BRIDGING THE RACE
AND GENDER GAP

Vanaja Dhruvarajan
R.W.W.P
Department of Women's Studies
S.F.U.

Saturday, May 13, 1995
Harbour Center Campus
Saturday, May 13 Morning

9:00 Introduction of RWWP
Mary Lynn Stewart
Chair, Women's Studies Department

9:05 Introduction of Conference and Speakers
Vanaja Dhruvarajan
RWWP

9:15 First Plenary
Monica Buchanan: M.A. Candidate, Women's Studies, SFU
No Where to Run, No Where to Hide: Women of Colour Experiences of Poverty and Violence

Raminder Dosanjh: ESL Instructor and Community Activist
Organizing at the Grass Roots Level and the Challenges We Face

Cecelia Diocson: Chairperson, Philippine Women's Centre, BC
The Feminization of Global Migration

Jenny Kwan: Vancouver City Councillor
Racism and Multiculturalism

Priti Shaw: Advocate: Employment Equity and owner of Drishti Consulting
Employment Equity

10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 Introduction of John Stubbs, President, SFU

10:45-12:15 First Plenary Cont'd.

Saturday May 13 Afternoon

12:15-1:15 Lunch Break
The foodfair on the lower mall level will be open and there are numerous restaurants within walking distance of Harbour Center

1:15 Introduction of Panel
Vanaja Dhruvarajan
RWWP

1:30 Second Plenary
Vijay Agnew: Division of Social Sciences, York University
Community-based Organizations Providing Services to Immigrant Women

Aradhana Parmar: Faculty of General Studies, University of Calgary
Interlacing the University with the Community

Nandita Sharma: Grad Student, Dept. of Sociology, SFU
The Cheapening of Lives: Women of Colour within Coalitions

Jill Vickers: Dept. of Political Science, Carleton University
Accepting Responsibility: Dealing with White Privilege in Teaching, Curriculum and Research

3:15 Coffee Break

3:30-4:30 Discussion: Chair, Vanaja Dhruvarajan
It is well known that the grassroots women’s movements were largely instrumental in establishing women’s studies programs/departments in universities. It is the new ideas that emerge from daily struggles in the community that energize women’s studies and provide support in their efforts to transform the academy. In addition, they provide strength and motivation to resist co-optation of women’s studies by the academic establishment. Thus it is fitting to bring the community and the university together to celebrate these initiatives and achievements. It is particularly fitting at this time to listen to representatives from women-of-colour community groups to promote our efforts to center women of colour in the production and transformation of knowledge in the academy.

Representatives of the women-of-colour community groups in B.C. will discuss the struggles they are involved in to promote the interests of women-of-colour groups by focusing on issues of concern such as:

- racism
- sexism
- multiculturalism
- poverty
- violence
- occupational and educational opportunities

While dealing with each of these topics the problems faced by women of colour in general will be discussed. In addition, efforts will be made to address issues of concern of people of people with disabilities, lesbians and the aged in these communities. Presenters will comment on the achievements of the community groups, problems faced by them in achieving the goals and possible solutions. Most important of all, presenters will discuss the role of the university in these contexts.