

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Newsletter

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The Medical Management of Birth

WHOSE BABY IS IT ANYWAY?

The politics and history of the current medical management of birth and recent challenges to that professional control are examined in a new book by Barbara Katz Rothman, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Baruch College. Rothman, whose interest in women's birthing experiences stems partially from personal roots, namely her desire to have a positive birth experience, has written In Labor: Women and Power in the Birthplace, which will be published by Norton & Company this June. In it she analyzes how the medical profession has succeeded in transforming birth from a normal to a pathological condition which requires its expert care and assistance at virtually every stage. She questions the motivations behind this institutional management of birth and considers the movements which have tried to re-claim birth for women. Ultimately, she expands the discussion to try to reach a concept of womanhood and feminism which includes biology and women's culture. In that context, she explores the interrelationship of gender, roles and biology, defining the strengths and limits of that entanglement, as well as its implications for the family.

Shelly Romalis' edited collection entitled Childbirth, Alternatives to Medical Control (1981, University of Texas), illustrates that other scholars acknowledge the potential significance for women and feminists of the seat of power and control over the birthing experience. Rothman's contribution to that book, an article called "Awake and Aware, or False Consciousness: The Cooption of Childbirth Reform in America," systematically describes the three major historical challenges to medical domination of childbirth: midwifery; the prepared (christened "natural") childbirth movement; and the current home birth movement and the efforts of La Leche League, an organization of breastfeeding mothers. She describes how the first two movements have been coopted, becoming reformist as a result of professional power struggles waged by the generously endowed medical profession and established health care systems in the U.S. Rothman stresses in this analysis how frequently the needs of mothers have been ignored by those organizations vying for control of their care. Rothman points to the home birth movement and La Leche League of breastfeeding mothers as the heartiest challengers to the medical profession thus far; they offer alternatives with the most potential to undercut institutional control of childbirth. Researchers and the media are disseminating information which is beginning to gain popular acceptance for the home birth alternative as studies suggest that home birth can be as safe or safer than hospital births. La Leche League, in emphasizing "mother-wisdom" and presenting a woman-centered model of mothering, explicitly rejects the primacy of medical knowledge and authority. Thus far they have addressed themselves primarily to methods of infant care, which has been less threatening than

any challenges to methods of childbirth. However, as Rothman indicates, it remains to be seen whether La Leche League and the home birth movement will be able to change childbirth ideology and practice and develop viable alternatives to medically managed childbirth to the extent that they have in the area of infant care.

Movements to challenge the medical profession's domination of childbirth in America are unique in that they derive strength and weakness from the make-up of their constituencies. Both feminists and traditionalists have an interest in re-gaining control of childbirth for women, but for very different reasons. Traditionalists see motherhood as women's primary responsibility and seek to increase family control and involvement over reproduction. Feminists, on the other hand, engage in the battle against medical domination as part of their overall effort to secure for women control over their bodies and lives. Given the paleness of many current political movements, Rothman finds even "the uneasy alliance of feminists and traditionalists working against medical domination" (p.171, Rothman in Romalis) encouraging and inspiring. Thus far, she has learned that many traditionalists hold anti-feminist views on issues like abortion and equal rights: NAPPSAC (National Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth), a large umbrella organization, would not even agree to meet only in ERA-ratified states. However, the experience of working with these women is enlightening for feminists and Rothman believes that taking control of the circumstances in which they give birth has made many women feel better about their bodies and their sexuality and has been an empowering experience for them, despite their reluctance to endorse other feminist goals.

The politics of childbirth today illuminates the discrepancy between personal and political gains or individual versus social progress. As Rothman points out, though midwifery and the prepared birth movement have succeeded in vastly improving the birthing experiences of individual women, they have not put a dent in the domination by the medical profession of the management of birth. The Lamaze technique has proven positive for many women who have avoided the formerly traditional experience of giving birth under heavy sedation, restricted by body straps, in a fluorescently lit room. However, most births must still take place in hospitals, midwives are not taught emergency procedures, and Medicaid will pay \$3,000 for a woman's hospital birth while refusing to cover the \$600 necessary for a home birth by a midwife.

Rothman suggests that to challenge the institutions which dominate birth, rather than stopping at the techniques they employ, coalitions should lobby for changes in insurance policies, agitate to secure Medicaid coverage for home births and pressure congresspeople to change the laws and licensing provisions restricting the domain of midwives.



