

University of Idaho Women's Center

corner of Idaho and Line streets 885-6616

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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.

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

"Those who Profess to favor freedom yet deprecate agitation are those who want crops without tilling the soil. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the roar of its mighty waters. Power concedes nothing without demand. It never did and it never will."

(Mobilize for Women's Lives)

MARCH 1991

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

MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This year our local theme for Women's History Month is Idaho women. We are celebrating this month with programs about the difficulty of writing inclusive history (one must make a concerted effort even to begin to accomplish that), programs about racial and ethnic minorities within Idaho and a dramatic reading. We hope you will join us for some or all of these programs. It sounds exciting to us and hope that you will stop by, learn and enjoy.

March 5
 Tuesday

SEARCHING FOR WOMEN IN IDAHO HISTORY: CARLOS SCHWANTES, UI History Professor, will discuss the problems of writing an inclusive history, particularly in Idaho. Dr. Schwantes' book, *In Mountain Shadow: An History of Idaho* will be published soon.

March 6
 Wednesday

JAPANESE INTERNMENT, IN IDAHO AND THE UNITED STATES: TINA KAGI, whose grandfather was interned at Minidoka, Idaho, will discuss the Japanese internment during World War II. The discussion will have emphasis on how the internment has affected today's Japanese/American women, men and families.

March 12
 Tuesday

LIFE FOR THE COEUR D'ALENE INDIAN WOMAN: DIANNE ALLEN, A UI Graduate and resident of the Coeur d'Alene reservation will discuss what life is like for the women of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. She will give a brief historical overview of life prior to the influx of white settlers and will discuss the impact a meeting of two cultures has had in shaping the dual roles held by many Coeur d'Alene women today.

March 13
 Wednesday

THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD: KIM BOUCHARD, a Graduate Student in the Theater Art Department, and friends from the Theater Art Department will give dramatic readings from *Thousand Pieces of Gold*, a biographical novel about Lalu Nathoy, later known as Polly Bemis. Sold into slavery as a girl in China, later was brought to America and eventually homesteaded on the River of No Return in North Central Idaho. A woman of rare courage and spirit.

SPRING BREAK MARCH 18-22, 1991

March 26
 Tuesday

CHINESE IN NORTHERN IDAHO 1880-1910: PRISCILLA WEGARS, an archaeologist who is a doctoral candidate in History, will discuss the history of Chinese people in Northern Idaho during the years of 1880 to 1910. She will share her experience of excavating archaeological sites in Moscow where Chinese artifacts were unearthed.

March 27
 Wednesday

IMAGES OF WOMEN IN THE 1950'S: DR. KATHERINE AIKEN, professor of History, will discuss images of women in the 1950's in North Idaho using the Bunker Hill Strike of 1960 that fanned the flames of the era's communism scare as a case study. Join us for one more of Dr. Aiken's informational and inspiring discussions.

April 2
 Tuesday

GENDER: THE ENDURING PARADOX: This video by the Smithsonian Institution examines gender differences by interviewing scholars, children, teachers and others. It presents dramatic readings, poetry and dance. A friend of mine said this was one of few programs that he had seen about gender differences that did not make him feel defensive about being a man.

April 3
 Wednesday

"THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS WOMEN'S WORK": A half hour video by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor examines women's roles in the work force from the European migration to America up to the present time.

WE KNOW THE TYPE ON THE NEWSLETTER IS SMALL. WE HAVE RECORDED IT ON TAPE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A SIGHT IMPAIRMENT. LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO USE THE TAPE AND WE WILL SEND IT TO YOU.

WHAT IS WOMEN'S HISTORY: Multicultural women's history takes a bold new look at all that's gone before and tells the story of our nation's past from a new perspective. It does not rewrite history; but it does make very different judgements about what is important.

As it has been traditionally considered, history has focused on political, military, and economic leaders and events. This approach has virtually excluded women, people of color, and the mass of America's ordinary citizens. To the children of those ignored groups, history has come to be seen as remote and lifeless, a tale having little bearing on their lives. By expanding the focus of history to include the stories of women's lives, whether they reflect everyday experiences or their roles in the major events of our nation's history, we gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of history.

Women's history approaches the past with a wide-angle lens, taking a much wider vision of what was going on in any given time period. In addition to the activities of government and military entities in the public sphere, we also look at the private sphere, at the ongoing life situations of people from all walks of life, people just like ourselves and our own families. By so doing, we focus attention on the crossroads where the two spheres meet and interact with one another. It is here, throughout our history, that individual women have emerged as community leaders to address unmet needs, organize for the common good, and fight social injustice.

The theme for National Women's History Month 1991, "*Nurturing Tradition, Fostering Change*," (our theme narrows it to Idaho) honors women at the interactive crossroads between the public and private spheres. For centuries, women have preserved cultural traditions and family unity within the private sphere, and, because of their abiding concern for future generations, have often stepped into the public arena to address social and political injustices which affect the quality of life. By nurturing valued traditions and fostering necessary changes, women have contributed much to the development of our unique, pluralistic society. (1991 National Women's History Project)

VISITING WRITER: *March 27, Wed. 7:30, UI Law Building Courtroom:* SANDRA MCPHERSON, Director of Writing and Writer-in-Residence at the University of California-Davis, reads from her many collections of poetry: *Streamers, Elegies for the Red Hot Season, The Year of Our Birth, Radiation, Patron Happiness.*

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING (OR NOT SAYING) ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF "OUTING": Outing - radical, arrogant, a disturbance of the peace - is regarded the way any act of a militant minority is: as an offense by those comfortable with the status quo, as an act of liberation by those aggrieved. According to the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, attacks on gay men and women in the New York area increased 122 percent during the first five months of 1990, and these are only the most extreme acts inflicted on homosexuals. Still, outing is a hard, cold solution that champions a victimized group by victimizing an individual within that group. It would be a

better world if people weren't ashamed to come out of the closet, if the news media didn't abet hetero masquerades, if sexual preference mattered to no one. It's hard to see how outing is making this a better world. (*SPY Magazine, Oct. 1990, #19 of the "100 most annoying, alarming and appalling people, places and things of 1990."*)

ATHENA: Tuesday, March 5 will be the next meeting. Dene Thomas will discuss her experiences at the Bryn Mawr Summer Institute. Meeting will be held at the Sweet Avenue House. Social Hour is at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 and meeting at 7:15.

