



University of Idaho Women's Center

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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.

"I have always been driven by some distant music—a battle hymn no doubt—for I have been at war from the beginning. I've never looked back before. I've never had the time and it has always seemed so dangerous. To look back is to relax one's vigil.

—Bette Davis—

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

April/May Programs 1987

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 any suggestions for future programs, please call or stop by.

Wednesday
April 1

Phyllis Schafley will be joining us today to share her recent strategies for introducing and passing the Equal Rights Amendment. This program, entitled "Waterfront Arizona Property," is a one-day special just for today.

Tuesday
April 7

THE TOUCH FILM: This sensitive film explores the socialization of touch in American society, the human "need" for touch, and how to broaden our perspectives on touch. This is an excellent film; it is narrated by Dr. Jesse Potter and should generate much discussion afterwards.

Tuesday
April 14

WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE AND IN THE UNIONS: **Sue Hovey**, Moscow Teacher and National Education Association Executive Committee Member, will not only discuss women in the labor force but also the role of women historically in the unions. Because of her position at the national level, Hovey has access to knowledge about recent changes and trends.

Tuesday
April 21

SECRETARIES, UNRECOGNIZED AND UNDERPAID??? In honor of tomorrow's day that recognizes that huge part of the labor force currently being called the 'pink labor force,' our program will concentrate on the work, the pay, and the conditions for these office workers. **Gerry Dacres**, UI Associate Professor in Vocational Teacher Education, will talk about the secretarial profession historically, presently, and trends for the future.

Tuesday
April 28

CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: U.S. Marine Colonel **Jan Scott**, commander of the UI Naval Science Department, will talk about what careers are open to women in the military, the advantages, benefits, and the how—to's. She will address opportunities in all the armed forces, but knows the most about the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy. If you have not yet met Col. Scott, this is a great chance.

Wednesday
May 6

GOODBYE FOR THE SUMMER AND GOOD LUCK TO THE GRADUATING SENIORS 'FINGER FOOD' POTLUCK: Take this last opportunity for one last potluck before finals week and before so many depart for the summer. Bring a box of crackers, or cheese, or fruit, or carrot sticks, any finger food to share with others and say good—bye, hello, or congratulations. We'll start eating around noon.

EMPLOYEE TACTICS TO DEAL WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT Here are excerpts from the suggestions that the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, sent to their forest supervisors for dissemination to the employees to use if they felt they were being sexually harassed.

Trust your instincts.

Recognize it for what it is, and understand that it is not your fault. You have a right to complain and take action.

If possible, **confront** the offender directly if you think he or she can be reasoned with or discouraged. Make it clear you are not interested and that this behavior is unacceptable.

Many people find it easier to **write** a letter that can be handed to the harasser. At the end of this section is an example of a letter that is effective. If you do write a letter, describe a specific incident and give a date. Describe other incidents which offended you. Declare that you do not believe that the treatment you are describing is appropriate in the workplace. Say you want the relationship to be purely professional and work-oriented from now on. Be sure to sign the letter. Keep a copy for yourself.

Keep a **written record** of the incidents of harassment, and of your complaints and their results. If people are present during the harassment, say something like, "Did you see so—and—so do such—and—such...?" The observers will be more likely to remember the incident. Get their names down in your documentation.

Talk to good friends, to co-workers, to relatives. It is important to have a strong support system at this time. If you keep feelings to yourself, you will most likely remain isolated and powerless. By speaking out and documenting the incidents and forms of sexual coercion, you help yourself as you contribute to defining sexual harassment as a social problem. A sense of being able to affect your own life replaces the sense of isolation.

Choose among the above suggested contacts on the basis of who is involved in the complaint and which persons you would be comfortable talking with.

A labor economist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has worked on sexual harassment for the past 12 years, suggests a direct letter to the harasser. She says "This type of letter is the single most effective way to stop harassment." An example of the letter follows:

Dear

On December 15, 1983, when I met you to discuss my work project, you asked me to come to your apartment that evening and said it would help the success of my project. Several times in the past few months when I talked to you in your office, you put your arm around me and rubbed my back. Once you tried to fondle my breast. Last week at an office get together, you asked me to go to bed with you. I do not believe you can judge my job performance fairly (or work effectively with me) under these circumstances.

I want our relationship to be purely professional from now on.

Sign the letter, make a copy for yourself, and give the original to the harasser in front of a witness.

