



# The Awakening

The student journal of the Women's Studies Program

Volume 24, Issue 3

## Inside this Issue

Letter from  
the Editor  
page 1

Take Back the  
Night 2007  
page 2

Host Your Own  
Green Pink  
Party  
page 3

Students Plan  
For New  
Women's  
House  
page 4

Review:  
Feist's *The  
Remainder*  
page 5

WS Mixtape  
page 6

Women's  
Studies  
Course Listing  
page 8

## Activism

### A Note from the Editor

Every Spring, it seems like activism becomes a staple of many students' lives at Ohio University. Be it clubs trying to squeeze in one last event before members leave for summer, or just an overall feeling of rejuvenation after a long winter of icy streets and barren trees, the environment on campus always feels a little more conducive to action. Student Senate and women's groups on campus are always busy planning Take Back the Night, clubs hold rallies and protests on the Green, Relay for Life brings several groups together, and almost any Friday or Saturday night clubs can be found selling hot dogs and grilled cheese for fundraisers in front of the Courthouse.

In this issue of *The Awakening*, we take a look at activism on campus. On page two, we take a look back at this year's Take Back the Night March on the Ohio University campus. On page three, Natalie Lombardi discusses the childbirth injury obstetric fistula, with tips on

how you can help affect the lives of the women who are suffering from it. On page four, the students of the recently formed Women's House Collective lay forth the plans they have to bring a Women's House to Ohio University. Finally, on page six, with the final installment of the Women's Studies Mixtape, students in WS FUN share their favorite summertime songs.

With this issue, I would also like to extend a big thanks to everyone who was involved with *The Awakening* this year. Thanks to the Women's Studies Program for all its support and guidance, without which *The Awakening* would be impossible. Also, thanks to all of this year's contributors, whose enthusiasm helped make the newsletter so great. Have a great summer, and be sure to look for *The Awakening* again in the Fall!

Thanks for reading,  
Allie Nordman, Editor

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# Take Back the Night 2007

## OU Women Come Together for 28th Year of Women's March

By Allie Nordman

In 1978, the first Take Back the Night March in the United States was held in San Francisco. The march was part of a conference entitled "Feminist Perspectives on Pornography" being hosted by the group Women against Violence in Pornography and Media. The march and conference were focused on rape and pornography, with the idea that pornography was a main (or, to some, exclusive) cause of the subordination of women. The women gathered and marched down Broadway and through San Francisco's red light district, blocking the roads from cars and filling the usually busy city streets with the sound of their chanting.

The first march boasted the likes of such notable feminists as Susan Brownmiller and (the infamous) Andrea Dworkin and was strongly tied to a Second Wave feminist anti-porn rhetoric. Since that time, however, the march has evolved to have diverse meanings and intents in each location it is held. Some have a very specific focus, such as violence against women and children or sexual assault, while others have a wider scope, such as women's subordination or violence in general. Organizers for each march

cater the event to the needs of their specific area and use the march as a framework to foster local change.

In some areas, men are allowed to march alongside women. In most, the march is reserved as a women-only event, as it was originally. Either way, this is typically one of the most controversial aspects of the event, and whenever there is discussion of Take Back the Night events, the debate over whether men should be allowed to march follows close behind.

This year's Take Back the Night on Ohio University's campus marked the 28th year the event has been held in Athens. The theme was "Know Means Know: break the silence, end the violence." Local women's groups, as well as individual women, put in hours of work planning events for the entire week to lead up to the march on Thursday night. The week began with "Sexual Assault 101: What Men and Women Need to Know," hosted by local Sexual Assault Prevention Specialist for the Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services, Lindsay Daniels; and "How to Help a Friend," hosted by Amanda Childress and Michelle Pride, intended to provide

*continued on page 7*



# Host Your Own Benefit

## Help Women by having a Green Pink Party

**By Natalie Lombardi**

In several countries that lack basic obstetric care facilities, giving birth becomes a matter of life and death. Due to prolonged obstructed labor without proper medical intervention, such as Caesarean section, thousands of women suffer from the devastating injury obstetric fistula. Obstructed labor results in a cut-off of blood flow to the tissues of the vaginal wall. The vaginal tissue dies and forms a hole between the vagina and the bladder or the vagina and the rectum. In 90 percent of these cases, the baby dies and the mother is left with chronic incontinence. The medical consequences of fistula range from severe infections and ulcerations to kidney disease and death. Often, to avoid leakage, women drink as little as possible and suffer from dehydration. Fistula can also cause severe damage to leg nerves and lead to an inability to walk.

