Spring 1979

Women's Studies Newsletter March 1979

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DENISON WOMEN'S WEEK: March 4-10

This year Women's Week, Denison's annual celebration of the achievements and potential of its women's community, will be held from March 4 through March 10. Nancy Cable and Julie Panchura, Dean of Students' Office, and Nancy Nowik, 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

Sunday, March 4

--- Women in Power: A seminar featuring student presentations:
   1) The Earnings Gap: A Brief Description of Where Women Are in the Work Force
   2) The Sociological Perspective on Jobs for Women
   3) Women in Power—Members of the J-Term group that went to Washington, D.C. to interview women in high positions
   4) Plus Judy Clementson-Mohr, Clinical Psychologist, on job satisfaction

   Curtis West Lounge, 3:00-5:00 Faculty invited to remain for SAGA dinner

Monday, March 5

--- GLCA Visiting Scholar Florence Howe gives her convocation speech, "Myths of Coeducation," in Slayter Auditorium, 8:15 p.m. Reception after the convocation given by the women of Delta Delta Delta at 136 North Mulberry Street

Tuesday, March 6

--- Gwendolyn Brooks, distinguished poet, Slayter Auditorium, 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

--- Workshop on Racism presented by Marti Rawlings and Nancy Cable, Assistant Deans. Smith Hall Lounge, 3:30-5:00.

   Evening Symposium on Rape
   7:00 --- Showing of the film "Not a Pretty Picture"
   8:00 --- Discussion of the film
   8:30- --- Presentation on Rape Prevention by
   10:00 Women Against Rape, Columbus

   All evening events will take place in the Curtis West Lounge

Thursday, March 8

--- 3:30 Reception for women faculty, staff, and students sponsored by Huffman Hall students and Nancy Good. At 4:15 a short reading by Hilma Wolitzer and Bharati Mukherjee, fiction writers visiting the English Department as part of the Women's Week events

   8:15 Major reading by Hilma and Bharati, held at the Pi Phi House, 425 West College Street

Friday, March 9

--- Women's Song Fest—time and place to be announced—Sponsored by Women's Emphasis

Dr. Lee Bostian, Chairperson of the Music Department, lectured on "Women Composers of Classical Music: An Historical Overview with Sociological Perspective" for the February 14 departmental common hour.

Dr. Kennard Bork has asked us to announce that the Geology Department collects, posts, and distributes the American Geological Institute's Women's Newsletter as well as materials collected at national conventions and notes published in professional journals.

Dr. Marjorie Chan, Music Department, gave a faculty recital in Burke Recital Hall on February 4. Chan played the cello while Dr. Donald Rankin accompanied her on the piano.

Ann Fitzgerald has been elected to the coordinating council of the North Central Regional Association of the National Women's Studies Association. In addition, Ann presented a paper, "Political Responsibility in the Classroom: A Feminist Perspective," to a faculty seminar at Earlham College in November. She also served as a consultant to a group of Earlham faculty developing women's studies courses.

Juliana Mulroy, Biology Department, gave a seminar talk to the Wooster Biology Department on February 23. Her topic was "Physiological Ecology of Arctic and Alpine Plants."

Dr. Felicitas Goodman, Sociology/Anthropology Department, has delivered three talks in recent months. On January 7 she gave a presentation entitled "Dancing for the Lord: Innovation in Yucatecan Pentecostalism" to the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. On January 28 she addressed the Unitarian Church of Whitehall on "The Cult Experience." And on February 15 she spoke at Barat College (Illinois) on "The Biological Basis of Religious Behavior: Altered States of Consciousness and Pentecostalism."

Patricia Somers, Director of Career and Life/Work Planning, and Judith Clementson-Mohr, Psychological Services, have written an article, "Sexual Extortion in the Workplace," for the April issue of *The Personnel Administrator*. TPA is the journal of the American Society for Personnel Administration. The article outlines the staggering problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. Surveys have shown that between 80 and 92% of the respondents have experienced some form of sexual abuse on the job. While courts have provided protection to women fired because of harassment, only a minute fraction of the affected women ever pursue legal action. The consequences of and remedies for sexual abuse are also explored. Excerpts from the article will be included in the April edition of the Newsletter.
Dorothee Solle, Professor at Union Theological Seminary and the University of Hamburg, spoke in Slayter Hall on February 22 at an all-college convocation. The Goodspeed Lecturer focused on the boundary between existentialism and the political sphere.

