

University of Idaho Women's Center

corner of Idaho and Line streets 885-6616

Director: **Alayne Pettyjohn**

Secretary: **Carolyn Caster**

Work Study: **Dawn Kahm
Mitzi Richards
Brenda Ross
Darla Anglen**

Newsletter: **Kerrin McMahan**

The Women's Center Newsletter is published six times during the academic year. It includes announcements and information about the many services and programs offered by the Center to the University and Moscow communities, as well as items of general interest about women's issues. If you have announcements or information you would like included in subsequent issues, please let us know. Suggestions for changes, improvements, or additional items are welcome.

"It is by now clear that a feminist renaissance is under way, that in the struggle to discover women and our buried or misread history, feminists are doing two things: questioning and reexploring the past, and demanding a humanization of intellectual interests and public measures in the present.... Much of this research, discussion and analysis is already being carried on in the university, but even more is taking place outside it.... It could be said that a women's university-without-walls exists already...and that the members of this university are working and studying out of intense concern for the quality of human life as distinct from the ego-bound achievement of individual success."

— from "Toward a Woman-Centered University"
Adrienne Rich, 1974

Women's Center Hours
8 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday — Friday.

October 1984 Programs

Women's Center programs educate, enrich and entertain. Bring your lunch and join us! Unless otherwise specified, programs begin at 12:30 in the Women's Center lounge and are free and open to the public. If you have suggestions for future programs, please call or stop by.

Tuesday, October 9

STIFF NECK, TIGHT SHOULDERS — HELP! **Airin Wheeler**, the Palouse Masseuse, will demonstrate neck and shoulder massage. Bring a friend, a partner, or just yourself, and learn how to give and receive relaxing and centering massage.

Wednesday, October 10

THE FUTURE IS NOVEMBER 6TH: CANDIDATES FORUM. The Women's Center has invited candidates from District 5 and District 8 (the flatorial district — we vote for both) for the Idaho Senate and House of Representatives to share their views and answer questions. Cast an informed vote and share **your** views by attending this forum.

Tuesday, October 16

FICTION TO DELIGHT YOUR EARS AND HEART. **Susan Baumgartner**, free-lance writer and novelist extraordinaire, will read from her fiction. She will include readings from her novel *Jesse* and from some short stories.

Wednesday, October 17

DO YOUR FEET A FAVOR. **Judith Street**, licensed massage therapist and U of I student, will discuss and demonstrate theories and techniques of foot reflexology. Bring clean feet, a friend or partner, or come by yourself and learn foot massage.

Tuesday, October 23

THE FUTURE IS NOVEMBER 6TH: CANDIDATES FORUM. The Women's Center has invited candidates for Latah County Sheriff, county commissioner, and prosecuting attorney to share their views and answer questions. In many ways, local elected officials have the most immediate impact on public policy affecting our lives. Cast an informed vote and share your views.

Wednesday, October 24

THE FUTURE IS NOVEMBER 6TH: THE GENDER GAP, LOST AND FOUND. **Delores Janiewski**, Assistant Professor of History at the U of I, and **Elizabeth Plumb**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the U of I and WSU, will discuss the gender gap past and present. It has come and gone, disappeared and reappeared; this program will shed some light on voting patterns.

Tuesday, October 30

HIDDEN FROM VIEW: WOMEN AND ALCOHOLISM. **Marilyn Berney**, Director of the Whitman County Alcoholism Center, will discuss issues and problems for women alcoholics. Recent research indicates there are gender difference in alcoholism, especially in treatment; Ms. Berney will look at these as well as causes for and the development of alcoholism in women.

Wednesday, October 31

WITCHING AND BEWITCHING. **Jeanne Wood** will talk about women as witches — healers, wise women, the bearers of religion and ritual. In celebration of this special history, the Center will also offer some celebratory fun: treats to eat, poems, readings from our herstory. Don't miss this unique celebration!

NETWORKING NEWS

The regular branch meeting of the American Association of University Women, Moscow Branch, will be held at Cavanaugh's at 7:30 on October 10th. The program will feature **Elizabeth Plumb**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the U of I and WSU, and **Delores Janiewski**, Assistant Professor of History at the U of I. Their program is titled **THE GENDER GAP: LOST AND FOUND**. The meeting is free and open to the public. For those who would like to share dinner preceding the meeting, a dinner will be served at 6:30; call Esther Wilson (882-4669) for reservations.

