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Sylph Original Women's Newsletter May 1976

Women's Resource Center

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RAPE COUNSELLING

Dr. Joan Straumanis, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Denison University, has been subpoenaed twice within the past two weeks to appear before the Licking County Grand Jury in connection with rape counselling. Dr. Straumanis publicly announced at a meeting of the Denison Health and Safety Committee in mid-April that she had failed to report the rapes of two Denison students to the proper authorities out of her concern for confidentiality in rape counselling. Under existing Ohio law, it is a felony to withhold information from law enforcement agencies of a felony. Failure to report a felony constitutes a fourth degree misdemeanor with maximum penalties of 30 days in jail and a $250 fine. At present only attorneys, licensed psychologists, clergymen and drug counselors are exempt from prosecution under this law.

At her two appearances before the Grand Jury Dr. Straumanis refused to disclose the names of the rape victims because of the confidential nature of such counselling. The American Civil Liberties Union is providing legal services for Dr. Straumanis. Anyone wishing to make further inquiries about the case, or offering assistance, financial or otherwise, is urged to contact the Rev. Dr. David O. Woodyard.

Dr. Woodyard heads a special committee composed of Kelly Brown, Judy Laird, David Shaver, Karen Golden and Tommy Burkett, which is collecting funds to defray Dr. Straumanis' legal expenses and possible fines.

Two Denison students, Susan Sutherland and Nancy Jackson submitted a proposal to the Ohio Legislature which would amend the Ohio law by exempting rape counselors from prosecution. The two women focus on the confidentiality of rape counselling. Sutherland and Jackson became interested in drafting the amendment while taking Joan Straumanis' January Term course, "Action Research on the Legal Rights of Women."

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ISSUES

The Health and Safety Committee has formally recommended the addition of a part-time gynecologist to the Whistler Hospital staff. The Whistler subcommittee is presently conducting a series of educational visits to the women's dorms to discuss the services available at Whistler and at Newark Planned Parenthood. The subcommittee is gathering information about student needs in this area. Students should contact Ann Shaver if they wish to contribute information to the subcommittee.

Women's Safety on Campus: Women may call Security for rides after dark. Security has employed a seven member foot patrol, which included the following students: Mark Janasek, J. Frank Burkhard, Karl Yoder, Jim Cordes, Fred Bothwell, Keith Rittmaster and David Salisbury.

Ann Fitzgerald, who was on sabbatical this semester to finish her doctorate, will return to Denison next fall to resume her duties.
Connie Hume is the Women's News Editor of Radio Station WDUB this spring. She will broadcast local, national and international news about women between 7 and 8 Tuesday nights.

CONFERENCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. June 2-6, 1976: A conference concerning the comparative analysis of women's participation in the development of their countries and its impact on their status. Contact Judy Laird, Women's Coordinator, for information concerning registration and accommodations.

Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, June 20-23, 1976: Women's 200 Years After. A conference examining the role of American women in the past, what they have become today and their potential for personal and professional development in the future. Contact Judy Laird for further information.

Cincinnati, Ohio, On April 22-25, the University of Cincinnati sponsored a conference entitled "Pioneers for Century III." The conference's objective was to provide a national forum for the exchange of research on the development of potential for women and men with particular emphasis upon creative and challenging roles in the coming century. Nancy Nowik, Joan Straumanis and Robin Bartlett attended as Denison representatives.

The McCall Life-Pattern Fund offers a number of $2,500 grants annually to "mature, deserving women who wish to go to school so they can re-enter the working world." For information write: The McCall Life-Pattern Fund of Soroptonist Foundation, 1616 Walnut St. Philadelphia, Penn. 19103

GLCA WOMEN'S STUDIES WORKSHOP

On March 4-6, the Great Lakes Colleges Association sponsored a Faculty Development Workshop in Women's Studies at Earlham College. More than sixty people attended this session, including seven Denison representatives. During the workshop an advisory committee was formed, representing all the GLCA colleges present. This committee is currently considering various means of establishing continual consortial support for women's studies within the GLCA. The Advisory Committee is compiling a Women's Studies Handbook and is planning a large conference in January, 1977, for faculty and students interested in women's studies.

WOMEN'S WEEK 1976: CELEBRATING WOMEN IN THE ARTS

An ad-hoc committee of Denison women decided the focus of this year's Women's Week should be women's achievements in the arts. The week opened with a symposium of faculty and students discussing the problems confronting women artists, pressures to conform to stereotypes and the lack of "professional" models to emulate. Kim McMullen, Nancy Bunge, Ann Andersen, Marilyn Popplemeyer Hook and Lyn McKenna participated. On Monday and Tuesday night women singers and writers performed in the Bandersnatch. The line-up for the rest of the week included dance performances, four films related to women, a beer blast and the absurdist play by Samuel Beckett, "Happy Days." Throughout the week, an exhibit of women's art was on display in the Slayter T.V. room.

Sylph is edited by
Judy Laird and Cathy Horyn