Liz Tynan, Doane Library, recently coordinated a GLCA Women’s Studies Workshop for Librarians held at Denison February 23-24. Denison speakers at the workshop included Florence Howe, Ann Fitzgerald, Eileen Boris, and Charles Maurer. In addition, Liz recently prepared for distribution "Women's Studies: Guide to Selected Sources in Doane Library." This useful list of sources can be obtained in the Women's Resource Center or in the library itself.

Nancy Nowik, English Department and Women's Coordinator, delivered a paper on the reticent student in the classroom for the Professional and Organizational Development Association (POD) in Tulsa last November. In December she gave a paper on Henry James's essay "The Speech and Manners of American Women" at the Modern Languages Association convention in New York.

Nancy Fierro, pianist and expert on music by women composers, gave a guest lecture-recital at Denison on February 21. She dealt with women's works for keyboard ranging from 1745 to 1971.

On February 25, Nancy Theeman presented a guest lecture-recital on a single woman composer (some would rank her as the world's greatest woman composer), Augusta Holmes. Bill Stevens, Music Department, worked with Ms. Theeman to present Holmes's songs.

(Announcements continued on the next page)

THE BATTLE HYMN OF WOMEN (MOVE ON OVER. . .)

Sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Words written by Flo Kennedy for CARS (Coalition Against Racism & Sexism). See page 10 for coverage of Florynce Kennedy's recent visit to Denison.

I. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the flame of women's rage,
   Kept smouldering for centuries, now burning in this age.
   We no longer will be prisoners in that same old gilded cage
   'Cause women's time has come.

Chorus

Move on over, or we'll move on over you,/ Move on over or we'll move on over you,
Move on over or we'll move on over you,/ For women's time has come.

II. You have told us to speak softly, to be gentle and to smile,
   Expected us to change ourselves with every passing style,
   Said the only work for women was to clean and sweep and file--
   That's why we're marching on. (Chorus.)
ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

The Reverend Ms. Cynthia Jarvis, Associate Minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster, will speak at the Denison chapel service on April 4. Jarvis is a 1971 Denison graduate.

Dr. Kathleen Turner, Speech Communication Department, will speak on "Lyndon Johnson and the Rhetoric of a Limited War" at the Central States Speech Association Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 6.

Katherine L. Ley, Chairperson and Athletic Director at Capital University and former president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, will speak on "As the Sports World Turns" at the Faculty Luncheon, April 10.

Denison University is now a member of the National Women's Studies Association, a newly founded organization which will sponsor its First National Conference at the University of Kansas at Lawrence from May 30 to June 3, 1979. For more information about this conference, contact Ann Fitzgerald.

Eileen Boris, History Department, will deliver a paper entitled "Beautification: Moving the Home into the World" at the Victorian Album Conference meeting at the National Archives, Washington, D.C., on March 21-24.

Anne Andersen, Dance Department, will perform at Washington University, St. Louis, in the Faculty Studio Repertory Concert at Edison Theatre on March 30-31. Andersen will dance with Anne Sahl, who was Artist-in-Residence at Denison during the fall semester.

Susan Matheke, a member of the Viola Farber Dance Company, will be a guest performer in a duet concert at Denison on April 12 and 13. She will perform with assistant professor William Feuer at 8:15 in Doane Studio.

Richard Markgraf sends word that Michele Galiun and Marsha Walton, newsmen with WCMH-TV in Columbus, will be on campus March 14 to speak with his classes.

When the people who sponsored the annual GLCA Women's Studies Conference last semester at Rochester, Indiana, read through the evaluations of the conference, they found that the Racism Workshop coordinated by Denison's Marti Rawlings had received the highest ratings of any conference event. Fortunately, Marti, along with Nancy Cable, Assistant Dean of Students, will be offering a version of that workshop here at Denison during Women's Week on March 7.

"Loneliness is not a longing for company, it is a longing for kind. And kind means people who can see who you are, and that means they have enough intelligence and sensitivity and patience to do that."

