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Denise Guignon

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Womeneews

March 1978

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Volume 1, Number 1

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE

The most important purpose we hope to serve through this publication is the exchange of information and ideas between women here at UNI. We invite your essays, fiction, poetry, artwork and letters concerning women's experience. We also wish to keep you up to date on the services available to you on and off campus. We will attempt to include a calendar of events of interest to women, including lectures, groups for women, and entertainment. Let us know about events which, you feel, would be of interest to other women.

If you have any writing or artwork you want to contribute, drop it off in the Office of Women's Services, B-114 marked Editor's Box. All contributions will be appreciated.

Denise Guignon, Editor

JOIN A CLUB!

FEMINIST CLUB -- Meets Thursdays, 1:00, Rm 2-094. President: Pat Sadow, ex. 8214, Rm.2-091.

COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR CHILDCARE SERVICES -- Contact President: Linda Redelman, ex. 375 for days and meeting time.

UNI COMMITTEE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE ERA -- Contact Chairperson: Nancy Burton, ex. 375 for room--March 28--1:00--meeting

WOMEN'S SERVICES BOARD -- Meets Wednesdays, 1:00, Rm E-208. All welcome!



Women's Services Board

First row: Patti Papanek, Cookie Oefele, Carolyn Bieszczat, Donna Schiller
Second row: Dee Dee Iazzetto, Valli Opsahl, Nancy Katz, Pat Sadow, Paula Wolf, Marge Witty.

UNI Women's Services Office, located in B-114 offers counseling, referral, and advocacy services to women. The women who staff the office deal with women's problems with divorce, child-care needs, personal issues, lack of assertiveness and self esteem, sex discrimination, rape, and woman abuse.

Marge Witty, Coordinator of the office is a professional counselor and assertiveness trainer. She has nine years experience working in women's projects. She has been involved with the Southside Rape Action Project, Action Committee for Decent Childcare, Teen-Scene Planned Parenthood, and The Chicago Women's Liberation Union.

Programs offered through Women's Services are Assertion Training, Support Groups for Women and Divorce, Peer counseling seminar, and Women's Rap groups. For more information contact the office at X375.

"I'm Not A Feminist - But..."

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by Marge Witty

On March 9, 1978, UNI Feminist Club, along with Women's Studies Program and the Office of Women's Services, sponsored a panel discussion on the topic "I'm Not a Feminist But....". The panel was attended by approximately sixty women, both students and faculty at UNI and women from our surrounding community. It was an exciting afternoon celebrating International Women's Day, March 8, with much personal sharing of thoughts and experiences.

Panelists included Martha Thompson, Sociology, Amalia Monterroso, Business and Management major, and Nancy Katz, Criminal Justice Program. Each panelist articulated her personal understanding of feminism and how she had become involved in working on women's issues.

All three women agreed that historically, women's identities have been grounded in their roles as wives and mothers. Monterroso pointed out how little value is accorded to women's work in the home or to our most precious national resource, our children. There is a critical shortage of childcare facilities affordable for women with little or no income. She stated that she experiences discrimination three dimensionally: as a Latina, as a worker, and as a woman. She sees the passage of the ERA as a priority in order to eradicate sexist and discriminatory practices against women. Monterroso also commented that her upbringing had taught her to value the friendship of men over the friendship of women. In fact, she was taught to see women as some of her worst enemies. She said that she has worked to overcome this prejudice against her own sex and to value them equally with men.

Martha Thompson said that her commitment to feminist ideas developed out of an increased awareness of the ways in which knowledge and truth are manipulated to serve the interests of the powerful. She said, "I learned to question everything, and to be

responsible for knowing the truth." Thompson articulated four principles of feminism which she uses to guide her attitudes and actions.

"All women have dignity and worth.

Unequal power relationships should be transformed into equal ones, so that people can participate in decisions which affect their lives.

We should personally strive to identify and advocate the concerns and needs of other women, and to resist participating in organizations, groups, and relationships which perpetuate male domination.

As much as we can, we should be involved in an ongoing process of analysis, criticism, and implementation of change of social institutions which currently fail to meet the needs of women."

Nancy Katz also reiterated the importance of working for the principle of self-determination for individuals, groups, and nations. She drew a parallel between the United States' destruction of the autonomy of VietNam with the interference of the state in women's personal lives and decision making.

