Fall 1976

Sylph Original Women's Newsletter October 1976

Women's Resource Center

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The new Women's Coordinator at Denison is Juliana Lightle, also Associate Director of Financial Aid and Admissions. Her office in Beth Eden is the center for various women's studies and feminist publications, including paperback books by and about women, newsletters, bibliographies, and magazines. The Women's Equity Action League newsletter, MS.magazine, and The Spokeswoman, an independent monthly newsletter from Chicago, are available as well as frequently received publications from Feminist Press. The women's coordinator office acts as a campus clearinghouse for information from local, state, and national levels of women's liberation progress. Please visit the center and take advantage of the resources available, and get to know Juliana.

CAMPUS EVENTS

October 12--NIKKI GIOVANNI, black poet and author of eleven books, will address all-campus convocation.

October 26--EUDORA WELTY and MARGARET WALKER ALEXANDER, two distinguished Southern writers, will present readings from their works at an all-campus convocation. Alexander is currently serving as the Director of the Institute for the Study of the History, Life and Culture of Black Peoples at Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi.

October 28--KRISTINE OTTESON GARRIGAN, a 1960 Denison graduate, will be speaking to English 300 class in Fellows 207 at 1:30 pm. Her topic will concern Virginia Woolf's novel, A Room of One's Own. Garrigan is the author of a book on Ruskin, a 19th-century British essayist.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN

Planned Parenthood Inc. in Newark provides numerous services for Denison students. The clinic performs pelvic and breast exams, VD and PAP tests, and pregnancy tests as well as providing problem-pregnancy counseling and abortion referrals. PPI is a resource for birth control information and will accept invitations to speak to campus groups.

On campus, information about abortion and abortion clinics throughout the country may be obtained from Ann Fitzgerald in 101A, Blair Knapp.

WARN, (Women Against Rape Now) is composed of area women concerned with obtaining proper and adequate medical, financial, legal, and social attention for victims of rape in Licking County. If their assistance is needed, contact the crisis center in Newark and ask specifically for someone from WARN.
Events

Women's Studies Conference

The founding convention of a National Women's Studies Association will meet in San Francisco January 13-16, 1977. This historic event will aim to provide and encourage non-sexist and non-racist education in both traditional and non-traditional areas of education. Delegates will work to develop and establish a national association responsive to the needs of programs and individuals engaged in women's studies. Anyone committed to women's studies is urged to submit her/his application for delegacy to the state representative. Delegates will be chosen as representatives from educational institutions, feminist education programs, and as special and at-large delegates from regional lotteries. Any interested student or faculty member is urged to contact either Juliana Lightle or Ann Fitzgerald immediately.

Shelter Project For Battered Women

Following much concern about battered women, the Seattle Coalition on Women and Religion has taken action directed toward dealing with and relieving the horrors of abused women. Its activity focuses on finding shelter for the women and their children. England already has 28 such shelters and 80 more are planned. Few similar resources exist in the United States currently. Two studies demonstrating a need for such shelters have been published, one by the city of Seattle in 1975 and another by The Council of Planning Affiliates, a United Way group, in 1976. It was agreed that regardless of how much space might be provided, it would be filled to over-flowing. Obviously, sheltering these victims is not enough. Counseling of women--and men--and help for the children involved is essential, an enormous task. If you would like further information concerning these efforts or if you wish to donate a contribution toward obtaining funds for a shelter, write: Shirlie Kaplan
Shelter Project for Battered Women, 3rd floor
4579 15th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington, 98105

Legal Rights For Women

Susan Sutherland, a Denison sophomore, researched Ohio's rape laws last year as part of a J-term course on women's legal rights offered by Dr. Joan Straumanis. Working in cooperation with the American Civil Liberties Union, Susan co-authored a proposal for legislation that would amend Senate Bill 144 of the Ohio Revised Code. The amendment would extend legal protection to bona fide rape counselors who do not want to disclose confidential information. At the present time, this protection is offered only to doctors, lawyers, clergy, licensed psychologists, and drug counselors providing counseling services.

