Fall 1981

Women's Studies Newsletter October 1981

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DENISON UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S STUDIES

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This year the WSNL will include an editorial page open for your opinions and commentary. We will publish as many of these as space permits. Please take responsibility for your viewpoints and sign your name. We will not accept unsigned material, but we may agree to withhold names on request.

We are also happy to accept other written material: poems, essays, announcements, reports on feminist theatre or music, etc. The deadline for articles for the next issue is October 21 (the day after Fall Break).

Submit contribution to Jackie Ondy (Box # 1530) or Becky Pschirrer (Box # 2424).

IT'S TIME TO INCLUDE MEN

If we are striving for equality among the sexes, how can we justifiably exclude men from the organizations created to advance the cause? Believing in a principle means incorporating it into one's life. We should be unafraid to put into action what we verbally support. This year the Women's Action Group (formerly Women's Emphasis) is encouraging the participation of men in its activities.

Decisions in the past restricting the group to women only were based on important considerations (the tendency of men to dominate a discussion; the difficulties of discussing sensitive issues in mixed sex groups). Yet there are disadvantages to separatism. Segregation only amplifies problems between the sexes on the Denison campus. Difficult subject matter will never be easier to discuss if we do not force ourselves to confront the problem. I hope that inviting men to participate in the Women's Action Group will break down some of the old barriers and establish a group dedicated to improving the quality of human relationships and ultimately improving the status of women.

Jackie Ondy
tansy

You've learned marriage
from the mouths of women;
their pursed kisses, their
clacking tongues. Today you
stand at the back door,
observe how herbs keep order.
Tansy grows along the fence,
a young girl's medicine, to ease
a slow and painful bleeding, to
keep the wild ones out. You see
the fox and skunk, bright eyed,
sniffing the edge, turning away.
Today tomatoes drop off the ends
of plants, new blood in the mulch.
A cat angles in the sun.
Across the road an old woman snaps
a red checkered cloth. Crumbs scatter.
You know the order of her house,
clean cloth, kettle whistle, herbs
dried upside down. She invites you
in, pours tea with hands
strong enough to break you. She
teaches you to make cheese, smiles
and croons, "take tansy, steep
well, but not too long, else be
bitter, bitter all your days."

ruth danon
missing books

Joann Hutchinson, the new reference librarian, reports that a number of important reference books on women have disappeared from the library. I'm listing them here hoping that you may have seen some and be able to help us to locate them. If you should find any of them (or even just remember seeing them somewhere) please drop a note (or the book) to Joann or to Bev. We need your help. These books are essential resources for students doing research on women.

The missing books include:

- Myers, Carol F., Women in Literature: Criticism in the Seventies (Ref. Bib. Z6514.C5W64)

woman's action group

by becky pschirrer

The Women's Action Group met on Tuesday, 15 September. Becky Pschirrer and Jackie Ondy presented the newly revised constitution, which outlines the purpose, goals, and governance of the organization, and stressed several changes in the structure of the group. In particular, we encourage men to participate. The group is an eclectic one which invites the participation of people with diverse viewpoints. We want to stress that you can participate in the group in a variety of ways. For example, you might want to join one of the interest groups, work on planning Women's Week, or just attend any of our functions. Already a group has gone into Columbus for the Meg Christian concert, 26 September. This semester, we hope to work at the Battered Women's Center in Newark, sponsor bi-weekly symposia, and continue our program of community education. If you would like to meet some people in the group, join us at Livingston Gym on Saturday afternoon, October 10, for some fun trying out "new games." More information on the group is available in the third drawer of the file cabinet in the Women's Resource Center (in a red three ring notebook) or contact Becky Pschirrer (Box # 2424) or Jackie Ondy (Box # 1530).
The Women's Action Group is herewith constituted on the following ideals and goals:

1. That an awareness of potential human freedom is necessary to the maintenance of a creative society.
2. That the Women's Action Group shall be dedicated to the close coordination of all departments and organizations in the Denison community which relate to the concerns of women, including feminism.
3. That the Women's Action Group seeks to open channels of communication among all members of the community, thus progressing towards the ultimate "human liberation" concept which transcends sexual barriers.

