

1980

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Women's Studies Program Staff

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WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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WOMEN AND THE 1980 ELECTION

On October 10, the Women's Studies Program will hold a one-day conference on the forthcoming election and its significance for women. In the morning (9:30 AM-12 N), we will hear speakers representing the candidates for president on the national ticket; they have been asked to speak briefly to the important questions of how women's issues are defined in their campaign and to what extent their organizations recognize the power of women's votes. For anyone who has been following the election, and the major political conventions, these responses will be predictable. The challenge for the audience will be in the discussion period which will follow these presentations.

The afternoon (1:30-4PM) will deal with the nitty-gritty question of how women can organize to form political action committees and to obtain results within the electoral system. We have invited women who have achieved political office themselves to help us in our discussion. The recent conventions were discouraging: the Republican Party blatantly turned its back on women's aspirations, and the Democratic Party, while achieving the apparent triumph of having half its delegates female and adopting major feminist planks in its platform, nevertheless remained with its tradition of having men wielding power and making all the behind-the-scenes decisions.

Women's studies was born out of feminist political action, and one of our obligations is to provide the opportunity to acquire political skills for feminist action on the issues of the day, skills which women generally find hard to come by. While ERA and abortion rights are the most controversial of the "women's issues" (and the two Brown Bag Seminars following the conference will deal with these topics), most responsible feminists are not "one-issue" people and are also concerned with "human issues" like inflation, unemployment, and how to prevent war, all of which affect women as well as men.

The Women's Studies Program is fortunate in having Dr. Ellen Cannon of the Political Science department spearhead this conference. She will be assisted by her colleagues Professors Shirley Castelnovo and Valerie Simms, and by the members of the Women's Studies Board. For more information, call the Women's Studies Office at ext. 423.

PROGRAM NOTES

OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 4-6 PM, in CC-216

The Women's Studies Board will give a wine-and-cheese party for all faculty and students in the Program, as well as for friends and prospective participants. This will be an opportunity to meet the new members of the Board as well as new faculty, and to reunite Northeastern's feminist community to begin a year of productive activity. Student alumnae, both majors and minors, will be invited to return and talk with new students who are thinking of making women's studies a formal part of their curriculum. A successful party will give us all a boost in beginning the year -- please mark your calendar and come!

THE WOMEN'S COALITION AT NORTHEASTERN

The Women's Coalition at Northeastern originally grew out of meetings of women from Women's Studies, Women's Services, and the Feminist Club, and subsequently developed a life of its own. It is now an organization for all women on campus to have an equal voice in raising issues and solving problems important to all females. At this time, the Coalition consists of five caucuses: the Faculty Caucus, the Civil Service Caucus, the Black Women's Caucus, the Lesbian Caucus, and the Student Caucus, as well as one special interest group: the Committee on Sexual Harassment. All women are invited to attend the Coalition meetings and become involved in dealing with the concerns of women on campus. The next Coalition meeting will be held Thursday, September 25, at 12:00 in room CC216. For more information, contact Dee Dee Iazzetto, ext. 427, or Jill Omansky, ext. 375.

WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES FOR WINTER 1981

We have been fortunate in obtaining an outstanding scholar in the field, Rivkah Harris, to teach a history course on "Women in Antiquity"; it will be offered 7:05-9:45 PM on Thursdays and will use Sarah Pomeroy's Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves as well as Mary Lefkowitz's Women in Greece and Rome. Regularly offered courses in the evening will include the Senior Seminar in Women's Studies, Advanced Feminist Philosophy, Psychological Development in Women, American Women: The Changing Image, and Women's Advocacy: Rape and Womenabuse. Daytime courses will include The Woman in American History, Feminist Philosophy, and Law and Social Change.

