1994

Informational Flyer for Gail Griffin Book Reading and Signing 1994

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To: Colleagues, Friends  
From: Lisa Ransdell  
Reading/Discussion with Gail Griffin, April 12, 7:30 p.m. Faculty Lounge

I'm writing to extend a special invitation to an event on campus next week. On Tuesday, April 12th, Women's Programs is sponsoring a reading/discussion by Gail Griffin, author of *Calling: Essays on Teaching in the Mother Tongue*. Gail is Associate Professor of English at Kalamazoo College, and a long-time colleague of several of us who have served on the GLCA Women's Studies Committee. I regard her book as one of the most powerful and eloquent feminist works I've ever read. Stylistically, it's in the tradition of Adrienne Rich's nonfiction essays and books - a feminist reflection on teaching as experience and institution. The content of the book is well described by her publisher, Trilogy Books:

*Calling: Essays on Teaching in the Mother Tongue*

The book begins with the author's arrival, as a brand new Ph.D., at Kalamazoo College in 1977, and takes her through her first sabbatical year. In the interim, it charts her maturation as a feminist, a professional, a teacher, a woman. With a storyteller's art, Griffin takes us in hand as onlookers while she teaches, counsels, negotiates, empathizes, and reflects.

From her vantage point as an academic "insider," Griffin wrestles with issues, rituals and events familiar to anyone associated with a college or university: sexual harassment, faculty politics, male vs. female development, antifeminist backlash, the perils and rewards of classroom teaching.

These essays contribute to the emerging picture of academe as a world of conflict and change, hardly the ivory tower of popular mythology. They also movingly depict one woman's particular process of evolution in the academic trenches.

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