

University of Idaho Women's Center

corner of Idaho and Line streets 885-6616



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The Women's Center newsletter includes announcements and information about the many services and programs offered by the Center to the University and Moscow communities. It is published and distributed at the beginning of each month during the academic year. If you have announcements or information you would like included in subsequent issues, please let us know. Suggestions for changes or improvements in our format are welcome!

The Women's Center continues to update its mailing list for the 1982-83 academic year. If your address has changed or if you would like to have your name added to the mailing list, please call or stop by the Women's Center to let us know. If you know someone else who would like to receive the newsletter, please pass her/his name on to us.

HOURS:

8a.m.-5p.m., Monday - Friday
7p.m.-9p.m., Monday,
Wednesday,
and Thursday

March Programs

1983

Women's Center programs educate, enrich, and entertain. Bring your lunch and join us! All programs begin at 12:30 at the Women's Center and are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 1

TIME OUT TO LISTEN **Joy Passanante Williams**, Lecturer in the U of I Department of English, will read from her fiction. She will be reading from her collection of short stories, *Women of One Blood*.

Wednesday, March 2

MICROS...MICROS...MICROS **Kay Keskinen**, Systems Analyst for the U of I Computer Services, will bring her Kaypro II to the Women's Center and present a program on microcomputers. Ms. Keskinen teaches a popular continuing Education class on microcomputers; for this program she will talk about terms, parts of a microcomputer, and give participants some hands-on experience. A great chance to gain some computer literacy.

Sunday, March 6

International Women's Day Potluck. The Women's Center will begin celebrating Women's History Week and International Women's Day with a potluck at Corky Bush's home, 414 S. Lincoln. The potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share—something with international flavor—to commemorate these important events and have some fun!

Monday, March 7

UNION MAIDS Sitdowns, scabs, goon squads, unemployment, hunger marches, red baiting and finally the beginning of the CIO—the 1930's were a landmark period for the American Labor Movement. **UNION MAIDS** is a film about three women who lived this history and make it come alive today.

Tuesday, March 8

WOMEN IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT Women played a crucial role in the growth and development of labor unions in the early part of the century, and **Mary Emery**, Director of the New Dimensions project and social scientist, will talk about their history in labor.

Wednesday, March 9

HERE'S TO THE WOMEN This slide-tape show concerns the lives, work, and community activities of women in Washington State. It was created from women's own stories, told in oral histories, as part of the Washington Women's Heritage Project.

Thursday, March 10

WOMEN IN SMALL BUSINESS This program, a sneak preview of the Women in Small Business conference this month, will feature three businesswomen from the Moscow-Pullman communities. **Laura McMichael**, potter and co-organizer of a co-op in Pullman called Fine Line, **Nolly Schmidt**, manager of David's Center and major stockholder of Fitness Unlimited; and **Kally Thurman**, owner of Mercy Beanz and Tobacco Rose; will talk about their experiences in running small businesses.

Tuesday, March 22

ENERGY EDUCATION, ENERGY CONSERVATION **Joy Davis**, Director of the U of I Child Care Center, will talk about educating for the wise utilization of energy resources and provide ideas and methods for energy conservation.

Wednesday, March 23

PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD **Tom Jenness**, Associate Professor of Communication, will discuss job interview skills. For this program, he will focus on the interview itself—from such things as how to dress and how to shake hands, to putting pressure on the interviewer and presenting yourself and your skills in the best possible way. Good preparation for graduates-to-be or summer job seekers.

Tuesday, March 29

TIME OUT TO LISTEN **Judy Wallins**, Coordinator for Student Development in Student Advisory Services, will read from her book *Why Don't They Teach Them How To Spell?* The book is a collection of reminiscences and experiences from ten years of teaching college writing; it is always interesting and sometimes hilarious.

Wednesday, March 30

TOUGH LOVE **Karolyne Rogers**, Ph.D. candidate in the College of Education, will talk about appropriate ways for dealing with behavior problems in people you love. How, for example, do you stop enabling/assisting in the destructive behavior of a significant other? What can you control in your life, and what is out of your control? What are some traps in family dynamics? Ms. Rogers will talk about these and similar issues.

Please post.

March 6th through 12th is Women's History Week. This page of the newsletter focuses on women's history — a history to discover and cherish. In the past decade, an outpouring of scholarship has made us increasingly aware of the richness and diversity of our history. Ultimately, women's history will, I think, change not only our perceptions of ourselves as women and as humans, but change the discipline of history itself.

The Women's Center will be celebrating Women's History Week with a variety of events and programs. Check the program descriptions for this month for information about those. In addition, we invite you to stop by the Center and browse through our library for stories and words from our past. We have scholarly books, pictures, speeches, diaries, and letters about women's past lives. To a large extent we are the products of our histories; it's worth taking some time to contemplate our roots in the lives of women who have shaped our country and our culture — our herstory.

