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Program Notes- May 1979

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WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
VOL. 4 No. 3 May/June 1979
SEE BROWN BAG SCHEDULE INSIDE

Introduction to Women's Studies to be offered in Fall

Do you want to know what Women's Studies is all about?

Do you want to meet the people who teach Women's Studies courses?

Are you considering a Women's Studies Minor?

If so, this course is just what you are looking for. It will be taught by Dr. Jane Hawley of the Secondary Education Department, who co-taught the Senior Seminar in Women's Studies last fall and is member of the Women's Studies Board. Her plan is to have key members of the Women's Studies Faculty present guest lectures on their areas of specialty, and spend the rest of the time in discussion. Taking this course will make planning your future Women's Studies courses easier and should help you to understand the key women's issues of today. This course is highly recommended for all women (and men) who are concerned with the changing sex roles of our society and who are interested in doing something about combatting sex-role stereotypes.

Civil Service Women Stage a Smash Hit!

Those of you who attended the World Premiere of the Lunch/Seminar Series for Civil Service Women, sponsored by the Women's Studies Board, will attest to the fact that it was a smashing success. To those who could not be there, we express the hope that you will be with us at future seminars, and although this one will be a hard act to follow, we already have "great plans on the drawing board" for future seminars.

The success of this seminar was due to the splendid response of civil service women to an invitation to spend their lunch time participating in a program planned and presented by their colleagues. We were pleased to welcome President Williams, Vice-President Lienemann, Dr. Reynold Feldman and other faculty members to share this delightful hour with us.

Special thanks go to Rebecca Moskowitz, Psychology Department, who authored the inspired skits that featured the acting skills of: Lucille Allen, Graduate College; Estelle Omansky, Information Center; Linda Ruffer, Personnel Office; Bernice Temple, Chemistry Department; Dorothy Weissman, Psychology Department; with a special appearance by Ezra Cohen, a student who volunteered to lend his presence to this occasion.

Another special thank you is due talented Sandy Spooner for her pantomime, "Discovery", that was so apropos to this occasion. (Continued on back page)

PROGRAM NOTES

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN'S STUDIES PEOPLE

The Women's Studies Board welcomes three new members, elected March 28. They are Gladys Bergman, Jane Hawley, and Elaine Helman. A number of members are leaving the Board who have made outstanding contributions. These include Kay Alderman, who has served on the Academic Committee and the Travel Committee, and has been an active member of the Feminist Study Group, and has assisted in Women's Studies Courses. Sherry Bell has made an important contribution in her leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexist Practices on Campus and her research into sexism and sexual harrassment at Northeastern. Sandra Styer has been a member of the Evaluation Committee, the Academic Committee, the Sexism in Education Committee, and has been (and continues to be) specially interested in the question of sex-role stereotyping in early childhood. Dorothe Weinberg has served on the Academic Committee, as well as on the Research Committee, and the Resource Center Committee. She is specially interested in encouraging research by and about women.

The WOMEN'S STUDIES BOARD meets every Friday at 1PM in C-505. Visitors are welcome. There are vacancies for student members; interested students are urged to visit the Board meetings and consider applying for membership.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR NONSEXIST COMMUNICATION

"Generic man" is on the verge of being eliminated from course titles at UNI. At the beginning of the 1978-79 school year, only 5 titles in 4 departments contained "man" and "his." In response to requests from members of the Committee for Nonsexist Language, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Political Science started the procedures necessary to change course titles. The course title changes in Chemistry have already been accomplished. "Chemistry, Man, and the Environment" is now "Chemistry and the Environment;" "Man-made World" is "Chemistry and the Consumer." Other projects in the planning stages include: a content analysis of sexism in sociology textbooks and the development of procedures for mobilizing immediate responses to "short-term" examples of sexist communication (for example, memos and posters). If you have complaints about sexist communication, ideas for projects, or would like to be on the committee, contact Martha Thompson, Sociology. Other committee members include: Joan Berman, Charlotte Waisman, and Blanche Hersh with help from Gloria Dimoplou on the course title project.

GLWSA ILLINOIS MEETING

The Illinois meeting, chaired by Paula Wolf, was one of the best attended and most productive state meetings at the GLWSA conference. The Illinois delegation identified two goals for the coming year: recruiting minority women and working for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Barbara Eibl, coordinator of the Women's Studies Program at Sangamon State University, tentatively volunteered to host a state meeting in Springfield in the fall to work toward these goals. Joan Berman, Sarah Hoagland, Kay McSpadden, and Paula Wolf, members of the Illinois delegation, were chosen in the lottery to represent GLWSA in the NWSA delegate assembly.

CIVIL SERVICE WOMEN (Continued from first page)

Many excellent suggestions for future programs were made on the questionnaire distributed at the Seminar, and we thank those who offered to serve on the planning committee. Our next Lunch/Seminar is being planned for May.

Shirley Rovner and Martha Thompson
Civil Service Outreach Committee, WS Board

INTERESTING FACTS GLEANED FROM OFFICIAL UNI RECORDS

1. An increasing percentage of our undergraduates are exclusively evening students; this category jumped from 5% to 18% in the last five years.
 2. The percentage of part-time undergraduates rose from 24% to almost 40% in the last five years.
 3. Over the past five years Northeastern has been receiving a larger number of older female undergraduates (which helps explain #1 and #2).
 4. The graduate enrollment has steadily declined over the last two years; this has been counterbalanced by an increase in undergraduates.
 5. Of students entering in Fall 1978, more were transfer students (1311) than freshmen (1030). Sixty percent of transfers came from Illinois junior colleges. The large number of transfer students helps to account for the fact that only about 25% of new students are 18 or under; about 28% are age 19-22, and of the remainder, about 47% are over 22, 36% are over 26, and 29% are over 30.
 6. About 57% of the total new student population, including graduate students, is female, roughly the same as last year.
 7. Of the total student body, only slightly more of the women than of the men are enrolled part-time; among the graduate students, who are predominantly part-time, women outnumber men 2 to 1.
- (Items 1-4 from FYI Newsletter, Feb. '79; Items 5-7 from "Profile of Entering Class, Fall '78)

We are sad to learn of the death of a true feminist, Sherry Bell. Sherry's work for women at Northeastern (noted elsewhere in this issue) stands as a monument to her dedication and talent. We share in the shock and grief of her family.

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