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Program Notes- Sep. 1978

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WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
VOL. 3 No. 5 Sept/October 1978

SEE BROWN BAG SCHEDULE INSIDE

PROGRAM NOTES

CATCH-UP FROM THE MARCH AAHE CONVENTION IN CHICAGO:

Columnist ELLEN GOODMAN, speaking on "Lives in Transition" in her keynote address to the American Association of Higher Education, emphasized that the change in sex roles is the single most important social change of the 70's. Young people, in a period of major transition, are "ambivalent" and "in conflict," seeking growth but fearing loss, especially loss of family and personal relationships. Both women and men "want it all." They are increasingly hysterical about careers and work, and view parenthood as "impossible." Her advice: don't try to "nail it all down now" but learn to be flexible and cope with change. Her suggestion for required courses in college: "Flexibility" and Life Changes." (Her underlying assumption is that it is no longer true, if it ever was, that one should be "set for life" by the age of 25 or 30. Life is now viewed more as a continuing process of change and growth, and the future will see more people making several major life changes in their adult years. While true of men also, it will be especially true of women, who are increasingly beginning new careers in their middle and even later years.)

FLORENCE HOWE spoke on "The Impact of the Women's Movement on the Campus and Curriculum." Her central point was that, in spite of the many women's courses and programs "added on" under pressure of the women's movement, the basic, "male-centered curriculum has continued unmoved, offering at best half-truths, based on ignorance or omission." Women's studies has developed as "a rich alternative general education curriculum," serving students who truly care about learning and have real questions to ask about women's lives. It has not, however, been as successful as a strategy for change. As an example of that lack of change, Howe cites the Rosofsky proposal for the "reform" of the Harvard curriculum, which totally ignores the the historic changes that have taken place in women's status and the whole body of recent scholarship on sex roles, sex differences, concepts of femininity and masculinity, and other vital areas dealt with in women's studies. They are equally insensitive to recent work in the area of minority studies, which appears in the report as the study of "alien" cultures. "The great authors" cited by the study do not provide us with "timeless and universal aspects of human experience," but only of male experience. The core of the university's curriculum is still "the study of man." (con't p.4)

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN'S STUDIES PEOPLE:

The FEMINIST STUDY GROUP, which evolved from Nancy Green's Sexism in Education Committee, has been meeting monthly for two years to discuss WS articles that are read in common. Last year we also started meeting monthly at private homes for potluck supper and to hear a presentation of faculty research. Both were successful ways of getting together informally, and all interested people are welcome. The first meeting, a planning session will be Thursday, Sept. 21 at noon in CC 214. The first potluck supper will be at Nancy Green's home, 511 Hamilton in Evanston (864-4603) at 6 PM; Sarah Hoagland of the Philosophy Dept. will present her research. Call Nancy about what you will bring.

The WOMEN'S STUDIES BOARD will begin its meetings on Friday, Sept. 15 at 1 PM in C-505. Visitors are welcome. There are no vacancies at present, but we are accepting applications to keep on file when vacancies do occur.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS, with Elaine Helman as instructor, will feature a series of meetings to be held in 1-002 to accommodate others who may want to attend. Her speakers are all Chicago women prominent in business or management positions:

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| Friday, Sept. 29, 2-4 PM: | Panel on "The Problems of Women in Business" |
| Friday, Oct. 13, 2-4 PM: | Panel on "Strategies for Women Managers" |
| Wed., Oct. 25, 3-4 PM: | Speaker on "EEOC and the Woman Manager" |
| Wed., Nov. 1, 3-4 PM: | Speaker on "How Should the Woman Manager Proceed?" |
| Wed., Nov. 8, 3-4 PM: | Speaker on "Opportunity for Women in Small Business" |

CAREER SEMINAR FOR WOMEN, "WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE?" will be held at UNI on four successive Tuesdays, 9:15-11:15 AM, in CC 216. The fee is \$30 and baby sitting will be available. For information, call Women's Services, x375 or Career Services, x350.

WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY will be interested in a set of model curriculum guides for four core WS courses, which are among the many new acquisitions in the Resource Center. Faculty are also encouraged to put papers on reserve there. The center is located in 0-041, in the basement of the Classroom Building. For current hours, call x423.

The MIDWEST WOMEN'S CENTER announces a Woman's Switchboard which serves as a clearinghouse, referring callers (in English and Spanish) to sources who can help them. The Chicago number is 663-4163; the toll-free number is (800) 972-5404.

BETTYE PARKER, Coordinator of BOG/BA program, has a forthcoming book, Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature, to be published by Doubleday.

PLEASE POST

BROWN BAG SEMINARS FOR FALL 1978

Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program at Northeastern Illinois University. Informal discussions will alternate with special programs on women's issues. Men as well as women are invited. Bring a bag lunch, coffee will be available. Tuesdays at 1 PM, second floor of Commuter Center.

September 19 WELCOME BACK PARTY CC216
 WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM SLIDE SHOW

Join us in viewing this fifteen minute slide show, done by past intern Margaret Perry, which describes our program and features interviews with our students, faculty, and board members. Bring your questions about the program.

October 3 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CC215

Marge Witty, Coordinator of Women's Services, will lead the discussion and also answer questions about the P.I.E. course she and Nancy Katz of Criminal Justice will give in winter.

October 17 THE BLACK WOMAN IN HISTORY CC216

Dr. Bettye Parker, BOG/BA Coordinator, and Dr. Iva Carruthers, Chair, Sociology, will talk about the P.I.E. course on black women they will offer in winter.

October 31 WOMEN IN POLITICS CC215

Dr. Shirley Castelnovo of the Political Science Department will lead a discussion of the changing role of women in politics. Do women bring a special "feminine" virtue to politics, or do they act just like men who are in power?

November 14 PORNOGRAPHY: FEMINISM VS CIVIL LIBERTIES CC216

Two classic positions collide here. The civil libertarian position is against all censorship, regardless of how repugnant the material. To feminists, pornography, especially of the hard core variety, represents violence done to women and should be suppressed.

November 28 SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON THE JOB CC216

This is a widespread problem which has only recently surfaced. We are trying to get a nationally known speaker to address this question. Come and contribute your experience.

CATCH-UP FROM THE MARCH AAHE CONVENTION (con't from page 1)

ROSABETH MOSS KANTER, giving a major address on "Changing Values in Work, Family, and Education," discussed the most important psychosocial trends in America Today. Cited first was the "massive increase of women in the labor force." Discussing the structure of opportunity in the corporations she studied (and in the universities she is now studying), she distinguished between "the moving" and "the stuck." What often appears to be female behavior is really "stuck" behavior, e.g., low aspirations, low self-esteem, low work involvement. New opportunities for advancement often result in changed behavior (the "Gerald Ford syndrome"). She challenged universities to see themselves as employers as well as educators, and to provide enhanced opportunities in the interest of better education.

The AAHE Women's Caucus lobbied actively and successfully to persuade the board to give up its long-standing tradition of meeting at the Conrad Hilton in order to honor the boycott of states that have not ratified the ERA. It joins a long list of professional organizations that have taken this action.

NOTES FROM WOMEN'S SERVICES

Women's Services Fall Programs will include the following: Self Defense for Women taught by Christine Masterson of Chimera, Inc.; Effective Parenting with Lillian Perlman; Learning the Ropes in Business with Chris O'Sullivan, business counselor; Feminist consciousness raising and support group with Marge Witty; "What Do I Do With the Rest Of My Life?", a group for women who need to get back into the working world with Carol Jampol and Marilee Mehl of Rite Resume. For times, starting dates and cost contact Marge Witty, Office of Women's Services, x375.

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PROGRAM NOTES

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