



Shirley Chisholm: Unbought and Unbossed

Allison Thiel

"I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States. I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. I am the candidate of the people." Shirley Chisholm, 1972

Born Shirley Anita St. Hill in Brooklyn, New York on November 30, 1924 to East Indies immigrant parents, Chisholm lived for 7 years, from the age of 3 to 10, with her grandmother in Barbados, until rejoining her parents in Brooklyn in 1934. There, she attended Girls High School, and excelled academically. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949 from Brooklyn College. In the racially separated 1940s blacks were frequently discriminated against; Chisholm was not immune to this. During Chisholm's tenure at Brooklyn College, black students were denied admittance to a particular social club. Her response? Form her own social club.

After college, Chisholm worked as a teacher while simultaneously completing a Master's degree in elementary education from Columbia University. In 1949 Chisholm married a Jamaican, Conrad Chisholm, and together they became involved in local politics, helping to form the Bedford-Stuyvesant political League. From 1953 to 1959 she directed the Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center, and then became an educational consultant for the Division of Day Care. 1960 saw Chisholm form the Unity Democratic Club, which helped mobilize black and Hispanic voters.



In 1964, New York State elected Chisholm as a Legislator. After one term in the state legislature she ran for the US House of Representatives, defeating the Republican candidate, making her the first African-American woman elected to Congress. While in her first term, she shocked many by demanding reassignment from the House Forestry Committee, as she found the assignment a waste of time given the district she was representing. She was reassigned to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and soon after to the Education and Labor Committee. In 1969 she became a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Chisholm carved a niche in history for herself in 1972, when she made a bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

"I am a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. I make that statement proudly, in the full knowledge that, as a black person and as a female person, I do not have a chance of actually gaining that office in this election year. I make that statement seriously, knowing that my candidacy itself can change the face and future of American politics — that it will be important to the needs and hopes of every one of you — even though, in the conventional sense, I will not win." — June 4, 1972

Chisholm ran under the slogan, *Unbought and Unbossed*. That said it all. Upfront and honest in her campaign, Chisholm stated her intention of "keeping the other candidates honest," and did not cater to specific groups or ideologies. Although ultimately losing the bid, she did manage to gain 151 delegate votes, and the ripples her candidacy caused are still felt today.

In the January 1973 issue of *Ms.* magazine, Gloria Steinem published an article about the tremendous impact that Chisholm's campaign had upon ordinary Americans. Her candidacy evoked many emotions and caused people to examine their prejudices, resulting in paradigm shifts for many.

Carolyn Reed, a household worker in New York City at the time, discussed her opinions and feelings on the campaign. She revealed that at first she and other black women who met regularly to talk were upset about Chisholm's candidacy; why hadn't she let a black man run for President first? When they saw the reactions of the black male leaders at the Black Political Convention, their thoughts changed. "We began to see the sense of what she was trying to do; to admire her for doing it as a black and as a woman; and to say to ourselves, 'Well, why *shouldn't* she be first?'"

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first annual Tech Women's

northern lights film festival

Interested in films made by and about women, around the world and in your home town? Tech will celebrate Women's Week this year with the Northern Lights Film Festival. During the days of March 22 & 23 there will be daily noon-time screenings of films made by women in the U.S. and around the world; on the 24th, Niku Arbabi, the director and organizer of Ms. Films, will talk about how to get organized — and get funding and publicity — so you can get your own films out in the world. In the evenings, we'll be showing films made by people here at Tech, and on the evening of the 24th Ms. Arbabi will screen the Ms. Films program.

Want to have your own films screened — and maybe win some cool prizes? If you are a student at Tech and have made a film about women or whose production involved women in substantial roles, then enter your film! Films must be in digital format, in any length and any genre. The deadline for entry is March 4th; entered films will be judged by a panel of local filmmakers and critics, and prizes will be awarded.

For more information, go to <http://www.hu.mtu.edu/film-festival/>. If you have questions, please email Anne Wysocki at awyssocki@mtu.edu.

Where are the women?!?

Ariana Jeske

There are a few world-wide universal truths: airlines are out to make your traveling hell, you will inevitably get lost once in a foreign country, and women will be grossly underrepresented in engineering and technology.

I spent the fall semester studying abroad in London, England at Kingston University. It was an average university with a civil engineering program. Although the accents were different, some facets of campus life felt oddly familiar, such as (for example) the ability to do a 360° scan of a class of 80 people and count the number of females on one hand. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency of the United Kingdom, in 2002-2003 only 14.3% of all engineering and technology students enrolled in UK universities were women. It seems that the lack of women in engineering and technology majors is a world-wide epidemic. The world-wide scarcity of women designing the future will affect all women —and everyone else — around the globe. This problem of the lack of women in engineering is not just an American problem. According to the same agency about 15% of engineering and technology students in Euro-

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Player of the Month

Women's Hockey Club

Katie Pratt is the MTU Women's Hockey player of the month. This Applied ecology major from Caspian, MI has been playing competitive hockey for 10 years; this is her first year with the Huskies. In a series against St. Scholastica last month in Duluth, Katie came through as a leader for the team. There were very few players for the series and at times she stayed on the ice for three or more shifts, never losing stride, never giving up. She was also the leading scorer for the team in that series, scoring more than three goals in one game. Her willingness to go the extra mile for the benefit of the team gains her much respect from her teammates.



THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

a play by Eve Ensler performed by MTU students and staff



**Friday, February 11
Saturday, February 12
6:30 pm**

**MTU campus
M&M building room U115**

\$5

**all proceeds go to
the Barbara Kettle Gundlach
Shelter Home
and the Baraga Women's Shelter**



sponsored by the Technobabe Times

QUESTIONS? tbt@mtu.edu



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Vaginas!

Anna Cynar

To be honest, I must admit that I have Vaginas on my mind. I cannot stop thinking about them... Vaginas that is. Oh yes, I have not made it through a day these past few weeks without discussing Vaginas. They have encompassed my daily routine, filling my inbox with emails pertaining to Vaginas, pages of scripts strewn around my room discussing Vaginas. My planner is scheduled full of meetings to plan an event centered on Vaginas.

I can just imagine the reactions of unsuspecting souls as I excitedly jump out of my chair and shout across the room, arms elaborately flailing through the broken silence, "I GOT ANOTHER WOMAN TO TALK ABOUT VAGINAS!" Those utterly shocking initial moments of disbelief, registering that this strange woman is indeed passionately and enthusiastically raving on about Vaginas in public. Not in the bleak sterilization of a doctor's office, not in the privacy of a bedroom, but during meals, in computer labs, casually in the few minutes before classes start, mentioning Vaginas.

Is she seriously talking about Vaginas? Come again, I, uh, well I think I misunderstood, I thought, well I thought, um.. were you just talking about...well...em.....

Vaginas? Yes, Yes, I am. Fascinatingly enough, I myself happen to have a Vagina. And I would like to raise this question, WHY AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT VAGINAS?

In all seriousness, why aren't we talking about Vaginas! This organ, this amazingly wondrous, beautiful, and powerful organ that brought life to every one of us, which despite all of our differences unites us all together. I don't think we talk about Vaginas enough. We seem to forget about Vaginas, about its source of life, love, pleasure, pain, and death.

Somewhere, at some point early on in life, we forgot about the Vagina. The Vagina has become this taboo source, hidden and silenced throughout our society. Women don't discuss the awe and inspiring power of their Vaginas through birth and pleasure. Women live in a state of embarrassment and fear to talk about their Vaginas, to talk about rape and genital mutilation and abuse. What a shameful world we live in when women are the ones who live in shame of atrocities that they have experienced. Women have lost their voices, living a life of internal pain, silenced from seeking out help and understanding, simply because we don't talk about Vaginas.

So I invite you to attend **the Vagina Monologues**, a series of stories collected by Eve Ensler from women around the world. Powerfully amazing stories about women and their Vaginas, read by students and faculty from the MTU campus, for although the faces may change, the stories transcend and continue on beyond age, ethnicity, and backgrounds. I invite you to participate and be submersed in stories of women and their Vaginas, joyful and unfortunate, purely real and honest. I invite you to an event where all proceeds help us in our efforts to raise money for local women's shelters and to work towards creating an environment where one day Vaginas can be discussed freely. Contribute to our vision that one day will be today and we will not need events such as **the Vagina Monologues** to spark discussions about Vaginas as a means to bring these issues to our attention, when the violence stops.

A pink star goes to Anna Cynar for gracefully coordinating the 2005 Vagina Monologues and her dedication to **tbt's** endeavors.



Shirley Chisholm, continued from front

Florynce Kennedy, lawyer, black activist and founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW), also commented on how Chisholm's candidacy shook up people who didn't think they would be shook up about it, "The Chisholm candidacy not only freaked out the Establishment and the niggerizers, but it also confused and unsettled the niggers — and by niggers, I don't mean just the black niggers, but also the student niggers and the woman niggers and the poor niggers — plus a whole lot of other people who thought they were revolutionaries but discovered they couldn't dig her wig."

After losing the bid, Chisholm returned to Congress, until retiring in 1982. Her major work involved improving opportunities for inner-city residents, and she supported spending increases for education, health care and other social services. After retiring from Congress, she taught at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts for four years.

Although Shirley Chisholm died the first of January, 2005, at the age of 80, her legacy lives on in the countless people she inspired. One volunteer on her presidential campaign, Barbara Lee, is now a congresswoman herself. In the end, Florynce Kennedy said it best, "So what if she didn't win? If you've been lying on the ground with a truck on your ankle, you don't jump up and join the Olympics. The first step is to walk at all."

If you're interested in learning more about Shirley Chisholm, PBS's POV is airing a show on her in February — check your local listings!

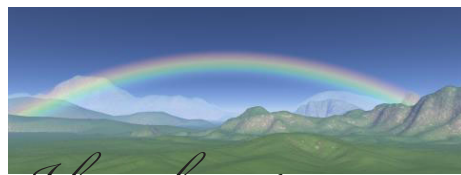
This article is dedicated to my mom who wrote-in a vote for Shirley Chisholm in the 72 election.

