

# Iowa Journal of Communication

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Volume 38

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## FEMINIST THEORIES AND PRACTICES SPECIAL ISSUE

### **Embracing the Imaginary Good Mother: Narratives of Love and Violence from Women Who Killed Their Children**

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*Barbara Barnett*

*Western culture positions motherhood as a divine calling, and this construct makes the notion that women would harm their children seem baffling and unnatural. This qualitative analysis of news articles seeks to understand maternal violence by analyzing narratives told by women who killed their children.*

### **The Social Construction of Wife Beating in Political Discourse**

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*Gretchen Arnold*

*The issue of wife beating was a common topic of political discourse in 19th century America. After the turn-of-the-century, however, the issue dropped from public view and resurfaced only when contemporary feminists reframed the problem. This paper explains why this issue disappeared from, and then returned to, the political scene.*

### **Buffy Never Goes it Alone: The Rhetorical Construction of Feminism in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer's* Final Season**

55

*Susan M. Payne-Mulliken & Valerie R. Renegar*

*This essay is a rhetorical criticism of the final season of Buffy the Vampire Slayer (BtVS) and examines how metaphor is used to rhetorically construct feminist concepts. The essay specifically analyzes the metaphoric construction of the patriarchy and the feminist concept of sisterhood in the final season of BtVS.*

**Net Chicks' and Geekgirls': Remixing of Frontier  
and Pioneer Rhetoric 81**

*Charlotte Kroløkke*

*In this article remixing is discussed as a feminist theoretical and rhetorical concept that helps explicate young women's rhetoric about the Internet and situate it in light of early feminist pioneers. Of particular focus is Net Chicks' and Geekgirls' remix of frontier and pioneer rhetoric, which is read in light of the myths surrounding geographical pioneers such as Annie Oakley and "Stagecoach" Mary.*

**Reforming Rhetoric: Gender Equity, The American  
Association of University Women, and the New White 101**

*Kim Golombisky*

*During the 1990s, the American Association of University Women tried to put gender equity back onto a U.S. education agenda that had rolled back equity programming during the 1980s and turned toward standards and testing in the 1990s. In its 1998 Gender Gaps, the AAUW wrote a rhetorical alliance with its critics on the right and the left by focusing on nonwhite non-Anglo girls. The result, however, constructed race as not white.*

**Seeking a "Context" to Understand the Body:  
An Analysis of "The Vagina Monologues" as a  
Counterpublic Sphere 127**

*Amber Davisson*

*"The Vagina Monologues," has impacted hundreds of audiences across the country and sparked an international movement. This article looks at the rhetorical conventions of the texts in order to understand its success and its relationship to the V-Day Movement.*

**A Modern Etiquette for a Modern Lady:  
A Feminist Critique 145**

*Jillian Marie Klean Zwilling*

*This paper examines the text The Art and Power of Being a Lady (Clearly & Von Mueffling, 2001) to examine the "backlash" against feminism in the concept of modern manners manuals. This paper argues that modern manners manuals contribute to, and are a product of, the backlash against feminism.*

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