

NEWSLETTER

The Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles

The Graduate Center
Vol. I, No. 2

33 West 42nd Street, New York 10036 790-4435
November, 1979

Work in Progress

TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Scholarship by and about women needs to be informed by a diversity of perspectives and experiences. The Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles offers women within and outside of the University an opportunity to meet and share their concerns about scholarship, politics, and society. The Center presently provides a base for activities and a source of new ideas, but it also has the potential to become a major resource for a national and international community of women scholars. We have as many questions for the Italian, Mexican, or French scholar as she has for us. It is in this spirit of international collaboration that I would like to open discussion on the formation of a center dedicated to international scholarship and exchange by, for, and about women.

There is no place in the United States organized to facilitate personal and professional contacts among academic women from widely diverse cultures. In New York, there is no place where feminist scholars and activists might come to speak with their counterparts about the current struggles and accomplishments of women; about innovative research questions and methodologies; about new theoretical work which could enrich our own. To fill this need, I envision a space where women intellectuals can teach and learn from each other in an informal setting.

Such a network could provide visitors with the names of women at CUNY and other New York universities who speak their language and share their research interests. It might also provide introductions to women active in many segments of the Women's Movement, i.e., anti-rape, abortion rights, self-help, tenant organizing, feminist publishing, etc. An annotated list of libraries and specific collections pertaining to women and sex roles might also be made available to visiting scholars. An international exchange could facilitate the translation and publication of important theoretical and experimental work written by women here and abroad, and thus insure a wider distribution of new scholarship and criticism throughout the world.

An international center could provide both foreign and American women scholars and activists with a friendly base for collaboration and mutual learning. Visiting scholars might be asked to lecture on a variety of subjects, on an ad hoc basis, and American scholars could reciprocate. French and Italian women who participated in an international seminar on Women's History in Paris in Summer 1979 have expressed their enthusiasm and interest in such a project. I am interested in hearing the thoughts and suggestions of others interested in developing this idea into a firm proposal for establishing such a center.

Paula Webster
Research Associate

WOMEN'S STUDIES COMES TO HIGH SCHOOL

The Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education has funded a project titled "A Brooklyn College Institute in Women's Studies for Secondary School Faculty". The program was developed jointly by the School of Education, the Women's Studies Program and John Dewey High School. Forty high school teachers will attend Brooklyn College in July, 1980, in order to revise existing curriculum in English, history and modern languages to include a feminist perspective, as well as material on the contributions of women. For further information, contact the Project Director, Trudy Berger, at 780-5476.

THE CUNY WOMEN'S COALITION

The CUNY Women's Coalition continues to work to promote the welfare of women and to support women's studies throughout the university. The coalition is supporting a class action suit in federal court, charging the City University of New York with sex discrimination in all aspects of employment. It is the largest class action filed by university women. The group hopes to meet with Mayor Koch in the near future to discuss the status of women in CUNY. Regular meetings of the coalition are open to all women (see calendar for details). The Coalition is also planning its annual spring conference and welcomes ideas and input on it. Contact Lilia Melani, at 780-5195.

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT HUNTER COLLEGE

The National Endowment for the Humanities has funded a project for Hunter College faculty to write an interdisciplinary textbook and instructional manual for an entry level women's studies course. Headed by Sarah Pomeroy, the project includes the work of Florence Denmark, Dorothy Helly, Nancy Dean, Ulku Bates, Susan Lees, Joanne MacNamara, E. Dorsey Smith and Sue Rosenberg Zalk. The Women's Studies program is also offering 18 courses this semester, with work on women's health, women and the law, and a graduate course on women in the arts, which features 8 outside speakers. The Women's Center at Hunter serves as a focus for other activities and gatherings of students.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

The Women's Studies Program at Brooklyn College is expanding their curriculum, which now includes a broad range of courses. The enrollment in women's studies courses now totals 800, an increasing proportion of students. On November 5, the Women's Studies Program and the Women's Center will host the first Annual Women's Studies Day. The Women's Center is also offering a series of mini-courses on the subjects of menopause, body work for large women, Third World professionals, nuclear energy, and herstory of black women in America. For more information, call 780-5476 (Women's Studies Program) or 780-5777 (Women's Center).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome announcements, brief essays, research ideas, job openings and notices of events for publication in the Newsletter of the Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles. Send material by the 15th of each month to: Martha Nelson, Room 1400, The Graduate Center, 33 West 42 St., New York, 10036.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles invites all graduate students to a meeting and discussion on November 8 at 4 PM. The Directors and Associates of the Center are interested in talking about the development of new courses on women's studies and evaluation of current courses, as well as ways in which the Center can serve the needs of graduate students. Possible topics are funding for student research, support for new projects, and increased student participation in the Center. If you are interested and unable to attend, please stop by the Center.

