

WOMEN'S HISTORY 'ABSENT' FROM SCHOOL: If schools' purchases of women's history teaching materials are a valid indicator, our American school system is even more prejudiced against females than was shown by the recent American Association of University Women study, "How Schools Short-Change Girls." At all levels and in every way --ranging from textbooks to administration and student attitudes--bias, neglect, and hostility characterize much of the female educational experience. "Outright bias against girls and women is prevalent in many schools," said Mary Ruthsdotter, co-founder of the non-profit National Women's History Project (NWHP), which is the major supplier of women's history curriculum materials for grades K through 12.

"Unfortunately," Ruthsdotter said, "only 15% of the nation's schools currently invest anything at all in teaching women's history. Among those that do, the average purchase is only \$40, and that is for the entire school."

Ruthsdotter estimates that less than one in six of America's 105,000 schools purchase materials to teach women's history. "Even if the growth of the past five years continues through 1997, the cumulative total spent for women's history materials for all American schools will add up to less than \$80 per school site. Imagine that! That's equivalent to the cost of shoulder pads bought for just one high school football player."

"Both girls and boys need positive female role models," according to Ruthsdotter, "and the NWHP does its best to offer every school the needed materials. It doesn't make any more sense to leave out stories about women's accomplishments in social studies, science or language arts classes than it does to leave out half the numbers in math classes."

"It's our perception that the inclusion of women's history is teacher-generated rather than administrationgenerated. However, despite all our best efforts, most classroom teachers are still unaware of the range of women's history materials that are available," Ruthsdotter said, "Concerned parents and others can ask for a copy of the NWHP's 48-page catalog to personally deliver to their children's teachers or school librarians." Request the catalog at NWHP, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492, or call (707)838-6000.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE: Challenging Assumptions, Inspiring Change, March 3-6, 1993, in Seattle. Call NAWE, 202-659-9330 for more information.

MISSING BOOKS: The Women's Center is missing a number of books. If you have any that you have had checked out for more than two weeks, please return them. At the minimum, please make sure they are returned by the end of this semester.

LOST BUT NOT FOUND: The book, The Names, A memoir by N. Scott Momaday, was borrowed, from the Center; it does not have a library pocket and card. It belongs to the director. Please return it. STUDENT SPEAK-OUT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: Students and others are invited to come voice your concerns, opinions, and questions regarding human rights in our community. Listeners: Dr. Harold Godwin, Vice President for Student Affairs; Bill Brown, Moscow City Chief of Police; Mark Leeper (or his representative), Mayor's Task Force on Human Rights. Moderated by Paul Muneta. For more information, call Betsy Thomas at the Women' Center, 885-6616. This is a program from Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week that had to be re-scheduled.

MONITORING COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST COALITION AGAINST MALICIOUS HARASSMENT: During the Oct. 1, 1990 through Sept. 30, 1991 reporting year, 545 incidents of harassment were compiled from the 5 state region. The Monitoring Committee is in the process of gathering and reorganizing the data into calendar year format, but the totals are as yet incomplete. It is estimated that the total number of reported incidents in 1992 will be between 800 and 900. Currently, the total stands at 792, and the breakdown by state is as follows: Idaho--33, Montana--2, Oregon--474, Washington--282, Wyoming--1. The marked differences between states reflect the fact that at this time Oregon has a very effective official bias crime data collection system in place; thus, the data for Oregon is more complete than that from the other states.

ASIAN AMERICANS FACE EXTENSIVE DISCRIMINATION: The following is a brief description of the 233 page comprehensive study by the Commission on Civil Rights. This study illustrates how Asian Americans suffer widely the pain and humiliation of bigotry and violence. They also confront institutional discrimination in numerous domains, such as places of work and schools, in accessing public services, and in the administration of justice. The Commission's report calls for strong moral and political leadership to deal with such complex and deeply rooted problems as bigotry and violence, including murder, that occur with alarming frequency.

Blame for the bigotry and violence, the report contends, must be shared by the schools for not teaching about the histories, experiences, and contributions of Asian Americans, by the news media for giving too little attention to the hate crimes directed at Asian Americans, and by political leaders for lashing out at Japan as the cause of the country's economic problems.

