



WOMEN'S CENTER

208-885-6616

Corner of Idaho and Line Streets

Vol. 26, No. 1

August-September 1997

Planting the Field of Dreams

by Susan Palmer

If I chose one year in my entire lifetime as "the year of the woman," I would probably choose 1972. That year the U.S. Senate sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification; Shirley Chisholm was the first black to run for president; Ms. Magazine premiered; the first female FBI agents were sworn in; the U.S. Navy appointed its first female admiral; Title IX was enacted; the Toledo Troopers' women's football team dazzled my hometown; and here at the University of Idaho, the Women's Center opened.

Last week, a young female reporter came in to cover the Women's Center's 25th anniversary and interview us about our history and celebration plans. Clearly this reporter was born well after 1972, so we provided a context for that historical period by identifying specific events that took place nationally and locally that set the stage for the U of I to embrace a Women's Center.

I mentioned to the reporter that we share this 25th anniversary with others. For example, Ms. Magazine was born that year with a triumphant preview issue that flooded their offices with subscription requests. Title IX, the even more wide-reaching landmark in education, was enacted. The reporter's face drew a blank, "Title IX?"

It occurred to me after she left that, although she didn't know it, Title IX was as meaningful for women's education and athletic opportunities as the G. I. Bill of 1944 was for returning veterans. Between 1945 and 1952, the federal government spent more than \$13.5 billion on veterans' educational benefits—the beginning of large-scale funding of mass higher education by federal and state governments. This turning point propelled countless working class veterans and their families into the middle class.

Likewise, Title IX opened similar doors for females at all levels of our educational system by banning sex discrimination in education. However, one stroke of the presidential pen on that historic legislation did not erase the inequities and obstacles women had or would still

experience.

Although hardly in the arena of athletics, as a child I accompanied my father to the local bowling alley weekly to keep score and watch him and his team bowl. I easily developed an affinity for the game. At the start of my last year of high school in 1972, I mustered the courage to approach the high school bowling coach about joining the bowling team. The high school bowling team was, and had always been, exclusively male.

Although I paid no attention, the prior spring Title IX had been enacted. There was tremendous media coverage of girls attempting to join little league teams of all varieties, and litigation was commonly the only means by which girls were successful-and even then, not always. In that climate, the bowling coach was undoubtedly savvy enough to know better than to say, "No...no girls allowed." Instead, he asked, "Is your average above a 165?" It wasn't, and according to him one had to have a minimum average of 165 to join the team. That effectively eliminated most boys in my high school, and (to my knowledge) all the girls. Bowling, like golf, is a handicap game, but I was not quick-witted enough to point that out, and I left my conversation with him defeated and dispirited. All I knew was that door was shut.

Even though I chuckle at associating bowling with athletics, my experience paralleled countless other girls who wanted to play soccer, baseball, basketball, and even football. In retrospect, it occurs to me that after that door closed, I psychologically dropped out of sporting and physical recreation activity for much of my adult life until recently. Despite everything, I bowled a 190 game last week.

When I was in graduate school, I marvelled at a younger colleague who told her story of being the first girl ever to make the cut for her high school varsity baseball team. That was after Title IX. Over a score of boys did not make the cut, and most of them taunted her with mean-spirited accusations that she had taken their rightful place on the team. Yet, when she stepped up to bat, the opposing team's outfield would move in close to the infield and...WHACK!...her ball would fly so deep into the outfield that she would drive more runs home

than anyone.

Coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Title IX, I was determined to break my own personal sport and recreation barrier. With some reservation, I learned to golf. My image of golf is mixed. In my view, there are elite country club golfers, and elite-wannabe public course golfers.

I am conflicted about the sport itself, just as I am conflicted merely by living in first world privilege. It is difficult to justify the meticulous grooming and acreage required...not to mention the water...just to support the game of golf. After I viewed the comical documentary Roger and Me by Michael Moore, I was hard pressed to shake the picture of the foursome of country club women on the golf course discussing Flint, Michigan's welfare recipients. Although General Motors had closed several local factories leaving over 30% of the population unemployed or on welfare, the leisure class female foursome insisted the laidoff GM workers were "just too lazy" to work. The documentary never revealed if any of the foursome ever had to have a job outside the home or a life outside the country club.