Being part of history is an essential aspect of being human, and the relationship we have to history affects our lives, our self-perception, our future.

Gerda Lerner, U. of Wisconsin

A smattering of herstory

1. **Who was the first woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science?**

In 1971 Dr. Minna S. Rees became the first woman president in the 112 year history of the Association. She became a math instructor at Hunter College in 1926 and moved up to full professor and finally to Dean of Faculty in 1953. She became Dean of Graduate Studies at City University of New York in 1961 and provost of the University's graduate division in 1968.

2. **What woman astronomer discovered a new comet?**

Maria Mitchell was awarded a gold medal by the King of Denmark in 1847 for the discovery of a new comet. She was born in Nantucket, Massachusetts in 1818 and became a professor of astronomy and Director of the Observatory at Vassar College in 1865. In the course of her career, she made photographs of the sun and did a special study of Jupiter and Saturn.

3. **Who was the first woman to head an independent administrative agency of the Federal government?**

In 1969 Virginia Mae Brown served a one year term as chair of the Interstate Commerce Commission, becoming the first woman to head an independent administrative agency of the Federal Government. She was appointed to the Commission in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson.

Throughout her career, Ms. Brown has had the distinction of being the first woman to occupy many key positions. From 1949-52 she was the first woman executive secretary of the West Virginia Judicial Council and from 1952-61 was the state's first assistant attorney general. Ms. Brown was appointed Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia in 1961, becoming the first woman in the U.S. to hold such a position, and in 1962 she became the first woman appointed to the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

History is a problem in sampling. Depending on the point in time at which one considers that one's ancestors became fully human, there have been somewhere between sixty and seventy-seven billion of us around, women and men, weaving an infinite variety of gossamer social webs to girdle the planet. We are an interesting lot, we humans. Yet the most informed of the four billion of us alive today know precious little about our history. We know little enough about our contemporary family, and when we start probing back through history, we find huge blank spaces relieved here and there by fragmentary images of kings, pyramids, temples, and battlefields. If we try to go back much beyond five thousand years, our imaginations give out entirely...(There are) hundreds of books on the history of Western civilization, and only dozens on the history of the rest of the world. Yet most of the human beings who have walked through history have lived elsewhere. They have lived all over the planet, of course, but most have lived in Asia. The sampling of human experience in our history books is, in short, very poor.

It would not matter so much that those of us who live in the West focus on our own recent corner of history if we kept it in the proper perspective. But, of course, we do not. We have created a myth called the "Evolution of Mankind" from our fragments. One of the many strange things about this myth is that it does not include woman. This history of humankind has been written as if it were the history of Western man...

The elimination of most of the human race from the historical record shrinks our human identity. We don't know fully who we are. We know even less what we might become...I propose an attempt to recover some of the wholeness of the human identity by going back to sample the underside, the invisible side, of history, and bring its women to life.

**from *The Underside of History*
Elise Boulding**

It is indisputable that women's "herstory" is as rich and remarkable a landscape of human hope, despair, and unremitting endeavor as any that can be found in the world. Ours is a record of thought, activity, tragedy and triumph which even an almost total blanket of silence and ignorance has neither smothered or obliterated. In every conceivable way, women are discovering a common sisterhood — past, present and future. Out of the long dark night of invisibility, women are at last beginning to emerge into the electrifying daylight of genuine historical knowledge as we learn anew that the truth shall make us free.

It's a party! Do you like Tupperware products but hate party games? Would you just like to take a look at the product and select what you want? Then the Women's Center Tupperware party is for you. It's at 3:30 p.m., Friday March 5th, in the Women's Center lounge. No games — just a display, information, and time for you to select your order, if you are interested.

If you have herpes: Do you want to know more about your disease? Do you want emotional support? Would you be interested in forming a support group?

Attend a Help Session, presented in cooperation with the North Central District Health Department. *Confidentiality will be respected.* A Registered Nurse will present current information and lead a discussion. For the time and place, and

further information, call 882-7506 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Women and Small Business Workshop will be presented March 18-19, 1983, at WSU's Compton Union Building. If you are interested in your own business—starting it up or just exploring the idea—or if you are already in business, and you want to know more about specific areas, this workshop is for you. The Friday night session is directed to women business owners, and Saturday is for those still thinking about going into business.

The keynote speaker, **Joyce Lund** of *Lund's Lites*, was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call the UI Women's Center, 885-6616.