"Family, Class and the Future" is the title of a talk that will be given by Renate Bridenthal and Amy Swerdlow on November 16, 8 p.m., at the New York Marxist School, 151 West 19th Street, 7th Floor. They will offer a class analysis of the family in the United States and alternatives for the future.

The Seminar on Multi-National Corporations is concentrating on two areas of investigation: 1) the relationship between pharmaceutical companies and agencies of population control and the medical profession; 2) the corporate interests behind the pornography industry. Anyone interested in these or other topics related to multi-national corporations should contact Ruby Rohrich at 874-6884.

The National Assembly on the Future of the Family, sponsored by NOW, will meet on November 19 at the New York Hilton. The assembly will feature meetings and speakers, as well as panels on domestic violence, minority families, legal protection for non-traditional families, divorce and single parent families. For more information, call 354-1225.

The CUNY Women's Coalition is sponsoring a theatre party on Saturday, November 10. Tickets are still available for "Letters Home" by Emma Leiman Goldemberg. Send \$12.00 to Clara Mellman, Department of Sociology, College of Staten Island, or call 390-7744.

The Jane Addams Center, a feminist counseling and referral center, has initiated a program to aid battered women in the Emergency Room at St. Luke's Hospital. The Center is now seeking women to train as "on-call" volunteers to provide emergency support, information and referrals to battered women. Call the Jane Addams Center: 964-2826 or write P.O. 848, New York, New York 10004.

CONDITIONS, a magazine of women's writing with an emphasis on writing by lesbians, announces the publication of CONDITIONS: FIVE. Guest edited by Lorraine Bethel and Barbara Smith, the issue is devoted to Black women's writing, and includes poetry, fiction, journal excerpts, essays, song lyrics and book reviews. As a source of Black feminist writing, the issue will be particularly valuable to teachers of women's studies courses. \$3.00/issue (208 pp.); \$8.00/subscription (3 issues); \$15.00/institutional subscription. Write: CONDITIONS, P.O. Box 56, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

NOVEMBER 1979

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SEX ROLES

All events will take place at the Center, Room 1400 of the Graduate School and University Center, unless otherwise noted.

- Monday, Nov. 5 7:00 CUNY Women's Coalition meets to discuss the class action suit. Room 207.
- Tuesday, Nov. 6 11:45-1:5 Tuesday Noon Lunch. An informal meeting and discussion in the Dining Room, 18th Floor. All are welcome.
- Wednesday, Nov. 7 3-5 Associates Seminar.
- Tuesday, Nov. 13 11:45-1:15 Tuesday Noon Lunch. 18th Floor, Dining Room.
- Thursday, Nov. 15 11:30 Film Showing: Blow For Blow. French seamstresses take over a factory and try to humanize the workplace. Third Floor Studio.
- Thursday, Nov. 15 12:30 Susan Bourke of Smith College will speak on "Women of the Andes". Third Floor Studio.
- Thursday, Nov. 15 4-6 Conversation Hour. Meeting of Graduate Students and others interested in the work and programs of the Center. Refreshments served.
- Friday, Nov. 16 3:00 "Women and Health" Seminar meeting. Special panel on Pregnancy, including:
Barbara Katz Rothman on "Ideologies Surrounding Pregnancy"
Daphne Joslin on "Networks and Support Groups for Pregnant Women"
Ruby Benjamen on "Occupational Health and Safety Issues For Pregnant Women"
Mary Brown Parlee on "The Psychology of Pregnancy"
All are welcome to attend. Room 1704.
- Tuesday, Nov. 20 11:45-1:5 Tuesday Noon Lunch. Dining Room, 18th Floor.
- Tuesday, Nov. 27 11:45-1:15 Tuesday Noon Lunch. Dining Room, 18th Floor.
- Tuesday, Nov. 29 11:30 Film showing: Household Workers. Domestic "technicians" talk about their work and discuss problems and attempts to change working conditions. Third Floor Studio.

The seminar on Feminist Methods of Inquiry will also meet in November. For the time and date of the meeting, call Trudy Berger, 780-5476.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Center is updating the Newsletter mailing list. If you want to continue to receive the Newsletter, please fill out this form and return it to us. Without your updated address, we cannot send you the next issue.

Return to: The Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles
Room 1400, The Graduate School and University Center
33 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036

Name _____

Old Address _____

New Address (If CUNY, please use College address) _____

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We welcome comments, criticism, and suggestions for the Newsletter. Please use the space below to outline your thoughts on the Newsletter or on the activities and programs of the Center.