

# ATTUNE

You must do the thing you think you cannot do.  
—Eleanor Roosevelt

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## *Enchanted Places*

If you could trust your soul  
it would provide everything you require  
to make your life worth living—  
to take you somewhere higher.

If you could explore its depth  
and look your fears in their faces,  
you'd find yourself on the threshold  
of the most enchanted places.

If you could wrestle your vices  
and turn your weakness strong,  
there's nothing in this world  
that could restrain you for long.

If you could see your own goodness  
the way God and others do,  
you'd probably like that person  
who looks nothing like you.

If you could tap your soul  
and mine it's creativity  
you'd realize each day is a gift,  
each moment a mystery.

— Tracey Hackett

## *Nocturnal Takeoff*

The earth  
reclines before me  
like an elegant woman  
who refuses  
to reveal  
the dark, primitive skin  
beneath her  
silver and gold  
evening gown.

Each of her  
glimmering sequins  
has been crafted  
from  
the imprint  
of civilization.

— Tracey Hackett

## From the Editor

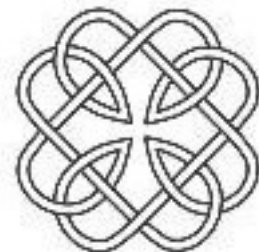
Hello again to our faithful readers. My fellow staff of the TTU Women's Center and I are pleased to present to you another outstanding issue of *ATTUNE*.

First of all, many thanks to the contributors who made this publication possible: the staff of the Women's Center, as always, for their excellent work on this edition. I am also delighted to present submissions from several authors from outside the Women's Center in this issue. Receiving articles from folks other than the staff here at the Women's Center is very encouraging!

I hope that you all enjoy this issue. For this semester, the staff decided to work in conjunction with the national theme for Women's History month: Women Moving History Forward. Inside you will find submissions that vary in format and topic. Each one, however, causes the reader to ponder how far women have come in the last few years—and how much ground still has to be gained before true equality is reached. While it is true that women have made significant advances in the past 100 years, some of the facts revealed inside are still surprising.

It has been a pleasure to serve as editor of *ATTUNE* for the past two years. It has been a learning experience I will continue to treasure for the rest of my life. Next year, this position will be filled by Ms. Tara Bates, a capable and confident woman and a fine protégée. I have no doubt that the high quality our readers have come to expect from *ATTUNE* will continue to exceed expectations under Tara's capable leadership.

— Hannah Holland



## The Elephant in the Room

January 22, 2007, marked the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, giving women the constitutional right to choose whether or not to remain pregnant as an extension of the right to privacy. This right to choose was given the highest level of constitutional protection: "strict scrutiny" a protection level shared by the rights of freedom of speech and religion. The Court's ruling prohibited the states from banning abortions before the point of fetal viability. However, state governments retained the power to regulate abortion as legislators pleased during late-term pregnancies, as long as women were allowed exceptions to protect their health.

The legalization of abortion resulted in a sharp decline in pregnancy-related deaths. Prior to 1973, an estimated 1.2 million women had illegal back-alley abortions each year with as many as 5,000 deaths occurring annually due to complications during or following the procedure. A significant number

of women also resorted to dangerous self-induced home abortions. Today, roughly 1.4 million women have abortions annually with fewer than 1 percent of abortion cases resulting in complications.

Though legal, thanks to the *Roe v. Wade* precedent, abortions are not necessarily easy to obtain. When Medicaid covered abortion costs (prior to the Hyde Amendment of 1976, which banned federal Medicaid insurance for funding abortion procedures unless the woman's life was in danger), fewer than 20% of all public county and city hospitals provided them. In 2000, 87% of U.S. counties had no abortion provider.

The Hyde Amendment marks the first instance of erosion of abortion rights through federal legislative action. In addition, 35 states have parental notification laws, which limit the ability of young women to obtain abortions. In the 1992 case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Supreme Court upheld a Pennsylvania law

which required mandatory waiting periods and, some may argue, *biased* counseling prior to abortion procedures, showing little regard for the impact such restrictions may have on low-income women. The *Casey* decision effectively replaced the "strict scrutiny" standard applied in *Roe* with the "undue burden" standard. Now the states may have greater freedom in their abortion legislation as long as it does not place an undue burden on the woman.