On the other hand, golf is challenging, requires skill, and at the very least, a good walk. It has also become more accessible in the last 25 years. Increasingly, women and people of color find their way to the links.

Title IX, though, isn't confined to playing fields. It also applies to academic fields. The changes may be more pronounced for women in sports than in academics, and the camera lens is more often focused there than in the classroom.

Although I don't know how many federal dollars have been earmarked to comply with Title IX, like the G.I. Bill. those dollars are well spent. As for the reporter, I can't expect that someone for whom Title IX was ever present would fully understand its significance. Just as I wouldn't expect that someone whose entire experience is in peace time could fully comprehend living in the midst of war. Perhaps if she reads this column, or talks to her mother, aunt, or grandmother, she'll gain an appreciation for what she may otherwise take for granted. It wasn't always this way.

No Rest for the Wicked

Dear Sisters,

Greetings after a long, strange summer that was both brief and interminable. Is it just me or does the university transform itself into West World every summer? The campus is virtually unpopulated except for one or two men in cowboy hats walking stiffly from building to building. I kept expecting to turn a corner and bump into Yul Brynner. It was quite eerie.

I hope you have all been well. By and large, I have spent my summer days in air-conditioned comfort, working on my memoirs. (They desperately need revising. Far too much Margaret Thatcher, and not nearly enough Erica Jong.) Periodically, though, I've unshackled myself from the writing desk and wandered around this campus West World, pondering the great mysteries of life. One of those mysteries was the Kibbie Dome's new paint job. Day after day, I watched work crews from the Idaho Department of Corrections scale the Kibbie Dome on their death-defying scaffolds. As the old saying goes, I love work—I could watch it all day. Still, I must admit that I was shocked and stunned by what I learned about these work crews' endeavors.

Ladies, the Kibbie Dome's multi-colored paint job is deliberate. For the past five years, I've been convinced that the gray and black squares were replacements for missing mustard-colored blocks! Quelle surprise, as the French would say. (You didn't know your Auntie spoke French, did you?) I haven't been so shocked since someone told me that the UI's logo is in fact a small circle of U's and I's and not a graphic representation of Malcolm McDowell's right eye in A Clockwork Orange. I really must get new glasses.

Also in the can't-believe-what-I'm-seeing department, I read in the July 23rd Argonaut that the Idaho Department of Corrections work crews were paid the princely sum of fifty cents per hour to paint the Dome. The rest of their earnings were returned to the state to cover their "room and board" at the penitentiary. Being a curious sort of gal, your Auntie has compiled a list of what just one hour's labor on the Kibbie Dome might buy the industrious prisoner:

- 1 tampon from the Morrill Hall vending machine;
- 1 soda from a campus drink machine, if you scrounge an extra dime off a fellow inmate;
- 1 ride on the Woody Woodpecker machine at the Wal-Mart;
- 1 copy of the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, in which you can read about the exploitation of prison labor in the third world.

Fifty cents per hour. That's what teenaged babysitters used to earn back in 1962. This list gave me a turn, I can tell you, but that was before I looked up the word penitentiary in the dictionary. Quelle relief! It springs from exactly the same root as the word pension, which is French for boarding house. Ladies, I cannot tell you how much better I feel knowing that penitentiary is just Idaho slang for cheap hotel.

Come the revolution I'll be,

Auntie Establishment

Twenty-five Dollars for Twenty-Five Years

The University of Idaho Women's Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary! We invite you to join us to commemorate our quarter-century history, celebrate our growth and achievements, and explore our role in the new millennium. This year only, to augment our regular programming with special presentations and events for the 25th anniversary celebration, we are soliciting contributions of \$25 for our 25 years.

Without a programming budget, we have managed to offer diverse presentations by predominantly local volunteers who have generously offered their time and talent. This year, in addition to observing Women's Center traditions like the annual mouth-watering Thanksgiving Potluck, educational programs of particular interest to women, and the more recent Art Fair featuring local women artists, we are sponsoring special anniversary-related events. For example, we have scheduled an anniversary banquet on October 28, where we hope to join together with many of the women and men who were instrumental in the founding and success of our center. (See this newsletter for registration information.)

