

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER, 1981

Vol. V No. 3.

A HEALTHY REPORT

Saturday, October 17 was the Women's Health Fair, 1981. It was held at the Wesley Foundation, Urbana. The fair was very well organized and I found it very informative. I was disappointed, however, in the amount of women who attended, approximately 35-40 were registered. It was a rainy Saturday, but it really bothers me when you know how much time and energy goes into planning an event like this and women in the community don't take advantage of it.

There were approximately 24 booths set up covering a variety of health issues. They ranged from smoking to breast cancer to health foods. There were workshops scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. I attended two of them. Mary Ellen Shanese spoke on "Lesbian Health Care Issues". She brought up the difficulties lesbian women have with the medical profession. The option to identify one's sexual preference was one mentioned. The questions on forms and in interviews are structured so as to exclude anything outside of heterosexuality. A fact was that lesbian women are the healthiest reproductively of all women and have a much lower percentage rate of venereal disease and sexual dysfunctioning. I also attended a workshop led by Dr. Barbara Bremer, psychologist on "Finding the Right Professional Mental Health Counseling". Dr. Bremer discussed the variety of professionals in the field and questions to ask of a professional you may seek. She felt that one should:

1. Ask the fee for the service.
2. Ask for the name of the degrees they hold.
3. What experience they have.
4. What specific training or model did they use.

These were a few of the suggestions. I enjoyed myself and want to give special praise to the YWCA and especially Lisa Cunningham.

SURVIVAL

Survival for Women is a new newsletter designed to help you to deal with life threatening situations, Survival for Women will give you information, strategies, and techniques on how to deal with rape and other physical attacks, sexual harassment, stressful life styles and non-assertiveness -- successfully. If you are interested, the subscription rate is \$24. Write to:

Survival for Women
13450 Maxella Avenue
185 Box 228
Marina Del Rey, CA 90291

SELF-DEFENSE

Self defense for practical street attacks will be offered by Mike Berger (Graduate student at the University of Illinois, Black Belt, registered with the United States Karate Association. Styles Studied: Tae Kwon Do (Korean) & Chinese Kempo. The techniques involved with this course are all concerned with the martial arts. Techniques will be selected with respect to defense against attack situations. The course is not intended as an "end-all" but rather is intended to give women an extra tool for warding off dangerous situations. The course is also intended to instill a degree of confidence into the student but by no means over confidence. The course will run six weeks beginning Monday, November 2, and will be held Monday and Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. with a second hour option for an informal review/work period from 8-9, at the McKinley Foundation (Knox- Calvin Room) located at the corner of 5th & Daniel in Champaign. Registration is limited to 35. No fee is required. To register or for further information contact W.I.R.E., 344-7323 or Catherine A. Dixon, 344-1120.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO W.I.R.E.

November 1st marks the fifth year anniversary of W.I.R.E., the Women's Information and Resource Exchange.

W.I.R.E. was conceived as the result of a Women's Congress held in April 1976, where women from the community and representatives from various organizations and agencies serving women in Champaign-Urbana came together to discuss the needs of the women's community. The Baker Fund of the Wesley Foundation, which has a commitment to ministry with women, provided the money to begin, and with the laborious efforts of a few key people W.I.R.E. was born.

Since 1976 W.I.R.E. has grown and expanded to include the publication of a free monthly Women's Community Newsletter and has been able to hire a quarter time coordinator to provide some continuity to the office. W.I.R.E. has been fortunate to have a social work intern from the U of I to help in her growth and has the continued support and encouragement of the Baker Board and staff at the Wesley Foundation.

W.I.R.E. received her first call on October 26, 1976 and has now received over 3,000 calls. W.I.R.E. is currently staffed by coordinator Suzanne Worner, social work intern Cindy Dunn, and dedicated volunteers: Nicky Keyes, Rosalind Weber, Cher Levenson, Lora Hall, Karen Roberts, Nancy Metzger, Laura Faynor, Lisa Remis, Jeanette Sey, Karen Hafley, Diane Schuyler, who all work to keep W.I.R.E. running smoothly. Special thanks to Julie Abell, Wesley Foundation secretary who is never too busy to help W.I.R.E. and Mark Peterson, who contributes his time and energy.

On the occasion of W.I.R.E.'s fifth birthday W.I.R.E. thanks all her friends and supporters.

*****IMPORTANT*****

We are rearranging our mailing list. If you are a student, please notify W.I.R.E. 344-7323. Let us know your name and address and that you are a student here. Thank you!