Marilyn French, The Women's Room
JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR DENISON WOMEN PROMISING

by

Kim Halliburton

At a time when many Denison seniors are interviewing with companies and making decisions about their future employment, we've collected advice from various sources to aid you as you consider career options.

The field of sales is an occupation from which a great majority of women have traditionally been excluded. In April, 1974, only 6.8% of the total female work force was involved in sales, and more than half of these were in retail.

There are many reasons for this exclusion—most of them because of sexual stereotypes. These include "tradition," a woman's "inability" to travel and to be away from home overnight, a presumed lack of technical knowledge, sexual exploitation by customers and male coworkers, the priorities of getting or staying married, and children. These supposedly lead to absenteeism and turnover.

Yet Pat Somers, Career Planning, sees sales as a lucrative and increasingly open field for women. Although sexual stereotypes still prevail, they are being slowly erased by several important factors—Affirmative Action and court-ordered quotas (which respectively encourage and force the hiring of women), the fact that women are becoming as well educated as men, the fact that women are entering technical fields (engineering, science, etc.), and the increased number of women entering business schools. They have more freedom and willingness to travel, to live alone, to choose not to marry or, if married, not to have children.

In a survey taken by Dr. Leslie Kanuk, Associate Professor of Marketing, Baruch College, of 100 companies in the area of paper and chemical sales, 76% of the vice presidents surveyed reported no differences in the ability of men and women to general sales, 69% reported no difference in the absenteeism rate of men and women, and 43% reported no difference in the turnover rate of women as compared to that of men.

The same survey reported the following factors as very important in the hiring of women: technical knowledge, personality, motivation, verbal ability, appearance, age, prior selling experience, and basic intelligence.

Somers feels that not enough Denison women are taking advantage of the opportunities being offered them by the presence of recruiters for sales positions on campus. "All we ask," she said, "is that they know what they want and that they've done some research into the product they're selling. It's necessary to choose carefully and to believe in the product you're interested in selling. The women who
have graduated from Denison and gone on to sales jobs come back occa-
sionally and talk about their work, and I find that the ones who are
happiest are the ones who knew what they were getting into before
they started."

Somers has a number of other recommendations for women contem-
plating a career in sales. She suggests that one examine the particular
company as closely as possible, looking for segregation of work force
(are women in the lower scale jobs?). If first-hand observation is
unavailable, she advises calling either the local branch of NOW or a
Business Women's Bureau (available in larger cities) in the city where
the company is located. Both of these organizations often keep files
of information on the companies in that city, and will often be able
to set up appointments for the job-seeker with past or current female
employees of the firm. This will allow an exchange of information
that may heavily influence a career choice.

Somers did not stress the importance of a particular major,
although certain skills are eminently desirable. The ability to
speak well, to write well, to think logically and analytically, plus
evidence of leadership and involvement are extremely important. Somers
also said that she seldom felt a great need for a student to complete
graduate or professional school before applying for a sales job be-
cause many companies prefer to train their own people, sending them to
graduate schools after they're employed, if necessary. "They feel MBA's
are arrogant and haughty and they leave quickly, as soon as a 'better'
opportunity comes along. People with BA's don't do that."

An area most women overlook, according to Somers, is that of non-
profit and government organizations. The only groups that come on
campus to recruit are usually the big national companies because they
can afford to fly all over the country; but there are a number of
jobs in smaller, local rather than national firms, and non-profit
groups. Listings of some of these organizations are available, but
getting interviews is a little more involved than the regular recruit-
ment process.

Somers also recommends applying for what are called "line jobs"
rather than "staff jobs." Line jobs involve working with the line, or
the product (design, quality control, sales, etc.) while staff jobs like
personnel are limited to working with the present staff of the company
or interviewing future staff. Statistics show that the vast majority
of promotions into higher lever managerial jobs come from employees in
the line positions. Companies prefer people who they feel have a strong
knowledge of the product with which they're working.