On top of the medical injuries incurred, women also suffer severe social consequences. The leaking of feces and urine causes those afflicted to be shunned by society and even loved ones. Women are unable to travel with others or participate in communal activities, and often suffer life-long isolation.

Fistula is most common in poor communities

in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia where access to obstetric care is limited. Unfortunately, good data on fistula is scarce. In 1989, the World Health Organization estimated that more than two million women remain untreated in developing countries and that at least 50,000 to 100,000 new cases occur each year.

On an individual level, when dealing with such a massive problem, it can feel overwhelming and impossible to make a difference. One By One is an organization created to treat and prevent fistula one woman at a time. Along with the Sierra Club, One By One provides Green Pink Party kits designed to assist small groups of women raise money to provide women suffering from obstetric fistula. Reconstructive surgery, post-operative care, and counseling sessions for one woman total 300 hundred dollars, and at that price, the chance to make a difference is within reach.

For more information on fistula, or to learn about throwing your own Green Pink Party, visit [www.fightfistula.org](http://www.fightfistula.org).

Other helpful websites include:

Campaign to End Fistula: [www.endfistula.org](http://www.endfistula.org)

United Nations Population Fund: [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

Women's Dignity Project: [www.womensdignity.org](http://www.womensdignity.org)



# Ohio University Students Begin Committee to Create Women's House

by Students from The Women's House Collective

This quarter, a group of Ohio University Students began initial preparations to bring a new Women's House onto campus sometime next year. The house will be open to all female students and will be used both for housing of select students, and as a meeting place and resource center for all women on campus.

The plan was initially proposed by Junior Nicole Shanks, who formed the idea after hearing a co-worker talk about the Women's House at Ohio Wesleyan University. After asking friends and classmates about the idea, a committee of supporters was quickly formed. The committee so far has been mostly focused on gathering support and determining what policies may surround the house itself, but several ideas are already firmly in place.

The house will serve many purposes, but one of the main ideas is for the house to function as a safe place for women on campus. There will be a "safe room" for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted, which will provide a place for women to receive help for recovery in a personal and welcoming environment. Right now, the committee plans to hold discussion with local police, medical professionals, counselors, and women's health organizations in order to determine the best resources that could be made available in the room. Services in the room will be anonymous to respect the wishes of the women who seek help, and be open to all women on campus.

The house will also hold outreach and educational events for women on campus, somewhat similar in structure to consciousness raising groups in the 1960's and 70's. The house

will also serve as a means to bring together various women's groups on campus. They will hold one to two meetings a quarter with the intent to open up lines of communication between women's groups on campus and to connect women with other activists who have similar interests and motivations. It will also hold feminist gatherings with a more social purpose in order to bring about a greater sense of community for women on campus.



The house will exist to address specific feminist issues and matters pertaining to women on the Ohio University campus. The collective hopes that because the house will be largely student-run, it will be better suited to gain an accurate idea of women's lives on campus than other, more distant sources currently are.

All female students will be invited to live in the house if they so wish. They plan to have space for up to ten residents at a time. To qualify to live in the house, each resident will be required to complete either one advocacy project quarterly or two yearly. These

projects will ensure that students living in the house have a genuine interest in activism and women's issues surrounding them. Projects suggested include active membership in a campus organization, planning a large event, or starting and leading one quarter's discussion in a feminist book-club with other women.

Right now, they are focusing on grass-roots means of gaining support. Over the summer, students will continue to meet for planning meetings in hope that action for the house can begin to materialize in the Fall. For more information, or to get involved, email [ks169704@ohio.edu](mailto:ks169704@ohio.edu).

