

Spring 1978

Women's Studies Newsletter March 1978

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women's studies newsletter

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DENISON WOMEN'S WEEK: March 5-10

This year Women's Week, Denison's annual celebration of the achievements and potential of its women's community, will be held from March 5 through March 10. Nancy Cable, Assistant Dean of Students, and Nancy Nowik, assistant professor of English and Women's Coordinator, have worked together this year to draw particular attention to the need for creative support for women by all members of the Denison community.

Schedule for Women's Week--

Passages: Denison in an Era of Transition

Sunday, March 5 -- A showing of the movie "At Denison," a 1953 film made for recruiting purposes that helps to underline the theme of Women's Week--Passages. The film shows Denison when the school was 96% Greek-dominated. (Event sponsored by sorority women) Alpha Phi House, 8:00.

Monday, March 6 -- 12:15 Program for Supportive Operating Staff: Thomas Rice (Sociology Department) presents a workshop on the Management of Everyday Office Concerns. Women's Lounge, Slayter, Room 405.

4:00 -- A Forum/Debate on the ERA (sponsored by the Denison Political Union). Knapp, Room 108.

Tuesday, March 7 -- 4:00-6:00 Chris Cannon, Assistant Dean of Students, offers a workshop on human sexuality. Faculty Lounge.

8:00 -- Panel on Women in the Sciences: Career/Marriage Conflicts. (Event sponsored by sorority science majors) Faculty Lounge.

Wednesday, March 8 -- 4:00 Film: "Oh Dear! The History of the Suffrage Movement in Ohio." Linda Thornburg, one of the producers, will provide commentary based on her research. Place to be announced.

7:30 -- A reading of their poetry, fiction, and translations by Denison women students. Faculty Lounge.

Thursday, March 9 -- 7:00 Violence Against Women, a program sponsored by Women's Emphasis (formerly Women's Action Group). Curtis West Lounge.

Friday, March 10 (International Women's Day) -- Afternoon dance workshop and evening performance by controversial Massachusetts-based Joan Stone, The Dancer Who Is Not (sponsored by Dance Department and Women's Studies). Doane Dance Center, 2:00-4:00 and in the evening at 8:15.

All of the above events are open to the public. Additional program features include a show by women artists in the Slayter 2nd-floor lounge, fund-raising events for the Newark Battered Women Task Force, and a photographic display.

Announcements

The Dance Department will present a Senior Chamber Concert in Doane Dance Center on March 17 and 18 at 8:15 p.m. Senior dance majors include Sue Lemieux, Beth Bratches, Becky Mercer, Anne Rigsby, Phyllis Baisden, and Bob Boross.

There will be a Girl's Varsity Basketball Tournament at Ashland on March 2, 3, and 4.

The Sociology/Anthropology Department will present a senior seminar with Ohio State University Professor Laura Walum, author of The Dynamics of Sex and Gender, on March 14 at 2:30 in Knapp 202.

Professor Thomas Rice will coordinate a workshop sponsored by the GLCA and by the American Sociology Association on the teaching of sociology and anthropology to the undergraduate. The workshop will be held at Denison from March 31 to April 1 and will feature presentations by Professors Leonard Jordan and David Potter as well as Rice.

The Black Studies Department will present a film and panel on "The Dutchman," by Leroi Jones, on March 17 at 2:30 p.m. in Fellows Auditorium.

Carolyn Hudgins, Kristen Lundstrom, and Jacqueline Naeye will present a Student Recital on March 22 at 8:15 in Burke Recital Hall.

* * * * *

Denison students Connie Taylor, Allison Smith, and Karen Sweetland were recently invited to participate at OSU in the State Synchronized Swimming Competition on February 25.

On February 25 Julie Mulroy, Assistant Professor of Biology, accompanied eleven Denison students, many of them biology majors, to a Women in Science Workshop held at Oberlin and sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Nancy Nowik recently gave a presentation on working with the reticent student in the classroom for a GLCA workshop on faculty development in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The Men's Alliance for Liberation and Equality (MALE) held its first Great Lakes Regional Conference at Oberlin on February 17-20. The conference included workshops, playshops and task forces, and was open to both men and women.

The alliance was formed with the intention of representing a national organization of men in the fourth National Conference on Men and Masculinity, held in St. Louis in November.