References:

http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/chisholm/special_ticket.html

http://nh.essortment.com/shirleychisholm_ruol.html

[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ShirleyChisolm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ShirleyChisolm)



*I have been in
Sorrow's kitchen and
licked out all the pots.
Then I have stood on
the peaky mountain
wrapped in rainbows,
with a harp and a
sword in my hands.*

—Zora Neale Hurston



My time in England, continued from front

pean Union countries are female. It is sad to think that America leads the way with about 20% of all engineering students being female.

My experiences that showed conditions leading to the lack of women in engineering included being the only women in a materials lab (where my greatest accomplishment — in my male colleagues' eyes — was my "womanly touch" on how neatly my mortar was on my brickwork pier). Or when visiting the sewage treatment works, I was asked if I could bear the smell. I was also asked by fellow male students "How many children are you going to have?" In short I encountered very similar experiences in my engineering education to ones that I have experienced here.

My experience in England makes me wonder what is it about engineering that creates this universal atmosphere that seems to discourage women from entering the field. I really can't answer that question, but as a woman who has stuck it out, I can only offer up experience as evidence. I think once we figure out how to remedy the situation and bring up the numbers of women entering the global engineering field the world will benefit greatly for having women designing the future just as equally as men.

References:

Higher Education Statistics Agency
<http://www.hesa.ac.uk/holisdocs/pubinfo/student/subject0203.html>

National Center for Education Statistics
<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d03/tables/dt284.asp>

Friends with Benefits

Michelle E Jarvie

Due to my recently single status, this fall has been an abnormal one. It seems most of my male friends have been infected with a brain worm that eats away the normal, emotionally aware part of their brain, leaving only the baser parts behind. This brain damage has resulted in the overwhelming majority of my male "friends" propositioning me for no-strings-attached sex. Although the offers have been extended in a variety forms and phrases, my favorite is still "friends with benefits".

In my initial single days, I immediately dismissed these offers. However, as time went by and my own animal urges went unmet, I began to ask myself the question of: Can people really have physical intimacy with no emotional consequences?

I decided to poll my friends for their thoughts on the topic. The general consensus was that purely physical relationships never work because one party always gets attached. No matter how clear the agreement up front, one person eventually gets emotionally involved. Heartbreak is the usual result.

There are those who believe that if both individuals are looking for emotionless sex up-front, it can work. However, biology is working against us to ensure otherwise. As it turns out, there is a biochemical explanation for emotional attachment accompanying physical intimacy: Oxytocin.

Oxytocin is a short polypeptide hormone, $C_{43}H_{66}N_{12}O_{12}S_2$, released from the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland. It is released in response to touch, and creates both a desire for more touch and positive feelings toward the person touching you. It creates its own positive feedback loop. So, the more you are touched, the more oxytocin is released, and the more oxytocin released, the more you want touch.

Oxytocin plays a crucial role in bonding between nursing mothers and babies, and of course, between sexual partners. Sexual contact causes the release of oxytocin, which in turn causes bonding: we are biochemically programmed to fall in love when we have repeated sexual contact with a person.

The verdict on "friends with benefits" is obvious: don't have sex with people you think it is unwise to love.

You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.

—Shirley Chisolm

RESOURCES

Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter 337-5623
domestic violence shelter; 24-hour crisis line
Career Counseling 487-2313
Counseling Services 487-2538
Dial HELP 482-4357
Crisis intervention: a gentle, helpful voice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Employee Assistance Program 482-2299
Houghton Community Health Center 483-1860
Keweenaw Pride.....pride@mtu.edu
an MTU group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning Students, Staff, Faculty, Community Members, Friends, and Allies

Legal Services of Northern Michigan..... 482-3908
Office of Student Affairs..... 487-2212; 487-2465
Office of Residence Life..... 487-3404
On-campus emergencies 123
Society of Intellectual Sisters (SIS).....
<http://www.sos.mtu.edu/sis/>
Promoting sisterhood primarily among African-American women and scholarship among members
Society of Women Engineers
<http://www.sos.mtu.edu/swe/>
Western UP District Health Department .482-7382
AIDS testing, family planning, immunization, pregnancy testing

WHAT IS tbt POLICY ?

The TechnoBabe Times is dedicated to the empowerment of women in all aspects of technology.

We want **tbt** to be a place where voices not usually heard or seen on campus or in the community can be seen & heard. We want to be a publication that encourages new and different voices. And so: we solicit thoughtful, reflective, critical writings (or drawings or mixed media pieces or poems or...) that offer us all positive views and smart actions...

If you have any ideas, questions or comments—or wish to advertise in **tbt**—please contact our staff at **tbt@mtu.edu**. You may also write the list to submit a piece of work or to become part of the **tbt** staff (all girls and boys interested in the cause are welcome!).

THANK YOU to the CCLI for help on this issue.

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