WOMEN'S CENTER RESOURCES

At any time on almost any weekday, the Women's Center lounge has from two to twenty people (women, men, and children) chatting, reading, studying, telling jokes, discussing politics, offering each other encouragement and support. The drop-in lounge is a central part of the services that the Women's Center offers to the campus and community. It provides a network of friends and acquaintances, a place to leave messages, share a lunch or coffee break, get informal word-of-mouth information about almost anything: the best—and worst—classes to take, local movies, physicians, housing, jobs, and tutors, to name just a few. People drop in for a cup of coffee, to seek help with a difficult calculus assignment, to leave a message on the blackboard for a friend who will be in later, to talk to someone about a difficult personal problem, to find out about a bill before the Idaho legislature or congress, to organize a fund-raiser or a party. The lounge provides a warm, caring, comfortable environment, a nice place to visit between classes. A recent drop-in noted, "This is the most humane place on campus." Drop by and see for yourself!

GOOD READING: Books at the Women's Center

A Mother and Two Daughters, Gail Godwin. After forty years of marriage, Nell's husband dies, leaving her a well-to-do, genteel southern widow. The novel explores the ways that Nell and her two grown daughters deal with death and with each other. Rivals since childhood, Cate and Lydia must begin to resolve their complicated feelings about each other, their mother, and their families. **A Mother and Two Daughters** is compassionate and entertaining; it touches familiar chords for any reader who has pondered the complexities of family life.

The Anatomy of Freedom: Feminism, Physics, and Global Politics, Robin Morgan. In this important new book of feminist theory, Robin Morgan chooses quantum physics and its themes of relativity and interrelationship as the central analogy for feminism and freedom. Her style interweaves parables, drama, meditations, aphorisms, and political theory; her subjects include women, society's search for technological balance, dreams, sexual fundamentalism, the environment, economics, the family, and the complexity of erotic passion. Feminism, like physics, has already changed the way we view reality; its vision is important and transforming to men as well as to women, and crucial to the continuation of life on this planet. An exciting, thought-provoking book.

Passionate Attachments: Fathers and Daughters in America Today, Signe Hammer. This book examines what is perhaps the most idealized and mythologized relationship in the family, that between father and daughter. The way a woman relates to much in her adult life—her husband, mentors, colleagues, boss—is shaped by the first and most powerful man in her life. The love between daughter and father affects her sense of who she is, what she will achieve, how she will deal with power, authority, money, her own sexuality. It's a fascinating and sometimes troubling book, but well worth reading.

Sexual Shakedown: The Sexual Harassment of Women on the Job, Lin Farley. In a well-written and well-documented book, Ms. Farley examines in detail a problem women who work for wages have long recognized—that women frequently experience discrimination on the job, not just in salaries and benefits, but by being forced to choose between their job and their self-respect. This is the first popularized book to take a look at sexual harassment in employment; its case studies, analyses, and interviews clearly delineate the extensiveness and seriousness of the problem. The book also includes information and suggestions for remedies for women who are victims of sexual harassment.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY...Barrie Thorne, Visiting Professor in Sociology at Stanford, will be at WSU and the U of I March 24th and 25th for several presentations. The first will be "Missing Voices in Traditional Knowledge: Gender and Social Research" on Thursday, March 24th, at 7:30 p.m., WSU Fine Arts Auditorium. On Friday March 25th at 9:30 a.m., Wilson 333 (WSU), she will present "Missing Voices: A Workshop on Research Design." Finally on Friday, March 25th, in the KIVA (U of I) at 12:30 p.m., she will discuss "Missing Voices: Gender in the Social Sciences." Her visit is sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum Project. For more information, contact the U of I Women's Center or the Women's Studies office, WSU.

Legislative / Public Policy Information. Throughout the year, when the Congress is in session, and in January, February and March, when the Idaho legislature is in session, the Women's Center keeps up-to-date information about issues pertinent to women and students posted at the Women's Center. A legislative alert bulletin board includes articles and announcements important to policy-making at the state and national level. In addition, staff at the Center generally keep up-to-date on current legislative events and would be glad to answer questions and provide information about what you can do. If you would like to have a hand in creating

public policy, stop by the Center and we will help you.

In the broadest context of the word, teaching is a political act: some person is choosing, for whatever reasons, to teach a set of values, ideas, assumptions, and pieces of information, and in so doing, to omit other values, ideas, assumptions, and pieces of information. If all those choices form a pattern excluding half the human race, that is a political act one can hardly help noticing. To omit women entirely makes one kind of political statement; to include women as a target for humor makes another. To include women with seriousness and vision, and with some attention to the perspective of women as a hitherto subordinate group is simply another kind of political act. Education is the kind of political act that controls destinies, gives some persons hope for a particular kind of future, and deprives others even of ordinary expectations for work and achievement. In a university whose goal is that abstraction called truth, no political act ought ideally to be excluded, if it might shed light on the ultimate goal. And the study of half the human race — the political act we call women's studies — cannot be excluded without obvious consequences to the search for truth.

Professor Florence Howe
College at Old Westbury



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