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CENTRE COLLEGE WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER
NO1 1974 JANUARY

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The advent of the Women's Movement has been crucial in the attempt of women to understand themselves as well as one another. One prerequisite to the beginning of understanding is that women must first come together to exchange experiences, emotions and ideas. Unfortunately at Centre there is no main ground on which female students may gather. Unlike male students, we have no recourse to fraternities or any organization where the main purpose is sisterhood. Therefore, this newsletter has been established with its purpose being a common meeting ground for Centre women. Hopefully through our own experiences we will be able to explore and expand role concepts as well as alternative life styles, provide a better understanding of the Women's Movement and publish the current happenings within the movement itself.

-Sharon

WHY WE NEED SISTERHOOD

Our acceptance of woman's traditional and stereotyped role is based on fear. Freedom is frightening and we have few precedents in our difficult search for it. It is far easier to operate within clearly defined roles than to face the problems of a new orientation, a new life style. To be liberated entails a commitment to use all of our human potential. Liberation means reorienting and reintegrating our personalities as human beings.

In our struggle for freedom we

do not blame individuals. It is our patriarchal system and the governing institutions rooted in this tradition which are our oppressors. This system thrives on sexism, racism, poverty, war - the list of evils is endless. It is responsible for an individual's prejudices; the system educated, conditioned and intimidated us into a blind acceptance of its evils.

I disagree with my sisters who tell me, "I can make it on my own. I do not need group support." In the face of oppression we do need support and unity. An individual can quickly become frustrated; at every turn she faces Catch-22. We need unity to fight the existing social and political inequities. We also need moral and emotional support. The path of personal liberation is frightening. To be a complete human being demands courage and confidence, qualities which have been traditionally suppressed in women. Sisterhood provides advice and support for our precarious emotional situation.

We do not advocate disassociating ourselves from our men; that would be to deny our humanity. The struggle for women's freedom, however, must be our own. Men cannot fathom our problems. Their societal orientation is totally different. The oppressor cannot possibly understand the oppressed. Men are as trapped by the system as are we. Ultimately, man's struggle for freedom is ours.

There can neither be justice nor freedom until the lowest rung of society, women, are liberated. Our own fear and

Continued on next page.



SISTERHOOD continued.

apathy serve to support and perpetuate the system which enslaves us. It is time we challenge the evil of dehumanizing labeling. Together we can and shall overcome.

-Roxanne

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AT CENTRE
(or lack of it)

"Hello?"

"Uh, yes, I'd like some information on contraceptives, please..."

"Come see the doctor tomorrow morning at eight."

"No, you don't understand. I am writing an article and would like to know what the infirmary offers in the way of contraceptives..."

"Let me get Mrs. Wilson."

"Hello?"

"I'd like some information on contraceptives."

"What is your name?"

"Holly..."

Intimidation such as this can often be expected when approaching Parson's for contraceptive help. What difference does my name ("Oh, it's Holly, but you can call me Anne.") or any woman's name make when asking for information? Why consult a physician for "easily accessible" material? The student's aid to better living through better health does not agree.

What information does the infirmary offer? Pamphlets and brochures are not available, much less contraceptives. Any female seeking advice must receive it via the local doctor on a private basis. "No one answers everyone's personal needs," is Parson's way of explaining itself. "It is much better for the girl to go to the doctor on a private basis; this entails private costs and office fees. "It is also much simpler to have the girl go to the doctor privately," simpler for the doctor, the girl or the Infirmary? Somewhat ironic is Infirmary handling of abortion. Literature is available on request only. Abortion pamphlets are too private to mingle among V.D. pamphlets.

The Boyle County Health Depart-

ment on South 3rd Street is a viable alternative to the Infirmary. Oral contraceptives, I.U.D.s (intra-uterine device), foam and jellies, diaphragms and condoms are offered with no expense to the client. Counselling for the rhythm method and limited funds for sterilization for both men and women are also available. A complete medical examination, also free, can be given, and for those on oral contraception, a follow-up every three months will insure safety.

As of the last Supreme Court ruling, Kentucky's abortion laws are obsolete. This means that until Kentucky reverses its laws in conformance with the Supreme Court, abortions are legal, and can be obtained from any doctor willing to perform them. Lexington's and Louisville's health clinics and the Northern Kentucky Women's Clinic offer names of those doctors.

More information can be obtained by calling the Boyle County Health Department at 236-2053.

-Holly

WOMEN'S COURSES:
DO THEY END HERE?

In 1970 Centre offered I.S. 45, Human Sexuality in Cultural Evolution. This was the first course which examined the sexual and social roles of men and women.

Three years later, after careful planning and the arrival of Dr. Alice Shrock, two courses, H.C. 49 Woman's History and Lit. 35 Women in Literature and Life, were offered. The presentation of these courses is long overdue when one considers that many colleges of Centre's size and academic standards first introduced courses of this kind in the late 60's.

Woman's History deals with the changing images of women from a historical point of view, while Literature 35 reflects images of women in literature and life from the Victorian Age to the present day. Although the courses concern themselves with the different concepts of women, they both emphasize the

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WOMEN'S COURSES continued:

influence images have on the religious, economic, political and social aspects of society.