Denison University is directly involved in this legal question because of court subpoena of Dr. Straumanis last spring. She counseled two Denison rape victims and was legally reprimanded for not disclosing confidential information to law enforcement officers. Earlier, Dr. Susan Bowling had announced she would not provide rape counseling because of the potential legal difficulties. A need exists for further research and lobbying on the issue.

The legislative proposal is supported by the ACLU and Ohio Network Against Sexual Assault and by several legislators who have expressed an interest in sponsoring the bill. Any Denisonians with an interest in women's rights are urged to become involved in the project, for strong lobbying is needed. Those who want further information on the project should contact Susan Sutherland at ext. 417, or box 1423.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWSA Charter Memberships

Charter memberships are available for the National Women's Studies Association to be established at the conference in January. Fees are $50 for programs, $25 for individuals, $10 for students/unemployed, and will aid in launching NWSA. Send your name, institution, address, membership category, and a check to: Sybil Weir
Women's Studies, San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif. 95192

Mid-Ohio Women's Studies Consortium

Late in June, Juliana Lightle from Denison, along with several other women from area colleges, organized a Women's Studies Consortium for central Ohio. Member colleges include Ohio State University, OSU-Newark, Ohio Dominican, Ohio Wesleyan, Otterbein, Capital, and Columbus Technical Institute. The purpose of the organization is to provide mutual support, the exchange of information and faculty, to serve as a catalyst for women's activities at individual institutions, and to reach the wider central Ohio community concerning issues related to women. The consortium is also developing a resource handbook including all the women's studies resources at the various campuses.

Great Lakes Colleges Association

The GLCA is sponsoring a number of activities in the women's studies area. A handbook will be out, hopefully by January, listing all the resources on member campuses. For the first time, a newsletter is being developed, patterned after our own SYLPH. Juliana Lightle is editor, and the newsletter will contain information on speakers, faculty, events and other information pertinent to women's studies. Member colleges include: Earlham, Albion, Antioch, Denison, DePauw, Hope, Kalamazoo, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash, Wooster.

Title IX

The progress report of the Title IX Self-Evaluation Committee on sex non-discrimination at Denison University is now available at the reserve desk in the library. The committee's task is to ensure that no one is excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training, educational, or activity program operated by Denison. All academic course work, counseling, advising, financial aid, medical benefits, etc., must be made equally available to men and women. Cynthia Steele, Admissions counselor, is chairperson of the committee.

Affirmative Action

The University established an Affirmative Action program in March. Ann Fitzgerald is the appointed Affirmative Action officer, in accordance with federal guidelines. The essence of the program is reflected in the preface to Denison's Affirmative Action Plan:

"Denison is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination for all its employees and students... In order to provide equal access to employment and education for all qualified persons, Affirmative Action will be undertaken to fully utilize women and members of minority groups of all levels and in all segments of the work force. Such positive action is legally, morally and educationally necessary in order to ensure that Denison is a just and diversified institution."
I'M NOT LONELY

I'm not lonely
sleeping all alone

you think i'm scared
but i'm a big girl
i don't cry
or anything

i have a great
big bed
to roll around
in and lots of space
and i don't dream
bad dreams
like i used
to have that you
were leaving me
anymore

now that you're gone
i don't dream
and no matter
what you think
i'm not lonely
sleeping
all alone

NIKKI GIOVANNI

12/68
from BLACK FEELING BLACK TALK, Broadside Press
1970

WHAT IS SYLPH?

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Women's Coordinator Office at Denison University. Its purpose is to supply information about campus and area events of interest to women and to help coordinate women's activities on campus. All campus women's groups are invited to send announcements of their activities to Juliana Lightle in Beth Eden.

Editors of SYLPH are: Juliana Lightle, Kristin Henke, Julie Wuesthoft. Cover design and layout: Kathy Geer, News Services.