot trust authority, and that it is not safe even to go outside.

Undocumented workers who are arrested are given the choice to stay and fight deportation or return to their countries. Those who choose to stay have an uphill battle, and are given little hope based on the 1996 immigration law. They have little economic hope if they return home to their impoverished nations, either, where many have no choice but to work long hours in *maquiladoras*, sweatshops that pay less than subsistence wages and are supported by the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA). In their countries of origin most of the workers who come here illegally are forced to work twelve-hour days, often with their children working long hours, too, just to provide bare necessities.

Those who support deportation argue that parents who come here illegally are at fault for not considering the risk to their children. Yet who is taking the best interest of the children to heart—the nay-sayers, or the parents who are trying to provide for their children and cannot survive the ways in which globalization and NAFTA have impacted the working families in their own countries? Most immigrants come here because there are still jobs available on farms and in U.S. companies that have not yet outsourced to profit from unregulated labor abroad. Children have access to the education and basic health care that should be every child's right, although these rights are continually being attacked. Perhaps what really is at play is xenophobia. (*cont'd*)

Inside This Issue

- 1-2 Feature Articles
- 3-5 Student News
- 6 Faculty Accomplishments
- 7 Calendar and Other News
- 8 Scenes from the WGS Symposium

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(cont'd) Immigration bills currently are being considered in the U.S. House and Senate that would provide avenues for illegal immigrants to gain citizenship, and improve the guest-worker program for new arrivals. While the proposed legislation is far from ideal, immigrants' rights organizations fear that the bill will be watered down considerably during negotiations. Please urge your congresspeople to support the immigrants who grow our food, sew our clothes, and so much more—and to see that the children grow up secure, with parental protection, and that they can live without fear. Locally, you can help by contacting the Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP) at www.ciop.org and Sonny Garcia at www.myspace.com/people_of_the_sun06. ☀



Twenty times over the years Dolores Huerta was arrested and jailed. In 1988, during a peaceful demonstration in San Francisco against the policies of presidential candidate George Bush, she was brutally attacked and seriously injured by San Francisco police at a demonstration. She sued and won a major settlement, which has allowed her to devote her life full-time to her union and civil rights work.

Civil Rights Activist Dolores Huerta Gives Keynote at WGS Symposium

By Becca Chase

On April 26 and 27, after a full year of planning, the Women's and Gender Studies Program hosted United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta. She delivered a series of lectures and attended several functions, including a breakfast with leaders in the Bloomington-Normal Latino community. She spoke to Joseph Zompetti's and Kyle Ciani's classes on the first day, followed by a community lecture that evening. On Friday she delivered the keynote lecture at the Women's and Gender Studies Symposium.

"Why have farm workers been and still are so mistreated?" asked Dolores at her public lecture. "They earn less than any other union workers, yet they are the ones that grow the food we eat." For the answers, Huerta looked to the history of labor laws. In 1936 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, which allowed workers to form unions. Agricultural workers were left out, Huerta asserted, because of racism. They were denied unemployment and workmen's compensation for many years after others had gained these benefits. John Steinbeck published *The Grapes of Wrath* in 1939. It was not until 1972 that the UFW was formed. In 1966 California agricultural workers gained access to cold water and toilets in the fields, but it took until 1985 for farm workers elsewhere to win such basic sanitation. Farm workers in some states still are denied basic rights like unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation.

Throughout her visit Huerta promoted a feminist and progressive social justice agenda. She stressed the need for more women and people of color to hold political office, pointing out that the U.S. ranks 60th in percentage of women in elected office. In 2004 the Feminist Majority (Huerta serves on the advisory board) sponsored a campaign to get women to run for and get elected. The campaign was especially successful in California. Today that state has two women senators, Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein; and 40% of California state and national legislators are Latina, African-American, and white women.

Huerta's lectures were packed with information and opinion about a wide range of social justice issues with which she has been passionately involved, including, most recently, the rights of documented and undocumented immigrants and voting rights. However, she has worked tirelessly against oppression on many fronts. She has met with *maquiladora* owners to discuss how they can help to stop the mass femicide that has taken the lives of more than 400 women in and around Juarez, Mexico. She has lobbied for the ERA, for FDA approval of the morning-after pill, and for legislation to defend clinics that provide abortions.

