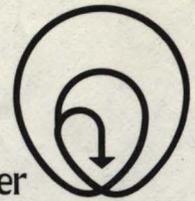


# Newsletter

Women's Center



Vol. II, No. 6

May 10, 1974

University of Idaho

## WOMEN'S CENTER SCHEDULES SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Women's Center is planning a very limited schedule of activities during summer session. The Center itself will be open only sporadically, depending on the vacation schedules of the volunteer staff and on the weather. It is more likely to stay open on days that start off cool. Our eastern exposure is no advantage in the summer months. Noon to 2:00 is the safest time to plan a trip to the Women's Center. Early morning and late afternoon visits are less advisable.

There are four special evening programs scheduled. Please remember that the film series is on Monday, the barbecue on Tuesday, and WEDNESDAY IS WOMEN'S CENTER NIGHT. We are currently making arrangements to hold the programs in the lounge of the dormitory where women enrolled in summer school will be staying. More information will be available at summer school registration and in the local papers.

On June 12, Corky Bush, Director of Intercultural Programs, will conduct a workshop on "Channeling" from 7 to 10 p.m. It will be a polished version of the very successful and much lauded workshop that she did during Women's Week last September. Corky had been conducting expanded channeling workshops for community and employee groups since then.

Two weeks later, on June 26, we will set up a display of materials on career options for women. Several local women pursuing somewhat untraditional careers will be on hand to answer questions. This program should be extremely valuable to teachers, counselors, parents and others who are called upon to offer vocational advice. Marilyn Breidenbach, who will coordinate the program, would welcome your assistance.

"Sexism in Education", a workshop scheduled for July 10, will look at text materials, curricular planning, and classroom practices that tend to restrict the sexes to arbitrary roles or to perpetuate unfavorable female stereotypes. A slide show, "Dick and Jane as Victims", which illustrates the limited portrayal of women in elementary school readers, may be shown. Betty Devereux is in charge of this program, and she, too, would appreciate some help.

The last program, on July 24, will be a film, which is yet to be selected. Watch the local papers for updated publicity on all four programs.

The Women's Center will open again on a full-day basis at the start of fall semester. Special events to watch for are an outdoor festival of women's art and crafts, tentatively planned for mid-September, and a women's film festival later in the fall.

### GOOD NEWS FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS!

The Moscow Mercurians cleared over \$800 from ticket sales for the circus they sponsored April 29. The money will be used to pay for travel to out-of-town races. The Mercurians are an amateur track and cross country team consisting, so far, entirely of tenn-age girls.

### HELP CREATE MORE GOOD NEWS!

Volunteers in Moscow are looking for people to assist with girls' sports events this summer, such as coaching softball.

If you would like to help, please call Cathy Rouyer at 882-7255 between 1 and 4 p.m. Let's help them become better players than we are!

Dear Newsletter Readers,

In just three weeks, I will be leaving my position as Women's Center coordinator. In just three weeks, all the tasks I've been pushing up to the next day will topple into the "Unfinished Business" file---assuming that I find the time to put together an "Unfinished Business" file. At times like this, I tend to agonize over failures and waylaid intentions. It will take some effort to focus on this year's successes in the Center.

Critics--even supporters--are constantly reminding us that there are thousands of women in Moscow who do not use the Women's Center. That doesn't worry me. I realize that our society must take quick remedial action to preserve the environment; yet I am not an active environmentalist. There must be at least one woman around who would actively support the Women's Center if she were not so busy recycling and keeping a watch on Paradise Creek. I like to think that the two of us have divided our labors. According to a recent survey, there are fifty different women who visit the Women's Center at least once a week. When I go home to my afghan and my Carole King record, eager for a respite from the day's intense human interaction, I think back to the fall of 1972, when Louise Dressen, Micki McGrane, and I used to sit and watch the door and wish that someone would stop by, if only for directions to the bathroom. Things have certainly picked up.

