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05-52

March 1, 2005

For Immediate Release:

PORNOGRAPHY LECTURE TO HIGHLIGHT WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH AT EIU

CHARLESTON – A lecture and slide presentation, "Pornography and the Media: Images of Violence Against Women," will be the keynote event during Women's History and Awareness Month at Eastern Illinois University.

Gail Dines, Ph.D., an author and nationally acclaimed lecturer, will explore the relationship between commercially produced images of violence against women and real-world violence.

The free lecture is set for 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, in Roberson Auditorium, Lumpkin Hall Room 2030. Due to the graphic nature of the program, nobody under the age of 18 will be admitted.

Dines will compare the major themes found in pornographic magazines and X-rated videos with those found in mainstream magazines and MTV. There will also be discussion using the latest research conducted by sociologists, psychologists, feminists and media specialists.

The pornography industry grosses billions of dollars each year, and while many people view pornography, there are many others who are unaware of the content of pornographic films, magazines and Internet sites, said Diana Slaviero, coordinator of the Women's Studies Program at EIU.

"Pornography has always been a form of media that sparks heated debate and generates emotional arguments," Slaviero said. "The faculty involved with the Women's Studies Program decided to bring Gail Dines to EIU because we think that it is important to discuss the effects that the production and consumption of sexually violent pornography has on women in our society. In order to develop an informed opinion on the subject, one needs to be exposed to the material at the heart of the discussion."

Many other events are also scheduled for Women's History and Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Women and the Media." All events are free and, unless otherwise noted, on the EIU campus.

-- 2 p.m. Friday, March 4: "The Re-Genderization of the Accounting Workforce in the United States," School of Business Research Colloquium Series, Barbara Kemmerer and Bill Wootton, 2020 Lumpkin Hall.

-- 8 p.m. Friday, March 4: Joni Laurence concert, Jackson Avenue Coffee, 708 Jackson Ave.

- more -

- 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5: "The Stepford Wives" (1975), Booth Library Conference Room 4440.
 - 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6: "Living History" public performance and reception, Coleman Auditorium.
 - 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8: Film presentation of "A Jury of Her Peers," with discussion of the film and women filmmakers by Jan Lisa Huttner, managing editor for "Films for Two," Roberson Auditorium, Lumpkin Hall, Room 2030.
 - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9: "Legend of Heloise and Abelard: A Visual Representation," painting unveiling and discussion with artist EIU art Assistant Professor Jenny Chi, reception to follow, Tarble Arts Center.
 - 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24: Women's Studies Awards Ceremony, with musical performance by Marilyn Coles, Tarble Arts Center.
 - 5 p.m. Friday, March 25: "Women in the World of Japanese Comics," Robert Petersen, Ph.D., EIU art history and theatre departments, Martinsville Room, Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.
 - 7 p.m. Monday, March 28: "'Moral Values' and 'Family Values' in America" panel discussion, with facilitator Dell Champlin, Ph.D. (economics), and participants Janet Cosbey (sociology), Lynne Curry (history), Robin Murray (English), Ashley Tellis (English) and Eric Hake (economics), Greenup Room, MLK University Union.
 - 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29: "Women in Business" presentation, Grace Bair Lecture Series, Country Insurance and Financial Services COO Barbara A. Baurer, Roberson Auditorium, 2030 Lumpkin Hall.
- In addition, WEIU-TV plans to air several programs: 9:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6, "They Called Me Kathy"; 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, "Cuba Mia: Portrait of An All-Woman Orchestra"; 1 p.m. Friday, March 11, "Storied Life of Millie Benson"; 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, "Heartbeat to Heartbeat: Women & Heart Disease"; 9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, "Storied Life of Millie Benson"; 1 p.m. Monday, March 21, "Heartbeat to Heartbeat: Women & Heart Disease"; 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, "Women of Wisdom #101" (part 1 of 2); 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, "Choices Over a Lifetime"; 8 p.m. Sunday, March 27, "Woman's Work: Making Quilts, Creating Art"; and 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, "Women of Wisdom #102" (part 2 of 2).