Huerta stressed the need for empowerment—the kind of power that comes not from domination, but from love of social justice. Towards the end of her speeches, Huerta explained some of the chants that are used to empower people at rallies. *Wozani* means "people together." *Si Se Puede* means "Yes we can." After energizing us intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, she helped us channel our collective response by leading us to chant, in unison, at the top of our voices, *WOZANI! VIVA LA PAZ! VIVA LA JUSTICA! SI SE PUEDE!* The energy in the room was electrifying, as we got a symbolic sense of the power that people who are united for social justice can have. ☀

Student News

Stephanie Braun won the Helen M. Cavanaugh Award for Best Master's Student in History.

Ricia Chansky presented her paper, "A Stitch in Time: Third Wave Feminist Reclamation of Needled Crafts" at the 2007 National Popular Culture Association Conference in Boston on April 6. She also gave a visiting scholar's lecture at Ball State University on March 25. The lecture, entitled "Navigating the Maze: Life Narrative in Visual Breast Cancer Journals," was co-sponsored by the BSU Art Museum, Women's Week Committee, and English Studies Department.

FLAME was chosen to receive the Small Registered Student Organization of the Year Award at the Twelfth Annual Student Involvement Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, April 22. Last year, FMLA received the same award.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Graduate Certificate Students:

Stephanie Braun, History
Ricia Chansky, English
Fatima-Zohra Belghiti, Foreign Language

Undergraduate Minor Students:

Julie Dawson, Communication Studies
Leslie Kwiatkowski, Public Relations
Jennifer Macpherson, Psychology
Kristina Nollinger, Communication Studies
Kathryn Schumpert, Mass Communication
Erica Thurman, Philosophy
Katelyn Wood, Communication Studies

Welcome, New Minors!

Jacqueline Barbarone, History
Lisa Burns, Criminal Justice
Sammi Cottone, Sociology
Lindsay Glover, Health Education
Kayla Krippner, Sociology



Ryan Rademacher performs at the Euphemism poetry slam

PRIDE Has Eventful Spring

By Patrick Drackley

ISU's queer student organization, People Realizing Individuality and Diversity through Education (PRIDE), sponsored several events this spring.

On March 24, PRIDE hosted Romaine Patterson. She was a close friend of Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was murdered in 1998, the victim of a hate crime. Romaine spoke of her friendship with Matthew, her grieving process at his death, and how she handled homophobic protests at his funeral and at the trials of his murderers. After her talk, PRIDE showed the HBO Films production of *The Laramie Project*, Moises Kaufman's moving play about Shepard and the city in Wyoming where the crime happened.

PRIDE presented its ninth annual Charity Drag Show on March 31. The show featured eleven student and professional kings and queens. All proceeds were donated to the GLBT Student Support Fund, which provides aid to GLBTQIA* students who have been financially cut off by their families because of their sexual orientation.



Anita Mann performs at the PRIDE Charity Drag Show.

During the National Day of Silence, observed on April 18 this year, participants took a vow of silence for the day to represent the silencing of our community from years of fear and hate. The day concluded with a candlelight vigil on the Quad for victims of hate crimes. Then, on April 24, PRIDE handed out free t-shirts bearing the slogan, "Gay? Fine by me." This project, started at Duke University, is an effort to promote a safe community for GLBTQICA students. Everyone who received a shirt was asked to wear it on April 30, when PRIDE sponsored a picnic.

For more information about PRIDE, check out the Web site at <http://www.isupride.org> and watch the WGS website for special events. ☀

*Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intesexed, and Allied

F.L.A.M.E. Keeps Burnin' On

By Erin Brophy

To honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month, F.L.A.M.E. organized a week-long event in April called "It Affects Me." Through this campaign, ISU's feminist student organization worked to raise campus and community awareness that rape and sexual violence directly or indirectly affect all of us.

F.L.A.M.E. kicked off the campaign with a simulation sponsored byYWCA Stepping Stones called "Walking the Walk," in which participants followed a rape victim through her struggle and witness the personal effects rape has on survivors, family, and friends.