Open about continuing discrimination and pitfalls, Somers was free
with advice about combating them. "Unfortunately, the employment situation
is still such that a mediocre man can get by, while a woman has to be a
superstar for many of the companies we get in here to take notice of her.
I think complete equality will be here when a mediocre woman can compete
with a mediocre man. I don't know how long this will take—possibly
15 to 30 more years. We may be into the next century before a woman
doesn't have to be superior to a man to be viewed as equal. It's hard to predict exactly what companies will view as superior in a woman—it isn't always grades—but I do know that they want women who are assertive almost to the point of being aggressive. It's important that the student ask questions which demonstrate interest and motivation, and to be very aware of what she wants and willing to go after it. If a woman comes across well in an interview, a company will be a lot more willing to see that she will come across well with a potential client."

One of the biggest obstacles to women is the practice of veteran's preference hiring. In certain states, a veteran (with honorable discharge) scoring above the minimum amount required in a job qualifications scale will receive an additional percentage of his score added on simply by virtue of being a veteran. For example, if a company has a qualification scale of 500, with a minimum of 300, and a 25% veteran's preference, a veteran scoring 300 would receive an additional 60 points and receive preference over any woman scoring 359. Somers stated, "In some states, any veteran receiving a passing score is given preference over any non-veteran. I've never understood how women ever got hired in those states." Many companies are eliminating this practice, however, and it is wise for a woman to search out these companies.

To a great degree, Somers' comments were echoed by another. Steven Schwarzwaelder, Denison '77, was on campus recently as a representative of Inland Steel, located in Chicago. Schwarzwaelder is currently working on his MBA in night school at the University of Chicago. When asked about opportunities for women at Inland, he said, "They're very good. Women have a competitive advantage, because the big steel companies are looking for women. (Inland was one of eight major U.S. steel companies assigned court-ordered quotas on the hiring of women.) Inland is looking for women with a business sense—an understanding of profits and cash flow, analytical skills, and communications skills. I'll admit that in the historically male-dominated steel business, women often aren't taken too seriously, but the ones I know are working twice as hard as the men, with an eye toward rectifying the situation." He was asked if he thought women could pretty much name their own price in the steel business, to which he replied, "On the inside—management, accounting—I don't think that's true at all. The women are equal, and accorded the same privileges as the men—no more. Out in the sales field, however, it's a different story. Any woman who can impress the types she's going to meet out there is going to be viewed with a great deal of respect, and maybe a little fear, and she's going to be able to go a long way. I think the attitude of Inland toward the hiring of women was probably pretty bad originally; but the women have proven themselves admirably, and now there are even areas like Customer Service where there's a surplus of women and the company is looking for more men. The job requirements are identical. Marriage is viewed as unimportant as long as it doesn't interfere with work ability. The area of maternity is still inadequately dealt with, I feel—women are given only a very short maternity leave. I don't think women are ever given a job at Inland because they're women, but I do feel they're still having to prove themselves a bit more to maintain equality."

As most companies request a minimum 2.8 cumulative GPA, the area of sales is open to a great many Denison women. It is a vital and exciting field, one which offers a variety of choices provided the saleswoman is willing to travel, relocate if necessary, and acquaint herself fully with her product. Salary scales are good, commissions even better, and advancement opportunities are numerous. For further information, see Ms. Pat Somers, Office of Career Planning, second floor of Slayter.
DENISON WOMEN: VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

by
Suzanne Case

Whenever the siren sounds in Granville, six Denison women race down the hill, arriving at the fire station on North Prospect in about three minutes flat. These women—Lucy Biddle, Jill Denison, Ann Lawrence, Sheila Noonan, Peggy Ruchti and Margo Scribner—are all members of the Granville Volunteer Fire Department.

"You get dressed as fast as you can," Scribner explained. "Everyone has a place where their coats and boots are, and you go and grab your stuff and get on one of the trucks."

"Generally people keep streaming in, and when one truck is filled, it goes," said Lawrence. She noted that the fire fighters are not assigned specific jobs. "Often times it depends on where you're sitting in terms of what your job is. Like the jump seats are where the air tanks are, and those are the first people who are going to go into the fire so if you're sitting there, you will put on an air tank."

