

Continuing Conversations

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 24, 1984 3:30 p.m. 261-263
Illini Union. Facts About the
Tenure Process at the University of
Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Participants: Marianne Ferber,
Chair; Nina Baym, Humanities;
Marianne Burkhard, German; Berenice
A. Carroll, Political Science;
Martha Friedman, Library
Administration; Loretta Jones,
Physics.
- April 25, 1984 7:00 p.m. 100 Greg
Hall. Film "Never Turn Back: The
Life of Fannie Lou Hamer"
- April 30, 1984 4:00 p.m. 213 Gregory
Hall. Films "The Veiled
Revolution" (on women & religious
change in Egypt) and "The Price of
Change" (on women & economic change
in Egypt).
- April 30, 1984 7:00 p.m. Geneva Room,
McKinley Foundation. YMCA Women's
Network monthly meeting. Dr. Ann
Robin and Dr. Elsie Field will
discuss PMS and Health of older
women.
- May 2, 1984 3:30 p.m. 322 Illini
Union. Poetry reading by Eve
Merriam of New York City, and 7:30
p.m. 314 Illini Union.
"Censorship & Children's Books",
lecture by Eve Merriam.
- May 7, 1984 12:00 noon 275-77 Illini
Union. Feminist Scholarship
Seminar - "International
Comparisons of the Economic Status
of Women". Marianne A. Ferber.

Campus Safety

THE "RAP" COMMITTEE

by Betty Hembrough and Jan Lenz

A primary goal of all the groups working on safety within the university is to create an atmosphere where safety is considered a key issue in new construction, landscaping, and lighting as well as in everyday operation. Safety-consciousness can be noted in institutional publications, too.

The beginning of the rape awareness and prevention committee (RAP) came after the Coalition of University Women expressed concerns about safety to the Chancellor. The Chancellor then named Paul Doebel, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, as coordinator of efforts to combat rape and promote safety on campus. He chairs the RAP Committee as part of these efforts. These newly concentrated efforts are paying off in increasing awareness and in increasing efforts to combat the problem.

Those who visit the university district after dark have no doubt noticed how the new attitude is really working. Many shrubs that once hindered the view of walkways and entrances have been trimmed, burned out light bulbs are replaced quickly, bicycle lots have more light, trees that once covered lights have been pruned, especially dark areas are getting new lighting as budgets allow, new buildings have good exterior lighting in their plans from the beginning, a solution to the vandalism of the emergency phones is being actively

sought, and members of Women's Wheels and the Student Patrol are visible. Just recently the lighting in the courtyard of the Education Building and in front of Flagg Hall has been dramatically improved as a result of two separate telephone calls from students—Flagg Hall in just four days. Tree trimming is going to be scheduled regularly in areas where lights are obstructed; burned out lights will be replaced quickly—if they are reported—so be on the lookout for problem areas and let us know. The mechanism for getting things done is now in place and working.

For many years there have been nightwalks to look at lighting and shrubbery. Last year after the formation of the Rape Awareness and Prevention Committee, more effort was concentrated in this area. A group with some changing membership made four late night (9 a.m. to midnight or 1 a.m.) walks around campus and areas adjacent to it. Lighting and shrubbery were looked at in terms of how people felt about the area and whether it seemed safe or dangerous for people walking singly or in pairs.

Women's Wheels is a rape prevention ride service that has been in operation since 1974 and is currently staffed by about 600 student volunteers. Any member of the staff or student body may volunteer to work for Women's Wheels and any female member of the staff and student body who would otherwise have to walk alone at night is eligible to use the ride service which operates from 9 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday evenings. The ride service boundaries are University Ave. on the north, south to Windsor Rd., west to Mattis Ave., and east to Philo Rd.

One of the new projects that the RAP Committee has been involved with is the formation of the new Student Patrol. Questions with which the Committee members dealt were: Would a student patrol help safety on campus? Would students, faculty, and staff be receptive to the idea of a student patrol? How should it be formed? Would the student patrol members patrol

singly or in pairs? Would the members of the patrol be volunteer or paid? Would they wear uniforms of some kind? What kind of functions would they perform? Paul Dollins, Chief of University Police, originally suggested the idea of a student patrol to the forerunner of the now-established RAP Committee in September, 1982. A couple of months later a student in the School of Social Work came to several members of the committee to talk about the interest of the social work undergraduate student group in a student patrol. Social work students met with the committee and also developed a proposal. Throughout last year (1982-83) the concept of a student patrol was further defined and felt to be a good idea for the safety of persons on campus. The students in the patrol wear identifiable uniforms because the committee felt strongly that a visible presence would be helpful in making the campus safer. Nearly all the committee members agreed that the students should patrol in pairs, rather than singly. Each pair has a two-way communication device so that the patrol officers can be in instant communication with the University Police. Patrol members are paid, since there is at least some slight element of risk involved, although training and procedures minimize any element of risk.