The Commission cites three key contributors to the civil rights problems facing Asian Americans: stereotyping, cultural and language barriers, and inadequate access to the political process.

Copies of the report are available free, so long as the supply lasts, form the Commission's Clearinghouse Division, Room 709, 1121 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20425.

RECYCLING? When you recycle your cans, paper etc. please remember the Women's Center has an account with the Recycling Center. When you drop off your materials you can tell them to credit the Women's Center account. We thank you and the earth thanks you!

MARCH 1993 NETWORKING CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Noon Program 12:30 ATHENA 6pm	3 *LWV 12 noon Noon Prog 12:30 National Education	4 Associat Conferen		6 Gov Ann Richards in Boise Women in le 36
7	8 **LSC 7pm +INT'L WOMEN'S DAY 7pm Borah SUB	9 Noon Program 12:30	10 Noon Program 12:30 *LWV 12 noon ++AAUW 7pm Pullm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
S	P	R	. I	N	G	
		В	R *LWV 12 noon	E	A	K
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Lesbian Supper Club 7pm	Noon Program 12:30 *LCHRTF 7 pm	Noon Program 12:30 *LWV 12 noon		PFLAG Lewiston	
28	29	30 Noon Program 12:30	31			
			*LWV 12 noon			

For more information about these events, see this newsletter or call the Women's Center, 885-6616 *League of Women Voters, 12-1 pm, EE-DA-HO room, SUB

**Lesbian Supper Club, the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, 7 pm. For information call 335-6830.

***Latah County Human Rights Task Force, 7 pm.; EE-DA-HO room, SUB, Topic: disability rights

+International Women's Day Celebration--See Notice

++American Association of University Women, 7 pm, Pullman. Call Jama Sebald, 885-6312, for more information. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION: Monday, March 8, 7pm in the Borah Theater, features Esther Meajah, a political refugee from Kenya now living in Tacoma. Those attending are asked to wear traditional dress from their home countries and bring music tapes to share at the reception in the Gold Room at 8pm. Sponsored by Amnesty International, the Women's Center, Coalition for Central America, the International Student's Association. For more information, call Holly Custard at 882-9012.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OFFERS NEW MENOPAUSE SERVICES: Planned Parenthood of Spokane and Whitman Co. has recently begun providing menopause services. The program is designed to meet the health needs of women who are making the transition from a reproductive stage to a non-reproductive stage of life with a focus on wellness. Both hormonal and non-hormonal approaches to the management of menopausal symptoms and the prevention of osteoporosis are employed. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 334-5411.

IN HER LIFETIME, A WOMAN'S RISK FOR: for: Breast cancer - 1 in 9; Being a victim of domestic violence -1 in 3.3; Being sexually assaulted or raped - 1 in 3; Having an osteoporosis related fracture after age 50 - 1 in 5 (This high risk applies to women of Northern European extraction; African-American and Hispanic women have a much lower risk of brittle bones.) Sources: Amer. Cancer Assoc., FBI, National Coalition on Domestic Violence, Dept. of Preventive Medicine, University of Iowa)

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WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN PATRIOT?: Perhaps one of the most confusing aspects of the hate movement is the so-called "Christian Patriot" contingent. These people talk of international conspiracies and the Trilateral Commission. They say the income tax is unconstitutional and that the federal reserve is illegal.

They do not generally say that they believe people of color and women do not have the same rights as white Christian men. They do not generally point out that they believe Judaism represents the church of the anti-Christ.

Nevertheless, the root of the Christian Patriot philosophy is racist and anti-Semitic. Ultimately, these people believe that white males derive their rights from a divine source and that others in our society have their rights granted to them by white men. The natural conclusion is that white men can take away the rights of some in our society, but the rights of white men are divinely protected and cannot be abridged. These groups don't wear sheets; they don't parade around in Nazi uniforms; they don't shave their heads and tattoo their arms. They don't parade their racism; they deny it. They don't talk about the "evil Jews"; they talk about the "world banking conspiracy".

In many ways, these groups are more of a threat than the overt racist organizations because they recruit and convert the unsuspecting. Their bigotry is masked by denial and code words. However, in the final analysis, there is little difference between them and the Aryan Nation or the Klan. They are every bit as frightening. (Reprinted with permission from the Montana Human Rights Network News)

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