WIFE ABUSE/A POWER STRUGGLE

According to 140 researchers who met in July at the University of New Hampshire a new pattern of domestic violence has been found. Based on extensive research reported at the meeting, the end to most severe wife beating incidents seems to be in sight.

The findings of Dr. Mildred D. Pagelow of California State University, at Fullerton, are based on interviews and case studies that indicate that wife abuse may be decreasing as women attain the resources of education, employability, and earning. These are the women who are willing to leave their battering spouses. These are women who will no longer legitimize the man's battering behaviors because they have obtained some power over their lives. They have attained status.

(Article from Survival for Women, October, 1981, Newsletter.)

WOMEN'S THEATRE

Women's Collage Theatre is a non-profit incorporated organization and has been active since 1977. Their professional casts of New York actors and singers are talented performers, their productions are easily adaptable to any kind of playing area, their rates are reasonable. All this has made them popular with colleges, YWCA's, and women's organizations for art festivals, conferences, "Women's Weeks", women's studies and student events.

Call or write for further information for your group or community event.

Booking Coordinator
Helene Marshall
137 Glenwood Avenue
Leonia, NJ 07605

Women's Collage Theatre
151 Avenue, A, #2
New York, NY 10009
(212) 677-5552

WE ARE THE MAJORITY

Five polls concerning abortion were done during May & June of this year. The results of these polls are as follows:

ABC Poll

June 8, 1981

Q: *Do you tend to agree or disagree with this statement: Generally speaking, a woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one no matter what the reason?*

A.

Approve abortion no matter what the reason	40%
Approve abortion in most circumstances	34%
Disapprove in most circumstances	16%
Disapprove in all circumstances	10%

GALLUP Poll

June 1, 1981

Q: *The US Supreme Court has ruled that a woman may go to a doctor to end pregnancy at any time during the first 3 months of pregnancy. Do you favor or oppose this ruling?*

A.

Favor 45% Oppose 46% No Opinion 9%

HARRIS Poll

May 1981

Q: *Should any woman who is three months or less pregnant have the right to decide, with her doctor's advice whether or not she wants to have an abortion?*

A. Yes 68% No 30%

NBC Poll

May 18-19, 1981

Q: *Agree or disagree: Decision to have an abortion should be left to the woman and physician:*

A.

Agree 75% Disagree 21% Not Sure 4%

CBS Poll

May 2-3, 1981

Q: *If a woman wants to have an abortion, and her doctor agrees to it, should she be allowed to have an abortion or not?*

A.

Should 63% Should not 25% Depends 9%
No Opinion 3%

Clearly, most voters are Pro-Choice. The reason the Pro-Choice majority hasn't had more impact on Congress is that Congress counts votes, letters and campaign workers -- not opinion polls.

Legislators will hold the line against the political maneuvers of the anti-

abortion minority only when they know they can count on pro-choice voters, letter writers, and campaign workers. That's what will defeat the threats of laws and amendments to make abortion illegal.

YOU MUST BE VISIBLE, VOCAL AND VOTING

SUPPORT SUSAN CATANIA

Susan Catania (R) has been the chair person for the past seven years to the Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Catania's hard work has sponsored and passed most of the important legislation for women during that time as chair. For example, legislation on domestic violence, teenage pregnancy and concern for elderly women are just a few areas she has worked on.

Ms. Catania has been targeted by the speaker of the house, George Ryan (R), in an act of retaliation over her concerted effort on the passage of the ERA and her work to change the 3/5 ruling. As a part of that retaliation, Mr. Ryan has not re-appointed Ms. Catania to the Commission on the Status of Women. Mr. Ryan has not allowed any discussion about changing the 3/5 rule. Illinois happens to be the only state in the Union that requires a 3/5 majority for passage of an amendment to the U.S. constitution. This is crucial to the passage of the ERA.

There are rumors that Ms. Catania will run for Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. She will be running against Governor Thompson's chosen candidate none other than George Ryan.

If you would like to write to Ms. Catania to encourage her running or indicate your support, please write:

Speakers Office of the House
State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

If you would like to express your opinion to George Ryan, please write:

Speakers Office of the House
State Capitol Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706

CAN YOU BE A MENTOR

You could be a participant in the University of Illinois YWCA Mentoring Program, which is designed to match students with career minded women. The YWCA students have founded this program and hope you will share your experience and know-how with a young woman who is planning her career.

We are asking you to volunteer to spend half an hour with a student discussing your career. For example, the students may be interested in how you chose your career; what problems you faced, and/or are still facing as a woman; and how your educational background prepared you for this career.