Rothman has explored the political, sociological and economic implications of women's contemporary birthing experiences in the Women and Health Research Group, which she co-coordinates with Mary Brown Parlee and Judith Lorber. In the past, participants in the group, which meets under the auspices of the Center for the Study of Women in Society, have probed attitudes toward women's medical self-help techniques; experiences of women in medical school; and topics in genetic counseling, among other issues. The next meeting will take place Friday, May 21st at 4 PM in the Center. Louise Duval and Chia Ling Kuo will lead the session, which is entitled "Health Care Alternatives in Chinatown." For further information about this session, or to join the Women and Health Research Group mailing list, contact the Center at 212/790-4435.

Notes

THE DYNAMICS OF COOPERATIVE CHILDBIRTH is the title of a three-day seminar and set of continuing education workshops to be held from Sunday, May 14th through Tuesday, May 16th. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Childbirth Education Association, Inc., the seminar is "designed to expand the knowledge of professionals and lay persons working with the childbirth educator." The event will be held at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, 106 Central Park South, New York City, and costs \$190.00 for all three days, or \$65 per day. Send check made out to MNY/CEA to: Marcie Eisner, MNY/CEA Treasurer, 1025 East 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210, or write or call MNY/CEA, P.O. Box 1600, New York, NY 10016, 212/866-6373 for details.

RELAXATION, MOVEMENT, MASSAGE & LABOR SUPPORT, a workshop for childbirth educators and health professionals, will be held on Saturday, June 5, 1982. Sponsored by Metropolitan New York Childbirth Education Association, Inc., Susan Beach and Sandra Jamrog will lead the workshop which will be held at a place to be announced. To register, send a check made payable to MNY/CEA to: Marcie Eisner, MNY/CEA Treasurer, 1025 East 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210. For further information, call Susan Beach at 873-7452 or Sandra Jamrog at 866-8257 or in the evenings at PL7-6300.

Women's Studies

The Women's Studies Curriculum Committee announces the introduction of two new interdisciplinary courses. Major Issues in Contemporary Feminist Thought will be offered spring semesters beginning 1983, to build upon Feminist Social Theories offered in the fall semesters. This course will provide an in-depth analysis of one of several issues of contemporary concern to feminist thought. Topics will change in accordance with faculty and student interest. For students in the Liberal Studies Masters Program, these two courses in feminist theory constitute the core program for Women's Studies.

The second new course is a Workshop for Guided Research and Guided Reading in Women's Studies. This is a two-credit seminar to meet every other week for the academic year (or 1 credit per term). It is designed for students interested in pursuing a plan of readings in women's studies. The workshop provides a knowledgeable and supportive setting within which progress reports can be shared with a group committed to a common interest in feminist scholarship. Interested faculty and associates of the Center for the Study of Women and Society are welcome to participate.

The Women's Studies Committee is chaired by Joan Kelly (History). It is a sub-committee of the Committee on Interdisciplinary Study and Research which is chaired by Rolf Meyersohn (Sociology). If you have any queries, comments, suggestions, send them to Joan Kelly, Center for the Study of Women and Society.

Note: The Liberal Studies Program is an interdisciplinary graduate program leading to the master's degree. The program offers a concentration in women's studies. For more information, contact Professor Renee Waldinger, Liberal Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42 Street, New York, NY 10036, 212/790-4497.

Conferences

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SEXUALITY, an all-day conference, will take place on Saturday, May 8th from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Student Union Building on the SUNY Stony Brook University campus. Women's sexuality will be explored and celebrated through films, workshops, panel discussions, and self-help demonstrations. To pre-register (\$8.00) call or write 516/427-1289, Womankind Books, 1899 New York Avenue, Huntington Station, NY 11746. Childcare is available for pre-registrants. Registration at the door will cost \$10.00.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT: CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES is a series of interdisciplinary conferences for mental health professionals sponsored by the Division of Counseling Psychology and Center for Professional Development, Lesley College Graduate School. Woman's Body/Woman's Mind is the theme of the conference to be held from May 7th through May 9th at the Harvard Science Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Panel discussions on Friday and Saturday will focus on: Eating Disorders in Women; Power, Intimacy and Sexuality; and Mother Love: On the Desire to Bear and the Capacity to Rear Children. Activities on Sunday will consist of a variety of Professional Training Workshops. For further information, contact: Dr. Bonnie Smolen, Conference Director, Lesley College Graduate School, Counseling Psychology Division, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, Ma 02238, 617/868-9600, ext. 440.

