

WOMEN STUDENTS' UNION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1976

The WSU had our first official meeting of the ~~spring semester~~  on Tuesday, January 20. Our most immediate concern is scheduling events for Women's Week, a gala celebration of womanhood and educational experience to be held Feb. 29 through March 6. Seminars on women in religion, women in professions and women's health care are being planned. Also on the calendar are movies and self-help clinics in the Union and on various campus residence halls. Any new, fresh faces and ideas are welcome and needed to help us make this Women's Week a worthwhile experience for many. WSU meetings are every other Tuesdays.

The structure of the WSU is such that we are actually a collection of task forces assigned to specific areas of interest. The following is a list of these forces and people you can contact if you have any questions.

ERA: Mary Skubic 356-5536

Health Care: Pam Sass 332-2007

Blatant Sexism: Peggy Arnd 359-8257

Political Action: Pam Myerson 384-7430

Women's Week Coordinators: Mary Skubic 356-5536
Judy Tanner ~~384~~ 328-1120

Political Action

The Women's Political Action Task Force had our first meeting on Wed., January 28. Such noted people as city council member Mary Pollock, Representative Helen Satterthwaite, and Betty Adelman from Affirmative Action were present. This newly organized group has many great ideas and energies to direct towards women's political issues at precinct and state levels. One project we are ~~initiat~~ initiating is a "council watch". We will have a person attending ~~both~~ both Urbana and Champaign City Council Meetings to collect information of who votes how for what. From this data, lobbying strategy ~~will~~ will be formulated and pursued. Our next meeting, featuring a prominent guest speaker, will be Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30pm at the Illinois Disciples Foundation, Weisgarner Lounge, located at the corner of Wright & Springfield in Champaign.

ATTENTION

Susan B. Anthony party coming up. For more information contact WSU office Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

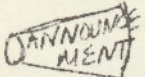


Health

+ This task force recently adopted the co-name "Champaign-Urbana Women's Health Collective in order to reflect its current emphasis on becoming a legitimate force in the acquisition of good health care. Our major emphasis this year has been organizing Self Help Clinics on campus. Through a slide presentation and discussion, these clinics feature information on Breast and Cervical Self Exam, VD, birth control, female anatomy, and vaginal infections. Information on these topics arm women with the knowledge necessary to have the confidence to demand the health care that they deserve from physicians and other health professionals. (The recent release from a study on surgery which exposed 2.3 million unnecessary operations which cost 12,000 lives attests to the need for assertive, informed consumers.) Physicians will not change themselves. The impetus for change must come from us, the patients.

The issue of health care is such a basic issue that there is no end to the directions that we can work in and change the status quo. It is exciting to see the results of our work. For example, on app. March 11, McKinley Health Center will be stocking a limited supply of diaphragm cream for women who wish to use the diaphragm instead of the reskiet pill or IUD. It is evident that there is evident that there can be change when women unite to pressure for change.

Presently there are too few women working in this task force which has so very much to do. If you can donate any time or talent to any project we are working on, we welcome you (with open arms to say the least). Whatever you want to do, there is a place here for your efforts. For more information, please call Pam 2-2007, Carla 344-1149 or the WSU office 3-6614.



Women's Wheels

Women's Wheels is off to a tremendous start this semester. Presently about 80 (!) women are donating their time in the capacity of driver's, navigators and dispatchers. For those who are not familiar with this program, Women's Wheels is a rape prevention service which gives rides to University women walking alone at night between 7 pm and 2 am. Women who wish to volunteer should call the Women's Wheels number-- 3-3184, or stop in room 284, Illini Union.

76! ERA

The ERA Task Force is beginning a lot of exciting new projects this semester! Terry Cosgrove, president of the Illinois chapter of Men for the ERA, was present at our meeting to get help putting out a mailing for contributions from male faculty members. We are organizing a group to research thoroughly the issues involved with the ERA and write a pamphlet. A panel is being set up to present this information to sororities, dorms, community groups and schools in an all-out drive to educate people about the Equal Rights Amendment. A lot of people can become involved through this program! Also, tables in the Union are being set up once a week to continue petitioning legislators to support the ERA.

The only limit on our programs is people power, so come to offer time and ideas! New people are always welcome. ERA task force meetings are held every Tuesday night at 6:30 in 270 Illini Union.

Women's Week Feb. 29 thru Mar 6

Programs for this week will range from a Panel on Women in Judaism to numerous Self Help Clinics. Also women's self-defense programs and assertiveness training workshops will be part of this great great week. A debate in Latzer Hall on Wed., March 3, will focus in on men's role in the women's movement. Many more exciting programs will be presented during this week. If you are willing to help, or have a program to present during this week, let us know. Call Judy Tanner, 328-1120 or Chris Howe, 3-7060. Further information on Women's Week will be published in the DI, announced on WPGU (hopefully), and available at the WSU office, 270 Ill. Union.

5 } Blatant Sexism

The Blatant Sexism task force is currently working on distribution of complaint forms concerning teachers, etc.. We are also considering co-sponsoring a "mono-kini" contest. If this is approved, we will need lots of help in organizing this male beauty contest. There's a lot of "cleaning-up" to do yet, concerning sexism on campus and, as always, new ideas are welcome. If you are interested in helping, call WSU or Peggy at 359-8237.

Senator Weaver has been wavering (weavering?) on his pre ERA stand and needs more pressure. Visit him if possible, or just take the time to write him a letter...c/o Senator Weaver, Senate Post Office, Springfield.