To participate in this campaign and join the list of 25th anniversary supporters, mail your check (payable to *UI Women's Center*) to the *Women's Center*, *University of Idaho*, *Moscow*, *ID 83844-1064*. Contributions are welcomed throughout our year of celebration.

As a friend of the Women's Center, we look forward to your continued support. We also hope you will find time to visit and help us celebrate over the next year and beyond. Your generosity and support are deeply appreciated.



She University of Idaho

BROWN-BAG LUNCH PROGRAMS WOMEN'S CENTER

Free! Public Welcome

12:30 p.m.

Women's Center Lounge

August-September 1997

885-6616

SEP 3 Wednesday

25TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER 10:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments as we kick off the celebration of our quarter-century history. Over the summer, we began compiling articles, photos, and other historical artifacts that mark our achievements, accomplishments, and controversies over the last 2½ decades. These materials will be available for you to peruse in the Women's Center Lounge, including a timeline and logo exhibit among the displays. As the year progresses, we will continue to piece together highlights of our history to present to you in our forthcoming newsletters and at our anniversary banquet. We welcome your comments about how we are doing, and your recommendations for improved programming and services. Everyone is welcome to the open house, so bring along a friend!

SEP 9 Tuesday **ATHENA'S TRADITIONAL OUTDOOR PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION** ATHENA is an association to represent the interests of women faculty and professional staff at the University of Idaho. Its first meeting of the year will be a reception from 4:00 ~ 6:00 p.m., at the home of President Bob Hoover and his wife and Athena member, Jeanne Hoover. As the semester opens, faculty and professional staff women will gather in an informal setting to meet one another and the president. This is a particularly good opportunity for new staff and faculty to become acquainted with their female colleagues. You are welcome to join Athena (dues are \$15 annually) by sending a check to acting treasurer, Ruth Funabiki, Law Library, campus zip 2324.

SEP 10 Wednesday **PARADISE RIDGE** Local author and UI English Department Lecturer, LESA LUDERS, reads from her new non-fiction book, *Paradise Ridge*, that deals with the stroke she suffered in December of 1992. Don't miss this opportunity to preview Lesa's candid and remarkable story. This yet-to-be-published work in progress diverges from her previous novel, *Lady God* (New Victoria Publishers, 1995), a courageous and hopeful book about a complex and disturbing mother-daughter relationship, and the daughter's journey to heal. Luders' short stories have appeared in numerous literary magazines. Copies of her first novel, *Lady God*, will be available for purchase.

SEP 17 Wednesday **JULIA WARD HOWE'S EXPERIMENTS WITH "FORBIDDEN" WRITING** In the 1840s, Julia Ward Howe—later to be beloved as the author of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*—decided to vent some of the frustration and confusion generated by her marriage by composing a long narrative featuring a hermaphrodite as her main character. Speculation about this unpublished manuscript forms the basis of a chapter in GARY WILLIAMS' (UI English Department) recently-finished book about Howe. He will describe this work and some early Howe poetry from her first published book, *Passion-Flowers*.

SEP 23 Tuesday HOSPICE: A SHARED JOURNEY Located at Gritman Hospital, Hospice of the Palouse is part of Palouse Health Care Corporation. STEPHEN SIMKO, volunteer coordinator of Hospice of the Palouse will share a brief video that cogently explains the hospice experience, featuring patients, families, and hospice workers. Simko will explore cultural practices, particularly in a death-denying culture, with regard to death and dying. Hospice materials will be available, and Stephen will field whatever questions you bring to this thoughtful program.

SEP 25 Thursday "In a League of Our Own" Staff Appreciation and Information Fair Visit the Women's Center table at this annual Staff Affairs Committee-sponsored event in the Student Union Ballroom from 11:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m. Our staff joins other offices and groups to share with you the services we provide for staff members. As we continue our year-long 25th anniversary celebration, we will display our timeline and logo exhibits. Like last year, we will give away another prize! Stop by our table to enter your name in the drawing, and find out what's new at the Women's Center! The 1997 University of Idaho Factbook reports that 95% of clerical employees at the UI are female. Look for special programming in the spring that addresses particular issues for clerical staff.