Purpose:

1. To establish and actively run a students' Women's Resource Center, which will be operated by volunteer and paid work, according to interest and need.
2. To seek and actively define and act upon the needs of women students at Denison (e.g., by use of films, workshops, consciousness raising and support groups, and special interest groups).
3. To help plan and support Women's Week.

Membership:

Membership will be available to all members of the Denison community. Names of members will be on record at the Women's Resource Center.

Governance:

There will be a five (5) person steering committee elected in December for a term of one year (January through December) to insure smooth transition from one academic year to the next. The committee will consist of the people with the five (5) highest number of votes.

The function of the steering committee is to the organizational core; it shall not limit the degree of involvement by other group members.

The steering committee will ascertain the current needs of the community and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

Any need to replace a member of the steering committee will receive normal election procedure.
Planned Parenthood of East Central Ohio has been providing medical, educational, and counseling services to people in this community since May, 1967. During that time, we have provided assistance to over 30,000 individuals. We are the only social service organization in the county designed to deal with the problems related to this specific area on a comprehensive basis.

Our medical services include yearly pelvic examination and pap test, breast examination, blood work, urinalysis, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy tests. All medically approved methods of contraception, including Natural Family Planning, are available. Counseling services dealing with such concerns as problem pregnancy, infertility, rape, relationship communication, and human sexuality are offered to individuals who request assistance in these areas.

As vital as these services may be to the mental and physical well being of the women and men in this area, these services are in serious jeopardy of being severely limited or lost altogether. The Federal Government, in its attempt to balance the Federal budget, has found it necessary to cut the amount of money to be allocated for family planning. While Congress does recognize the importance of keeping subsidized family planning services available, they have decreased the amount of the allocation by 20%. When this is added to the inflationary factor, this means approximately a 36% cut in our Health and Human Services allocation. We are also aware that another methodology to balance the Federal budget is to put the Title XX Social Services Program into a block grant with a 25% cut in the allocation. These block grants will come back to the state with no guidelines as to their disbursement. If the state chooses not to use this money for social service programs, this would mean a further cut of approximately 30% of our budget.

The importance of maintaining these services is vital from several perspectives. The birth of an unwanted child can be devastating. To the life of the parents, it may mean an incomplete education and financial dependency. To the community, it may mean an added tax burden in terms of additional need for supportive services. The intent of the national legislation in establishing the Title XX Social Services Program was to meet five broad goals. The programs and services offered by Planned Parenthood of East Central Ohio address four of these goals: Self-Support, Self-Sufficiency; Preventing Neglect, Abuse, Exploitation; Preserving Families; and Community-Based Care. We believe that the beneficial effects that Family Planning has on the strength of the family and ultimately the community has been amply demonstrated over the years. Planned Parenthood is engaged in an effort to continue meeting the reproductive health needs of this community. If you would like to know how you can help, call Planned Parenthood at 366-3377.
planned parenthood at denison

Again this year, Planned Parenthood of Newark will conduct Wednesday health clinics at Whisler. Remember to phone ahead for an appointment (366-3377) and to identify yourself as a Denison student when you call. Bring your student I.D. when you come to the clinic.

The services offered by the clinic are many, including the following:

1. gynecological exam [$14.75] includes:
   - breast exam
   - abdominal exam
   - pelvic exam
   - thyroid exam
   - listen to heart
   - exam arms and legs for blood vessel problems
   - pap test
   - blood pressure
   - gonorrhea test
   - urinalysis
   - weight
   - red blood cell test

2. VDRL - syphilis test [$2.00]

3. pregnancy test [$4.75]

4. counseling [$6.25/session]

5. educational session and birth control information [included in other prices]

6. contraception [prices vary]