THE FIRST STEP: BATTERED WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE is a one-day seminar to be held on Saturday, May 8th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. at the Equitable Life Assurance Society, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor Conference Center. Sponsored by the Borough of Manhattan Community College, the seminar will explore current issues and problems confronting women, especially battered women, who enter the job market. The registration fee is \$15.00 (reduced rate for senior citizens, students and unemployed women) and should be sent to Office of Continuing Education, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Make checks payable to: Borough of Manhattan Community College. For further information, contact Susan Adair, 262-5614.

FEMINIST CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT EDUCATION is the title of the fourth annual conference of the National Women's Studies Association. The conference will be held from June 16th through June 20th at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Registration forms must be submitted by May 15th, so call 707/826-3451 immediately for details, or mail forms to: NWSA '82 Registration, Jolly Giant Conference Center, Arcata, CA 95521.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD'S 11th Women's Writing Conference and Retreat is entitled "Hope, Courage, Inspiration, and Creativity" and will take place August 13th through 20th at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. Over 30 workshops will be offered addressing such writing subjects as: the short story, script writing, publishing, story-telling, oral history as anthropological and personal tool, writing commercial song lyrics, etc. \$350.00 for the full week covers registration, room and board. Weekend rates are \$180.00 (single occupancy) and \$160.00 (double). For details, contact: Hannelore Hahn, Executive Director, IWWG, P.O. Box 810, Gracie Station, NY 10028, 212/737-7536.

INSIGHTS INTO INFERTILITY, an all-day conference, will take place on Saturday, May 22nd from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Mount Sinai Medical Center at Fifth Avenue and 100th Street in New York City. The conference is sponsored by Serono Laboratories and RESOLVE, an organization which aids infertile couples. Registration costs \$18.00 (including lunch) per person, or \$30.00 per couple. Call Joan Liebmann-Smith, Conference Coordinator and CSWS Research Assistant, at Mount Sinai, 650-7846, or at the Center, 790-4435, for further information.

Book Review

Woman's Creation: Sexual Evolution and the Shaping of Society
by Elizabeth Fisher.

(New York: Doubleday, 1980) 504 pp., paper, \$6.95.

Woman's Creation is an update, based on recent feminist research in anthropology and history (and allied disciplines, e.g. endocrinology, paleontology, theology) of such ground-breaking and mind-shaking works as Diner's Mothers and Amazons and Morgan's The Descent of Woman. The amount of information now available to Fisher is much more substantial, and consequently, her discussion of these materials more convincing. Her data cover a much greater span, too, so the interpretations have more depth. While not as radical and perhaps therefore not as inspiring as the interpretations of Griffith (Woman and Nature) or Daly (Gyn/Ecology), Fisher's are equally original and follow logically from the empirical findings presented. Basically, Fisher has a firm foundation in feminist tradition and has the courage as well as the facts to carry it beyond the other works cited. I also found her use of language creatively refreshing.

The body of knowledge accumulated in part as a result of enthusiastic and brilliant feminist scholarship (as well as that buried in masculinist researches of various sorts) requires an author to select. Consequently, there are those who would take issue with some of Fisher's choices. I found several incompatible with my own reading of the data. Nevertheless, she has done a remarkable job of pulling together a broad spectrum of information into a coherent interpretation of our species' history.

There are two other weaknesses in this work. It is not well-edited: there are redundancies within and among various chapters, and a loose repetitiousness that detracts from concise, cogent prose. Also, the "Epilog" seems tacked on as a sophomoric afterthought: the book ended quite felicitously, I thought, with its final chapter, which the "Epilog" serves to weaken.

Fisher gives us a perspective on human evolution characteristic of masculinist science and compares it with field data which are open to alternative interpretations. Fisher admirably explicates the role of female hominoids and hominids in the evolution of Homo sapiens as a biocultural creature. From this point, she considers the development of civilization, and the transition, especially in Near Eastern religions, from early "empires" to patriarchal society, and the negative consequences this has had for women, children, and incidentally, men. Wisely, she specifically refers to Euro-American traditions: this convincingly ties up the many threads of thought Fisher wove through her extensive account.