In 2003, President Bush signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act into law. The law was immediately challenged in federal court with the case *Carhart v. Gonzalez* and in 2005, the Eighth Circuit court found the ban unconstitutional due to its lack of a health exception clause and vagueness of terms.

I do not mean to lump emergency contraception together with abortion, but it is a new and significant aspect of reproductive rights. To make things even better, Plan B, a.k.a. the Morning

After Pill, is now available without a prescription. But wait a minute—don't let yourself get too excited. There are still obstacles. Some pharmacies—including the monolithic Wal-Mart—have refused to stock the emergency contraception. I suppose the prevailing theme throughout the history of women's reproductive rights is this: whether it is elevating the fetus above the life of the mother or enacting legislation that limits a woman's freedom over her own body, unless women make a stand against such protectionism, true reproductive freedom may never exist. Let's make it exist before we lose another 34 years.

—Tara Bates

Sources for information are as follows:

*Roe versus Reality — Abortion and Women's Health* by Alexi A. Wright, M.D., and Ingrid T. Katz, M.D., M.H.S.

*Our Bodies, Ourselves: A New Edition for A New Era (35th anniversary edition)* by The Boston Women's Health Book Collective

[www.feminist.org/courts/roe](http://www.feminist.org/courts/roe)

## Upcoming Events

March 27— Dr. Benice Sandler, *How Even the Best of Us Often Treat Males and Females Differently in the Classroom*, a Center Stage event. 7 p.m., Derryberry Hall.

March 29— Dr. Zachary Wilcox will discuss Health and Well-Being at the Backdoor Playhouse, 11 a.m.

April 3— Clothesline Project, Tech Pride Room, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Jane Montgomery to speak at Noon

April 10— Susan Estrich, *Sex and Power: Women, Men, Sexism and the Future*, a Center Stage event. 7 p.m., Derryberry Hall.

April 13&14— Window on the World (WOW) Symposium and Festival, April 13, Symposium; April 14, 11:30a.m.-6:30 p.m., Festival.

April 20— Transitions Conference, *Exploring Paths to Self-Sufficiency*, Multipurpose Room, 8 a.m.— 3 p.m.

April 24— Equal Pay Day, RUC Room 371, 11 a.m.

## Family Planning— Obscene or Sensible?

Some would say no person moved history forward more for women than Margaret Sanger. Sanger, born into an Irish working-class family, became so driven to educate women about their bodies that it would become her life's work.

In the year 1900, Sanger, at the age of 21, completed her nursing training and worked as a visiting nurse in some of the worst slums in New York City. It was during this time that Sanger witnessed the impact of bearing too many children on the health and well-being of women, as well as the suffering and near fatalities of the many who obtained unsafe, illegal abortions.

Often, women begged Sanger for knowledge on

how to prevent pregnancy, but by law she was prohibited from sharing any information with them. Finally, after the death of a young woman who had previously pleaded with Sanger for this information, she decided it was time to take a stand.

Sanger clearly understood that for women's lives to improve they needed information about family planning. Since this kind of information was considered "obscene" at the time, she fought against the government's ban on the circulation of contraceptive information by founding the *Birth Control Review*. Sanger became a national figure the following year when she was arrested for opening a birth control clinic in New York City.

Handbills were printed and posted announcing the following in Yiddish, English, and Italian:

MOTHERS:

Can you afford to have a large family?

Do you want any more children?

If not, why do you have them?

DO NOT KILL, DO NOT TAKE LIFE, BUT PREVENT

Safe, Harmless Information can be obtained of trained Nurses at 46 Amboy Street Near Pitkin Ave.— Brooklyn. Tell Your Friends and Neighbors. All Mothers Welcome. A registration fee of 10 cents entitles any mother to this information.

By 1938 there was a national network of over 300

birth control clinics staffed mostly by female doctors. These led to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 1942. Eventually this movement expanded internationally as the issues of a woman's control over her own body and overpopulation grew in importance.

— Leslie Burk

Sources for information are as follows:

*Winning the Vote— the Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*, by Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr.

*Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*, by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee

## Teaching Women the "Business"

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal titled "Raising Women to Be Leaders" related the extraordinary story of the four Sullivan sisters. What makes their lives so amazing is that each woman, respectively, has reached an upper-level position in a different billion-dollar corporation. The *Wall Street Journal* article delves into the background of the Sullivan women and how they were able to achieve their remarkable successes.