A mentor will fill out an application and a student will fill out an application and we will carefully match students (mentees) with their prospective mentor.

In the event of a match, we will contact you and request your approval. Upon approval, the student will be given your name and business phone number. It will be the responsibility of the student to contact you and set up a meeting date. When the student arrives, she will have a calling card which includes a brief evaluation form to be returned to us.

Remember, you will be volunteering for no more than one half hour. If you wish to meet with the student again, please feel free to arrange further meetings yourself. However, if the student wants to meet again, the YWCA will once again contact you for your approval.

We hope you are interested in the Mentoring program. Please contact the YWCA Student Committee on Mentoring: 1001 S. Wright St., Champaign, 344-0721.

CHAMPAIGN SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

The League of Women Voters of Champaign County and Cablevision will present Champaign School Board candidates on "Candidates Night" to be broadcast Wednesday, October 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Channel 10. The program will be narrated by Ms. Susan Thomas. The program will be re-broadcast Monday, November 2.

Questions regarding budget and program cuts, desegregation, and more cohesive board effectiveness have been submitted to the candidates.

The League will also discuss the confusion of the ballot and help voters understand how to register their votes accurately.

HELP? HELP? HELP?

We appreciate your contributions, but W.I.R.E. still needs your support. If you haven't sent us a contribution, please don't forget us. Your donations will be used to cover the cost of printing, mailing, office supplies and another telephone line for W.I.R.E. Send to:

W.I.R.E.
1203 W. Green
Urbana, IL 61801

C A L E N D A R

NOVEMBER

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| 1, Sunday | 7:30 p.m. Gay Illini meets in room 270, Illini Union. Meets every Sunday evening. |
| 2, Monday | 12 noon ERA Coalition meets every Monday in Room 270, Illini Union.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. "Candidates Night" sponsored by Champaign County League of Women Voters and Cablevision. Featuring Champaign School Board Candidates. A re-broadcasting will be on Channel 10.
8:00 p.m. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) meeting. Friends Meeting House, 714 W. Green, Urbana, IL |

- 2, Monday Self Defense Course for practical street attacks will be held twice a week beginning Nov. 2 on Monday and Thursday evenings for 6 weeks from 7-8 p.m. 8-9 p.m. - option hour for informal review/work. It will be held at McKinley Foundation (Knox Calvin Room), 5th & Daniel in Champaign. Registration - 35 people. No fee. To register or for more information contact W.I.R.E. 344-7323 or Catherine Dixon, 344-1120.
- 4, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. National Organization for Women business meeting, McKinley Foundation.
8:00 p.m. Gay Coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation
- 5, Thursday Abortion Rights Coalition meets in Room 275, Illini Union.
- 7, Saturday Judy Chicago's, "The Dinner Party", trip sponsored by Parkland College Women's Program.
- 9, Monday Ethical Issues in Administration, Dr. Michele Thompson, Associate Vice President for Personnel Services for the University of Illinois (all three campuses), one of the most influential women in higher education will be speaking on issues for women in management. Noon luncheon series, the McKinley Foundation. For more information contact Steve Shoemaker, 344-0297.
- 10, Tuesday Women Theologizing, Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green, Urbana. For more information contact Catherine Dixon, 344-1120.
- 16, Monday 8:00 p.m. WILPF meeting, 714 W. Green, Urbana. Friends Meeting House.
12 noon. Ethical Issues in Administration, Willard Broom, Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Illinois, and Judy Ellickson, staff psychologist, Psychological and Counseling Center, will be leading a discussion on ethical issues in working with students and student groups. McKinley Foundation, noon luncheon series. For more information contact Steve Shoemaker, at 344-0297.
- 17, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. N.O.W. Program Meeting, McKinley Foundation.
- 19, Wednesday 7:30 - 10 p.m. "Win with Women", a public forum featuring Helen Satterthwaite and the State Caucus Traveling Road Show. Champaign City Building, 102 N. Neil, Champaign.
- 20, Friday 7:00 p.m. Forum showing of Salt of the Earth (film), followed by a discussion to be facilitated by Mary Lee Sargent at Prairie Womyn's Center, 207 W. Clark, Champaign. Sponsored by Ministry with Women and the Lavender Prairie Collective.
- 24, Tuesday 12:15 Women Theologizing, Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green, Urbana. For more information contact Catherine Dixon, 344-1120.

The Women's Community Newsletter
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Urbana, IL 61801

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