Fall 1976

Editorial

The Feminist Press

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EDITORIAL

As we enter our fifth year of publishing the Women's Studies Newsletter, we're confronted by an interesting paradox. On the one hand, people all over the country continue to tell us how important the Newsletter is; how wonderful, useful, crucial to the women's studies communication network and to the future of women's studies. On the other hand, although we can count more than 5,500 women's studies teachers in higher education alone (and our subscribers include libraries and public school teachers), our subscription list numbers less than 2,000. In short, we're praise-rich and subscription-poor! And while it's nice to be a critical success, we desperately need subscribers.

Since we're about to embark on a new phase—new design, format and schedule—it seemed like a good time to begin to earn our way here at The Feminist Press. The economics of publishing are certainly no mystery: costs of paper and printing have risen enormously; postage alone now consumes one-fifth of subscription income. The Newsletter has not managed to pay for much more than the cost of printing and mailing. It has not assumed full responsibility for the managing editor's salary—the only paid staff member—that salary is covered by The Feminist Press. The Newsletter has never paid anyone for writing or editing; those services have been the contribution of feminists around the country and the staff of The Press. And subscription income is really our only income—we have never had a grant or subsidy of any sort. Furthermore, some of our friends have suggested that our policy of giving the Newsletter away at conferences may be backfiring. Evidently, if you go to the right conferences you can easily assemble a year's worth of issues! We're sure you'll understand that we can no longer give the Newsletter away.

Our new look, to be introduced with the Winter 1977 issue, will be accompanied by a modest increase in the cost of subscriptions—the first in five years. This is due both to rising costs and to our expectation of doubling in size. Our new schedule will bring the Newsletter to you—still first class—during the first weeks of December, March, June and September. So, paradox notwithstanding, we begin our fifth year with anticipation: buoyed with the knowledge that some subscribers have stayed with us from the beginning; that our contributing editors continue to send us excellent copy; that the future of the Newsletter—and the future of women's studies—is bright indeed.

CORRECTIONS

We made a mistake in our reporting on the Northwest Women's Studies Association in our Spring 1976 issue ("Regional Women's Studies Associations," page 2). The NWSA was formally organized in January 1976 (not fall 1975) when representatives from schools in Oregon and Washington met and approved a statement of purpose and set current definitions and goals.

The author of "Grass Roots Women's Studies: South Carolina" in our Summer 1976 issue was incorrectly identified. The author is Leslie Todd, a graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina.

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