



WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER No. 4
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PROGNOSIS

Spring is a time for optimism, and the University of Idaho Women's Center has reason to be optimistic. After a period of uncertainty about our location for next year, we have received assurance from President Hartung that we can remain in our current quarters, Administration 109. In fact, he thinks that the Women's Center's presence in the "core administrative area" is indicative of its importance to the University.

The budget has been increased, so that the library and resource file can be expanded and more special programs can be offered. Among the program proposals being weighed are a three or four day seminar on women and the law, a weekly lecture and discussion series that would devote several sessions to each topic, a week-long symposium on women's studies, and a weekly session to evaluate the University curriculum in terms of women's needs. The Brown Bag Series will definitely continue. Other suggestions are welcome.

The furniture crisis mentioned in the last two newsletters has been alleviated. We have a donated couch and chair, a specially-designed bench built by Women's Center staff members, a pile of floor pillows sewed by the staff, a tea cart obtained with trading stamps, and some extra funds to replace the borrowed furniture that must be returned at the end of the semester. Donations -- particularly rugs -- are still welcome, however.

The major problem facing the Women's Center for next year is staffing. Half the present volunteers will be leaving Moscow at the end of this school year and must be replaced if the Center is to operate on a full-time basis. Anyone who has a slot of spare time to fill -- even an hour or two per week -- is urged to spend it at the Women's Center. If you are interested, please call 885-6616.

The response to the evaluation forms in the last newsletter was encouraging. Of the 53 respondents, 12 considered themselves regular patrons (matrons?) of the Women's Center, 16 had been in several times, and 7 had been in once. Eighteen had never been to the Women's Center, but only six of them checked "not interested". The major reason given for not coming was lack of time (10). Several of those who had never been in offered their verbal support with comments such as "despite the fact that I don't use the Center, I'm glad it's there and want to see it continue growing," and "I have recently married and moved out of the Moscow area, but sincerely wish you success."

The ranking of services that the Women's Center currently provides indicated that we do offer "something for everyone". The perfect score for the top priority item would have been 53, and a consistently low-ranked service could have received a maximum of 371 points. Instead, the scores ranged from 129 to 170. Here is the list of services in their order of importance to the respondents: 1) scheduling special programs, 2) scheduling regular programs, 3) publicizing activities of special interest to women, 4) providing resources on the status of women and the women's movement, 5) making referrals for counseling, birth control, etc., 6) processing complaints of discrimination, and 7) serving as a drop-in center. Those who come in regularly ranked the drop-in center higher (4) and the publicity lower (6). They also preferred regular to special programs. Otherwise, the order was the same.

THANKS FOR A GREAT FIRST YEAR

TO--the Brown Bag Speakers: Dolores Cooper, Grace Wicks, Jeannette Driskell, Sid Miller, John Hipple, Edith Betts, Anne Hutchins, Elna Grahn, Margaret Fosberg, Eldon Betz, Barb Petura, Sherrill Richarz, Cheri Register, Jane Langenes, Bobbi Hay, Wilma Scott Heide, Andrew Devlin, Judy Gridley, Linda Lewis, Micki McGrane, Ginny Wolf, Kay Finley, Jolene Ramaker, Corky Bush and Fred Grant.

TO--Dee Rupe for clerical assistance.

TO--Norma Dobler for legislative reports.

TO--Lindy High for publicity and for supplying us with newspaper clippings.

TO--Merle Sargent, Gretchen Eder, Trynne Spiesmann, the Pullman-Moscow Chapter of NOW, The Women's Physical Education Department, Vivian Todd, Shirley Caldwell, Talisman House, and Ginny Wolf for donations of books, furniture and money.

TO--Jean Hill and John Hipple for loaning books.

TO--Dorothy Powell, our office-mate, for helping out at busy moments.