According to Maggie, the second oldest of the Sullivan sisters, it was their father Dennis who first taught his four daughters about the business world, beginning while the sisters were in grade school. Dennis "wanted to share everything he knew about business with his girls."

Having begun his career at entry level and worked to an executive position at AT&T Inc., Dennis understood that if his daughters were to have success in the business world, they needed to be educated beginning at an early age.

Dennis Sullivan is not the sole inspiration in his daughters' lives. Connie Sullivan, the sisters' mother, also played a role in the instillation of work ethic and business sense into her daughters. According to the Wall Street Journal, "she wasn't a traditional housewife. She became a Realtor when her youngest daughter started school and soon earned a spot in her employer's million-dollar club— selling \$28,000 homes."

Beginning in their childhood, the Sullivan sisters developed keen business sense,

as is evidenced by the independent successes of all four women. The road to that success, however, began early on with the training and encouragement they received at home as well as the business model set by both parents.

The sisters also learned to rely on each other's strengths, forming a strong support network, which each has utilized in their careers. The support network has grown to accommodate their husbands. Each sister is married "to men who accommodate their wives' careers and don't seem threatened by their spouses' achievements or job demands."

The lives of the four Sullivan sisters are proof that with the right training and a good support base, women can achieve success in the over-

whelmingly male-dominated world of business. "It is rare for four brothers to achieve such levels of success. The fact that they are sisters is striking. Half of all managers in the U.S. are female, but most are stuck in mid-level staff jobs. In senior posts, men outnumber women by almost six to one." However, when one considers the statistics on women in business in comparison with women like the Sullivan sisters, the message is clear. The glass ceiling may still exist, but it can be overcome.

— Hannah Holland

\*\* All direct quotations from this piece can be found in the article "Raising Women to be Leaders" by Carol Hymowitz [www.careerjournal.com/columnists/inthelead/](http://www.careerjournal.com/columnists/inthelead/)

## TTU's Women and Gender Studies Minor

Looking for a minor? Interested in how gender plays a role in today's society? Then the Women and Gender Studies Minor may be for you. The WGS (Women and Gender Studies) minor at TTU began around nine years ago. Dr. Paula Hinton is now the current chair and also helps coordinate the curriculum. To obtain a WGS minor, students are required to take WGS 2010, an Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, and an additional twelve credit hours, including six upper division hours.

The WGS 2010 course is the only core class of the minor. According to the Spring 2007 syllabus, "The class is team-taught and interdisciplinary. At an intellectual level, what this means is that you will get the benefit of the expertise of five different instructors from five different disciplines, utilizing different methodologies." The five instructors for the Spring 2007 semester are: Dr. Karen Burdette, foreign languages; Ms. Pat McGee, Library and

Media Center; Dr. Elizabeth Ojo, Minority Affairs; Mr. Andy Smith, English; and Dr. Lisa Zagumny, Curriculum and Instruction. Throughout the semester, the class examines "historical constructions of gender, key debates, the academic shift from women's studies to gender studies, major historical and literary landmarks, gender theory, and cross cultural issues."

There are no tests; the class is comprised of journals, small projects, quizzes and participation. The journals cover assigned reading and how the reading relates to lecture and discussion. The small projects may include research papers or critiques of readings or films. Quizzes are given daily at the beginning of class and participation is based on attendance, paying attention and involvement in discussion. The class usually has around 20 students; the small class size allows for

discussion.

Since the WGS program began there has been no way to track how many students graduate with a WGS minor. Those who have been in charge have been able to keep track of how many students take the core class, WGS 2010.

There has been a slight increase in the number of students that have taken this class over the last few years and this increase indicates to Dr. Hinton a growing interest in the WGS program.

Dr. Hinton hopes to make the WGS 2010 class part of the general education curriculum here at TTU. Since MTSU has a similar class as part of their general education curriculum, Dr. Hinton hopes that it will not be difficult to do the same for WGS 2010 at TTU. If the class becomes part of the general education curriculum, there is likely to be further increase in class enrollment and general interest, which would

bring more attention to gender issues and women's history at TTU.

