Editorial

The Feminist Press
EDITORIAL

As our third issue goes to press, we can count upwards of 500 subscribers. Before our fourth—in late June—we'd like some feedback from our regular readers. We realize that you are busy people, but a postal card will do, telling us what you do like and what you would like.

We know it's useful to list conferences. At least, the organizers of the spring conference at Sacramento received a large chunk of mail as a result of our notice. But is it useful to report on conferences in news stories, as we did in our second issue and here again? If so, we need volunteer reporters to write such stories—and to give us notice that they are coming. Note: In lieu of payment, we plan to offer contributors a year's subscription to the Newsletter.

Second, we are beginning to receive descriptions of both college and high school courses, and we print the best here. Are they useful? Would you rather have more bibliography instead, or a whole syllabus?

Third, we know that people want to know about jobs in Women's Studies and about sources of money for the development of programs. So we include an article on “Rosters” for this issue and plan an article on foundations and grants for a future one. We are also listing all the job openings we hear about. What else would you suggest? Do people want to list themselves as in search of jobs? We'd grant space free, of course, but the format would have to be relatively terse.

Finally, the most important question of all: what do you think of our deliberate mix of elementary, high school, and higher education material? Are we managing to please no group by insisting upon including all? Or is the news of developments in each educational area of general interest to you, our subscribers?

ROSTERS: AN INTERIM REPORT

Progress on a national roster of women and minorities—that “national directory of women scholars” we have been talking about in women's groups within our various professional associations for close to two years now—is “standing still,” according to Janet Brown, director of the new Office of Opportunities in Science at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The American Council on Education has written a proposal for an Equal Opportunity Register—a national directory of women and minorities in higher education—and is seeking funding (one estimate tags the cost at three-quarters of a million dollars), but to date no funding has been obtained.

A roster at the national level needs both 1) adequate funding, and 2) coordination among all professional groups to ensure nonduplication of effort. AAAS is extremely interested in the task of coordination. Janet Brown’s notion is that AAAS might develop, in effect, a model roster, and work with the commissions and caucuses of all associations, whose rosters would then relate to the national effort as pieces of a rational whole.

The terms “roster,” “register,” “directory,” and “talent bank” seem to be nearly interchangeable. The important distinction is whether the listing is to include job-seekers only (and therefore to serve a recruitment/employment function only) or whether the list is to include all women active in the particular discipline or profession. If a “talent bank” of all women active in a profession is prepared, the roster may be used within the profession for making appointments to editorial boards, committees, commissions, panels, special lectureships, and the like; well qualified women may also be selected for consultancies, government commissions, etc. Most associations are opting for the directory of all women active in the field (partly because—as the American Historical Association and the American Psychological Association have discovered—a tax-exempt (continued on page 10)