TO--The staff: Jane Langenes, Coordinator, and Rose Marie Borchers, Linda Cook, Stacie Dagnes, Louise Dessen, Kay Finley, Helen Kedish, Marily Keller, Sarah McDaniel, Micki McGrane, Jolene Ramaker, Cheri Register, Sue Skinner, Anne Wallace, and Jeannie Wood.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Women's Center will be open and functioning during the summer months. However, the schedule will be determined by the availability of volunteer staff. Anyone who wants to work is welcome to do so. Besides "womaning" the drop-in center, the summer staff will be busy scheduling activities for next year, preparing a brochure on the Women's Center, building up the library and resource files, and discussing the future development of the Center.

If you would like to volunteer as a staff or resource person, please call 885-6616 or stop by the Women's Center.

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The Women's Center Newsletter is published monthly by the staff of the University of Idaho Women's Center, Administration 109, telephone 885-6616.

The Women's Center is a university service, funded by Student Advisory Services and the Associated Women Students. It was established last fall for the benefit of all women in the Moscow area. It is open from 9 to 5 on weekdays. Men are welcome, too.

WOMEN'S WEEK

The Issues and Forums Committee of ASUI will have about \$2,000 available to bring in speakers on the women's movement next year. John Hecht, the committee chairperson, would like to sponsor a "women's week" in the fall, to be organized by women on campus. If you would like to be involved in planning it over the summer, please call Cheri Reigster, 885-6616 or 882-2004.

UPCOMING FEMALE SCIENTISTS

If anyone still believes that women are incapable of scientific reasoning, the results of the elementary and high school science fair held at Lewis & Clark College in March should dispel the myth.

60% of the overall winners were female, as were:
66% of the primary grade winners.
45% of the intermediate winners.
66% of the junior high winners.
70% of the senior high winners.

Congratulations and good luck to our future scientists, who may better reflect the sex ratio of the population that the present generation of scientists does.

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

For the last month, a group of women have been gathering once a week in the back office of the Women's Center to compare experiences and to discuss their reactions to particular experiences.

They began the first session with an assessment of their self-images and their goals at high school graduation and at the present time. From there, they moved on to questions such as: How do you view other women? Do you assume an age role with younger and older women? What is the nature of your friendships? Have your friendship patterns changed since you became an adult? Did marriage have an effect on your relationships with women?

The discussion is following an outline developed by Jane Factor of the Nassau County Woman's Center in New York. Other topics covered are femininity, childhood, family, sexuality, marriage, motherhood, aging and death, personal expression, media, politics, and economics.

If enough people are interested, the meetings will continue through the summer. They are currently held on Tuesdays from 4 to 6. All women are welcome. Men who are interested should leave their names at the Women's Center for inclusion in an eventual coed or male group.

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A NEW SERVICE TO GRADUATE WOMEN

The first week or so in Moscow is a trying time for the new female graduate student. If she is used to trees and lakes or comes from a densely populated area, the bus ride from Spokane might be unsettling. Upon arrival in Moscow, she has to find housing that suits her limited budget and acclimate herself to an unfamiliar campus. If she is predominantly in a male field, she may feel like a sore thumb.

Several women who have vivid memories of this experience have suggested that the Women's Center do something to help. Prior to the opening of the fall semester, letters will be sent to all new female graduate and professional students, inviting them to make the Women's Center their first stop on campus. The Center can orient them to life in Moscow and help them find new friends with similar interests and problems.

The new student's most critical need is housing. Although the Women's Center does not have the resources to function as a housing referral service, it can offer short-term emergency help. If you have an extra bed -- or some floor space -- and would like to house a female graduate student for a night or two while she looks for an apartment, please call 885-6616.

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PLEASE HELP UPDATE THE WOMEN'S CENTER MAILING LIST

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I will be moving out of the Moscow area before next fall _____.

I will be having a new mailing address in the Moscow area or on campus next fall, but I don't know yet what it will be.

I will have a new mailing address in the Moscow area or on campus next fall. It is:

Please remove me from the mailing list _____ Please add me to the mailing list _____

Please return to the Women's Center, Administration 109, University of Idaho, Moscow 83843