# The Remainder

## Feist



By Allie Nordman

The first time I heard Feist's new album, *The Remainder*, I was in my friend's car on a warm night, curving over highways spliced into fields and farms, and the mood was perfect. Feist's songs are both poppy and smooth, a combination perfectly suited to warm weather, dark nights, and a summer spent lazing around with friends.

Leslie Feist, who records under just her last name, is familiar to many from her former stint with the ever-changing lineup Broken Social Scene, in which her vocals helped win the praise of critics and fans with the release of the album *You Forgot It In People*. The release of her first major album, *Let it Die*, was unbelievably well received. She received critical praise, gained a much larger fan base, and had her most popular songs used in commercials and played on the radio. The release of *The Remainder* was anticipated by many who were curious if, after having such an overwhelmingly successful first album, she could follow up with something equally impressive.

*The Remainder* has shown both her fans and critics that her success was not a fluke or a break of luck, but rather something that should be expected from her. Like *Let it Die*, this album holds onto Feist's disco-inspired song arrangements and relies on her warm, slow

vocals. The arrangement of the album is a bit questionable at times, but the songs themselves are much more concise as an entire album than *Let it Die*. *The Remainder* starts off with "So Sorry," a slower, romantic song with a coffee-shop feel, which seems like an odd choice to set the tone for the album. It picks up quickly, however, with the upbeat yet calm "I Feel It All," which seems destined to become one of the most played songs on the album. Feist's voice dips around the light keyboard melody and steady, yet airy percussion of the song, showing everyone that writing undeniably catchy songs comes naturally to her. The next song, "My Moon My Man", is arguably the best song on the album. It has a danceable, almost dark feel to it, with lyrics like, "My moon and me/Not as good as we've been/It's the dirtiest clean I know." The heavy beat of the song mixes with Feist's clear lounge-singer voice to give a vintage sound, but a distinctly modern pop sensibility.

After that, the album slips a bit. "The Park" seems over simplistic and sparse following such involved and complex sounding songs. The simplicity of "The Water" highlights the range of her voice better than the previous song, and serves as a reminder of the incredible vocal talent she has. It picks up again with "Past in Present," in which her quickly delivered lyrics and light

*continued on page 7*

With the final installment of the WS Mixtape just in time for summer, students from WS FUN share their favorite warm weather songs.

### **The Crystals—Da Doo Ron Ron**

This song is one of the best songs to have come from any of the girl groups of the Sixties. It's so catchy, listening to it once will have you singing it all day, and with all its energy, it's the perfect song for driving around in your car with the windows down.

### **Joanna Newsome—Bridges and Balloons**

"We sailed away on a Winter day/With fate as malleable as clay/but ships are fallible, I say/ And the nautical, like all things, fades"

Joanna Newsome's cool, smooth harp playing and strange, childlike voice complement each other in this song, setting the mood for sitting on a porch on a slow Summer afternoon.

### **Abba—Fernando**

"There was something in the air that night/ The stars were bright, Fernando/They were shining there for you and me/For liberty, Fernando"

Despite what people say, this song is just good. It starts out slow, but once it builds up, it's impossible to resist singing along with Abba's vocal harmonies.

### **X-Ray Spex—Germfree Adolescents**

This is one of the more melodic songs X-Ray Spex recorded, and one of the few where Poly Styrene doesn't try to out-scream Lora Logic's saxophone. Despite the departure from their usual sound, though, this is one of their best songs, and it's sedate enough to help cool down a hot day.

### **X—Los Angeles**

"She gets confused/Flying over the dateline/Her hands turn red/'Cause the days change at night/ Change in an instant"

X have amazing energy, and Exene Cervanka's voice is great in this song. This song is a classic punk song, and fun to sing along to.

## **Women's Studies**



## **Mixtape**

### **Stereolab—Ping Pong**

This song is actually a sarcastic song about military power and economic recession, but it's upbeat enough to put anyone in a good mood.