Various subcommittees of the RAP Committee worked on several aspects of the student patrol concept; these subcommittees wrote job descriptions, discussed evaluation procedures of the pilot program, and discussed selection procedures. Of course, the University Police had, and has, the major responsibility for the student patrol.

The interview committee for the student patrol applicants felt that the students who applied were outstanding. In fact, when the committee had interviewed its 14th candidate, one of the members of the committee said that the committee would have to quit interviewing when the hiring number of 26 was reached because it was going to be too difficult to select. But, select the committee did—after interviewing all the applicants. It was a fascinating process and enlightening

to hear these students' views of problems on campus. Most of these students were concerned about safety—and vandalism—on campus and saw the patrol as a way to make a positive contribution to the campus.

Correct data about what is happening is also important in identifying the problems and judging the effects of preventive efforts. One of the first activities of the committee was to begin to collect and provide statistics in a new way. The "University District"—was defined for purposes of data collection as an area in which many students live, both on and off campus. To collect these data on rape, sexual assault, and deviate sexual behavior, requires the cooperation of all the police departments. Summary statistics are now available from January 1, 1983 through December 31, 1983. These statistics indicate victim characteristics, suspect relation to the victim, time and place of occurrence of the incident—in brief form so that characteristics identifying individuals are not given. During this year period there were 16 rapes or attempted rapes and 17 abduction, assault or battery incidents reported to police for this geographic area; in addition there were 58 reported incidents of deviate sexual behavior (public indecency and other). Deviate sexual behavior incidents contribute to the element of "fear" present in the area. It is also known that many incidents of these types are not reported at all, so we do not know the number of actual incidents. When looking at "University District" statistics, one needs to remember that these statistics differ from those reported by any single police department. Thus, while the statistics show 16 reports of rapes or attempted rapes in the "University District", none of those reported were on University property.

You may already have seen the four excellent rape awareness and prevention posters that are being displayed at various locations across the campus (more sets are going up with each

passing day). These posters are the blending of the sensitivity and creativity of a graduate student, Duana George, and the consultation, encouragement, resources and efforts of the RAP Committee.

Residence halls, sororities and independent houses have workshops on self-defense, rape awareness and Women's Wheels; there are nightwalks, messages on broadband, posters, articles in The Daily Illini, the News-Gazette, Illinotes and Illini Week as well as continuous work by the RAP Committee, find that they are responding to more and more requests for interviews by students doing class projects on a group and an individual basis. These projects end up being video presentations, radio presentations, speeches, and papers, sometimes read in class, which increase the awareness of others in these classes. With all of this, OWRS staff members find that they are devoting an increasing amount of time to safety and security issues. Fortunately, the Student Affairs Administration is very supportive of these efforts.

The RAP Committee has been a successful and hard working group. There is a growing awareness and concern for safety in the atmosphere.

A Review

Costin, Lela B.

**TWO SISTERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE:
A Biography of Grace and Edith Abbott
Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1983**

Lela Costin has created a masterpiece in her biography of Grace and Edith Abbott. It is refreshing and informative to read of the professional and personal lives of these two women as they worked hard to correct serious social problems in this country in the first half of this century. Grace Abbott's major and best known work was with the U.S. Children's Bureau and Edith Abbott is best known for her role in the founding and development of the School of Social

Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Chapter headings give realistic clues to what one can expect to find as s/he reads this literary work: "Western Heritage, The Scientific Spirit and Human Purposes, Chicago-New Frontiers, Advocacy and Immigrants, The Iniquity of the Fathers, Not Charity. Justice, Well Babies - Well Mothers, Defining a Profession, Permanence and Change, and Sisters and Comrades."

Not only is this work a highly readable biography of two distinguished women, but this work also helps to describe the development of the profession of social work. It also reveals important aspects of the history of the United States for the Abbotts carried out their work in the economic and social milieus of their time.

Lela Costin is to be congratulated on creating this significant work. --BLH



DEAN OF STUDENTS BULK MAIL PERMIT

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS comes from the Office for Women's Resources and Services, 346 Fred H. Turner Student Services Building, 610 East John Street, Champaign, IL 61820. Contributing to each issue is the Office of Women's Studies, 411 Gregory Hall.

Articles and comments from our readers are welcomed.

--Betty L. Hembrough, Editor

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