The National Organization for Women program meeting will feature a film called "The Gender Gap." It will be held the week of October 8th, time and place to be announced. Watch the local media for the announcement.

The League of Women Voters is advertising and sponsoring a variety of meetings in October.

Saturday, October 6th — Voter registration at the Palouse Empire Mall.

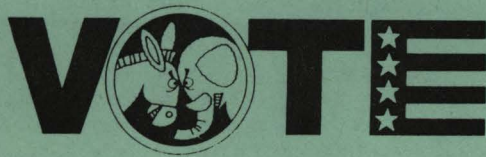
Sunday, October 7th — First Presidential Debate, 6 p.m. Watch at home or with friends.

Wednesday, October 17th — League regular meeting, noon, brown bag in the Pend O'Reille Room in the SUB, open to the public.

Thursday, October 25th — Larry Craig/Bill Hellar debate, view on the wide screen at Hoyt's, commentator following, or watch at home, 7 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 1st — Jim McClure/Pete Busch debate, view on the wide screen at Hoyt's, commentator following, or watch at home, 7 - 8 p.m.

October 7-14 is Awareness Week at WSU. This year's theme is "Cinderella '84: Society Evolving." The week is full of events and presentors including Lady Bianca, a blues vocalist; the Total Experience Choir, a Seattle gospel choir; Dr. Carl Degler, historian from Stanford whose specialty is the family; Carolyn Kizer, Washington-born poet and founder of **Poetry Northwest**; Suzanne Lacy, performance artist; Dolores Huerta, Vice President and co-organizer of the United Farm Workers, and many others. The Women's Centers at the U of I as well as WSU have brochures with a detailed schedule of events and presentations. Call or stop by for more information.



Since 1973, the number of women in public office has tripled.

More women are running for public office today than ever before. Changing public attitudes have resulted in greater acceptance of female candidates and increased financial and party support for their campaigns.

- Since 1789 there have been 10,957 members elected to Congress; 109 (less than 1%) of them have been women. In 1983 women held 22 seats in the House of Representatives (5% of total), and 2 seats in the Senate (2% of total).

- The number of women in state legislatures has more than doubled in the past decade, from 425 (5.6% of total) in 1973 to 989 (13.2% of total) in 1983.

- Thirty-one women in 1983 held top statewide offices (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer) compared to 16 in 1973.

- In cities with populations over 30,000 there was a six-fold increase in the number of women mayors in the past decade, from 12 in 1973 to 76 in 1983.

An Unusual Opportunity — In Film

The Campus Christian Center, the UI Women's Center and the Idaho Coalition for Peace and Justice are co-sponsoring a showing of the film **NOT A LOVE STORY: A FILM ABOUT WOMEN AND PORNOGRAPHY**. The film will be shown at the Borah Theater on October 9th at 7:30 p.m. There will be discussion groups following. The film is a shocking explicit and sensitive portrayal of the pornography industry, how it works, and how it affects the lives of women who participate in it. Although it does not advocate for or against pornography, it implicitly makes connections between pornography and violence and the objectification of women's bodies. It's both an important and disturbing film.

New female voting groups have emerged in the past 20 years.

Black women and women from the South are increasing their voting rates much faster than other groups; in 1980, 20% more Southern women voted than in 1952, while in other regions there was a slight decline.

Since 1980 the voting rate of white women has caught up with that of white men, while black and Hispanic women's voting rates have surpassed that of their male counterparts.

THE FUTURE IS NOV. 6TH

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD UNLESS WOMEN VOTE

Personal troubles...Public issues

Women often see their home and work problems as separate from the world of politics and public policy. However, their personal problems are sometimes very strongly linked to public issues. Many working women have difficult lives because of low pay, inadequate child care, little access to education and job training, and lack of respect on the job. These are all public issues and must be addressed as such. When working women see the link between their personal lives and public policy, at least two things happen. First, they feel less discouraged because they realize they are not alone but in the same situation as millions of other women. Secondly, this sense of group belonging is often a powerful catalyst for change. With their new insights and sense of group identity, women can work for change not only personally, but in their community and at a national level.