Fisher is a comprehensive antidote to the regressive, pseudo-scientific platitudes of the sociobiologists and their allies of both sexes in the behavior sciences and humanities. Woman's Creation (I like the far-ranging implications of the title) belongs in all libraries of "women's studies." I do see problems in using it for courses: because it is so encompassing, it will challenge instructors to develop their competence and imagination beyond the usual academic categories and to encourage their students to read outside the confines of ordinary course titles in "women's studies"; the joint effort is well worth it.

--Leigh Marlowe, Ph.D.
City University of New York

Onipaa - Imua

"Onipaa-Imua-1982" is the theme of the National Association of Commissions for Women 13th Annual Convention to be held June 9 through 12th in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Hawaiian word "onipaa" expresses these Commissions commitment to "hold fast" in the quest for women's equality under the law. "Imua" promises that women will continue "going forward" no matter what the odds. For further information about the convention, contact Pili Lee Loy, Coordinator, or Lois Andres, Chairperson, at the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, 250 South King Street, Room 500, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, 808/548-4199 or 4576. For information about the activities of the New York City Commission on the Status of Women, call 212/566-3832 or write Commission on the Status of Women, 250 Broadway, Room 1412, New York, NY 10007.

Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) announces a counter-demonstration to be held on July 17, 1982 at the site of the National Right to Life Committee's annual national convention. The convention will be taking place from July 15th through 18th in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. For further information, write or call CARASA, 17 Murray Street, New York, NY 10007, 212/964-1350.

The Hatch Amendment, which abolishes the Supreme Court guaranteed right to abortion, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 10-7. Very soon, the full Senate will vote on the amendment, which needs a two-thirds majority for passage. Within the next few months, the House Judiciary Committee will vote on the proposed amendment. Those interested in helping to defeat the Hatch amendment should write to their congresspeople. In New York, write to Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) and Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and Congressman Hamilton Fish (R-NY--only NY member of the House Judiciary Committee) at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. For further information, call the Pro-Choice Action Line, 212/777-8290.

The Modern Language Association's Title IX Watch is a list of individuals whom the MLA will keep informed about ways to help protect Title IX. The following is excerpted from the MLA Newsletter: "Title IX of the education amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational institutions that receive federal money, is under attack from two bills now in Congress. Informed observers of the Washington scene predict that administrative decisions in the Department of Education will further limit the effectiveness of Title IX. The MLA's Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession is concerned that these attempts may succeed and thereby restrict the educational opportunities of American women and girls." Concerned individuals who wish to join the MLA's "Title IX Watch" should send their names, addresses and phone numbers to: Modern Language Association, Commission on the Status of Women, 62 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. [Excerpt submitted to CSWS Newsletter by Nan Bauer Maglin, Executive Committee Member, Women's Studies in Language and Literature, MLA]

On January 29, 1982, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York issued a Policy on Sexual Harassment explicitly prohibiting sexual harassment in the university community and establishing a procedure for investigation and resolution of complaints. In a separate action, addressing other discrimination in response to the government's easing of tax status for schools which practice racial discrimination, the Board "reaffirmed unyielding opposition to discrimination

based on race, gender, creed or religious persuasion." For details of the sexual harassment policy and procedures for its enforcement, write or call: Mr. George Maginley, Director of Affirmative Action, City University of New York, 535 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10021, 212/794-5374.

Consortium for Educational Equity aims "to eliminate sex discrimination in education by: helping school districts interpret and comply with Title IX and other Federal and State Regulations; assisting educators in establishing equitable policies, programs and practices; and ensuring that programs and materials reflect the diverse ethnic and racial composition of society." It provides training and technical assistance, conferences and workshops, dissemination of materials, evaluation instruments and publications dealing with specific problems in educational equity. For more information, write or call Consortium for Educational Equity at Rutgers University, Federation Hall, Douglass Campus, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 201/932-9808 or 9427.

Support for Orthodox Victims of Rape and Incest (SOVRI) is a recently formed counseling service which assists the Orthodox Jewish population throughout New York City. Staffed by Orthodox Jewish women who have been trained at St. Vincent's Hospital in rape counseling, SOVRI will seek rabbinical counsel at the client's request, and provides referral services for medical, legal and other kinds of assistance. For information about their telephone hotline, crisis counseling, outreach and auxiliary services, write or call Basya Littman, SOVRI at Victim Services Agency, 54 Nagle Avenue, New York, NY 10040, 212/567-5008.