Recent statistics quoted by Thompson show that the salary differential between men and women is greater today than it was in 1968 for the same job. Katz asserted that the solution to hard core problems such as job discrimination will not come through individual effort alone. She said that while women have the responsibility to try to better their individual situations through higher education and training, the U.S. economy can absorb a limited number in its managerial elite. Fair salaries and benefits for all persons on the bottom of the economic heap will require a different form of social organization. Huge salary differen-

CALENDER AROUND TOWN

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tials between some Civil Service Workers here at UNI and high ranking administrators cannot be explained on the basis of superior intelligence and merit. She said that our inability to find decent lowcost childcare at our workplaces or our universities is not an individual problem. It is a problem shared by millions of young women who are single parents. She believes that the society has a responsibility to its young and to women who take on the difficult task of caring for and parenting them.

Katz agreed with many of the workshop participants who said that they were unwilling to be called feminists, that asserting the idea of sister hood among women is a sure invitation to ridicule and harrassment. She reports that women who are in nontraditional occupations such as carpentry are called lesbians. Katz said that any women who step out of their customary roles or who demand a better position in society will be accused of lesbianism which is equated with independence from the power and influence of men.

Since this is what Katz believes feminism is all about, she thinks we might as well stop being afraid of being called "dykes".

Women in the group discussions concluded that the two main reasons we hear "I'm Not a Feminist But...." so often are: women don't want to be labeled or stereotyped, and that there is a fear of being called a man-hater or a lesbian. Several women said that talking about the issue with other women had made them less fearful and more comfortable with taking a stand on women's issues.

WOMENEWS is published by Women's Services, Room B-114 X375
Northeastern Illinois University
Bryn Mawr at St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60625
Marge Witty- Coordinator
Denise Guignon- Editor

March 15

Opening of Uncommon Women and Others
A play by Wendy Wasserstein, St
Nicholas Theater, 2851 N. Halsted

March 17

Jo Mapes performs her music at HisN'
Hers, 944 W. Addison 10p.m. \$2.

March 18

Feminist Filmmakers Series presents
Regrouping and A Comedy in Six Unnat-
ural Acts at Chicago Filmmakers 6 W.
Hubbard 8p.m. \$2.

March 21

Primary Election Day- Vote for pro
ERA candidates.

March 25

Women in Music/Chicago
Fundraiser for the Shelter, sponsered
by the Coalition of Abused Women. Call
929-7146 for information.

March 29

Home Birth as a Medical Alternative,
sponsered by Chicago Women's Political
Caucus. SPeaker, Barbara Barasa plain-
tive in suit about licensing of mid-
wives Also film in home birth. 7p.m.
Loop YWCA, 37 s. Wabash. For info call
Terry Wedoff 848-2079 \$1.

March 30 -- "Sexual Abuse of
Children" 1:00-4:00 CC 214 UNI

April 1

Deidre McCalla performs her music at
Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, 1655 W.
School St. 8:30&10p.m. Donation at door

Feminist Filmmakers Series presents
Self-Health, Near the Big Chakha, and
It Happens To Us. Chicago Filmmakers,
6.W. Hubbard 8p.m. \$2.

April 8

A Forum: Women's Health Issues. A panel
discussion and coffee-conversation at
12:30p.m. Skokie Public Library, 5215
Oakton, Skokie.

April 8

Feminist Filmmakers Series presents
Misconception. Personal appearance
by the filmmaker. Chicago Fimmakers
6.W. Hubbard 8p.m. \$2.

DIRECTORY

ABORTION (also see HERS below)

Abortions Rights Assoc. of Ill. Preserving legal rights 644-0972

BIRTH CONTROL (also see Chicago Women's Health Center below)

Planned Parenthood Bc clinics, vasectomy, teen scene 322-4200

CHILDBIRTH (also see HERS, CWHC below)

