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Corrections/Clarification: News Briefs

The Feminist Press

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THE FUTURE OF WOMEN’S STUDIES (continued)

studies is offered as a model for other ethnic studies programs
at San Jose State, on the other hand, we will suffer because we
have not lobbied to set up our own department with tenure
track positions.

As for the future, I don’t think we will disappear totally. Our
Master’s program seems to be one area of growth; we have
approximately 25 students on the M.A. level and I receive
inquiries weekly about the program. As far as course content
is concerned, our students, like others, are particularly interested
in practical skills, so next fall we have convinced the Business
School to set up a course titled “Administrative Skills for
Women”; this semester we offered a “Seminar in Career Al­
ternatives,” placing students as interns in practical situations
where a feminist perspective is needed. We have also decided
that one course each semester will be taught totally by graduate
students in the M.A. program.

Human sexuality is the other area in which students continue
to express an interest. Next fall we will have courses on Human
Sexual Evolution, on Women in an Evolutionary Perspective,
and on Lesbianism and Feminism (euphemistically entitled
Feminism and Psycho-Sexual Orientation). Other new courses
include a creative writing course for women, a course on La
Chicana, a course on suburbia and women; all these courses
are funded by the appropriate departments.

I suppose, then, that my message is: find a saleswoman and set
her to the task of convincing departments that courses on women
are academically crucial to their program.

Sybil Weir, Coordinator

from STEPHENS COLLEGE

At the end of our first year and a half, the Women’s Studies
Program at Stephens College can look forward to having its
own budget in 1975-76 and so to expansions that have not
been possible before. At this point our program is similar to
many others. We offer a freshman-level interdisciplinary course
as an introduction to women’s studies. On a second level we
have begun to offer short courses under the title “Current Issues
in Feminism.” Other courses are those offered within various
departments where instructors were willing either to re-cast
material to give it a feminist perspective or to work up feminist
courses new to our curriculum. We have offered about a dozen
such courses this year.

Two developments may be of interest to others. This year we
have begun a three-year program funded by the Monticello
Foundation to bring women writers to our campus for periods
of from three days to seven weeks (seven because that is the
length of our academic term). The program is sponsored
jointly by the Creative Writing Program, the Residence Coun­
seling Program and Women’s Studies. This year we have
brought three poets and three fiction writers to campus—
Mona Van Duy, Maxine Kumin, Toni Cade Bambara, Toni
Morrison, Tillie Olsen and Carolyn Stoloff. Five of these
women were here for four days, during which time they
met with students both individually and in small groups,
spoke to classes, led general discussions and gave readings.
The emphases were writing and women. Toni Cade Bambara
was here for a month, during which time she taught a course
in black women writers.

The other program (planned for a weekend this spring) is a
seminar for male faculty to introduce them to women’s
studies and to discuss sexism in the classroom and curriculum
here at our college. We have planned a student panel on sexist
assumptions students encounter in classrooms pretty much as
a matter of course. (Students have volunteered to tell men
faculty what it is like.) Two instructors in the introductory
women’s studies course will give somewhat condensed versions
of their presentations for that course. And we have arranged
to bring a speaker, Marc Fastoe, who has recently published
a book on masculine stereotypes, to talk with the men and to
give a lecture which will be open to men and women faculty
alike.

Our brief experience with women’s studies has testified to the
need for such a program. Stephens is a woman’s college, but it
is far from feminist. High enrollments in our introductory
course suggest to us that students want and need the kind of
instruction and contact with other women they find there.
We want to involve men in our program both as students and
teachers. We want to involve more women from the com­
munity. We need to expand our offerings within the various
disciplines, and we need to expand in other directions. We
are fairly optimistic about being able to do these things and
more within the next year or two.

Betty Littleton, Director

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATION

The article on the closing of the Women’s History Library
in the Fall/Winter 1974-75 issue of the Women’s Studies
Newsletter contained a few errors and some misleading in­
formation. To clarify: the microfilm record of women’s
serials (1968-1974) is called HERSTORY. These are not
“history films.” Neither these, nor the Health/Mental
Health or Law microfilms are movies, but rather 35mm,
silver halide microfilm to be read on a library reader. The
Law series, made up of eight reels, is $30. a reel; Health/
Mental Health, consisting of 13 reels is $30. a reel and the
Women’s Serials (HERSTORY) is a total of 93 reels which
sell for $24. a reel. Standing orders are needed for the re­
main ing 32 reels on law. These orders will help to raise the
$30,000 that is necessary for the Library to receive an
emergency matching grant from the Alameda County
Board of Supervisors. The remaining microfilming can­
not be completed without this grant, so orders and dona­
tions must be forthcoming. Many libraries will consider
ordering the films only if faculty and students put pres­
sure on them to do so. Finally, the correct address is
Women’s History Research Center, 2325 Oak St.,
Berkeley, CA 94708, not 94618 as printed in the Fall/
Winter issue.

In the Media section of Newsbriefs in the Fall/Winter
1974-75 issue, the address of the Feminist History
Research Project was printed incorrectly. It is F.H.R.P.,
P. O. Box 1156, Topanga, CA 90290.