Fall of '72 Gave Context to Women Center's Opening

by Kenton Bird

The year was 1972. George McGovern was challenging Richard Nixon for re-election. The Watergate burglary had occurred the previous spring but never became a major campaign issue that year. Idaho State University President Bud Davis and Congressman James McClure were in a tight race for a U.S. Senate seat from Idaho.

In Moscow, the legal drinking age was 19, and the popular student watering holes included the Rathskeller (now Waterman's Floor Covering) and Mort's Club (now Howard Hughes Appliance). Three buildings were under construction at the western edge of the University of Idaho campus: the Performing Arts Center (now the Hartung Theatre), the College of Law, and the west wing of the Agricultural Sciences Building.

I came to Moscow in August of 1972 to enroll at the UI. That semester, the Women's Center opened on the first floor of the Administration Building. I wasn't aware of its existence, however, until spring semester. As a cub reporter for the Argonaut, I was assigned to cover a noon-time presentation on the results of a study comparing salaries of male and female faculty.

The resulting story appeared on the front page of the Argonaut on Feb. 6, 1973, one of my first bylines in the student paper. The headline read: "Women discriminated against in UI salary scale." I quoted the report's analysis of the disparity in salaries: "Although much of the inequity is based on ignorance and social custom, rather than malicious intent, it does not help the women on the faculty and staff get equal treatment as far as salary and promotions are concerned." The creation of the Women's Center in 1972 and its prominent location—across from the President's Office—symbolized the beginning of a change in attitude toward women on campus. I commend former UI President Ernest Hartung for his vision in helping to establish the center and his other efforts to improve the university's treatment of women.

One measure of progress is in the increase in numbers of women students. When I was a freshman, men outnumbered women in the student body by nearly 2 to 1. Today the ratio, is closer to 50-50. I'm especially pleased to see the number of women students in disciplines that had been almost exclusively male, such as law, engineering and natural resources. Idaho's economy is well served by a more diverse work force, and the UI has certainly contributed to that in the past 25 years.

As a reporter and editor for the Argonaut, the Idahonian, and it successor, the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, I covered numerous events sponsored by the Women's Center. I found the brown-bag programs and evening presentations to be a source of challenging ideas and provocative discussions.

I congratulate the Women's Center on its 25th anniversary and wish it continued success in the future.

Kenton Bird, a 1976 graduate of the UI, is on the journalism faculty at Colorado State University.

Confession Time

by Sandra Haarsager

It's confession time—I'm one of those wild radical women who spoke from time to time at the Women's Center on the University of Idaho campus, promoting my "liberal" agenda.

My topic the last time?

A salacious one. The image of women (academics call it "gender") in tabloid newspapers. I even carried along some examples to circulate, with covers that talked about Oprah's continuing weight problem and Princess Di's continuing weight problem and Liz Taylor's continuing weight problem, and, well, you get the picture. In the supermarket tabloids, women are punished first for being fat, and second, for violating traditional gender roles.

The style of the tabloids is personal, gossipy, and like too many "legitimate" news operations (especially in Washington, D.C.), they rely on "unnamed" sources supposedly close to the subject at hand. It was the kind of topic that often shows up at the Women's Center—interesting, informational, current, and sometimes controversial.

The programs that preceded mine that particular week included a documentary on the image of women in advertising, followed by one about the image of men. Neither one was kind to advertisers. I wasn't kind to the tabloids or the media either. Is that a "liberal" agenda?

The Women's Center throughout its history occasionally has been the focus of some heat for its programs, branded as the center of liberal activism by those who prefer their activism to have a conservative bent. That there is a fundamental philosophical and personality clash between center defenders and detractors is clear.

Not too long after I presented my last program the center fell victim to what became a sneaky, back-door attack by a student lobbyist to kill the under-funded center through the legislature, in hopes of closing the doors to a group of women who didn't fit a particular mold or held views he abhorred.

The UI Women's Center, this so-called haven for left-leaning, liberal, anti-family females (even lesbians have crossed the threshold) somehow doesn't look the part. Housed in what looks like a converted barracks in the heart of campus, the Women's Center is like a good-sized living room full of old, overstuffed furniture and not very comfortable scarred wooden chairs. Its walls are lined with books that readers may borrow. Sprawling plants climb toward windows, and old posters line the walls above the books.