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Faculty and students are urged to consider attending the third annual Women's Conference on Women's Life/Work, April 6-9 in Rochester, Indiana. Denison will be permitted to send a contingent of ten. Please contact Nancy Nowik or Ann Fitzgerald if you want to see a copy of the schedule and/or want to be considered as a participant.

January Internships for Denison Women

At a meeting with Dr. Eric Straumanis on February 2, several Washington, D.C. interns discussed their reactions to their particular January Term experiences and the worth of internships in general.

Some of the general problems discussed included the lack of communication between faculty sponsors and the interns, and the lack of help in finding housing. There were some individual complaints concerning misleading internships, but they did not seem to be widespread.

Senior Lee Crampton found the internships to be helpful in ascertaining future job plans, although "I was dismayed to discover that it is nearly impossible for a woman to reenter the job market in her late 20's or early 30's. We had three women in the office who were trying to do exactly that, and they were constantly told that they were either overqualified or that there was no place for a woman who only wanted to work part-time."

Lee said that most of the discrimination that she ran into was against secretaries, "but I think that may have been carried over to higher levels that I was simply not aware of."

Senior Allison Egbert and junior Sheryl Cohen both experienced very useful and exciting January internships in D.C. Allison worked for the Executive Secretary of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities, Lani Lattin Duke, a Denison alumna, aiding in the workings of a new program for the handicapped and aged. "I am very interested in the arts, and this program gave me quite a lot of exposure. I enjoyed it for several other reasons--I wanted to work in D.C., I wanted something related to the arts, and I wanted to pursue something that might be interesting as a future career."

Allison felt that she met with no discrimination: "There was a much greater proportion of women than men involved, and women made most of the decisions. It was altogether a very positive experience and I think that it or something similar will be offered next year."

Sheryl worked on a project in communications law with the D.C. law firm of Fisher, Wayland, Southmayd, and Cooper. In order to complete an in-depth paper on "The Rewriting of the 1934 Communications Act," Sheryl attended hearings of the FCC and a hearing on cross-ownership in the Supreme Court, and talked to people in all areas of communication.

"Although my major is communication with a concentration in mass media, I really have no firm idea of what I want to do after graduation. The opportunity to explore different aspects through interviewing fourteen people helped me to get an idea of the kind of working environment that I want. I may have established a few contacts through the research for my project, but most of the people that I interviewed weren't in hiring and firing positions."

Sheryl went to a lot of people for interviews, and unlike Allison's experience, "I met very few women who were not secretaries. Broadcasters unfortunately treat their secretaries in a "fetch and carry" fashion. In addition, all the lawyers in the firm that I worked with were men."

Sheryl did a small amount of paralegal work with the firm, and she "became aware that law is so important for women, especially communications law. Women are needed everywhere: in firms, in the House to design communications legislation, everywhere."

Sheryl found her J-Term to be a rewarding experience, and thought that her particular internship would probably be offered again next year.

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New Law Protects Faculty and Counsellors

A new bill initiated by Denison students and recently signed into law brings a happy ending to what was for a time a story with frightening implications for Denison faculty members.

In May of 1976, Dr. Joan Straumanis (Philosophy Department), currently on leave with the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., was subpoenaed before a Licking County grand jury to testify about two rapes she had learned of while counselling the victims, Denison students. Threatened with criminal prosecution for withholding information regarding a felony, Ms. Straumanis refused to cooperate, arguing that the personal relationship between student and adviser, and the benefit to the victim from having confidential counselling, morally transcend whatever gains that can be had by the threat of investigation. In the two cases in question, one of the crimes had occurred some months before and the other over a year before. Ms. Straumanis argued that revealing names of victims and subjecting them to police scrutiny would not result in the arrest of the rapists. The American Civil Liberties Union became interested in her case and provided legal counsel; later they would strongly support the proposed amendment.

Ironically, during the January before, Ms. Straumanis had herself been instrumental in proposing a bill that would protect professionals found in the very position she would find herself in May. She had encouraged two Denison students working with her in a January Term class (Nancy Jackson and Susan Sutherland) to author a bill that would amend Section 2921.23 of the Ohio Revised Code to "provide that a person need not disclose information about a crime if it was acquired while providing counselling services to victims of certain sexual assaults."

