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### New Frontiers in Feminist Research

University Relations

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**New Frontiers in Feminist Research**

*Summary:*

(November 1, 2005)-The women's studies major and the Commission on Women, both of the University of Minnesota, Morris, will sponsor a panel on "New Frontiers in Feminist Research" at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Humanities room 111. Tiffany Muller and Eileen Wood from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus will present on the topic of new areas of feminist research. The public is welcome to attend the session.

Tiffany Muller: The 'Girls' of Summer:

In May 2006, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) will enter its ninth season. As a women's professional athletic league, the WNBA has tried to distinguish itself in order to gain fan support and create a sustainable market share. In particular, the WNBA sets itself apart from men's professional sports, by emphasizing its positive female role models and by creating an image that celebrates the heteronormative family. In so doing, however, the WNBA distances itself from its primary – lesbian - fan base. For lesbian fans of the Minnesota Lynx, such tactics are resisted, tolerated and even celebrated. Does it matter that the WNBA does not overtly acknowledge a large percentage of its supporters?

Eileen Wood: Being Brown, Being Norwegian: Shabana Rehman and Norwegian National Identity:

Norwegian-Pakistani stand-up comedian and columnist Shabana Rehman has been touted as one of the most influential people in Norway at the start of the new millennium. Rehman is active in a variety of national media, where she critiques immigrant communities in Norway for their patriarchy and misogyny, and also critiques the political left for being a bunch of goody-two-shoes who sacrifice the rights of immigrant women, children and youth on the altar of multiculturalism and respect for difference. In this talk, Wood examines what allowed Rehman to claim such a prominent national platform, and argues that this can inform us about the links between constructions of gender, race and agency.

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