It's not the numbers that concern me, but the quality of services we offer to those who do come in. I am very proud of our weekly programs. While other groups lure audiences with drawings for free beer, the Women's Center offers nothing more than stimulating discussion. And, allowing for the mid-semester blahs, we get wall-to-wall crowds. I would like to offer one big, impersonal thank you to all the generous people who have helped out with the programming this year. We offer no honorariums and no instant fame; yet virtually everyone we approach is willing to speak or lead a discussion.

We can also boast about our collection of resource materials. Since my biggest asset in regard to this job is knowledge of national resources, I devoted a good share of my time to building up the lending library and the files. Our file of local resources, however, has been a source of embarrassment, but we are hiring someone to update it this summer--so next year you may get better answers to your requests for help.

I do have many regrets. I'm sorry that we haven't developed a women's studies program. I wish we had a regular cooperation with other student service personnel on campus, such as the Placement Office and the academic advisors. Informal meetings with women's living groups have been all too few. Our publicity effort could be greater. The internal workings of the volunteer staff get cumbersome at times. Many of our shortcomings could be remedied if the coordinator had 40 hours a week rather than 15. I especially regret having so little time to just sit and talk. It's not easy to assess women's moods and needs with your nose in a file drawer.

Although I'm really looking forward to my new job (teaching Scandinavian studies and women's studies at the University of Minnesota), I'll be leaving Moscow with some pangs. I don't relish parting with friends, and I'm already sorry to be missing the Women's Art Festival in September. I expect to be curious about what's going on here, so I hope someone will keep in touch. I'm very optimistic about the Women's Center's future. I'm sure it will survive without me, just as it has survived in spite of me. All of you who have contributed so much to the Center have given it a momentum of its own. Best wishes to everybody!

In Sisterhood,

Cheri Register

WANT SOMETHING TO DO OVER THE SUMMER? READ ON---

WANTED: MORE SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S GROUPS

I recently ended several months' efforts trying to keep a women's consciousness-raising group intact. Though we were unsuccessful, it was a good learning experience. We were apparently too diversified in needs, interests and opinions. We were, therefore, unable to support and sustain a group over a long period.

I am hoping that more new groups will be formed that attempt to meet the needs of all women. Some groups could be activist in orientation. They would focus primarily on the needs of women who are already fully informed about the feminist movement and want to work actively socially and politically to help the movement. Some groups should primarily deal with studying and talking about women's consciousness-raising and related issues. There would be an emphasis upon the personal growth in understanding among the group's members, many of whom might not yet be ready for a more activist orientation. Some other women's groups may have no affiliation with women's consciousness-raising per se, but will function to meet personal needs of women who seek interaction with other women.

I am personally looking for a group of married women, perhaps with children who want to keep active by working or simply being informed on social issues. I would hope for a group that could discuss all social issues and strive to become informed about women-related topics. Anyone interested please call me at 882-8005.

Elsbeth Campbell

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The Women's Center Newsletter is published monthly during the academic year by the Women's Center, Administration 109, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843. (208-885-6616)

This publication is on file at the International Women's History Archives, 2324 Oak, Berkeley, California 94708.

AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM

We would like to get a study group started about the middle of May to run through the summer. We would probably meet one night a week in the Women's Center to consider some aspect of how to build up one's self-esteem. A possible title might be "How to Think of Yourself as Number One When Everyone Else Sees You as Number Two."

If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number where you can receive messages in the Women's Center, attention: Isabel Miller.

BIG-LITTLE SISTER PROGRAM

The Women's Center is interested in starting a big-little sister program for incoming women. Some of the goals the program has are: 1) to make the college experience more positive, 2) to reduce confusion, 3) to emphasize the necessity of a college degree for women, due to limited non-college jobs, 4) to expand life outlooks, 5) to provide an opportunity to meet goal-oriented women.

We are seeking women who will be willing to give some time and share some experiences with incoming women. If you have ideas for the program or are interested, contact Linda Hinrichsen, Marilyn Breidenbach, or Mary O'Donnell at the Women's Center, or write Linda Hinrichsen, 1106 S. Main-Trl. 1, Moscow

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