

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (BARNARD), 10/01)

I. Women and the Public World: Are Women making a difference in Business and the Professions?

- 1) How has being a woman most helped or hindered you in your ascent to leadership?
- 2) At what point in your career did you become a risk taker? As individual leaders, how do we overcome "socialized precaution" and create an "I-can-do-it" risk-taking response in highly capable women? What roles do mistakes play in leadership development?
- 3) How can we transcend barriers of generational difference? Is the older generation of women leaders supporting younger women leaders? Give examples of how power sharing is happening between generations of women leaders. How can older women leaders increase the pool of mentors for younger women?
- 4) How do you integrate larger social justice issues into your leadership role? How do existing models of leadership address the needs of women of Color and how should this be addressed?
- 5) How do women manage women differently than men?
- 6) The characteristics of women leaders have changed over the years. What are four hallmarks of being a woman leader? Do we need new models for fostering leadership?

II. The Future of Family and Community: Who Will Do Women's Work?

- 1) The panel's title seems to be a loaded question: Is there such a thing as "women's
- 2) How can young women shape pro-family, pro-choice policy within the workplace, government and media, including flexible work schedules, family leave policies, and tax credits?
- 3) How can we effectively involve men in shaping these new and progressive policies?
- 4) Where do the terms family and community intersect?
- 5) Assuming there was a previously "correct" family structure and that we are moving away from that structure and challenging those stereotypes, what can we learn from nontraditional families (rather than debate the concept)?
- 6) Comment on the effects that the slowed economy and job losses (due to the 9/11 tragedy), as well as Clinton's welfare reforms, will have on women, children and family structures.

III. Women of the World: How is Gender Norms Changing Around the World? What are the Lessons for the United States?

- 1) What is the responsibility of women leaders today? If women can rise into upper levels of leadership, then how should we lead? Many Second-Wave feminists, especially women of color, have said that, as long as we maintain a patriarchal-capitalist system, women in positions of power will be no different than their male counterparts, for the women they are supposed to represent. Do you agree?
- 2) Is it possible for women to rise to leadership positions in the U.S. without sacrificing their distinctly female attributes? How has women's leadership been undermined by women needing to "act like men" to achieve and maintain that leadership?
- 3) The expectation was that bringing more women into leadership would "change the world," creating a more enlightened global agenda? Has this turned out to be true? How is the world different for having women lead corporations, NGO's and government agencies?
- 4) What is the status of women leaders in other countries? What have they sacrificed to achieve leadership and respect? How do race, class, and sexual orientation influence women's leadership in other countries? (Will we ever see a Black or Latina or Native American or butch President, here in the U.S. or in any country?)
- 5) Are there lessons in accountability that we can learn from women in other countries, particularly the less developed countries? How do women in third world countries keep their leaders "in check" more than in the U.S.?
- 6) Are there basic human rights for women that should be advocated around the globe? How do we define those rights and advocate for them without "stepping on" existing cultural norms? Who should define these rights?
- 7) What has the World Bank learned over the last few years from public protests by young people in Seattle and elsewhere, particularly in the third world? How has the World Bank adapted its policies? As poverty becomes increasingly feminized, and as poor women lead movements against World Bank-initiated projects, i.e., the anti-Dam movement in India, have women leaders in these countries heard their women's voices and engaged the World Bank in discussions to develop better policy for the majority?
- 8) What is the responsibility of the media to humanity? Should the media be a tool for education and public service? How do we transcend the ad-driven, "sound-bited" media culture in the U.S.? Give examples from other countries where mainstream media – media for the people functions as an educational and public service.