### **Solex—Randy Costanza**

Solex is known for her poppy, lo-fi music, which sounds unlike anything else around, and this song is one of the most endearing on any of her albums.

### **Sleater-Kinney—Modern Girl**

"My baby loves me/I'm so happy/Happy makes me a modern girl/Took my money and bought a TV/TV brings me closer to the world"

### **Peaches—Operate**

Peaches is notorious for her humorous and usually vulgar songs. This is one of her more danceable songs, while still holding onto her lascivious tone that's made her so notorious.

### **Os Mutantes—A Minha Menina**

Os Mutantes is one of the best bands to listen to when it's nice outside. Their light, poppy songs are irresistible.

### **Nellie McKay—Tipperary**

"You will have a house in Tipperary/A cottage by the sea/A cottage on the prairie/A home for you and me"

Nellie McKay's vintage-sounding vocals and accompanying piano playing make this light song great for summer. Listening to it, you can almost imagine her singing for you in a little cabin by a lake somewhere.

*continued from page 5*

percussion lend a childlike feel to the song. The album finishes out with another string of equally slow, and sometimes underwhelming songs. They're songs that are not necessarily worthy of skipping over, but it's doubtful anyone would ever play the album just to hear them.

There are enough really amazing, solid songs on the album that it's worth sitting through the lesser tracks; it's not even that those lesser songs are bad, it's just the other songs are so

good, it's too hard for them to compete in context. The main things that make Feist so popular are all there. She shows her penchant for arranging music to perfectly complement her provocative, sincere voice, and proves she can not only write beautiful, introspective songs, but also catchy, fun pop songs. With *The Remainder*, Feist proves that she can be consistent with her songs, and if her songwriting continues to evolve as it has so far, there's a lot to be expected in the future.

*continued from page 2*

information to help women understand what victims of sexual assault need from supporters. Damon Krane, from PeopleMight, hosted a sign-making workshop, and Cheryl Cesta led one of her popular self-defense workshops. Tuesday night began with a discussion panel on men's involvement in women's activism and personal support of survivors hosted by PeopleMight and WS FUN. The Latino Student Union sponsored a much-anticipated lecture by Amanda Harris entitled "The 500-year Night: A Tradition of Resistance to Patriarchy in the Americas," which focused on Chicano feminism and ways different types of feminism can come together for action. On Wednesday, Cat Cutcher screened her film, "The Third Wave: March for Women's Lives." After that, the survivor name burning was held, in which sexual assault survivors and friends were encouraged to write down and burn the names of sexual assault offenders. On Thursday in the Women's Center, as part of the Brown Bag Lunch Discussion Series, the discussion "Do You Feel Safe at OU?" was held.

By the end of the week, students and planners were excited for the march, set to begin, as usual, at the West Portico. For the rally, both Title IX and the Calliope Feminist Choir delivered impressive performances. Speakers prepared the crowd for the march, which began with a silent walk down Jeff Hill as a memorial for those who have suffered sexual assault. The march took its usual path, through East Green, past South Green and up Richland Ave, then down Court Street and back around to College Green. The turn out for the march was impressive, as was the number of men who participated in side-line support.



Following the march, CodePink hosted an After-March Dance with Karaoke at Casa. On Friday Alix Olsen and Pamela Means performed at the Front Room. Olsen is a well-known spoken word poet and Means is a folk artist.

Most students seemed satisfied with the outcome of this year's events. Some suggestions for next year included more publicity and events that serve to bring more women's groups together in the planning of the event rather than having different groups plan individual events. As always, many wished to see a further discourse of the appropriateness of men's involvement in Take Back the Night planning and to find new ways to encourage women who have never before marched to become involved with the event.

*The Awakening* would love to hear from you!

Please send all submissions, letters, etc., to the Women's Studies Office in Lindley.