—Summer Carnahan

Direct quotations from :  
[www.tntech.edu/wgsm/wgs2010-s2007.htm](http://www.tntech.edu/wgsm/wgs2010-s2007.htm)

*Special thanks to Dr. Paula Hinton for her time and help during the research process of my article.*

### Golden

Her laughter is a silver bell  
ringing with purity in every room,  
filling our hearts with gladness  
and erasing our thoughts of doom.

She takes our burdens easily,  
even as she takes her own.  
Her heart is warm and loving  
when others' would turn to stone.

She's a golden goddess  
bringing Heaven's goodness to earth,  
but she proceeds unaware  
of the treasure that she's worth.

She moves like an angel  
over this terrestrial mire,  
complete in her existence,  
yet striving for something higher.

No one is more worthy.  
Certainly, she'll reach her goal,  
reaping every reward  
to come to an unblemished soul.

I count myself lucky  
to call her my friend.  
If she were money in my pocket,  
it's gold I would not spend

—Tracey Hackett

### Quotable Quotes

"I've been a woman for a little over 50 years and have gotten over my initial astonishment. As for conducting an orchestra, that's a job where I don't think sex plays much part."

—Nadia Boulanger, on becoming the first woman to conduct the Boston Symphony orchestra.

"Somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps and preside over the White House as the President's spouse. I wish him well!"

—Barbara Bush

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/whmquotes1.html>

## The First Annual WoMeNet Conference

On Jan. 19-20, Tennessee Tech University hosted the first ever WoMeNet Conference (Women: Mentoring and Networking). We hope that it will be the first of many.

WoMeNet was created in order to facilitate networking and mentoring of Tennessee women interested in some aspect of women's issues or history. The conference is open to all Tennessee faculty, students (graduate and undergraduate), staff, administrators and independent scholars. The idea for the conference came when several faculty members and students realized how lit-

tle we knew about our colleagues throughout Tennessee. We hope to build a coalition of Tennessee women interested in supporting one another as we confront some of the obstacles we all face.

Eight Tennessee institutions of higher learning were represented at the conference: Tennessee Tech University; Carson-Newman College; the University of Tennessee—Knoxville; Vanderbilt University; East Tennessee State University; the University of Tennessee—Martin; Tennessee State University; and the University of Memphis. There were more than sixty presenters providing a full two days of panel discussions, work-

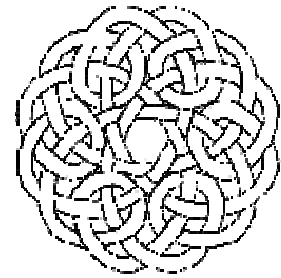
shops and roundtables. Topics included: violence against women; student-led organizations; the future of Women's Centers and Women's Studies; the use of technology; empowering women through dance, art, and writing; wage issues; and various topics in Women's History.

At this year's conference, our key-note speaker was Robin Murdoch, an on-air reporter with the NBC affiliate in Knoxville, WBIR. She detailed what her job entails and the stresses and rewards inherent in such work. She spoke at length about the most rewarding aspect for her: the opportunity to make a

difference in someone's life.

For more information and details about next year's conference, please see the WoMeNet website at [www.ttuwomenet.com](http://www.ttuwomenet.com).

—Dr. Paula K. Hinton



## Gender Inequalities in Salaries and Their Impact on Women's Retirement

- 1960s: Women earned 55-60% of what men earned from the same job.
- 1963: Congress passed and President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act—employers cannot discriminate between employees on the basis of sex.
- 1970: *Schultz v. Wheaton Glass Co.*—jobs need only be substantially equal to fall under the protection of the Equal Pay Act.
- 1974: *Corning Glass Works v. Brennan*—employers cannot justify paying women less because they have traditionally worked for lower wages.
- 1970-2004: Women's wages rise to 77% of what men earn for the same work. There has been little change in women's wages since the 1990s.
- Pre-retirement income of women aged 55-64 is \$20,810. Similarly aged men earn \$39,212.
- Post-retirement women's income is \$12,080. Post-retirement men's income is \$21,102.
- Women live 7 years longer than men. 80% of all women have not planned for this responsibility or have had no financial experience on their own.
- 95% of women will end up assuming sole responsibility for their finances, yet 91% of women feel insecure about investing.
- Only 28.5% of women receive a pension in retirement.

—Pat McGee

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