

Center for Educational Pluralism

Newsletter -winter 2001

Western Washington University, Woodring College of Education

Welcome to the CEP's Winter Newsletter. The CEP is a student run organization sponsored by Woodring College of Education. Our Purpose is:

- ◆ To serve as an introduction to the concept of multicultural education in the public school system and its effect on students as future teachers
- ◆ To serve as an outreach vehicle for topics of relevance to all students and faculty in the Western Washington University community
- ◆ To serve as a resource center for students and faculty who may use the Center's resources; curricula, children's literature, videos, articles, catalogs, periodicals, fiction, non-fiction,

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Oliver Sacks Presentation

On Wednesday, January 24, 2001, WWU presented an evening with Dr. Oliver Sacks. Oliver Sacks is an internationally acclaimed neurologist and author. Some of his books include *Seeing Voices*, *Awakenings* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat*.

The evening with Dr. Sacks was insightful, thoughtful and often humorous. He shared a wealth of information that allowed his audience to fathom the inner workings of the human mind and psyche. Some issues he addressed included medicating students with ADD/ADHD, Tourettes Syndrome, and the Deaf and Deaf/Blind Cultures. Another topic discussed by him was the notion of "normalcy" and "individuality". Dr. Sacks thoughtfully brought the audience into a realm of social and cultural diversity.

Dr. Sacks clearly conveyed to his audience that every person should create an opportunity to learn from people who are profoundly and prominently different from one's self. The attachment of a fixed notion of "normalcy" impairs individuals from discovering what others view as precious.

As the evening approached an end, Oliver Sacks left his audience with a sense of individuality and identity.

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GLBTQ Youth In Education

(Voices Panel Fall 2000)

How do teachers deal with issues of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning youth in schools? Do educators even deal with these issues? On Tuesday, November 14th, "Just Us" (GLBTQ youth group) and "PFLAG" (Parents, family and friends of GLBT people) answered these questions and many more for a very interested group of about 40 future educators. It seems that for many Woodring students the issue of how to creating a safe space for all students is important. When issues such as GLBTQ youth surface in our classrooms, teachers are often left wondering if addressing these issues is important and necessary.

The panel discussed many issues that they faced in the classrooms and hallways of their schools. Some examples include, but were not limited to: hearing homophobic remarks on a regular basis, feeling threatened in classrooms to the point of having to drop

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Morris Dees

Morris Dees, the cofounder of the Southern Poverty Law Center came to Western Washington University to speak about what he believes is the answer to having an equal, just society. Mr. Dees spoke about some of the hate crimes he has taken to trial and what that process entails. He shared his experience working with the victims and then the triumph of winning these cases, some of which ended in the malisha group going bankrupt and having to close down, all thanks to Mr. Dees and the volunteer workers at the Southern Poverty Law Center. (cont....)



Morris Dees talked about where the true problem lies, in the heart of everyone one of us. He spoke of a love that needs to shine through everyone in order to promote equality and justice in our communities. This love is kind, caring, understanding, gentle, open minded and real, it is the kind of love we offer to those people who mean the most to us. He believes that if we could just muster up this love for all people, including people who are different from ourselves, then all would take a turn for the better and the world would become a more understanding place for celebrating the differences that we all have.

Are You Applying to Student Teach Next Year?

Have you started thinking about how to meet your **Diversity in Education Requirement**? Remember, this requirement must be completed by the time you apply to student teach. Get an early start with your diversity plan and save yourself the rush next fall quarter!

Stop by the CEP today to get started! Our staff will be happy to give you an orientation to the Center, and review the requirement with you. We hope to see you soon. (For our location, phone number, and hours, see page 4.)