The clinic will operate Wednesdays from 2:30 - 6:30 P.M.
September 16, 23, 30
October 7, 28
November 4, 18
December 2, 9
The facts are these: Last July 12 to August 1, the GLCA sponsored a summer institute in women's studies that drew sixty people to Ann Arbor and the U. of Michigan campus for a conference entitled "Toward a Feminist Transformation of the Curriculum." Six members of the Denison community were there: Robin Bartlett came as a participant; Ann Fitzgerald, Juliana Mulroy, Joan Straumanis, Maggie Desch and I were there as staff. The Institute was intended for people "already engaged in feminist studies at the college or university level," so none of us were beginners. Most were classroom teachers and academic administrators; there was also a librarian, an M.D. who teaches medical students, and a nurse Ph.D. Two were men, one from Kenyon and one from Antioch, and two were black. Three came from Europe for this, the first national institute in women's studies held in the U.S.

Living in a dorm for three weeks was interesting. Ours was attractive enough, but the smallness of the rooms, the lack of privacy and the communal bathrooms created in many of us a new sympathy for our students. The films offered in the evenings were a highpoint. Most people would probably say that interaction with the other people there was the single most valuable component of the Institute. The readings were also an extremely important element in the success of the Institute. We met daily in groups called theory seminars, and we read materials we had long wanted the opportunity and leisure to explore. After hours, Ann Arbor with its good restaurants and bookstores was great fun.

Those of us from Denison were responsible for a variety of tasks. Ann Fitzgerald and Joan Straumanis headed theory seminars and arranged the readings for all participants. Juliana Mulroy coordinated the science-related projects of participants and documented many of the events of the Institute on videotape. Student Maggie Desch, the assistant to the manager of local arrangements, played an important role in facilitating daily activities and helping with videotaping. My own task as a staff member was to provide the opportunity for people to teach small segments of what they teach in their classes in order to get suggestions from their colleagues. Frequently videotaping was used so that they could see themselves and respond to their own teaching styles and strategies. What I found most interesting and rewarding here was how teaching was at the center of their lives. These people took high risks in allowing themselves to be videotaped and critiqued by their peers in order to become more effective college teachers.

Our days were so filled and highly structured, so remote from the outside world, and so consistently intense that we worried about re-entry. To help us, a self-appointed committee gathered us together to watch both the 6:00 and the 7:00 news on the last evening there. Then they helped put together a series of skits both comic and poignant in which participants acted out their returns to their homes and their campuses. Robin Bartlett revealed the talent that had almost led her to be an actor instead of an economist as she brilliantly portrayed first a male college president dubious about how well spent his school's money had been; and second, a spouse or "Significant Other" trying to adjust to the institute-goer-returning-home. The skits were filled with private jokes. You had to be there, you'll think to yourselves, and I suppose it's true. But those of us who were there are glad we went and were part of this ambitious historical undertaking, the beginning of a feminist transformation of the college curriculum.
The city of Newark, Ohio has received a major HUD grant to buy and renovate a building to be used to shelter victims of domestic violence. Once purchased, the city of Newark will give the structure to Family Service Association to administer.

Family Service Association has been offering crisis oriented services to Battered Women for years. The availability of a permanent structure will allow extended services and programs to women and their children. These services will include individual and group counseling, family therapy, career exploration and job skills workshops. Medical and legal assistance and child management training will be offered as needed, as will classes in budget management and consumer credit. In addition to a paid professional staff, the shelter will need the support of trained volunteers. These volunteers will work with adults and children, do secretarial and reception work, or help in physically maintaining the shelter.

Lenore Walker suggests that physical assaults occur in nearly one-third of the homes in the United States. These attacks, contrary to myth, are not restricted to lower socio-economic families, nor to minority groups, nor to the uneducated. Domestic violence does have some correlation with drinking, but many assaults occur without alcohol involvement.

