

Spring 1977

Women's Studies Newsletter May 1977

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WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION

Bryn Mawr College will offer a "Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration" focusing on institutional governance and planning, finance and budgeting, personnel relations and computer applications, from July 5-28, 1977. For more information, write: Bryn Mawr College/Hers, Mid-Atlantic Summer Institute, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

A Saturday Workshop at Ohio Wesleyan University, "The African-American Woman: Take a Look" is being sponsored by the Sisters United, a group of third world women students (contact Lavette Williams, (614) 369-4431, ext. 246 for further information, and by the Women's Resource Center.

A bibliography on Men's Studies is now available from: Human Studies Collection, MIT Humanities Library, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Send prepaid order (\$2.00 per copy).

Ohio State University Women's Action Collective is sponsoring a play reading and music performance at the WAC House, 127 E. Woodruff. The program costs 50¢ and refreshments will be provided.

Two 10 day wilderness canoe trips will be offered in Northwestern Ontario, July 14-23 and August 22 thru September 1. The trips are designed for adult women who wish to explore their physical and psychological energy, discover more strengths, experience a beautiful and ragged environment and share their journey with other women. No prior camping or canoeing experience is required. Coordinator of the program is Judy Telfair-Richards, Assistant Director of the Oberlin College Wilderness Program. Total cost is \$375; some scholarship aid is available. Deadline is June 10. For more information and application forms, write to: Judy Telfair-Richards, 167 Morgan St., Oberlin, Ohio 44074. Enrollment is limited to 16 for each trip. A minimum age of 25 is required.

PERFORMANCES

On Friday, June 3, BB KRoche, a women's band from California, will be performing at the Wesley Foundation in Columbus. Their current recording is available at Fan The Flames Bookstore in Columbus. For more information call Juliana Lightle.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Jon Fuller, President of the GLCA, has been reappointed to the Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs. This Council (established as a result of the Women's Educational Equity Act of 1974) is mandated to advise the Assistant Secretary for Education and the Commissioner of Education concerning educational equity.

Dr. Judy Miller, this year's GLCA Women's Studies Committee representative for the College of Wooster, has accepted a position for the fall of 1977 in French & Italian at the University of Wisconsin/Madison. Judy formerly taught at Denison.

Ms. Juliana Lightle, Denison's current Women's Coordinator, was recently elected Secretary/Treasurer of the statewide ACTION for Battered Women Task Force.

Because of a new federal regulation requiring institutions to have a full-time financial aid administrator, Ms. Lightle will be leaving her job as Women's Coordinator to return full time to the financial aid office. Dr. Nancy Nowik (English Dept.) has been chosen to replace Juliana in the Women's Coordinator position established a year ago. The job includes editing newsletters, acting as informal counselor for Denison women, acting as coordinator and liason among the various on-campus and off-campus women's interest groups, and serving as disseminator of information on the various Women's Studies programs and courses offered at Denison.

Late last month Denison University granted tenure to two faculty women, Ms. Susan Alexander of the Dance Department and Dr. Esther Thorson of Psychology. Denison's tenured women now number eight.

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 junior Sandra Beckwith.)

"I'd like to say that I started acting because of some terrific inspiration or revelation. In truth, however, I got a part in a fourth grade play, because I had a big mouth, and I've been acting ever since."

Seated in the pit at Slayter Union, Sandy Beckwith summed up the history of her acting career, before and since coming to Denison. Sandy is a junior theatre major and a recent nominee for Denison's Theatre and Film Best Actress Award for her performance in Jose Rivera's The Paper Rain.

Born and raised in Rochester, New York, Sandy is the middle child of three. She became seriously involved in acting in high school, and estimates that she participated in well over 20 productions, including "The Fantasticks", "South Pacific", "Kiss Me Kate", and "The Crucible". She was also involved in various community theatre organizations, "they ranged from a summer camp I went to when I was pretty young, called Camp Creative, to the two seasons that I worked with the Rochester Community Players. They are really a very good group - the players are chosen after city-wide auditions, so it's an honor to be chosen."

Since coming to Denison three years ago, Sandy has concentrated on character roles in such plays as "Riverwind", "All's Well That Ends Well", "Toys in the Attic", "Peer Gynt" and this years "The Government Inspector", and of course "The Paper Rain". "I really like all the parts I play. I'm very fond of character roles, although I certainly wouldn't spit in someone's face if they offered me a lead role for a change. I don't like wishy-washy parts, I think good roles should be meaty. The characters should have depth and subtleties."

Sandy insists that although she can relate to all her characters, they are in no sense an extension of her own personality. "I feel that actors that turn roles into themselves are promoting a very self-centered form of acting. I try to become the character, the purpose of the character in the play influences to a great extent exactly how much of my own personality becomes involved, but as I say, that depends upon the character, not upon myself."

Well versed in all areas of acting, not just on-stage work, Sandy spent the first semester of this year in New York working as a production assistant, sponsored by the GLCA. "Production assistant is a euphemism that it took a lot of people weeks to learn. Basically, I was a "gopher" girl, but it was good experience. I worked in five on-Broadway productions, learned a lot, and really enjoyed myself."

After three years, Sandy has formed some strong opinions about the Denison Theatre Department, and Denison itself -- "The department could be excellent if it concentrated on the education of all aspects of theatre. There is a drastic imbalance in the quality of lower and upper level courses. I also think that student productions should also be supported more - they are the most educational productions"

"The school's attitude toward the arts is very poor. I read that we spent \$65,000 on beer in a year. I resent that my money goes for something like that when I see the hell that students go through when they try to get money for any kind of production. The whole thing appalls me.

"I must admit that both the department and the school have been good for me, however. Things have really started happening for me this year, and I'm very happy to feel that I'm making progress."

After leaving Denison, Sandy jokes that her biggest goal is "employment". "Seriously though, I have no desire to go to grad school. I'd like to start out in a good repertory company. I'm not sure where I want to work, but I know I have no interest in New York theatre. It's too commercialistic, and not what I'm looking for at all." She has a dream of someday founding several repertory companies that would "utilize theatre as an educational tool, that would bring theatre more prominence in this country."

Although Sandy stated frequently that she has no regrets in coming to Denison, she did offer an observation, "This school needs a serious reevaluation of their attitude toward the arts and how important they are to a liberal arts education, since that's what Denison claims they are geared to."

The Denison Women's Studies Newsletter is published once monthly. This issue will be the last for the 1976-77 school year.

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