Our next event took place on a rainy day in the Bone Student Center, where we displayed The Clothesline Project as well as our new "These Hands Are Not for Hurting" banner. More than 140 passers-by wrote their names on the hands decorating the banner and took a pledge to work towards ending sexual violence. Polly Poskin, Director of Illinois Coalition against Sexual Assault (ICASA), delivered the keynote address to end the conference. Polly was a member of the Women's Liberation Movement group on ISU's campus during the 1960s and shared her experience and knowledge with an audience of dedicated activists. Overall the campaign was a great success and will be continued next year and beyond.

The group also held empowering meetings that focused on women in the media and women in male-dominated fields. For the second year in a row, F.L.A.M.E. won the Small RSO of the Year Award. We would like to thank our amazing members, faculty, advisors, and special friends for their participation and wonderful support. Have a relaxing summer! ☀

"Leave your chapstick in the car..."

By Annaliisa Ahlman

That phrase was often repeated amidst giggles as a caravan of ISU women journeyed to Lincoln, IL on a windy day in mid-March. As the actors and production staff prepared to perform *The Vagina Monologues* for a group of inmates at Lincoln Correctional Center, we reviewed the protocol for prison visits. We were instructed to leave everything except a driver's license and script outside when we entered the medium-security women's prison. One ISU student groaned, "We even have to leave *chapstick* in the car?!" Sometimes, as they say, you gotta laugh so you don't cry.

After presenting the annual ISU *Vagina Monologues* production (see *GM*, February/March 2007), the troupe went on the road to Lincoln, where we performed the play for approximately 75 inmates. Afterward, the audience discussed how violence has affected their lives.

A number of the Lincoln women were familiar with Eve Ensler and her work, but quite a few had never before experienced *The Vagina Monologues*. The women were moved by the piece, and excitedly shared their own stories of despair, survival, and triumph with the students and each other. The questions asked and remarks made during the post-show talkback session demonstrated the inmates' passion for life and peace, and spoke to the cathartic impact that art has on our lives. ☀



The cast of "The Vagina Monologues" at the Lincoln Correctional Center, March 9, 2007

On Pedagogy and Nancy Drew

By Shayne

Rather than choosing one of the standard internships offered by the Women's and Gender Studies Program, I opted to set up one on my own. I found the perfect fit at Bradley University in Peoria, where I taught a course on Womyn in Literature, with Dr. Jean Jost as my mentor.

The tasks of the internship were formidable. Designing the course to encompass 77 years of novels; selecting the appropriate stories, movies, and supplemental readings; and generating subjects for quizzes, midterms and final questions were an adventure.

I invited guest lecturer and artist Laura Ruby from the University of Hawaii, to exhibit her work at Bradley and visit the class. (For more about Ruby and her *cont'd*)

(cont'd) Nancy Drew project, visit www.hawaii.edu/lruby/.) This was a memorable experience for the students, institution, faculty, and me.

Together the students and I energetically and enthusiastically engaged in our study of Nancy Drew and what these mysteries reveal about gender. For their final projects students created an exhibit for Bradley University's Student EXPO 2007. They created a poster and displayed their critical analyses of Nancy Drew mysteries, poetry about Nancy and her escapades, and their own Nancy Drew short stories, which followed the protocol of the novels. These tales were handsomely illustrated and decorated, offering multi-sensory glimpses of the past and present life of women across city, country, nation, ranch, hill, and other geographic regions. ☼

WGS Symposium Presenters Shine

The Women's and Gender Studies Twelfth Annual Symposium was held at the University Galleries on April 26 and 27. The symposium opened with a scene from a Women's Project play, Alan Ball's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," followed by four sessions and closing with Dolores Huerta's keynote address. In all, nineteen students presented, including several WGS minor (M) and graduate certificate (GC) students.

"Women's and Gender Studies Seminar" students presented their research, as they do every year. This year's theme was "Between Literature and Politics: Native American Women and Decolonization." The panelists were Jacqueline Oram-Sterling, Haley Robinson, Mark Vegter, Andrea Riley, and Kate Smith (GC).