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM RESOURCE CENTER, CLS 0-041

Help! The Program has acquired many new and interesting books, pamphlets, and journals this past year, but we need volunteers to help us organize this material and also staff the Center so it will be available for use by faculty and students on a regular basis. It is a pleasant place to work, and the browsing possibilities cannot be beat. There is also the opportunity for a serious student to do a library project for credit (contact Blanche Hersch or Janet Cordoba at ext. 423). Hours will be posted on the door as soon as we have a work-study student and/or volunteers to staff it. (We could also use help with the bulletin board that used to be outside the Center.)

please post

SCHEDULE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES EVENTS FOR FALL 1980

The entire University Community, men as well as women, are invited to attend our Brown Bag Seminars (as well as our special conference on "Women and the 1980 Election"). Bring your lunch and join us for a spirited and informal discussion! They will be held this year during the Tuesday activity hour, 12:30 - 1:50 PM.

Tuesday, September 23- 12:30 PM, Heritage Room; BROWN BAG SEMINAR: "Happy Birthday, Women's Studies Program"; slide show of the program (15 min.) will be shown, our new brochure will be distributed, and refreshments will be served. This is your opportunity to find out about our Women's Studies Minor! Martha Thompson of Sociology, who chairs the Women's Studies Board, will preside. (The Heritage Room is right off the cafeteria in the basement of the Commuter Center.)

Friday, October 10 - 9AM - 4PM - CC217; CONFERENCE: "Women and the 1980 Election"; 9-9:30AM: Coffee and sweet rolls; 9:30AM - 12N: Speakers representing major presidential candidates followed by questions and discussion; 12N-1:30PM: break for lunch; 1:30-4PM: panel and discussion on women organizing for political power.

Tuesday, October 14 - 12:30PM - place TBA; BROWN BAG SEMINAR: "ERA and the 1980 Election": discussion on one of the vital women's issues raised at the conference; discussion leaders will include women who have worked on the ERA Ratification Project in Illinois.

Tuesday, October 28 - 12:30PM - place TBA; BROWN BAG SEMINAR: "Abortion Rights and the 1980 Election"; this is the gut issue, so controversial that most candidates are backing away from it. Don't you back away from it - - we need you and we need your ideas!

REMINDER: VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 4! THINK OF HOW SWEET THE VICTORY WAS 60 YEARS AGO. WOMEN AT LEAST STILL HAVE THE VOTE - - DON'T WASTE IT - - THERE ARE LOCAL AND STATE AS WELL AS NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

Tuesday, November 11 - 12:30PM - place TBA; BROWN BAG SEMINAR: In response to popular demand, Professor June Sochen of the History Department will discuss "Film Criticism from a Feminist Perspective." This should be a lively after - the - election but before end-of-trimester break! If you haven't yet heard June speak, you are in for a treat!

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Coming back to the Program after a year's medical leave has been difficult - - I have had a lot of catching up to do. The bad news on my return July 1 was that Jean Gillies had just been involved in a serious automobile accident; she will be recuperating at home for the next few months and I am sure she will welcome hearing from colleagues and students. The good news is that our program has a delightful new secretary, Janet Cordoba, whom many of you know from her days as a student aide in the Bilingual Program.

We have made plans for the program, all of which depend for their success, as usual, on volunteer help. We also need people to spread the word - - I have just revised the program brochure, for example, and it would be encouraging to know that faculty are taking time in their classes to distribute it and to talk about our Women's Studies Minor. I think that Women's Studies is even more important now than it ever was. In a society in which most women will spend most of their lives working outside the home, we all need to have the broad, interdisciplinary knowledge and the feminist perspective on social issues that Women's Studies courses and research provide. In an academic world which has become more vocationally oriented, Women's Studies provides a humanistic ballast to the curriculum.

I look forward to seeing my old friends again, and to meeting new ones. Note that my extension is 423 (it is incorrect in the current telephone book), and our offices have been relocated down the hall - - Janet is in C-532 and I am in C-521. The Women's Studies Board will again meet regularly each Friday at 1 PM starting September 12, and will meet in C-505; as usual, we welcome all interested guests.

Blanche Hersh

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