

1977

Program Notes- May 1977

Blanche Hersh

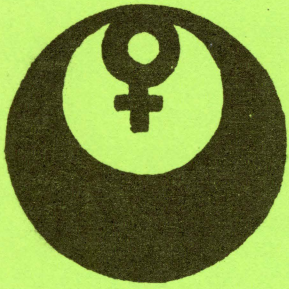
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WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
VOL.2 No.3 May-June 1977



W O M E N ' S F I L M F E S T I V A L

part of Inauguration Week's Academic Fair

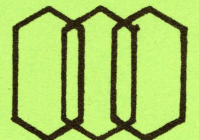
Saturday May 7, 10AM-4:15PM
Commuter Center Room 216

FREE REFRESHMENTS!

SCHEDULE:

- 10-10:30AM We Are Women (29 min): Helen Reddy narrates this excellent film which deals with the conditioning of females in our society.
- 10:35-11:20AM Men's Lives (43 min): A thoughtful examination of the expectations and demands on men in our society.
- 11:25-11:55AM Does Anybody Need Me Anymore? (29 min): Maureen Stapleton gives a moving performance as a housewife in an "empty nest" who decides to change her life.
- 11:50-12:20PM Couples Sharing Responsibilities (29 min): Discussion with articulate couples who are restructuring their marriages to alter traditional roles.
- 12:20-1:30PM Lunch Break (food machines in basement; visit Fair in Alumni Hall first floor)
- 1:30-1:57PM Women's Rights in the U.S. (27 min): A highly recommended history of women's protest from early days to the present.
- 2-2:18PM Why Mothers Work (18 min): Explores the lives of two working mothers, one single and one married, and the way that work affects their family life.
- 2:20-2:55PM Rape Culture (35 min): Searching and often painful look at the social forces in our culture that produce rapists and rape victims.
- 3-3:10PM Coming To Know (9 min): Self-portraits of two young women who relate in a straightforward manner their early experiences through which they became aware of being gay.
- 3:12-3:40PM Joyce At 34 (28 min): A personal statement by a woman who copes with the reality of caring for her new baby while pursuing her career as a filmmaker.
- 3:40-4:15PM The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama (35 min): A film about Lorraine Hansberry, the gifted author of "Raisin in the Sun."

PROGRAM NOTES



WHY WOMEN'S STUDIES?

We feel the need still one more time to explain why we exist and why we need the continuing support of students, faculty, and staff of both sexes. The program demands a great deal of volunteer effort, inconvenience, and even discomfort in dealing with issues which would be easier left alone. We think it's worth it.

Why women's studies? Because women, half the population, have in the past not been considered valid subjects for serious scholarship. They have been left out of the textbooks, and they have been permitted to play only a minor role in the teaching of college students. A study of college history texts done by the Project on the Status and Education of Women found no book which gave women more than 2% of its pages; women hold only 9% of the full professorships in four-year U.S. colleges. In the past, women students have been taught a male-centered curriculum: psychology based on Freudian, anti-feminist biases; sociology based on traditional assumptions of women's role in society; literature largely written by men and portraying women in stereotypical ways; history which predominantly focuses on political and military events in which women are conspicuously absent; physical science which incorporates sexist assumptions about the biological differences between the sexes; etc., ad infinitum and ad nauseum. For the most part they have had male (and also female) professors who did not take them seriously as students or people, who did not offer them role models they could emulate, and who reinforced their feelings of themselves as inferior and dependent people.

Our Women's Studies Program (and others all over the country) is trying to change all that, and both women and men will be better for it, we think. Both have had the opportunity to view history, literature, language, and art from a different, female-oriented perspective and develop new, creative insights about their own lives. They are learning about non-sexist approaches to the psychology of women and about the variety of institutions through which our society socializes women into second-class status. This fall for the first time they will be able to discuss feminist thought in philosophy classes, spend a whole trimester studying women's health problems, and enroll in a new course on "The Changing Role of Women in Business."