A short film, "Behind Closed Doors", is available for showing on campus, and Family Service Association will provide a speaker. A group of students has chosen the subject of Battered Women as their year long project for the Shepardson Living/Learning Center. Both the Women's Resource Center and the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services have books and articles on Battered Women. If you have questions, or would like to become involved, call me at extension 385, or stop by Doane 104.
Next time you are in the Women's Resource Center feel free to pick up our new blank book and write a few words or just read what someone else had to say. This empty book is open to anyone for random thoughts, poems, drawings, quotes—anything you want to express and share. While at Kalamazoo College for the Women's Studies Student Conference, I came across such a book of peoples' thoughts and wanted to bring the idea to Denison.

mellon career trips

Again this year, the Mellon Program will sponsor Career Exploration Trips to Washington, D.C., and New York City during Spring Break (March 20-28, 1982). For women students who are interested in interviewing professional women on the job, the trips provide an exciting opportunity to test out ideas about career options and the integration of personal and professional life.

On Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mudd Learning Center, an Information Session will be held for women who are interested in learning more about this career education opportunity. To provide students with a sample of the trip's style of informational interviewing, Linda Marcelli, whom last year's students met at Merrill Lynch in NYC, will participate in the session.

Additional information on the Career Exploration Trips of the last two years can be gained by reading student papers on file in the Women's Resource Center.
October 6, 4:30 p.m.
Life Sciences, Room 313

October 14, 7:30 p.m.
Learning Center, Room 102

October 28, 7:00 p.m.
Swasey Chapel

November 2, 8:00 p.m.
Fellows Auditorium

November 10, 4:30 p.m.
Life Sciences, Room 313

November 18, 5:30 p.m.
Curtis West Veggie Room

December 9, 2:30 p.m.
Knapp 307

Jesse Ford
Ecologist
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Linda Marcelli
Sales Manager
Merrill Lynch
New York City, New York

Cindy Jarvis
Associate Minister
Nassau United Presbyterian Church
Princeton, New Jersey

Aileen Hernandez
Urban Consultant and Lecturer
San Francisco, California

Anna D. Barker
Manager, Biological Sciences Department
Batelle Columbus Laboratories
Columbus, Ohio

Vivian Derryck
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Equal Employment Opportunities
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Ruth Maddigan and
Christopher Thomas
Economic Analysts
Oak Ridge National Laboratories
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

All Visiting Professionals will be participating in classes in appropriate departments. Students and faculty who would like to meet with them personally should contact the Mellon Office.
women and the weight room

by eric straumanis

Why do so few Denison women, in comparison with the men, use the weight training facilities at the gym? Probably a major reason is that most women haven't ever seriously considered it. A discouraging factor might be the popular belief that weight training is "weightlifting" which is for "building big muscles." But it is normally not possible for a woman to develop the kind of muscle bulk a man can acquire because she doesn't possess the necessary hormones for stimulating such development. And, in any case, in weight TRAINING, as distinguished from weightLIFTING, even men don't acquire great muscle mass because training aims at the development of tone and endurance, not enormous strength. Even if the mistaken beliefs about weight training and muscle bulk are beginning to lose hold, there are very likely several other reasons why few women are engaged in exercise programs with weights.

The weight room, with its Nautilus machines and other equipment, has the look of a place that one should enter only if one already knows what to do. Although one of the jobs of the attendant is to provide instruction for those who ask, it is psychologically difficult for the uninitiated--women and men alike--to get started in that environment. The weight room does not look like a place for playful experimentation. During the peak hours especially, quite a few men can be seen there seriously working out. And indeed the spectacle of a SERIOUS weight workout can appear most discouraging to a nonathlete--it just seems to be the very opposite of a fun activity. And this perhaps discourages more women than men--not because women are more averse to what seems like no fun, but because nearly all men, whether they took to it or not, have had the virtues of bodybuilding impressed upon them. Another barrier to women is that some of the equipment cannot be adjusted to a low enough weight to suit a beginner. And the equipment that can be adjusted is in some cases difficult to adjust--for example, removal of plates from olympic bars usually requires assistance. This purely physical barrier could have been avoided if the original planning for the outfitting of the weight room had had the evolving interests of women clearly in mind. The present problem could be significantly alleviated by expanding the collection of smaller weights.