The bill was unsuccessful the first year it was introduced, largely because of doubts, especially on the part of the attorney general, about the need for such legislation. But the bill was reintroduced at the 112th General Assembly, where ACLU lawyers impressed the Assembly and demonstrated the need for the legislation by telling the story of "Ms. S.," the college teacher who had found herself brought before a grand jury for refusing to name rape victims she had counselled. The bill was passed by the Senate in May of 1977 (sponsored by Senators Valiquitto, Milleson, Celebrezze, Nabakowski, and Schwarzwaldner) and by the House in August of 1977 (sponsored by Representatives Avenni, Brown, and Branstool).

Ohio is believed to be the first state in the United States to enact legislation to protect confidentiality during rape counselling.

PORTRAIT

(Every month, the Denison University Women's Newsletter interviews a female faculty member, student, administrator, or supportive staff member. This month's interview is with Ann Hornickel, a Denison senior.)

"I feel very strongly about the student-faculty relationships on this campus. I think that they are very good, and I haven't heard of many schools where it is as easy as it is here for a student to get to know his professors. This quality of openness and friendliness had a lot to do with my decision to go into liberal arts education."

Seated in her room in Huffman Hall, senior Anne Hornickel discussed her impressions of Denison. As the 1978 recipient of the respected Blair Knapp Award, she has demonstrated "high academic achievement and a desire to devote her life to liberal arts education."

Anne is a biology major from Hudson, Ohio and the youngest of two children. She plans on eventually receiving a Ph.D. in botanical sciences, with research in fresh water quality, and eventually either teaching at the college level or doing research for the government in environmental work.

Anne was not aware that she was in contention for the Blair Knapp Award, which includes \$100, "which the givers of the award intend for use toward further education." The selection committee consists of Dr. Andrew Sterrett, Dean of the College, Dr. David Gibbons, Dean of Students, and Hunter Nickell, 1977-78 DCGA President

Anne chose Denison because she "was really excited about the campus. The friendliness of the students impressed me when I came down to visit friends during my senior year in high school. I had done some background study on Denison's educational points, and discovered that they were very strong in Biology, the department that I was interested in entering."

Her room is a private retreat for her, but one that she rarely spends any time in. Since coming to Denison, Anne has concentrated her energies largely in two areas, the academic and the political, while maintaining a grade point average of above 3.5. She is an active member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, Omicron Delta Kappa (an honorary leadership society), and Mortar Board (an honors society for seniors). At a political level, Anne served on University Senate as a junior, a position which also serves as ex officio to Student Senate, and was elected chairperson of the Student Political Caucus the same year. This group "coordinates University Senators to be more responsive to student needs." Serving on the University Committee to review Title IX, Anne says, "We were doing research to assure that our facilities were equal for both men and women. We can't get funds from the federal government unless we comply with the specification put forth by Title IX."

Anne contends that her favorite committee is the University Senate council on Academic Affairs, which she has been a member of for three semesters. "I think that it was this committee and my two semesters as a botany lab assistant last year which convinced me to go into liberal arts education. We deal with what should constitute general education requirements, and what a course should consist of, and whether or not current courses meet set standards. I like being part of this committee because I enjoy meeting professors outside of the classroom, and it provides me with a good opportunity."

"I feel that the accomplishment I am especially proud of is putting two bills through the University Senate. The first changed the Withdrawal Passing/Withdrawal Failing option from the entire semester to the first seven weeks only, and the second was designed to create a set of rules determining which students can request incompletes. Both bills are designed to make students think more carefully about dropping courses."

Anne believes strongly that her four years at Denison have been extremely worthwhile: "I think basically that this is a warm, open campus. There is a great deal of strain between the men and women, but I'm hoping that the co-ed dorms will help to alleviate that--I'm sorry that I won't be here to see it in action. Many people fault Denison for its size, but I intend to teach in a small school like Denison because I feel that the student population here has helped to add greatly to the positive atmosphere."

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As part of their Christmas gift to friends and colleagues, Tony and Pat Stoneburner included the first installment of A YEAR OF WOMEN, women primarily religious but also political and literary. As Professor Stoneburner wrote on his January calendar, "Most of them are historical, but several are legendary or even fictional. Note the amazing variety of the women whom the Church has valued & honored. Some dates have more than one woman; others have none, as if inviting contemporary women to fill the empty spaces with their own creativity. The dates are birthdays, deathdays, commemoration of special events in the lives of the women, or earlier arbitrary assignments to blank spots." Professor Stoneburner asks Denison women to add to his fragmentary list by turning in the birthdates of women important in their own disciplines. We offer you the month of March, taken from A YEAR OF WOMEN.