Some of the fire fighting equipment is quite heavy. Air tanks, for example, weigh forty pounds. While battling a blaze, a firefighter may have to switch tanks more than thirty times. One of the members pointed out that Noonan is the strongest woman in the department. In some cases, she can out-lift the men. But according to Lawrence, "Most of us realize our own physical limitations and won't do things that obviously we can't do." Scribner said, "I know my limitations. I would never take a hose line first. I might back somebody up though." "There are a lot of jobs that don't require brute strength," added Ruchti. "Carrying the hoses aren't that heavy; neither are rolling the hoses or carrying the ladders. And sometimes when something is heavy, you just add another person." "But during a fire, your adrenalin goes up," Denison concluded. "You would be surprised what you can do."

The first women to join the Granville Fire Department were three Denison students—Jan Packard, Mary Martha Hall and Jan Watterson. After participating in the fire department's January Term course, they wanted to become volunteer fire fighters. All three of them applied to the department, and after some resistance, they were accepted in February, 1974. Both Packard and Hall have remained with the department since graduating in 1976.

Following the precedent established by these women, Lawrence, Noonan, Scribner and Ruchti also became fire fighters after completing the station's January Term class in 1976. "I decided to join because I was really interested in getting emergency medical training," said Lawrence.

Biddle, who had many friends in the department, became a fire fighter last year: "I kept telling myself I didn't have time, but I finally decided I did have time, and I wanted to do it so I applied."
Denison, a sophomore and one of the youngest members on the squad, became involved in the most unique way. Before coming to Granville, she had been a volunteer fire fighter in her hometown, McLean, Virginia. Denison explained, "The first day of school I knocked on the firehouse door in Granville, and I couldn't figure out why no one was there. So I went to the bank and asked them if they knew any firemen, and they told me to go to the barber shop." Finally, Denison met someone in the department who told her to contact Dr. Lee Larson, the Fire Chief. Upon talking to Larson, Denison discovered that first semester freshmen cannot join the fire department so she waited a term and became a fire fighter the second semester of her freshman year.

Although all six women enjoy their work, none of them want to pursue a career in fire fighting. Denison explained, "Fire fighting is the most dangerous profession in the United States."

"Lee is very safety conscious," said Biddle. "He won't send any of us where there is any chance that we'll be hurt because we are volunteers. But you know, you hear stories about the paid fire departments, and they're expected to risk their lives. We'll risk going in to save somebody, but there is no point in killing off three or four of your firemen."

Yet these students have found that being a part of the fire department has greatly enriched their lives. As Lawrence said, "I feel close to the Granville community in a way that most Denison students will never experience.

* * * * *

When Eileen Boris, History, and Nelson Lichtenstein were married on January 26 of this year, they sent announcements bearing the following quotation:

What marriage may be in the case of two persons of cultivated faculties, identical in opinions and purposes, between whom there exists that best kind of equality, similarity of powers and capacities with reciprocal superiority in them -- so that each can enjoy the luxury of looking up to the other, and can have alternately the pleasure of leading and of being led in the path of development -- I will not attempt to describe. To those who can conceive it, there is no need; to those who cannot, it would appear the dream of an enthusiast. But I maintain with the profoundest conviction, that this, and this only, is the ideal of marriage.

--John Stuart Mill

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FLORYNCE KENNEDY LAUNCHES BLACK HISTORY WEEK

by
Sue Deveny

Florynce Kennedy is an attorney, author, and lecturer. An active feminist, she is the founder of The Feminist Party and co-founder of Black Women United for Political Action. Two of her current projects are suing to withdraw the tax-exempt status of the Roman Catholic Church because of its "substantial . . . anti-abortion activities" and organizing both a national boycott of Proctor and Gamble products and a $200 million dollar lawsuit against the company for its "wasteful, false, and misleading advertising" which, Kennedy feels, is racist and sexist. She spoke at Denison on February 12.

Florynce Kennedy hit Denison like an unleashed hurricane while she was on campus Sunday and Monday. The 63-year-old black feminist lawyer was introduced as the feminist movement's best-loved, toughest spokeswoman, and she lived up to her reputation. She came to Denison as the keynote speaker for Black History Week, yet her presence on campus involved more than just one convocation hour. Kennedy attended classes and met with students and faculty throughout the day. She is a forceful, dynamic, inquisitive person who immediately won admirers at Denison.