Women USA, a recently formed information and action network headed by Bella Abzug, provides up-to-date information and action alerts on women's issues through its 24-hour Hot Line. The Hot Line tape briefly describes issues of pressing concern to women's struggle for equality and justice, and tells callers how to make their voices heard. Women USA also lobbies, sponsors educational forums, organizes coalitions and connects women through a national network. For further information, write or call Women USA, 76 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10005, 212/422-1492. For Hot Line messages, call Toll Free 800/221-4945. In New York State, dial 212/221-4945.

The Project on the Status and Education of Women, which aims to bring about full equality of educational opportunity, has issued a report entitled "The Classroom Climate: A Chilly One for Women?". The stated goal of the paper is "to help faculty, students and administrators become more aware of the subtle and not-so-subtle ways in which women and men students are often treated differently, and to indicate specific actions they can take to create a learning climate that best fosters the intellectual growth of students." To that end, the paper "identifies a wide range of overt and subtle faculty behaviors that can create a chilly learning climate; identifies classroom behaviors of men and women students that may elicit differential responses from faculty; offers specific recommendations which administrators, faculty, students, and others can use to bring about greater awareness and change; and provides a list of resource materials including organizations, researchers, a short bibliography, and an agenda for further research." To obtain a copy of the paper, write or call: Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, 202/387-1300.

Media Update

Heresies, a feminist journal of art and politics, announces its forthcoming #16 issue on "Women's Groups--Time to Raise Hell." Progressive political and cultural women's groups are invited to submit action-oriented material about their work. Interested organizations should contact immediately: **Sandy Desando** at 212/431-9060. Heresies' most recent issue, #14, "The Women's Pages," features page art by 40 women artists. This "exhibition within a book" is available for \$5.00 (\$15.00, 4-issue subscription) from Heresies, Box 766, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. Issue #15, "Racism is the Issue," will be available at the end of May.

Working Woman Magazine's columnist Marilyn Machlowitz, Ph.D., solicits reprints, books, etc. for her monthly reports on psychology and management. Recent columns have focused on Pauline Clance's work on the imposter phenomenon and Ed Schein's work on face-to-face communication. Those interested should send materials to: Marilyn Machlowitz, Ph.D., Contributing Editor, Working Woman, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.

Women in International Development

Working Papers on Women in International Development is a publication series issued by the Office of Women in International Development of Michigan State University. The series features papers at a relatively late stage of formulation which address development issues affecting women in relation to social, political and economic change. Manuscripts should be double-spaced and include: title page bearing name, address, and institutional affiliation of author; one-paragraph abstract; text; notes; references cited; and tables and figures. The format may follow that of any journal. Accepted manuscripts are published **within four**-five weeks; authors retain copyrights, receive free copies and are encouraged to submit their papers to journals. Submit manuscripts to: Rita Gallin, Ph.D., Editor, WID Publication Series, Office of WID, 202 International Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, 517/353-5040. To order publications or receive the Listing of Working Papers, write to the above-listed address.

International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc., a women's development support resource, issues resource books, papers, newsletters and other publications focusing on women in development. "'Resolutions and Decisions referring to Women' adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981" is one of a series of 'occasional papers' reporting on UN positions and actions in this field. Other publications include: Caribbean Resource Kit for Women; Information Kit for Women in Africa; Developing Strategies for the Future; and Funding Issues for Women's Projects. To order these or other publications, write or call: International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc., 305 East 46th Street, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10017, 212/421-5633.

The Education of Poor and Minority Children: A World Biography (Greenwood Press, \$95.00), is a two-volume reference work compiled by Meyer Weinberg. The comprehensive work includes sections on: children; the black woman; Indian Americans; Afro-American studies; compensatory education; school organization; law and government; community, etc. To order, make check payable to: Center for Equal Education, and mail to: Horace Mann Bond, Center for Equal Education, 2220 Library Tower, University of Massachusetts, Amherst Ma 01003.