- 3 Kunigunde (d. 1040), daughter of Siegfried, Count of Luxembourg, wife of Henry, Emperor of Germany, living a life of continence; after his death, became a nun of Kaffungeen near Cassel
- Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne (d. 3 March 1871), sister of Elizabeth and Mary, wife of Nathaniel, mother of Mother Mary Alphonsa Lathrop
- 5 Helen Waddell (d. 5 March 1965), translator
- 6 Cyneburga (d. c. 680), wife of Northumbrian prince, abbess of convent at ?Castor, Northamptonshire
- Colette (Nicolette Boylet) (b. at Corbie, 1381; d. at Ghent, 1447), daughter of carpenter, member of Franciscan third order, hermitess, visionary (Francis asked her to reform the Poor Clares, a task to which she gave the rest of her life)
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning (b. 6 March 1806), poet
- Alice James (d. 6 March 1892), journal-keeper
- 7 Perpetua and Felicity (d. at Carthage, 203), Vibia Perpetua, daughter of good family, wife, mother of baby in arms, visionary; Felicity, slave-girl advanced in pregnancy, endured a difficult labor in jail--both suffered attacks from wild animals in the arena before receiving sword-thrust in throat
- 9 Frances of Rome (b. in Rome, 1384; d. there, 1440), daughter of Roman aristocracy, 13-year-old bride of Lorenzo de' Ponziani, mother of several children, foundress of the Oblates of Tor de' Specchi
- Katherine of Bologna (b. at Bologna, 1413; d. there, 1463), maid of honor at ducal court of Nicholas III d'Este, member of Franciscan third order, then of the Poor Clares, visionary, poet, painter, calligrapher, author of Revelations and Treatise on Spiritual Weapons, abbess
- 10 Anastasia the Patrician (d. 567), lady-in-waiting of the Empress Theodore, fled court of Constantinople to escape attentions of the emperor for desert of Scete where she led life of a hermit in male attire for 28 years
- Harriet Ross Tubman (d. 10 March 1913), slave-girl, free woman, liberator
- 13 Euphrasia (b. in Constantinople, c. 382; d. in Egypt, c. 412), nun
- 14 Matilda (Maud) (b. at Engern, Westphalia, c. 895; d. at Quedlinburg, 968), wife of King Henry I the Fowler, and mother of Otto I, Emperor, and Bruno, Archbishop of Cologne, person liberal to the poor
- Louise de Marillac (b. in Auvergne, 1591; d. in Paris, 1660), wife of Antony Le Gras, official of the royal court, widow in 1625, co-founder with Vincent de Paul of the Daughters of Charity
- 15 Lillian de la Torre (b. 15 March 1902), writer of historical detective fiction
- 16 Benedicta (d. 1260), successor to Clare as abbess of St. Damian, Assisi
- 17 Gertrude of Nivelles (b. at Landen, 626; d. at Nivelles, 659), daughter of Pepin and Itta, sister of Begga, abbess
- Kate Greenaway (b. 17 March 1846)
- 19 Sibyllina Biscossi (b. at Pavia, 1287; d. there, 1367), serving-girl, blind at twelve, Dominican tertiary, lived as a hermitess immured in a cell for sixty-seven years
- 24 Katherine of Vadstena (d. at Vadstena, 1381), daughter of Ulf, Prince of Nericia, and Bridget of Sweden, wife to Count Eggard with whom she lived in continence, widow, companion to her mother on long pilgrimages
- Olive Schreiner (b. 24 March 1855)
- 25 THE ANNUNCIATION
- Catherine of Sienna (b. 25 March 1347?)
- Anne Bronte (b. 25 March 1820)
- Flannery O'Connor (b. 25 March 1925)
- 28 Jeanne Marie de Maille (b. in Touraine, 1332; d. there, 1414), wife of Baron de Silly, widow; she became a servant because she lost her fortune at the death of her husband, member of Franciscan third order
- Teresa of Avila (b. 1515), mystic
- 30 Osburga (d. c. 1016), perhaps abbess of convent of Coventry

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