A flamboyant character with more energy than some 21-year-olds I know, Kennedy kept her convocation audience entertained with songs, anecdotes, and inspirational words that sounded vaguely reminiscent of an old-fashioned revival meeting. She began her speech by calling on stage people she had met during the day to sing songs—traditional tunes with altered lyrics ("My Country Tis of Thee/ Sour land of bigotry"). Kennedy managed to get Nancy Good, Chuck Henry, Joan Straumanis, Ann Fitzgerald, and several students to join her onstage for a musical tribute to blacks and women.

The tone of her speech was an inspirational one aimed primarily at black students, but nearly everyone could find something in it. With her abundant use of profanity and her great sense of humor, Kennedy launched into a tribute to Denison and the vast opportunities that exist here for minority students. Worried about the excessive number of transfers from Denison, she warned her audience that outside Denison "it doesn't get much better than this, honey." She said that "if you can't deal with Denison, you're not going to be able to deal with anything in this country," although "you don't have to step in the shit just 'cause it's there."

Kennedy noted that she had never been to a campus with so much to offer, particularly the "exceptional faculty members." Students must take advantage of what's available by "getting their asses in gear" and working hard, especially on extra-curricular activities. She also told the audience that it is up to the students to take responsibility for dealing with racism and sexism on campus. The administration, she said, has its hands full "keeping the place from burning down and raising money to keep it going." Specifically, she suggested that "if people come dorming, get out your scissors."

Next Kennedy said she would like to see more students know where they'll be five years from now rather than relying on "drift," which leads us to places where we don't want to be, especially given students' tendencies to "just think through the next weekend." Kennedy suggested that we all have three powers we can use to battle political oppression by institutions: body power, dollar power, and vote power, and she urged her audience to use all three to make changes. As she concluded Kennedy said, "I am not saying Take it easy, but rather Take it!"
DENISON WOMEN AND THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

by

Kim Cromwell

This article is the first of a series featuring "downhill" achievements of the women on our campus. In the future we will be dealing with art, dance, film, and theatre accomplishments by Denison women. At present, we'll be concentrating on our students in the music department and some of their plans for the spring.

As a fairly small liberal arts college, Denison has the advantage of allowing students to pursue their interests in music without necessarily majoring in the department. Amy MacDonell, a senior, has found satisfaction in this as she looks back over her years at Denison. "I've received a lot of encouragement from Mrs. Borishansky," Amy says, "and she has really influenced my decision to pursue music aside from my major." Music majors as well as non-music majors will be displaying their talents in the Burke Recital Hall this semester. Unless noted otherwise, all will take place at 8:15 p.m.

On Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m., Judy Eckstein, a sophomore music major, will play music at the piano by Chopin and Schumann, featuring Schumann's Kreisleriana. Is it difficult for a woman to break into the world of music as a profession? Most seem to feel that this is one field in which the competition is stiff for both sexes. According to Denison Singer Amy DeWall, the "group esprit" that exists downhill is not severed by such competition; the women and men have an apparent bond in the department which ignores any sex standards.

In other spring performances, soprano Carolyn Stevens will be accompanied by Kristen Lundstrom on the harpsichord and piano in their Junior Recital on Wednesday, March 7. Included in their program will be Five Shakespeare Songs by Thomas Arne and traditional Irish folk songs arranged by William Stevens. On March 14 Doris Harris will perform her Senior Recital on the cello, accompanied by Joseph Uffner on the piano, featuring the full Boccherini Concerto in B-flat Major as part of the program.

Sioux Clarke's Senior Recital will take place on March 21. A soprano, Sioux will be accompanied by Michael Lewis, John Macdonald, and Lee Bostian. Among other works, Sioux will perform Aaron Copland's Old American Songs with Michael Lewis. Amy MacDonell and Stacie Williams will join together on April 18 for their piano and voice recital. In another Senior Recital, Kathryn Zetts (oboe) and Judy Eckstein (piano) will perform two Sonatas for Oboe and Piano and other works on April 22.