What then are the virtues and pleasures of weight training? It is a comparatively efficient way to develop strength in different areas of the body simultaneously. Usually it is an excellent supplement to other, more general, sports activities. If undertaken gradually at the outset and pursued in moderation, weight training produces a pleasant feeling of tightness, of a kind of "togetherness" of the body. And it can be a hedge against injuries in other sports. It need not be a solitary activity and, unlike most sports, one is not dependent upon a partner or the weather. These are virtues for women and for men. But is there any special reason for a woman to undertake weight training? There is at least one: most women have poor upper-body strength, especially arm strength. Weight training is a good way to remedy that. It is one of the fastest ways to tone muscles and build useful strength.
A proposed minor in Women's Studies has been developed. The proposal calls for a student to select an advisor from among the faculty who teach women's studies to coordinate course selection. At least six courses must be selected, of which at least four must be from the ones listed below (or similar courses taught in subsequent years and approved by the Academic Affairs Council for this purpose). Because of the close relationship between the problems of women and those of other minority or disadvantaged groups, at least two courses for the minor must be in the areas of Black Studies, Latin American Area Studies, or other intercultural studies. These two courses need not focus specifically on women nor need they be ones that fulfill the Minority and Women's Studies General Education requirement. The Director of Women's Studies can provide information about which courses meet this part of the requirement.

* Pending approval.

Course Offerings

Interdepartmental 246 - Women's Studies.
   Ann Fitzgerald/John Schilb/Staff. 3

Interdepartmental 361-362 - Directed Study in Women's Studies.
   Staff. 3 or 4

Interdepartmental 363 - Independent Study in Women's Studies.
   Staff. 3 or 4

Economics 322 - Women in the Labor Force.
   Robin Bartlett. 4

English 225 - Women in Literature.
   Nancy Nowik/Ann Fitzgerald. 4

History 360r - History of Women in Modern Europe and America.
   Kristen Neuschel. 4

Philosophy 275 - Philosophy of Feminism.
   Joan Straumanis. 4

Psychology 260 - Human Sexuality.
   Janet Hyde. 3

Psychology 402b - The Psychology of Women.
   Cassandra Wright/Janet Hyde. 3

Religion 229 - Women and Western Religion.
   Joan Novak. 4

Sociology/Anthropology 310 - Sexual Inequality.
   Beverly Purrington. 3

Sociology/Anthropology 321 - Women in Developing Societies.
   Bahram Tavakolian. 3

Speech Communication 229 - Minorities and the Mass Media.
   Suzanne Condray. 3
The 7th Annual GLCA (Great Lakes Colleges Association Women's Studies Conference) will be held November 6-8 at Geneva Conference Center, Rochester, Indiana. About 20 Denison students, faculty and administrators attend this conference each year, joining about 130 participants from other GLCA colleges and invited guests from other parts of the country.

For many of us, the conference is a high point in our academic year, a chance to share the work we have been doing and to learn from women and men working and learning in institutions similar to ours. The invited guests are carefully chosen to add new perspectives and complement the resources of women's studies programs at the 12 colleges (Albion, Antioch, DePauw, Earlham, Hope, Kalamazoo, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash, Wooster).

The backbone of the conference is a series of speakers, panels and concurrent sessions addressing a wide variety of issues and topics in the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies. One can learn about research on women conducted within a single discipline or integrated across disciplines. The conference is also about teaching. New and innovative courses are described as parts of sessions. In addition, large collections of syllabi and course descriptions are available for consultation by faculty seeking ways to develop a new course, or to modify an existing one to reflect more accurately the role and participation of women in a particular area.

A number of sessions address practical questions in our daily lives at the colleges: How does an institution develop a fair and equitable sexual harassment policy? Is Affirmative Action working? How will national political and economic policies affect the status of women? How can we improve advising, counseling, student services? What would a feminist classroom be like?