A.S.P.O. Lamaze prepared childbirth; hosp. referrals 433-5550

Chicago Board of Health Maternal and Infant Care 744-4346

Home Oriented Maternity Experience Home birth 352-5467

LaLeche League International Breastfeeding counsel 455-7730

Society for Protection of The Unborn Thru Nutrition 332-2334

CRISIS

Chicago Emergency Direct Line Ambulance, police, fire 911

Chicago Women Against Rape Victim aid, lay advocacy 372-6600

Crisis Intervention 24-hr. mental health, suicide line 794-3609

Metro-Help 24-hr. survival referral, esp. for youths 929-5150

Patient's Legal Assistance Mental care against will 263-2267

Rape Crisis Line Aid with trauma, police, hosp., courts 728-1920

W.I.C.C.A. Women's crisis line; lesbian referral 528-3303

Woman Abuse Coalition Battered wives and lives 372-6600

ENVIRONMENT

C.A.C.O.S.H. Improving workplace safety and health 939-2104

Chicago Environmental Control To report polluters 744-4075

Citizens for a Better Environment Poll., nuclear power 939-1984

Illinois Environmental Council 663-0863

EXERCISE

Chicago Park District Free recreational programs 294-2492

Y.W.C.A. Fitness, mastectomy exercise, sport 372-6600

PATIENT ADVOCACY AND REFERRAL

Association of Health Care Consumers Health reform 641-5570

Chicago Board of Health Free city clinics 744-4340

Chicago Hospital Council Specialties, locations 751-0700

Health Task Force III. Women's Agenda Coalition 663-5400

H.E.R.S. All women's health information & referrals 787-6477

PREGNANCY TESTS & COUNSEL (\$1.50-\$2.00) **248 014**

Chicago Women's Health Center Tues, Weds 787-2031

Evanston Women's Liberation Center Sat 10-1 475-4480

Southside Women's Health Service Sat 10-2 324-2992

SELF HEALTH

Chicago Women's Health Center. Well-women care 787-2031

Emma Goldman Women's Health Clinic Body education 528-4310

Tel-Med 5-7 min. tapes on prevention-oriented topics 663-5600

VENEREAL DISEASE (also see CWHC above)

Chicago Bd. of Health VD Control Center Tests, treatment .. 842-0222

FORUM OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

On Saturday, April 8, UNI Women's Services and the Women's Program of Oakton Community College will present a panel discussion on women's health at the Skokie Public Library beginning at 12:30. A coffee and conversation with the panel will follow. The scheduled panelist are: Marge Witty, Coordinator of Women's Services at UNI. Topic: Choosing a therapist.

Dr. Charlotte Levine, Assistant Professor of Preventative Medicine at Rush Medical College. Topic: Role of preventative medicine in women's health.

Audrey Gordon, Psychologist, teacher, and author. Topic: Women's double role, as a parent and a daughter of aging parents

Georgia Photopolus, Creator of Cancer Call-Pac, a 24 hour telephone line for cancer patients who are having problems coping with cancer. Topic: Coping with cancer.

The Skokie Public Library is located at 5215 Oakton St. Skokie.

MORE NUMBERS FOR WOMEN

663-4163 or 64, The Woman's Switchboard and Clearing house. Bilingual information (Spanish) and referral assistance. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 to 5p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 8p.m.

528-4310, Emma Goldman Women's Health Clinic, free pregnancy testing and counseling from 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. Saturdays. Clinic personnel will conduct workshops and fulfill speaking engagements.

528-3303, Women in Crisis Can Act (WICCA), women's hotline staffed from 5 to 11p.m. Tuesday through Friday. (other hours you can leave your name on a recorded message for a return call), to answer questions related to women but emphasizing problems arising from abuse.

248-3886, Chicagoland Women's Federal Credit Union, a credit union for women that also will answer financial questions women might have. Union is staffed from 7 to 10p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and from 1 to 5p.m. Wednesdays.

644-3410, Midwest Population Center Women's health services. First trimester abortion, pregnancy testing and counseling, birth control and gynecological services. Monday thru Saturday, 9 to 4:45p.m.

477-4244, Women's Legal Counseling Center, free legal clinic staffed from 7 to 9p.m. Tuesdays, to answer questions or refer you to a

Better than Yellow Pages

ILLINOIS WOMEN'S HEALTH DIRECTORY is a comprehensive guide to agencies, referral centers and organizations working on women's health issues. Available for \$2.00 from the Midwest Women's Center, 53 W. Jackson, Room 623, Chicago, Ill. 60614.