Devona Mallory (GC), Joseph Campbell (GC), and Shushan Avagyan (GC) comprised a panel on race and gender literary theory. Graduating WGS certificate students Jennifer Woodruff and Stephanie Braun presented their thesis research on "swingers" (Woodruff) and domestic violence shelters (Braun). Jamie Downing and Kyle Schultz discussed ex-gay conversion narratives, Tammy Johnson analyzed media representations of U.S. women soldiers. Annaliisa Ahlman (M) and Geoffrey Arndt talked about *The Illustrated Woman* (see article, p. 7). Ricia Chansky (GC) analyzed breast cancer journals, Dolores Brown introduced us to African-American women Civil Rights activists from Bloomington-Normal, and Erica Thurman (M) read her own autobiographical poems.

Faculty members Janet Wilson and Ann Haugo (Theatre), Chris DeSantis (English), Becca Chase (Women's and

Gender Studies), Tom Gershick (Sociology), and Kyle Ciani (History) moderated.

Thanks to all the faculty and students who made the Symposium a success. ☼



Geoffrey Arndt and Annaliisa Ahlman at the 12th Annual Women's and Gender Studies Symposium



Graduating WGS minor Erica Thurman presents her poetry



Students from Kyle Ciani's HIS 261 class with Dolores Huerta



Dolores Huerta and Doug Cutter



Symposium presenter Jennifer Woodruff and her daughter Ella

Faculty Accomplishments

Pat Badani participated in CrossMediale 2, an exhibition of American and International art in new media at Gosia Koscielak's Studio and Gallery in Chicago, April 13-May 12. Badani presented Trans[mute], a video installation created in 2007. Trans[mute] addresses issues related to cross-cultural relationships. CrossMediale 2 also appeared at the Bridge Art Fair Chicago from April 27-30.

Alison Bailey presented her paper "What Are White Feminist Philosophers to Be Writing about?" on April 7 at the Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy meetings at Michigan State University.

Dawn Beichner presented "Thinking, Teaching, and Talking about Race Revisited" with Raleigh Blasdell and Lucas Miles on April 14 and "Female White Supremacists and the Internet as a Recruiting Tool" on April 17 with Tracy Warner and Ralph Weisheit at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meetings in Seattle.

Becca Chase was awarded a Teacher Equality Enhancement Grant to redesign the "Women, Gender, and Society" curriculum to better prepare teacher candidates for urban and high needs settings. The grant is a collaboration involving ISU, Chicago Public Schools, Golden Apple, Little Village Community Development Corporation, Truman College, Daley College, National Board Resource Center, and State Farm.

Sara Cole received a mini-grant to conduct a community dialogue on the Society for Public Health Education's Transdisciplinary Research Agenda in Health Education for the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. She was also the first recipient of the ISU's FOCUS (Faculty Opportunities for Creating Civic and Community Understanding among Students) Faculty Award. The Department of Health Sciences also recognized Dr. Cole with the Outstanding Service Award.

Cynthia Huff delivered "Inscribing Two Nations: Hannah Cullwick, Victorian Maidservant" at the British Women Writers Conference, April 12 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Michelle Vought performed nine concerts in Austria and Slovakia in March 2007, including a concert featuring several artists hosted by U.S. Ambassador "Skip" Valle and his wife Denise. Michelle was accompanied by ISU's piano faculty member Carlyn Morenus.

Kirstin Hotelling Zona is the new host of Poetry Radio on WGLT. The series co-hosts have traditionally served as talent scouts and editorial board for Poetry Radio, soliciting new performers and preparing readers for their recording sessions.

Bailey Co-Edits *Hypatia*



Dr. Alison Bailey

WGS director Dr. Alison Bailey has co-edited the spring 2007 issue of *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, with Dr. Jacqueline Zita, University of Minnesota. In the issue, entitled *The Reproduction of Whiteness: Race and the Regulation of the Gendered Body*, contributors explore

how gender, class, and sexuality are constructed through the lens of white supremacy. *Hypatia* provides a prestigious venue for academic writers to examine how the disciplines of philosophy and women's studies intersect. "*Hypatia* is the premier journal of feminist philosophy," says Dean Olson, "and it is a tribute to Professor Bailey that she was selected to guest edit this important publication." Bailey is also the co-editor with Paula J. Smithka of *Community, Diversity, and Difference: Implications for Peace* (Rodopi, 2002). Her textbook, *The Feminist Philosophy Reader* (McGraw-Hill), co-edited with Chris Cuomo (University of Cincinnati), will be released this fall. ☀



Save the Date!
National Women's Music Festival
July 5-8, 2007
on the campus of ISU

Watch for updates on the website:
<http://www.wiaonline.org>

SheRocks 

**Women In
the Arts**

Calendar

Jul. 5-8: National Women's Music Festival. Includes a performance by Michelle Vought, WGS affiliated faculty member, as well as workshops, marketplace, spirituality, drumming, writer's Series, and Celebrity Golf Scramble.