Studies have shown that the typical reaction from the harasser was no reaction. The harassment just stopped.

MARRY, MARRY? ON THE CONTRARY! (excerpts from the *San Jose Mercury News*, article by Susan Faludi, Aug 10, 1986)

Two sociologists from Yale and an economist from Harvard wanted to see if they could project the probabilities of college-educated women's marrying at particular ages. It was one of thousands of such data—massaging exercises that go on daily in the dusty carrels of campus sociology departments. If by chance you are one of the approximately three people in the country who haven't read about the study, here's what it predicted: By 30, a woman with a college degree, who was born in the mid-50's and has never married, has a 20 percent shot at snatching the wedding ring; by 35, she has a 5 percent chance; by 40, it shrinks to 2.6 percent. (Or as *Newsweek* put it, at 40 she would be "more likely to be killed by a terrorist.")

One study that didn't show up in the papers was a flatly contradictory marriage study completed by the U.S. Census Bureau about the same time. The bureau's statisticians used far more extensive data: They used the 1980 census, which polled one in six households; the Yale sociologists used a sample survey that queried only one in 1,500 households. The bureau statisticians also used a time-tested model applied successfully for years to project actuarial tables; the Yale-Harvard professors tried a model that

has never before been used to predict behavior. The bureau's findings: Women at 30 have not a 20 percent, but a 66 percent chance at marriage. Women at 40 have not a 2.6 percent, but a 23 percent chance.

The sociologists—and the press—also ignored several key developments that would appear to disprove the study's conclusions. One, the nation's marriage rate has been rapidly increasing since 1980, according to the Census Bureau. Two, between 1970 and 1980, when the marriage rate was declining in the general population, it actually was rising for one particular sector of society—highly educated women between 27 and 39.

"The thing is," says Arlene Saluter, the Census Bureau analyst who came up with the more encouraging version of the marriage study, promising 30-year-old women a 66 percent chance at matrimony, "the people who do these studies know it's just an exercise. It's unfortunate that the general population isn't told that."

If you still want to believe in studies, though, here's one more to masticate. In July, D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles advertising agency released a national survey of 1,550 men and women. The agency asked, "Which of the following items give you a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction?" Guess what rated tops? Television. The respondents said that they got more satisfaction from watching television, taking vacations, pursuing hobbies, reading, having friends and helping others than they did from marriage. While 68 percent said TV was the high point of their lives, only 45 percent said that marriage actually was a source of pleasure.

WHO WE ARE: The discussion group sponsored by the Pullman YWCA and the Sexual Information Referral Center continues to meet each Tuesday, but at a new time and place. The group will now meet at the K-House at 9:00 pm. Topics for the rest of the semester are as follows: **April 7**, the film "Pink Triangles" will be shown; **April 14**, "Health Issues of Concern to the Gay/Lesbian Community;" **April 21**, "Women's Issues and The Gay Civil Rights Movement;" and **April 28**, an end of semester social function.

"WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT: A FEMINIST TAKES A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE WOMEN WHO LOVE TOO MUCH MOVEMENT (excerpts from the article by Laura S. Brown, Ph.D. as published in *Working Together To Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence* Vol. 7, No. 2)

Women are forever attempting to improve ourselves. There is something almost insidious about our willingness to see what's wrong and strive to fix it; it's as if we're affirming continually the notion that we are incomplete, wrong, bad, inadequate, only the rib and not the whole human. Women make up the vast majority of those in therapy; we buy the makeup, the plastic surgery, we strive to be different, better. And we take responsibility for all the problems in our interpersonal relationships; as early as 1956, the feminist sociologist of marriage, Jessie Bernard, pointed out that in the average marriage, both partners ascribed responsibility for the happiness or failure of the relationship to the woman.

Popular culture and pop psychology reflect this trend. Every few years, a new spate of books comes forth, purporting to pinpoint at last what's really wrong with women. The message given by each of these books and experts is that if women would just heed their advice and adjust themselves accordingly, all would be well. We would be loved, successful, good mothers, have it all. So in the past twenty years we've had assertiveness training, the Total Woman, the Cinderella Complex, smart women making foolish choices or acting like superwoman when we were merely mortal. In 1986, we've got *Loving Too Much*.