A Directory of Third World Women Scholars in the Modern Languages, edited by Barbara Smith and Erlene Stetson, is available for \$3.00 from the Modern Language Association Office, 62 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

The Directory of Special Opportunities for Women, edited by Martha Doss, contains over 1,000 listings of national, state, country, city, and private organizations, programs and agencies which provide women with educational and career opportunities. To order: send \$18.00 to Garrett Park Press, Garrett Park, Maryland 20766.

Financial Aid: A Partial List of Resources for Women has been updated by The Project on the Status and Education of Women. To order, make check or money order for \$2.50 payable to: AAC/PSEW, and mail to: REQUESTS, Project on Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

The New Nightingales by Patricia Cayo Sexton for The Coalition of Labor Union Women, describes women hospital workers and their relationship to labor unions, in the context of the women's movement. Professor Sexton documents and analyzes women hospital workers, their job experiences, their relations with bosses, co-workers, patients, unions, and families. To obtain, send check, money order, or cash for \$6.95 (tax, postage & handling included) to: Enquiry Press, 799 Broadway, Suite 325, New York, NY 10003.

Beyond the Fragments: Feminism and the Making of Socialism by Sheila Rowbotham, Lynne Segal and Hilary Wainwright, is now available in an American edition (Boston, Alyson Publications, 1981). It was originally published in Britain by Merlin Press Ltd. in 1979. The book has generated much discussion in the United States, including a talk given at the Graduate Center on March 31st by Jean McCrindle on "Feminism, Politics and Nuclear Disarmament in Britain." On Monday, May 10th, Ellen Dubois, Professor of History at SUNY Buffalo, will speak on: "The Transatlantic Sisterhood: An Anglo-American Approach to Feminism" at 8:00 p.m. in 403 Main Building of New York University. The lecture is part of the New Directions in Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Lecture Series sponsored by NYU's Department of History, Graduate School of Arts and Science Student Council, and the Humanities Council. Main Building is located at 100 Washington Square East, New York City.

Labor Education for Women Workers, edited by Barbara Mayer Wertheimer, Director of the Institute for Education and Research on Women and Work at the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, is a practical guide to the variety of education and training programs available to women who work. It is available for \$22.50 from Temple University Press, Broad and Oxford Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122.

Women and Film

The second annual Women's Independent Film Festival, sponsored by Women Make Movies, Inc., will take place at the Film Forum, 47 Watts Street, New York City, from May 12th through 18th. Thirty-six films from over nine countries will highlight recent political, cultural and artistic developments in women's international cinema in fourteen separate programs. The event is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. Features include: Power of Men, Patience of Women, a West German film by Christine Perincioli about battered women; From the Ashes...Nicaragua Today, a portrait of a Nicaraguan family and society today by Helena Solberg Ladd; The Spooky Bunch, a Hong Kong satire by Ann Hui about a haunted Cantonese opera troupe; and ...But Then, She's Betty Carter, an American film by Michelle Parkerson which views the black music legacy through Betty Carter, the legendary jazz vocalist. For further information, call Women Make Movies at 929-6477.

How We Got the Vote, a 55 minute film about women's campaign for suffrage, is narrated by Jean Stapleton and features popular songs, news reels, photos and cartoons. To borrow at no charge, write to: The National Women's Party, 144 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Media Network announces the establishment of its Information Center, a clearinghouse for social issue media. Users can obtain information about films, videotapes and slideshows dealing with a wide spectrum of social issues, including Women in the Labor Movement, Reproductive Rights, Violence Against Women, etc. The Center also helps program film series and facilitate exchange between groups working on similar themes, as well as compiling evaluations of independent media and keeping track of media users' needs in order to communicate them to funding organizations, distributors and independent producers. For further information, write or call: Abigail Norman, Media Network/Information Center, 208 West 13 Street, New York, NY 10011, 212/620-0878. Media Network is a national organization of community, labor and social activists, librarians, teachers and others who use media for organizing and education. In addition to the Information Center, Media Network services include a newsletter, discounts on media-related publications and access to other members who have experience and skills.

The May-June issue of the CSWS Newsletter will be the last for this academic year. The next issue will be published in September 1982.

Readers wishing to send ideas and announcements for future issues, or to respond to items appearing in the Newsletter, are encouraged to do so. Decisions about publication will be made on the basis of space considerations.

Please submit all materials for the September-October issue no later than August 5th and mail to: Center for the Study of Women and Society Newsletter, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42 Street, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Lisa Master, Editor. Thank you. HAVE A PLEASANT SUMMER!