Jul. 30: 2nd Annual YWCA/Stepping Stones Golf Outing. Crestwicke Country Club, 12-6 p.m. Registration forms available at www.ywcamclean.org or at the YWCA Health and Fitness front desk. For more information, contact Pat Poppe at 309-662-0461 x224 or ppoppe@ywcamclean.org.

Rainbow Families Conference Comes to Normal

The second annual Rainbow Families Parenting Conference, co-sponsored by WGLT radio, will be held at the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal, Illinois, on Saturday, May 19, from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. Keynote speaker Rick Garcia will open the conference by assessing the "State of Illinois for GLBT families." Children can explore the museum during sessions.

"Last year about 30 adults and 20 children attended. We had attendees from as far away as Macomb, and the conference was a great source of information and encouragement for gay and lesbian parents and their families. We expect this year's conference to be even better," said Ramona Faith Oswald, a University of Illinois associate professor of family studies, who is coordinating the event.

Ideas being considered include a session for couples who are considering adding a baby to their family, plus panels to discuss school issues, legal issues, and second-parent adoptions, and a panel of gay and lesbian grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

Although the conference is targeted toward lesbian and gay parents and their children, all interested persons are invited. Older children will find programming suitable for their age groups, and younger kids will be able to explore the museum's exhibits accompanied by members of the Illinois State University PRIDE group.

For more information, to register, or to co-sponsor the event, contact Oswald at roswald@uiuc.edu or (217) 333-2547. ☀

The Women's Project Presents

The Illustrated Woman

By Julia Drauden

The ISU Women's Project, in partnership with the YWCA Stepping Stones, performed scenes from Nancy Kiefer's contemporary drama *The Illustrated Woman* on April 11 in the Bone Student Center Circus Room. The play, set in a small Ohio town in 1935, centers on nineteen-year-old Jane Ellen, played by Joanna Vaickus. Jane Ellen suffers from dissociative identity disorder (DID), formerly known as multiple personality disorder, as a result of her father's (Michael Bullaro) continual sexual abuse and her mother's (Kristin Holm) neglect. Kiefer wrote the play to help people understand and talk about sexual abuse as well as DID.

The Women's Project, which originally produced the full-length drama in October, 2006, performed three scenes from the play that reveal Jane Ellen's condition and the relationship she has with her father. Between scenes, audience members shared their reactions and thoughts and asked questions. Julie Wright, a Stepping Stones counselor, answered questions about DID and offered professional commentary.

Dissociation is a coping mechanism that helps protect people from traumatic memories or experiences. People with DID create one or more "alters," formerly recognized as separate personalities, which protect the individual from emotional trauma that may be too intense for them to otherwise handle. Healing from DID is possible, and is always the survivor's choice. A survivor may choose integration, weaving all alters into one, or may develop co-consciousness, when all alters are aware of and communicate with one another.

Stepping Stones is a YWCA program for survivors of sexual assault. If you have questions about sexual abuse and DID, please call Julie Wright at YWCA Stepping Stones, (309) 662-0461, x247.

The Women's Project is a registered student organization that promotes works written by and for women, and facilitates opportunities for young women to learn about the arts. For more information about the ISU Women's Project, contact Janet Wilson in the School of Theatre at (309)438-8949 or at jmwilso4@ilstu.edu.

Nancy Keifer is a playwriting fellow of the Ohio Arts Council and a member of the Dramatists Guild. ☀

Gender Matters
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Women's and Gender Studies Program
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Scenes from the Twelfth Annual Women's and Gender Studies Symposium



Alison Bailey, Sara Cole, Adriane Powell, Kyle Ciani, Dolores Huerta, Dawn Beichner, Becca Chase, and Annaliisa Ahlman



Erin Brophy, co-president of FLAME, speaks with Dolores Huerta

Visit our website at <http://www.womensandgenderstudies.ilstu.edu>