But where is the book "Men Who Love Too Little?" Where are the burgeoning support and therapy groups for men who are willing to exploit and use, who put off intimacy? As with the psychiatrists of two decades ago, who wrote of the "Wife-Beater's Wife" because they could not get the abusers to sit down and be studied, it is far simpler to preach to victims; they have already been taught that they are the cause of the problem anyway. The risk is that the woman is labeled as "sick", "addicted to pain" (to use author Robin Norwood's own terminology); the pathology is placed within the individual woman, the responsibility for making everything different is once again laid in her lap.

Norwood is describing a problem that does exist; the resonance of this book in the lives of many women cannot be denied. But as with any problem how you call it may depend upon how you see it. I would place the source of the problem that Norwood is describing in cultural sexism, not in defective women who love too much.

April/May Networking Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Sexual Assault Task Force Mtg. 4 p.m. WSU Women's Center	2	3	4
5	6 ATVP Training 7 pm CUB B-11, 13	7 Women's Center Program 12:30 Who We Are 9 pm K-House, WSU	8	9 Women's Network 5:00 Alex's Restaurant	10	11
12	13 ATVP Training 7 pm CUB B-11,13	14 Women's Center Program 12:30 Who We Are 9 pm K-House, WSU	15 Sexual Assault Task Force Mtg. 4 pm WSU Women's Center	16	17	18
19 Easter Sunday	20 ATVP Training 7 pm CUB B-11,13	21 Women's Center Program 12:30 Who We Are 9 pm K-House, WSU	22	23	24	25
26 April 26 - May 2 National Victim Rights Week Theme: "Victimization: A Common Bond" Daylight Saving Time Begins	27	28 Women's Center Program 12:30 Who We Are 9 pm K-House, WSU	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6 Good-bye for summer/good luck to graduating seniors Potluck, 12:30	7	8	9

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

WASHINGTON STATE NOW CONFERENCE: This year the conference will be held in Pullman April 24—26 and the theme is "Women and Politics in the Post—Reagan Era." Workshops, all of which have a common objective of providing concrete information and strategies, will include: How PACS (Political Action Committees) Work, How To Run For Office and Manage a Campaign, The Feminization of Poverty, Women and the Law, The Impact of Reagan's Judicial Appointments and five others that address concerns related to NOW and the theme. Registration is \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non—members. Call the YWCA at 335-3916. This number is Pullman NOW's official message phone.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION: This year's conference is being held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 24—28. The theme "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment" is on the intersection of race and gender.

BIG GAINERS (taken from *Graduating Engineer*, Feb 1987)

Last year marked "a historic milestone," in the words of a Bureau of Labor Statistics official quoted by *The New York Times*. For the first time, the Bureau's figures showed more women in professional jobs than men.

BLS classifies some 50 occupations as professions—including teaching, nursing and library work, in which women have long been more numerous. But there are now more female statisticians, editors and psychologists as well. And while such fields as medicine and law—and engineering—are still predominantly male, female inroads into them are partly responsible for women passing men in the professions overall.

On the educational front, not only has the percentage of women going to college almost doubled during the past two decades, but women now constitute 52% of college enrollments.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER: It is hard to believe that one more school year is almost completed. It seems we were just writing the November newsletter and now we are doing the last one until next September. Time must fly when you're.... It has been a good year for us at the Women's Center. We have made many presentations about our services and about topics of particular concern to women and children. We have updated, cleaned out, and added to our subjectresource files. We have computerized our community service and resource lists making it easier and faster to help individuals find their way through a maze of sometimes confusing information. We have counseled with many, referred hundreds, and kept the welcome mat out and clean. Our doors will be open until May 29 and then closed for the months of June and July. Our telephones are answered in the summer months by Student Advisory Services who usually know where to find us in cases of emergencies. Thank you, our friends, for another good and successful year. We hope to see many of you at our April programs and the May potluck and in the fall. To those of you who are moving onto another place and another phase in your lives, don't forget to stop in and say hello when you are back visiting. We won't forget you, you have touched and enriched our lives in different ways; we have tried also to enrich yours.

24 HOUR QUIET DORMS: This fall semester the University of Idaho will be opening two 24 hour quiet dorms, one for men and one for women. There will be between 85—110 spaces available in each dorm with both single and double rooms. If you, your students or friends are interested, call Housing at 885-6571. These dormitories are available for undergraduates, graduate students, returning students, married students who have returned for one or two years without their spouses or any other student desiring an on campus quiet living situation.



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