The conference is a time for networking, and an opportunity to meet our counterparts at other GLCA colleges as well as some national leaders in the field of Women's Studies. Those attending have a rare opportunity to talk with students, faculty and administrators from other colleges about issues of common concern; strategies and solutions are shared, issues more clearly defined. Many of us especially value the opportunity to get to know and talk with others from our own campus - 5 or 6 hours in a van with 10 other people makes for a lot of student-faculty-staff interaction.

Each year Denison's participation focuses around two issues - who's going to get to go (space at the conference center is limited), and who's going to pay for it? Because of Denison's traditionally heavy involvement in program responsibilities (last year 17 faculty, administrators and students organized sessions and gave presentations), we have been allowed to bring "more than our share" - in practice, we have been able to send as many faculty and administrators as wanted to attend. Student space is tighter, though, student participants are chosen by Bev Purrington (Women's Coordinator) and Julie Mulroy (Denison's representative to the GLCA Women's Studies Committee, organizer of the conference) following guidelines provided by the conference planning committee.

Faculty and staff participation has been made possible by funds from the Provost's Office, and a variety of sources have supported student representatives to the conference: DCGA, Delta Gamma, Panhellenic Council, the Mellon...
Program, Women's Studies, Women's Action Group and the Provost have been particularly supportive. Student representatives have been asked to share their experiences in a variety of ways - presentations to classes and to sponsoring organizations constitute the most frequent means of formal sharing.

Faculty interested in attending should contact the Provost's Office; students should see Bev Purrington. Groups interested in sponsoring students to attend the conference should call Bev Purrington or Julie Mulroy.

announcements

SELF-HELP GROUPS FOR WOMEN WITH EATING DISORDERS (or for people who are concerned about friends with such problems) are meeting with Janie Skarakis. If you would like to join one of these groups, contact Janie at ext. 271 or 272.

ACQUAINTANCE RAPE. Denison nows own four short films on "Acquaintance Rape." These are suitable for showing in large or small groups in dorms, sororities or fraternities. We have several faculty and staff and many students who are trained to lead discussions following the films. Already, the films have been used in staff training, in dorms, and in a sorority presentation. If your group would like to use these, contact Missy Weatherhead (ext. 474) or Laurie Neff (ext. 662) to reserve the films and arrange for discussion facilitators. Many thanks to the Chapel Board for purchasing these films for campus use.

TIRED OF NOT BEING AS STRONG AS YOU WISH YOU WERE?. Give the weight room a chance. Jim Bolster has already begun a series of introductions to the weight room designed especially for women students, staff and faculty. Call him at ext. 678 for more information. Or contact Bev Purrington (ext 572) if your group would like to plan a lunch hour session designed by women from the Women's Action Group. (See related article on women's use of the weight room by Eric Straumanis elsewhere in this newsletter.)

SELF-DEFENSE. Many women have been asking for a self defense course at Denison. There are several options for those of you who are interested. First, Mattie Ross will be offering self defense in the P.E. dept this winter (beginning in Feb.). Second, we hope to bring Joan Nelson (who teaches feminist self defense in Michigan) and Women Against Rape (the Columbus group that came last year) to campus again this year. Third, The Denison Karate Club also offers training.

(continued)
BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER. Training sessions for all people interested in being volunteers (this includes maintenance, phone duty, counseling, etc) at the new shelter in Newark will begin Oct. 26. These evening sessions will continue for four weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays and be held at Family Service Association. For further information call 345-4920.

THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER is now open every day from 10:30 to 3:30, and on Mon-Th from 7-10pm. Many times it is open at additional hours as well. The new phone number is ext 587.

WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP. Join the group on Saturday afternoon (Oct 10) at Livingston Gym to play some "new games" and meet some new people. Watch for more information on time & room or call Becky Pschirrer.

The Women's Studies Newsletter is published six times a year. The staff for Fall 1981 include Beverly Purrington (Women's Coordinator), Jackie Ondy, and Becky Pschirrer. Elaine Hensley and Kim Fisher assisted with typing this issue.