Child Care

Working women report that one of the most difficult problems they face is the double burden of a job and family care. Over half of all mothers with children under 18 years old are in the labor force; yet there is such a great need for day care that as many as seven million children under 14 stay home alone while their parents work.

Despite the passage of tax credit legislation for child care, affordable quality care is still a major problem for working parents. Corporate child care centers and babysitters in private homes cannot absorb the vast numbers of children who need care while their parents work outside the home.

One vote does count.

Many women believe that their votes won't have any effect on the political process. However, the outcomes of most elections, on the national as well as the local level, can be decided by a very small number of votes. Some examples:

- If one person changed his/her vote in every precinct, Richard Nixon would not have been elected President in 1968.
- If women had voted in the same numbers as men during the past two decades, 3 out of the past 6 presidential elections would have turned out differently.
- Congressional elections are frequently won by only 2,000 votes. This means that if the votes of one out of every 250 eligible voters in a district are switched, a different congressperson might be elected.
- Local elections are often decided by 50 votes, yet they can have the greatest impact on a woman's life. Local elections determine property taxes, police and fire protection, parks and land use, the quality of elementary and secondary education, and other important issues.

Pay Equity

Women earn on the average only 61% of what men earn, a wage gap that has stubbornly persisted over the years despite federal legislation such as the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The wage gap is primarily caused by two problems: segregated jobs for men and women, and the underpayment of those jobs held by women. For example, such female-intensive jobs as nurse, secretary and waitress are paid less than jobs predominantly held by men, such as truck driver, maintenance worker, and machinist. The remedy, pay equity, calls for paying women equally for jobs that require comparable skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions.

There are currently over 30 states which have taken legislative initiatives on pay equity. A recent court decision in the state of Washington ordered back pay for over 15,000 women workers after the state was sued for perpetuating sex-based wage discrimination.

The gender gap is the difference in the political thinking and behavior between men and women.

Differences in men's and women's political attitudes first began to appear consistently in the mid to late 1970's. Women have begun to place greater importance than men on government's role in reducing the income gap, helping those in need, and civil rights. Women are also more likely to favor stronger environmental protection regulation, gun control, abolition of the death penalty, and are more worried than men about the threat of war and increased foreign intervention.

In 1980, women took their concerns to the voting booth. Although Ronald Reagan won the male vote by a solid 56-36 margin, he did less well with women, who voted for him by a mere 47-45 margin. This 9 point difference is called the gender gap, a phenomenon which continued through the 1982 congressional elections and, according to polls, has grown into an even wider gap today.

Women's votes have influenced elections since the early 1900's.

- In 1915, women in Illinois gave the reform candidate for mayor in Chicago almost as large a plurality as men gave his opponent, the machine candidate.
- In 1918, Massachusetts suffragists successfully mobilized a nonpartisan coalition to defeat the anti-suffragist Senate candidate John Weeks.
- In 1915, 500 women volunteers in Columbus, Ohio registered 21,000 new voters in 11 key wards. Their candidate beat the mayor, who had held the office for 16 years, by a 19,000 vote margin.

REGISTER

VOTE

ONE VOTE COUNTS

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

In the midst of mid-terms, elections, and general October madness, do yourself a favor and read a good book! The Women's Center has a variety of books — entertaining, informative and educational. You might want to pick up one of the following:

Woman/Doctor: The Education of Jane Patterson, M.D., Jane Patterson and Lunda Madaras. Jane Patterson was educated at Chatham College in Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. As she moved into the medical profession, she found herself in conflict between the demands of a profession that required "toughness," and her own struggle to remain compassionate and caring without sacrificing her excellence as a doctor.

Any Minute I Can Split, Judith Rossner. In this novel, Judith Rossner (author of **Looking for Mr. Goodbar**) portrays a suburban housewife who, disillusioned with herself and her marriage, walks out. At a commune in Vermont, she experiments with alternatives to the nuclear family. The book is funny, wise, and ironic — a pleasant break from studying!

Women Talk About Their Lives.