Community student Kathleen Millberg and senior Anne Converse will join in a piano recital on Wednesday, April 25, which will be highlighted by selections from Chopin's works. Finally, on April 28 at 4:00 p.m., Judy Eckstein will perform with Joseph Uffner, including in their recital Dave Brubeck's Points on Jazz.
One of the highest levels of musical achievement at which one can perform here is as a member of the Denison Singers. One of the members states that because the group works, performs, and travels together, it is "one of the best integrations of male and female life on campus" for her. A group of good friends as well as fine performers, the Singers include Sioux Clarke, Amy DeWall, Lisa Kenney, Amy MacDonell, Martha Noyes, Debra Schlundt, Chris Wagner and Stacie Williams. Conducted by William Osborne, the Denison Singers will present a program of chamber music for voices and instruments on Saturday, April 28, at 8:15 p.m.

As one can see, this is a good semester for recitals and performances given by women. Perhaps the finest recognition that we can give these women is our support of their achievements and our attendance at these events.

* * * * *

GRAND OPENING OF WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER

The Denison Women's Resource Center, housed on the first floor of Fellows, was officially opened on Wednesday, February 21. Funded by the administration last fall, the Center gradually acquired equipment—tables, chairs, desk, rug, drapes, furniture, phone, and the all-important books and materials that would make it a valuable resource center containing materials by and about women. As Nancy Nowik, Women's Coordinator, said at the opening, "In my vision of what the Center will become, I see it as a lounge and study room, a referral service and a library, a place where we can exchange resources as well as be resources for one another."

Provost Lou Brakeman offered words of congratulations and said that his dream is for a society and a Denison where women are not second-class citizens culturally, and for a day when a women's center won't be necessary. But for now, he said, it was certainly appropriate to have facilities of this kind to serve as a center and a focus for women students' concerns.

Then Florence Howe, Visiting GLCA Women's Studies Scholar, read an untitled poem by Ellen Bass, a poem on remembering our pasts and going back to our remotest ancestors. Next Howe and Brakeman simultaneously cut the ribbon strung across the door, and the grand opening was made official.

Student M. J. Hampel had been responsible for suggesting that students bring presents to the opening to make of it a kind of house or housewarming. Students grouped together to buy books, and sororities and residence halls sent gifts in their names. President and Mrs. Good sent flowers, some faculty and students gave posters and cash, and the Center is now richer by about 50 books, all of them greatly appreciated. Donations are still being accepted, however, since the collection is a very modest one.
Interview Conducted and Written
by
Suzanne Case and Kim Halliburton

"Joan made an interesting comment. She felt that a lot of the women we interviewed were very optimistic. . .that it was a technique they used in order to survive."

"Women in Power" was the title of a recent January Term offered by Joan Straumanis of Denison's Philosophy Department. Thirteen Denison students spent the month in an intense study of the relationships between influential women and the power they wield, in a program which culminated with a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., for the purpose of interviewing several women leaders in the areas of government and media.

The first three weeks of January were spent on campus. The women met three times per week and read such texts as Women and Sex Roles: A Social Psychological Perspective (Irene Frieze et al.) and John T. Molloy's The Women's Dress for Success Book, with some supplementary readings and assertiveness training work to prepare them for their stay in Washington.

A few days after their return to Denison, five of the women—Sue Guise, Randie Mulholland, Bibby Gignilliat, Bonnie Brooks, and Hilary Robinson—were available to present their views of the month, especially the week in D.C.

Regarding the Molloy book, Mulholland said, "We discussed it for about four class meetings because all of us got pretty riled up about some of the ridiculous points he made."

Guise added, "Some of his advice was all right. . .if you're not wearing frilly garments to the office then you're going to be more respected. He just went too far." Robinson concurred by saying, "He went as far as to say that you had to wear a fedora, carry a gold Cross pen, wear plain pumps, nude stockings, and carry an attache case. What he wants to do is establish a uniform for women."

At their January presentation to the public, the students offered a fashion show in Curtis West Lounge in which they illustrated the Molloy guidelines. The hit of the show was a pink polyester pantsuit, worn by Straumanis, which supposedly epitomized the lower-class, poorly dressed woman.
While most of the students agreed that the women they interviewed in D.C. had read or at least skimmed the contents of the book, Gignilliat suggested that "once a woman has achieved her position of success, she can really dress however she wants. A couple of the women in Washington said while they were on their way up they really paid a lot of attention to the clothes they wore to big business meetings. But I think one of our main objections to the body language/dress-for-success ideas is that they're so external. If you don't have the self-confidence, and if you can't reach within yourself to find the power to say, 'Okay, this is what I want to do,' then appearance isn't going to get you anywhere. If you aren't behind what you're wearing or what you're saying to someone nonverbally, then it's not going to make a lot of difference anyway."