# Course Listings

## SUMMER 2007

### WS 100 Introduction to Women's Studies

02136 | WWW | Grant

### WS 200 Issues in Feminism

02317 | WWW | Grant

### ENG 306J Women and Writing

40148 | Second Session MTWTh | 1:10-3:00 pm  
Webster

40149 | Second Session MTWThF | 10:10 am-  
12:00 pm | Rice

40150 | Second Session MTWTh | 12:10-2:00  
pm | TBA

### ENG 325 Women and Literature

40156 | Second Session MTWTh | 10:10 am-  
12:00 pm | Webster

55973/55974 | Second Session MTWThF | 9:10  
am-1:00 pm | Manoogian

### HLTH 210 Health of Women

40204 | Second Session MTWThF | 2:10 pm-  
4:00 pm | Basta

### MGT 462 Women in Mangement

01672 | WWW | Tucker

### PESS 400/500 Women in Sport

01718/01720 | WWW | Lawrence

### SOC 220 Intro to the Family

40364 | Second Session MTWTh | 8:10-10:00  
am | Hall

## FALL 2007

### WS 100 Introduction to Women's Studies

07222 | MW | 5:10-7:00 pm | Little

07223 | TTh | 1:10-3:00 pm | Hall

07224 | MW | 1:10-3:00 pm | Whitson

07225 | TTh | 9:10-11:00 am | Stokes

07226 | WF | 10:10 am-12:00 pm | Wales

07227 | TTh | 3:10-5:00 pm | Nickles

07743 | TTh | 11:10am-1:00pm | Pant

07786 | MW | 2:00-4:00 pm | Norander

### WS 200 Issues in Feminism

07752 | MW | 3:10-5:00 pm | Little

07556 | TTh | 11:10am-1:00pm | Stokes

55056 | WWW | Arranged | Grant

### WS 320 Sexual Revolutions

07229 | TTh | 11:10am-1:00 pm | Little

### WS 350 Feminist Theory

07230 | MW | 1:10-3:00 pm | Friday

### WS 481 Writing Gender

07231 | Th | 9:10 am-1:00 pm | Peck

### AAS 345 The Black Woman

00680 | TTh | 3:10 -5:00 pm | Weston

### ANTH 345/545 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective

00760/00769 | MW | 3:10 -5:00 pm | Freter-  
Abrams

### COMS 420 Gender and Communication

01813 | MW | 4:10 -6:00 pm | Bute

### ENG 153A Writing and Reading: Gender

03023 | TTh | 1:10 -3:00 pm | TBA

### ENG 306J Women and Writing

03051 | MTWTh | 8:10-9:00 am | TBA

03052 | MTWTh | 8:10-9:00 am | TBA

03053 | MW | 8:10-10:00 am | TBA

03054 | TTh | 8:10-10:00 am | TBA

03055 | TTh | 8:10- 10:00 am | TBA

03056 | MTWTh | 9:10-10:00 am | Freeman

03057 | MTWTh | 12:10-1:00 pm | TBA

03059 | MW | 2:10-4:00 pm | TBA

03060 | MW | 5:10-7:00 pm | Worthy

07349 | MW | 9:10-11:00 am | TBA

### GEOG 680C Gender and Development

03453 | T | 6:10 -10:00 pm | Whitson

### HCCF 462A/562A Diversity in Families

03582/03595 | WF | 10:10am -12:00  
pm | Manoogian

### HIST 320A/520A Women in American History Before 1877

03814/03861 | MTWTh | 12:10 -1:00  
pm | Jellison

### HIST 354A/554A Early Christianity

03827/03871 | MTWTh | 10:10 -11:00  
am | Uhalde

### HIST 360B/560B Women in Modern Europe

03828/03872 | MW | 7:10 -9:00 pm | Blessing

### LING 390 Language of Men and Women

04675 | MW | 12:10 -2:00 pm | Bell

### PSY 378 Psychology of Gender

05912 | Arranged | Arranged | TBA

### SOC 220 Introduction to the Family

06433 | TTh | 10:00am-12:00pm | Hall

### SOC 421/521 Comparative Studies of Family

06472/06514 | MW | 10:00am-  
12:00pm | Henderson

### SOC 470 Sociology of Gender

06493 | TTh | 10:00am-12:00pm | Mattley