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Women's Studies Program

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The New York Times
229 West 43 St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

To the Editor of the Magazine section:

As an historian engaged in Women's Studies, I want to express my outrage at Ann Roiphe's article on Sarah Lawrence College in the March 20th issue. To the degree that this article dignifies homophobia, it is deplorable. Ann Roiphe should know better than to cater to such anxieties. To the extent that the article impugns the excellent Sarah Lawrence program in Women's Studies with its widely respected graduate degree in Women's History, it is repugnant. A sophisticated female journalist should be aware, by now, that imputations of lesbianism are and always have been a terrorist tactic designed to subvert the women's movement in general and Women's Studies in particular.

My experience of the women's movement in academe is that of committed scholars and feminists, exploring new intellectual horizons. It is understandable that the potential paradigmatic breakthrough will threaten some people, but for a reputable newspaper to sink to the level of pornographic analysis is bad news (sic!) indeed.

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