In the Curtis presentation, the women also discussed assertiveness training. Robinson said, "I learned things like how women are socialized to feel inferior and act nonassertively, how important it is to express your feelings and be assertive, some of the blocks to being assertive, and the distinction between assertiveness and aggressiveness. This is important because a lot of women, when they are not assertive, tend to be aggressive instead. Aggressiveness is forcing your opinion on somebody whereas assertiveness is just stating your opinion and being open to others' opinions."

During the same symposium, Randie Mulholland gave a presentation on body language. She said, "Basically we tried to go through the differences between accepted male body language and female body language. We talked about postures and ways in which a boss can come within close proximity to a secretary when giving her an order while a secretary has to keep an appropriate social distance while she is asking him a question. We talked about staring and smiling and how men can get away with staring while women are sort of socialized to look away because if they look back at men, it's taken to have sexual connotations."

During their time in Washington, the students interviewed several women friends and contacts of Straumanis, who had spent the 1977-78 school year on leave there with the National Science Foundation. Among these women were Shirley Chisholm, Representative to the U. S. Congress; Dr. Eloise Clark, Assistant Director at the National Science Foundation; Ms. Carol Forbes, Congressional Staff--House Agricultural Committee; Ms. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The students felt that their study on campus had prepared them well for their interviewing--each student chaired an interview session. As Gignilliat stated, "Some of the points some of the women brought up made me realize that Joan had done a really good job of preparing us in the class meetings before going to Washington."

The Denison students found that their interviewees stressed many common ideas in the various meetings. Almost all attributed their successes to self-confidence, and almost all credited the attainment of that self-confidence to hard work and perseverance.
There was a far more serious side to the Washington women's comments, however. All stressed great sacrifices made along the way, including a number of divorces. Mulholland said, "One of the women told us, 'You better be damn sure about having children.' It's possible to do both, of course, but you've certainly got to have your priorities straight."

The Denison women stressed a number of other problems as well, including the difficulty in combating the typical view of feminists. Mulholland said, "A lot of the women said, 'No, I'm not a flag-waving feminist.' And we said, 'What does that mean--someone who's loud and aggressive?' Which is the typical stereotype I think people have, like Bella Abzug, somebody who's in the public eye, up there screaming. . ."

Another problem was the question of personal attractiveness, which worked in a surprising reverse fashion. Most of the women interviewed felt that less attractive women succeeded more easily because men did not regard them in the light of their sexual potential rather than their intellectual capacity.

"A lot of the women stressed that in a case where a man and a woman are given the same job, the woman will do a better job because the man looks at the job as a stepping stone to something else while the woman regards it as the way to reinforce her own work," Guise said. All five agreed that the women they interviewed felt pressure to do better than men at their jobs because, as Mulholland phrased it, "Equal isn't good enough yet."

Five of the Denison students were even interviewed at the Pentagon about a question of policy concerning women in the air force. After the interview, all five women were requested to write their opinions to the officer in charge of the particular project.

All students we spoke to agreed that their views of feminism and of themselves as feminists had changed considerably during their month of study. They all agreed that they supported equal pay for equal work and that they realized that women were just as capable as men. Most important, they realized for the first time that they could do almost anything they wanted. Mulholland summed it up best when she said, "Women can choose what they want to do...I'm an Anthropology major, and I sort of thought about going with National Geographic, and I'd always think, 'What am I going to do with National Geographic?' Now I'll go there and tell them, 'I can do this, and I can do that, and what spot can you fit me in?'"

It seems fair, then, to say that, like the women they interviewed, all of the students that we interviewed were optimistic about their futures and the future of women and career opportunities for them. All spoke with high praise of Straumanis and her organization and administration of the program, especially the week in Washington, and expressed hope that the course would be offered again next January so that additional students could take advantage of it.
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