Dutiful Daughters: edited by *Jean McCrindle and Sheila Rowbotham.* This book is autobiographical, fourteen stories about fourteen women who shared their lives with the editors. "We wanted to show through the interviews that if the experience of most women is regarded as unworthy of recording it is not because it is in itself uninteresting, meaningless or trivial, but because of the criteria which are normally brought to bear when the decision to record is taken.... Once we can perceive what is common to women, change and transformation become possible." Although the women in this book are not extraordinary, their lives are a passionate, often humorous testimony to the paradoxes of the female condition.

A New View of a Woman's Body, Federation of Women's Health Centers. This book includes self-help health information in such areas as self-examination, birth control, universal health problems of women, and "A Well-Woman Exam." In her Preface, Jane Patterson, M.D., notes that "There is no reason why women shouldn't have as much information about their bodies as physicians do. Yet busy physicians cannot find time to educate patients adequately, so women still risk complications and even death because they are unable to find information that is kept behind locked doors. This book breaks down those barriers."

MORE MUSIC FOR MOSCOW Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie

Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie will be in concert at 9 p.m. on Friday October 12th at the University of Idaho SUB Ballroom. Trull's powerful vocals and Higbie's instrumental prowess make this duo a perfect balance. With versatile styles including rhythm and blues, gospel, classical, country, jazz, pop and rock, they radiate exciting, expressive music and dazzle their audiences. Trull has recorded two albums on the Olivia label — "The Ways a Woman Can Be" and "Let it be Known." She recently recorded and co-produced "Unexpected" with Barbara Higbie on the Second Wave label, a subsidiary of Olivia.

Tickets to the concert are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. They are available at Bookpeople and Guitar's Friend in Moscow, the Old Mole and The Combine Mall in Pullman, and at the UI and WSU Women's Centers. Tickets may also be purchased by sending \$7 per ticket to More Music for Moscow, Women's Center, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. See you there!



INTERNATIONAL CLUB REVIVED! International potlucks, dancing to the rhythm of foreign music, slide shows and guest presentations are just a few of the highlights of what the International Club has planned for this year. The International Club sponsors a variety of social events throughout the year in an effort to promote international awareness and understanding. Foreign and American students, spouses, and all other interested persons are welcome to join this fun organization. There is no membership fee. October 25th will feature an international potluck. For more information, please contact Roxanne Root at Student Advisory Services, 885-6757.

October, 1984 Networking Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Presidential debate 6 p.m.	8 ATVP training AWARENESS WEEK AT WSU	9 Women's Center program 12:30 NOW business meeting (members only) SUB 7:30 Film "Not a Love Story" SUB Borah 7:30	10 Women's Center program 12:30 AAUW branch meeting 7:30 Cavanaugh's	11	12 Teresa Trull/Barbara Higbie concert 9 p.m. SUB WOMEN & THE LAW CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND (through Sunday)	13 Homecoming
14	15 ATVP training	16 Women's Center program 12:30	17 Women's Center program 12:30 League of Women Voters SUB noon	18	19 Last day to register in your precinct	20
21	22 ATVP training	23 Women's Center program 12:30 ATVP annual meeting	24 Women's Center program 12:30 AAUW board meeting 7:30 p.m.	25 International Club potluck Craig/Hellar debate 7 p.m.	26 Last day to register at the courthouse	27
28	29 ATVP training	30 Women's Center program 12:30 League of Women Voters Candidates Forum 7:30 p.m. Community Center	31 Women's Center program 12:30	Nov. 1 McClure/Busch debate 7 p.m.		

For more information about these events, see this newsletter or call the Women's Center, 885-6616

NETWORKING NEWS

STOP! PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY BEFORE READING!

This is the first issue of a newsletter experiment—a common newsletter edited and distributed by the Women's Center at the U of I (hence the "old look") with information of interest to a variety of people and organizations in the Moscow/Pullman communities as well as a copy of individual newsletters for Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse, the American Association of University Women, and the National Organization. In other words, if you are a member of ATVP or AAUW or NOW, you will find your regular monthly newsletter inside. If you have ideas or suggestions or criticisms about this "experiment" in networking and money-saving, please let us know. Call the Women's Center to share your opinion.

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NETWORKING NEWS



Moscow, ID 83843



The Women's Center is updating its mailing list. 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 Center to let us know. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please call. If you know someone else who might enjoy the newsletter, please pass her/his name on to us.
