

1979

Program Notes- Sep. 1979

Women's Studies Program Staff

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WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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FACULTY WOMEN'S CAUCUS

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The first meeting of the Faculty Women's Caucus, chaired by Nancy Green, was held September 11, 1979. The Caucus, conceived by Green and Shirley Castelnovo, is being formed as a participating member of the Women's Coalition. Provisionally some of its goals have been identified as:

1. The examination of the status of women at UNI.
2. The encouragement of applications from and hiring of promotion of women.
3. The exploration of research and professional opportunities and advancement.

Additionally, the Caucus intends to sponsor programs of interest to faculty women.

FEMINIST CLUB SPONSORS WEEK ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

During the week of September 17, 1979, the Feminist Club of UNI sponsored daily events to highlight the fact that violence toward women, which takes more than one form, permeates all levels of our society. The week's events began with a presentation by Barbara Engel of the Loop "Y" on the incidence of battered women in Chicago and what is being done for those who are in this situation. On Tuesday, visual evidence of the link between pornography and violence was given in a slide show and this was followed on Wednesday by a dramatization on violence against women. These presentations were brought to a culmination in an hour long vigil of silence by women who publically gave witness to the tragedy of violence that cripples women's lives or leads to their death.

The students of the Feminist Club who were responsible for exposing the subject of violence to the university community deserve our congratulations and gratitude. Though the fact of violence is ugly, none of us can afford to ignore its existence or the fact that women have been and still are its victims.

PROGRAM NOTES

COMMENT FROM THE ACTING COORDINATOR

Returning to the Women's Studies Program as its acting coordinator while Blanche Hersh is on leave is a little like going back to one's old home town after being away for several years. "Program Notes" and minutes of the Board meetings, like local newspapers and letters from home, can give only highlights of those events that have led to significant changes. One has to see the old place first hand, talk with former neighbors and meet new ones, in order to comprehend what those changes are and what they imply for the future.

In this case the "old place" continues to be vital. It has been and is still growing. The Program has seen expansion in its academic offerings - both in scope and number - and its faculty consists of persons who are actively involved in research and are committed to the teaching of women's studies courses. Members of the board display an energy that can come only from their dedication to the kind of social change that is implicit in the goals of the Program. Along with the pragmatic realization that these goals will not be achieved quickly, there is a feeling of optimism among all those who share the aims of feminist education.

The Women's Studies Program at UNI has passed the point where it must justify itself in order to exist, as it had to do in the early to middle 1970's. At that time, there were those who thought that such a program would make itself obsolete within this decade. Now it is clear that the need for women's studies will be with us for many years; the educational process is necessarily slow and conditioned attitudes are often resistant to change. It is, therefore, heartening to find that UNI's Women's Studies Program is still strong and vital.

But now it is time to use that strength and energy in ways that will expand feminist education beyond the old limits of the home town territory. Working with other women's groups on campus through the recently formed Women's Coalition gives us that opportunity. We can look forward to using our resources in ways that will reach out to and benefit all women at this university.

With our foundation of experience and past accomplishments we can hope to help build a community of women that recognizes our common needs for education, services and inter-active support. Collectively the women of Northeastern now recognize that our charge is to participate in a total and significant educational experience; the women students of this institution will be challenged by an increasingly complex society, and faculty and staff women must partake of and contribute to their preparation for it. That being so, we must give our attention to the structure in which an inter-active experience can occur among women, one that will continue the process of recognizing and realizing the potentialities of all women.

Jean Dillies

Brown Bag SEMINARS:

TIME: 12:00P.M.

Sept. 18, 1979 ERA RATIFICATION PROJECT

CC-214

Martha Thompson, Professor of Sociology presented Marge Cauble and Beth Schweda who discussed their student internships with the ERA Ratification Project, sponsored by the N.O.W. and explained strategies by which women can help its passage.

Oct. 2, 1979 WOMEN AND MASTECTOMY

CC-216

Valli Opsahl, Teacher-Counselor of the B.O.G. Program will present Ann Marcon, Group leader of post-mastectomy patients; and Linda Berns, Mastectomy patient. The speakers will discuss the discovery of breast cancer; medical options; support groups and the physical, emotional and social experiences of patients.

Oct. 16, 1979 WHY WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

CC-216

October 22-28 is National Abortion Rights Week. The reproductive rights of women are still under attack. Coral Norris, Women Organized for Reproductive Action, will speak in defense of "Pro-Choice" and the importance of protecting these rights.

Oct. 30, 1979 FORGOTTEN CONTRIBUTORS: WOMEN IN 19th CENTURY
AMERICAN SCIENCE

Dr. Gloria Dimoplon, Professor of Chemistry will explain the contributions of women in the sciences. A slide show presentation will be given and a discussion will follow.

Nov. 13, 1979 FILM: "FROM NINE TO FIVE"

CC-217

Shirley Rovner, of University Senate will facilitate this seminar presented by the Civil Service Committee of the Women's Studies Board. The film "9 to 5" is made available through Boston's Organization for Women Office Workers which aims to win fair and equal treatment for clerical workers on the job, to work for rights and respect for all women office workers.

Nov. 27, 1979 "SOFT PORN AND THE HARD SELL"

How violent and sexist content and themes are incorporated in seemingly harmless advertisements is the subject of this slide presentation. Dr. Jean Gillies will present the seminar and Elaine Helman & Marge Witty are responders.

UP-COMING-EVENTS

Women's Services Panel: "Incest and Child Abuse"

October 4, 1979 1-4P.M. CC-217 Facilitator: Marge Witty

Several women who were victims of abuse as children will share their experiences. Everyone is welcomed.

Reception for Faculty Women

A wine and cheese reception to welcome women who have joined UNI's faculties since September 1978 will be held Wednesday, October 3, 1979, 3:30-6:00P.M. in CC-217. Sponsored by the recently formed Faculty Women's Caucus, all women are invited to attend. Information about the Caucus will be available at that time.

Coalition Meeting

Please mark your calendars and plan to come on Thursday, October 11, 1979; 1:00-2:30P.M.; CC-215 for the first Fall meeting of the Women's Coalition.

The coalition is the first attempt to unite all women on campus - students, civil service, teaching faculty, and administrative and professional faculty. Come and hear about the work that has been going on and bring your ideas and concerns to this meeting.

If you have any questions, call: Jean Gillies, Women's Studies X423
Marge Witty, Women's Services X375
Paula A. Wolf, CPD X421

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PROGRAM NOTES
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