The programs have been interesting and far-ranging, thanks to the work of talented and dedicated women like Kim Bouchard and Susan Palmer. Such subversive topics as endometriosis, eating disorders, career counseling, women's spirituality, poetry readings, documentaries on women from quilters to factory workers, even concerts have been presented.

The center is open to all (I've even seen men attend programs). Like many open, welcoming, comfortable

places, it is sometimes a haven for those who for one reason or another feel marginalized. Non-traditional students having trouble fitting into campus, ethnic women, gay women have come into the center. So have women like me, old, married subversives who drop in for occasional lunchtime programs and enjoy the discussions they create.

Certainly not all women, not even all feminists, fit into one mold, even the "pro-choice" mold. Many people are uncomfortable with a university program that seems to take an advocacy position pro or con on political initiatives. But to say that the free and open discussion of issues in the wide-ranging programs of the Women's Center reflects some kind of political agenda and ought to be forever stifled is to attack the nature of the university itself.

I can't count how many times ideas, statements and positions have surfaced in discussions at the university that run counter to the way I think the world ought to be run. In fact, they come up every day and some of them I find downright wrongheaded. However, I thought it was the role of those who disagree to engage in some kind of dialog, to argue, to marshal evidence, to dispute, even to find common ground or compromise.

That's the way it's supposed to be at a university—even at the place called the Women's Center.

Sandra Haarsager, is an associate professor in communication at the University of Idaho. She revised this previously published column for our anniversary issue.

Reflections of a 1997 Graduate

by Karen Buta-McCaffrey

As a recent graduate from the University of Idaho, I have many great memories of the Women's Center. The center played a significant role in my education. It was there that I learned so much about people, life and social inclusion. I met people of different races and cultures as well as straight people, gay people, women and men, liberals and conservatives, and Christians and non-Christians. One of the Women's Center policies was that of inclusion of women and minorities and to have respect for all people. I found this to be a welcome relief from

many of my classes. Over time, the Women's Center became an invaluable resource to me because it filled the gaps in my education.

At the beginning of each semester, I looked forward to visiting the Women's Center to say hi to old friends and meet new people. The center was more then a place to meet people and to relax between classes. It was also a place to seek advice from students who were further ahead in their education. Students would offer advice on what classes to take and what to expect from their classes. Students or Women's Center staff were always willing to help with problems. I found this support system enabled me to successfully complete my degree program at the University.

I loved the debates that often cropped up during the course of the year at the Center and I particularly liked the noon programs that addressed a wide variety of topics. The Center was a place to practice what I was learning in the classroom. I could bounce off new ideas and theories with other students. Discussions ranged from the problems with drinking on campus, to date rape, and political issues such as the presidential race, and social issues such as welfare reform. My friends would often try to shoot down my ideas, forcing me to explore all avenues: I would do the same for them. It forced us to scrutinize what we were learning in the classroom. People would often disagree, but it was a safe place to air their opinions.

I want to congratulate the Women's Center on its 25th anniversary celebration. It's a tribute to the thoughtful leadership of Betsy Thomas and to the great staff who helped make the Center such a success. I know that a small, but vocal minority was opposed to the center, but I also saw overwhelming support for the Women's Center from students, faculty, and staff. I also want to thank the University for its willingness to accommodate the Center. I shall always be a proud supporter of the Women's Center.

Karen Buta-McCaffrey is a 1997 University of Idaho graduate and Women's Center regular. She now serves on the board of Sojourners' Alliance, which provides the only local transitional shelter for homeless women and children. She devotes considerable volunteer time to this non-profit organization.

"The Women's Center staff is committed to providing a welcoming environment and a sense of community. Here we offer encouragement to foster personal and professional growth through a network of support and services."

Thank You Supporters of the UI Women's Center 25th Anniversary!