NORTH WEST WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP: The annual membership drive for the North West Women's Studies Association (NWWSA) is going on currently. The NWWSA is composed of members from seven states; Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Oregon, and Washington. It is organized exclusively for educational purposes and is incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. NWWSA is devoted to promoting and improving women's studies in the member states. Its goals are 1) to unite those involved in community service such as health collectives, bookstores and shelters with teachers, scholars and students of women's studies and 2) to provide a realistic yet comprehensive understanding of human behavior and culture through the elimination of sex and race bias. Services include regional conferences and symposia, support for regional participation in the National Women's Studies Association, transportation scholarships for low income women to attend regional and national conferences and the *Northwest Women's Report*, a quarterly newsletter. Dues are based on ability to pay. The minimum membership is \$3.00, although no one is denied membership because of financial inability. Membership rates for individuals are \$.50 per \$1000 of family unit income and for organizations are \$.50 per \$1000 of annual budget. Membership forms are available at the Women's Center. Stop by or call 5-6616.

NORTHWEST WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE: A seven state conference entitled *Living in the Margins: Class, Race, and Gender* will be held on the WSU campus April 19-21. A number of prominent women in the fields of social science, political science, community activism, writing, arts, and music will be presenting ideas and work. Some of the featured speakers are Bylye Y. Avery of the National Black Women's Health Project in Atlanta; Barbara Booher, Superintendent of Custer Battlefield National Monument; Dolores Huerta, co-founder and First Vice President of the United Farm Workers of America; Valerie Miner, award winning novelist and Nellie Wong, poet and political activist. Odetta, American folk music legend and civil rights advocate will perform at the Friday night concert on April 19. There will be a Powwow, the 1991 Pah-loots-pu, on Saturday, April 20 from 1 pm to midnight. This conference is important for any person who has ever experienced living in the margins or who is interested in the subject. For more information on the speakers, sessions, and cultural events, call or drop by

MARCH 1991 NETWORKING CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 NTS Brown Bag 11:30 to 1:30 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Women's Center Program 12:30 Athena 6:00 p.m. * Ward | 6 Women's Center Program 12:30 IPEA 6:30 Eedaho Rm. | 7 Movie 3:00 to 5:00 | 8 NTS Brown Bag 11:30 to 1:30 Mardi Gras | 9 Mardi Gras |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Women's Center Program 12:30 | 13 Women's Center Program 12:30 | 14 Movie 3:00 to 5:00 | 15 NTS Brown Bag 11:30 to 1:30 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 SPRING BREAK | 19 SPRING BREAK | 20 SPRING BREAK | 21 SPRING BREAK | 22 SPRING BREAK | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Women's Center Program 12:30 | 27 Women's Center Program 12:30 | 28 Movie 3:00 to 5:00 | 29 NTS Brown Bag 11:30 to 1:30 | 30 31 |

* Michelle Ward's recital, 7:00 p.m. School of Music

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

the Women's Resource and Research Center in Cub B-19-B or call 335-6830. We also have application forms at the UI Women's Center.

A \$5 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: It wasn't exactly a call for secession, but the citizens of Ann Arbor, Michigan, declared independence when they claimed their college town as a "Zone of Reproductive Freedom." Approved by a two to one margin last spring, the city charter amendment follows the letter-but not the spirit-of any state law restricting abortion.

Under Ann Arbor guidelines, the maximum fine for an illegally performed abortion will be \$5. But a city official who tattles to state authorities about illegally performed procedures faces a \$500 fine or a 90-day prison sentence.

The revolution is limited, however. The amendment can't help women who lost Medicaid funding in a state referendum last year. And a further test is likely over a state parental consent bill that may be passed later this year over Governor James Blanchard's veto. Theoretically, Ann Arbor would be the one place where teenagers could get abortions with little hassle. Realistically, court precedent dictates that state laws overrule local initiatives.

What ever its legal viability, the amendment has already had unforeseen benefits. The initiative prompted most city council candidates to take public positions on abortion, a first for local legislators and an effective way of "tracking the positions of those who might eventually run for higher office" says Carol King, who is executive director of the Michigan affiliate of NARAL.

The amendment also prompted some timid pro-choicers to speak out. Customers at a local candy store began to get pro-choice petitions along with their peanut brittle.

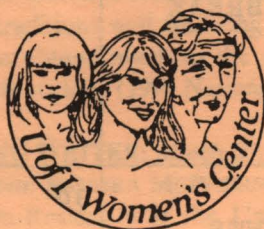
While applauding Ann Arbor's efforts, national pro-choice groups, like NOW and NARAL, are keeping their distance. But the sponsor of the amendment doesn't worry about garnering national support: "For this to work as a citizen's activity, the guidance can't come from the top. (*Ms. Magazine, September 1990, Premier Issue 1990*)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATIVE PINS: We are Idaho pins, pictured below, and distributed by Idaho Governor's Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday task force 1991 Celebration are on sale now at the Women's Center. The pins sale for \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for others.



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