In the future we would like to see more courses dealing with careers for women. We would also like to see courses on women's economic role past and present, courses on Latina women and more courses on Black women and other minorities. Students interested in such courses should request them from the appropriate departments. We would also like to see the faculty in math and physical sciences deal seriously with the "math anxiety" problem that is especially prevalent among women and also with the attitudes and institutions that discourage women from pursuing "male" fields.

Maybe ultimately the concept of "Man and His Environment," which pays only lip service to woman's contributions, can be redefined to include all of us. When that time comes, we won't need a women's studies program. Until then, we have to continue this special effort and we need your support.

BROWN BAG SEMINARS

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY • SPRING/SUMMER

TUESDAYS at ONE

'77 WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

Spring/Summer programs will be roundtable discussions of issues of special concern to women. Both women and men are invited. Meetings will be on second floor of Commuter Center/Student Union Building in Room CC214.

Tuesday May 17 - 1 PM How Do You Major in Women's Studies?
What Do You Do With It?

David Unumb, Coordinator of Kaskaskia Plan, and Nancy Green, Chair, Women's Studies Board, will join with Beth Bracco and other students majoring in women's studies, to discuss how and why to consider a WS major (or a concentration within a major).

Tuesday May 31 - 1 PM Nonsexist Counseling

How does 'nonsexist' counseling differ from traditional kinds of counseling? What counseling services for women are available at UNI? Resource people will be: Barbara Behrendt, Director; Barbara Bales, and Dennis Duginske, all of the University Counseling Center; Rose Levinson, who conducts Life Span Planning workshops at UNI; Therese Unumb, graduate student in Counselor Education.

Tuesday June 14 - 1 PM Women's Health Problems

This discussion will be co-sponsored by Women's Services. Resource people will be: Marion Etten, Coordinator of Health Services; Kay Alderman of Educational Foundations; Eleanor Prueske of Physical Education; Ellen Dauber and Nancy Katz, students and members of the Women's Services and Women's Studies Boards.

Tuesday July 12 - 1 PM Nonsexist Childrearing

How can we raise our children to be free of sex stereotyping and channeling into rigid social roles? Resource people will include Sandra Styer of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Dorothe Weinberg of the Psychology Department.

Tuesday July 26 - 1 PM Feminist Etiquette

How does one deal with the sexist put-downs she encounters in the business world and elsewhere? How can the women's movement encourage a new etiquette in which women and men treat each other in equal and mutually considerate ways? Resource people will include Melody Sundling of the Department of Business and Management staff and Carol LaChapelle, Program Advisor in Psychology.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN'S STUDIES PEOPLE

ERA will be coming up in Springfield end of April or beginning of May. If you live in the 15th District (where UNI is), write to Rep. William Laurino, Illinois House of Representatives, Springfield 62706, to urge him to support ERA. For information about other districts, call WSP at x423. Illinois approval is now more crucial than ever.

Women's Services will be holding a Board Election May 31. Pick up applications in B-114 before May 15. Support our sister program!

Are you watching the current series of WOMAN ALIVE! broadcasts on Friday nights at 9 PM on Channel 11? The last two will be May 6 and May 13.

A fourth National Women's Music Festival will be held in Champaign June 28-July 3. For more information write P.O. Box 2721, Sta. A, Champaign, IL 61820.

The Women's Studies Resource Center has acquired a number of new books on topics of special interest to women, including female psychology, careers for women, legal rights of couples living together, and assertiveness training. We also have over a dozen women's periodicals, including Women Today, Women and Health, and Spokeswoman, packed full of valuable information. If you'd like to spend an hour or two browsing, call us at ext 423. We are also in desperate need of volunteers to staff the R.C. for two hours a week during Spring-Summer.

PLEASE NOTE: WSP Extensions are 423,4; New Directory is WRONG

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PROGRAM NOTES
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