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Savory Moments with Auntie Pasto

Greetings My Culinary Cousins,

I adore celebrations! Celebrations are those infrequent opportunities we have to bring together good people, good food, and good memories. As part of celebrating the UI Women's Center's 25th anniversary, I am compiling a special cookbook called Auntie Pasto's 25th Anniversary Favorite Recipes of the Women's Center Cookbook. (Catchy and clever, eh?) What I need from you is your favorite recipe! If you send in your recipe by October 1, your recipe will be included in the special anniversary cookbook. You will see main entrees, appetizers, desserts, and more, from Women's Center supporters like you. It will be available at the anniversary banquet in October, where I plan to join you to commemorate the achievements and service of this last quarter century.

University of Idaho alumnus John Burlison (1976), is among the most generous Women's Center supporters. In keeping with his character, he has generously shared this delightful black bean salsa recipe.

To share your family recipes with Auntie Pasto, write to: Auntie Pasto, c/o Women's Center, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1064. You can find Auntie Pasto's recipe box on the web. Surf to the UI Women's Center Home Page http://www.uidaho.edu/~wcenter/.

HAPPY DOODLE'S BLACK BEAN SALSA

1 15-oz, can black beans, drained and rinsed

ingredients are mixed. Add the lime juice, and stir just until the juice is mixed in.

1 plum tomato, coarsely chopped

4 cloves of garlic, minced

2 teaspoons (or more) hot chili pepper

¼ t. black pepper, freshly ground

1/2 small white onion, coarsely chopped

1/4 cup fresh cilantro, washed, and patted dry

1 or 2 jalapeno peppers, minced

pinch of salt

1/2 lime, zested and juiced

Reserve ¼ c. beans for garnishing, if desired. Put ½ of the remaining beans in the bowl of a food processor, and process for 3 to 4 seconds. (You do not want to over process.) Remove the processed beans to a mixing bowl. Repeat with the rest of the unreserved beans.

Use the food processor to finely chop the onions, tomatoes, and cilantro, separately. Add each vegetable to the processed beans. Add the garlic, jalapeno peppers, lime zest (minced) and spices to the bean mixture, and stir lightly with a fork until the

Serve this with tortilla chips, or serve over rice, warm it in the microwave, and add some grilled chicken and avocado garnish...it's your kitchen, you decide what kind of damage you can do.



25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WOMEN'S CENTER

Speakers, entertainment, exhibits, and memorabilia!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997 UNIVERSITY INN

No-host social 5:30-6:30 p.m. Banquet 6:30-9:00 p.m.

RSVP by Friday, October 17.

Banquet Registration (\$15 per person)	Check Food Choice		
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Donation to Women's Center Programs \$	17 1 1		100
STATE OF THE STATE	TOTAL ENCLOSED		

No refunds after October 17, substitutions accepted.

Make checks payable to: University of Idaho Women's Center.

Mail registration and payment to: Women's Center, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1064

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 regional communities. There are also items of general interest about women's and men's issues. If you have announcements or information to include in subsequent issues, please let us know. Suggestions for changes, improvements, or additional items are always welcome. Disability access is on the north end of the building through the TAAC. A taped copy of the newsletter is available on request for the visually impaired.

Women's Center

The current staff in 1972:

JILL Anderson earns Ph.T.—"putting husband through"—degree.
Susan Palmer establishes a high school chapter of NOW.
Valerie Russo experiences her "Norma Rae" phase.

Telephone	1-208-885-6616
Fax	1-208-885-6285
E-mail	wcenter@uidaho.edu
Home Page	http://www.uidaho.edu/~wcenter/
Office Hours	8:00 a.m5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday



address correction requested

Thank you, Michael Harkin of Aquaco, for donating safety whistles for distribution at Palousafest. Contact Michael at 882-0164, or e-mail mharkin@nsa.edu., if you would like to order safety whistles. SEPT. 1, 1979 Hazel Johnson named first black Army general. SEPT. 6, 1860 Jane Addams born, founder of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Chicago's Hull House. SEPT. 15, 1963 Four girls killed in the Ku Klux Klan bombing of the 16th Street Baptist / Church Birmingham, Alabama. SEPT. 22, 1997 Autumnal Equinox THEN (1972) Women's Center opens its doors at the University of Idaho where female student enrollment is 33 percent. NOW (1997) Women's Center celebrates its 25th anniversary at the University of Idaho where female student enrollment is 46 percent.

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