Web Resources

1. In-sites for Bilingual Education
<http://members.tripod.com/ozpk/biled.html>
A link site containing numerous links including standards, curriculum, parent involvement, references, program ideas, resources, and fun ideas for students. It appears to focus primarily on native Spanish-speakers, but includes other primary language-speaking information as well.
2. Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory Equity center
<http://www.nwrde.org/cnorse/index.html>
Mission Statement:
“The Equity Center is committed to helping public schools and communities incorporate the key components of educational equity into policies and practices to ensure each student receives what she or he needs to succeed.”
A wonderfully diverse resource for assisting schools and teachers develop equity in the schools. It also contains information, assistance, and links to other equity sites.
3. Native American Sites
<http://www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/indians.com>
Developed and maintained by Lisa Mitten, a “mixed-blood Mohawk urban Indian. My goal is to provide access to home pages of individual Native Americans and Nations, and to other sites that provide solid information about American Indians.”
Contains several links to information, resources, language and Nation links, and general “Indian-Oriented Home Pages.”
4. African/African American Resources
<http://ss.uno.edu/ss/homepages/mcproj/AfroAm.html>
A great resource with extensive links to information on history, culture, politics, famous people, educational resources, and more.

(Oliver Sacks'c cont....)

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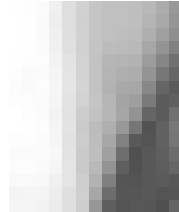
As the evening approached an end, Oliver Sacks left his audience with a sense of individuality and identity. According to Dr. Sacks, "individuality is the way in which one experiences the world" and "In society today, we need to ensure that each individual will be allowed their own self-preservation". Then Dr. Sacks concluded the evening with the simple, yet powerful phrase, "Let me be..."

(GLBTQ Youth continued)

classes, being verbally and physically assaulted, and not having teachers, faculty or students as allies. The panel reminded us that issues of diversity and respect are important embrace and discuss with students. As future Educators, we need to create a safe learning environment where all students will feel free to learn as allies. The panel reminded us that issues of diversity and respect are important embrace and discuss with students. As future Educators, we need to create a safe learning environment where all students will feel free to learn.

The CEP Says "Good-Bye"

As winter quarter comes to a close, the CEP will have said good-bye to two staff members: Wendy McColluch and Rachel Stewart.



Wendy has been a dedicated employee at the CEP for six quarters and our Head Student Coordinator for one year. She is leaving to begin student teaching this spring at a local elementary school, working with students who have special needs. Wendy has been an energetic, enthusiastic, and personable leader. Her shoes will be hard to fill.



Rachel is graduating from WWU after winter quarter, with a double major in Spanish and Political Science. She is currently serving as an intern in Olympia, working closely with some of our state's politicians. Rachel will be remembered at the CEP for her ambition, ideas, and positive attitude.

We wish both Wendy and Rachel good luck and best wishes as the leave WWU and begin their professions. They will be missed.

March Discussion Calendar

Thursday, 1st @ 1pm
Monday, 5th @ 1pm
Wednesday, 7th @ 2pm
Tuesday, 13 @ 1pm
Friday, 16th @ 11am

Note: Discussions take about 50 minutes. You will view a 30-minute video and then discuss for the remaining 20 minutes. All discussions will be held in Miller Hall 250.

Resource Review New CEP Resource

[The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, gay, and Bisexual Young People](#)

Photographs by Adam Mastoon

William and Morris Company, INC,
New York, 1997

This book poignantly depicts numerous gay, lesbian, and bisexual young people in evocative photographs by Adam Mastoon. Accompanying each photograph is a compelling account of the trials, tribulations, and celebrations each person has experienced as they have examined their sexuality. Each individual speaks with dignity and strength about the diverse lives they lead. The combination of the stunning photographs and the candid narratives provides a powerful look at the courage it takes to live honestly and openly as LBGT youth in our culture.

Western Washington University
Woodring College of Education
Center for Educational Pluralism
Miller Hall 250, Mail Stop 9088
Bellingham, WA 98225

Address to be mailed to:

Return Service Requested

It's Time to Pick up your Packets and IDPs!

We have finished reading all packets and IDPs that were turned in during the first two weeks of Winter Quarter. Please stop by the CEP to pick up your packet or IDP, along with your official certificate for meeting the Diversity in Education Requirement.

Winter Quarter Hours:

M, W, F: 9-5

T, Th: 9-11:50; 12:15-5

Sat: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10; 10-2

Contact Information:

Center For Educational Pluralism

Miller Hall 250

360.650.3827

E-mail: cep@wwu.edu

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(Top left to right) Melissa, Isaak, Shelly, Nola (Bottom left to right) Rachel, Wendy

**Thank-you,
from the CEP staff.**