Many members of the Woman's History class expressed their increased awareness of the situation of women today. One woman in the class commented that she felt like she had been conscious of the woman's movement before, but it wasn't until taking the course that she realized the extent of her feminist beliefs. Four out of fourteen members of the class were men. All of the men expressed the opinion that the course had been a valuable experience, in that it made them aware of women's attitudes. They felt that men ought to be encouraged to take the course, for not only did it change their views of women, it made them reexamine the roles of men. One man expressed this by saying that the class broadened his way of thinking of both men and women. Some members of the class went so far as to say that they thought the course should be made a requirement, so that the whole campus would have an opportunity to expand their consciousness.

As it is now, less than thirty students will derive any benefit from the two courses. There are not any plans to continue the courses next term or next year. Now, isn't it unfortunate that only a few will be enlightened to their changing society, while other lost souls remain groping in the dark?

-Mary

SEXIST TEXT BOOK OF THE MONTH

Yes, we attend one of the better colleges in Kentucky, so why then do we use text books that are outmoded and perpetuate harmful stereotyping of women? Could it be that Centre co-eds are not fully aware of their proper "place" and must be shown "woman's role" in our society? We

demand the same education as men receive. Sexist text books remind us that this is a man's world and we

are trespassers. We feel that a re-evaluation of text books now in use is essential to end the stereotyping of women. This column will examine various (and there are many) offensive text books. We are careful, however, to point out that the instructor is often unable to exercise much choice in the selection of a non-sexist text book. Non-sexist text books are few and hard to find.

This month the award goes to Moderne deutsche Sprachlehre by DuVal, DuVal, Mueller and Miller (Random House, 1967). This text book was used in German 11 and 12 this year.

The dialogues and reading lessons mention women as students but never employed in an occupation of any social value. One such dialogue discusses the students' family lives. The father's occupation is given while the mother is only mentioned inadvertently as a parent. Women are defined by their marital status. For example:

Professor: How many sisters do you have?

Student: Three. Two are single and one is married.

Prof: Then you have two brothers, don't you?

Stud: Yes. One brother is an engineer with a construction firm. The other is a lawyer and works for the government. (p. 156)

Need we say more?

ARE WOMEN GETTING FOULED AT CENTRE ???

In the January 11 issue of the Cento there appeared the figure \$1,400 - the allocation for all women's sports. The next sentence contained the figure for the football allocation, \$19,000. One is tempted at this point to ask "Need we say more?" Unfortunately, it appears that we do.

Cento writers Mason Smith and Joe Myers say that Bryant, the head of the athletic department, "blames lack of space and money for the limited women's program." He has certainly hit the nail on the head. Our program is limited be-

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FOULED AT CENTRE continued.

cause it is limited. But why? Why is it that the mysterious factors that work on us simply do not apply to football players or any lesser breed of male athlete, at least to the same extent?

What Bryant said about football "paying off" in terms of publicity and new students may have some merit. I know when I was in high school talking about schools to my guidance counselor, she made up my mind when she mentioned Centre football. I'm sure that must be true for many other women on campus - not to mention the men. Yes, Centre may be gaining from football but it is the women who are doing the "paying."

Women pay as much tuition as do men here at Centre. But our program is limited. The favorite rationalization is that women will not use what we have. To the extent that this is true it indicates a problem and calls for positive action, not smug complacency. The qualities that athletics are supposed to cultivate - ability to work well with others, unselfishness, pride, responsibility, dedication, fortitude, and good mental and physical health -

should be encouraged in humans of both sexes. I cannot believe that a man who would dedicate his life to the bettering of youth could knowingly neglect us, one half of "youth." The answer to my 'why?' could surely not be that he does not care about us.

Right now it's "our ball." The affirmative action must come from us, or not at all. We must demand honors and recognition, demand equal access to facilities where only one set exists and demand where two sets exist that ours be brought up to par. We must realize that sports are not only not unfeminine, but FUN.

-Laura

WOMEN'S TRACK

On January 30 Centre's women's track team will hold its first meet in Burley Warehouse. The events scheduled for the Burley Meet are relays, the high jump and shot putting.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

1974

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
1/24	Spalding	7:00	Home
1/28	Berea	7:00	Away
1/30	U. of Louisville	4:00	Away
2/1	Midway	4:30	Home
2/4	Transylvania	4:00	Home

NOTICES

Human Liberation Meeting Thurs., Jan. 24 in McClure Room, 2nd floor Sutcliffe. Dr. Eric Mount will speak on Women and Christianity - "Do All the Myths Go?"

Women's Track and Field is looking for a few good women. Fast or Slow, Experienced or Virgin, Come one, Come all to the track at 4:00 on weekdays.

Women - The Flame needs articles, fiction, and poetry. We have a rotating staff and would welcome any woman interested in serving on it. Contact us through Box 384.

Workshop on Black American Women March 7, 8, 9 in Louisville. For further information and details contact Sharon Morisi.

Free Birth Control information and devices, pap smears, pelvics, etc. are available at the Boyle County Health Department. Call for appointment - 236-2053. Located on 3rd Street across from the School for the Deaf.

We are forming a committee to set up a Women's Career Day. Women interested in serving on the committee should contact Roxanne Garrison, Box 384.

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Special thanks to Alice Shrock

