3 October 1994

TO: John Marvin, José Gomez, and Barbara Smith

FROM: Burt Guttman

SUBJECT: Third World Feminist Theorist

As part of the planning for new hires in the sciences, José Gomez asked us to comment on the "continuing position in Third World Feminist Studies." I am deeply, strongly, adamantly (almost violently) opposed to this position, and I am aghast that it has suddenly appeared as a continuing position. Hiring a person of this description was not a rational, carefully-thought-out action of the Faculty but was, rather, a mindless reaction to the loud voices of a small group of students. In my view, it was a rash, poorly considered decision and it needs to be carefully reconsidered; when the Curriculum DTF is working on a careful reevaluation of the entire curriculum, this is not a time to be making such a hire.

I am also deeply disturbed by José's statement that "feminist theory ought to be integrated deeply and widely across the curriculum." Again, what God on High made this brilliant decision? When was this matter ever carefully discussed by the Faculty? Here, again, we have a case of people with soi-disant authority handing down a bureaucratic mandate for the rest of us to follow--perhaps not José: He may simply be repeating what he believes is the common wisdom. In any case, I object, I object, I object, . . .