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Even Our Language Is an Ever Present Indictment

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status of the individual members in their own institutions, the Committee knew that through collective effort it had achieved a marked success and that top administrators in the consortium and a sizable number of faculty and students had become aware that the GLCA Women's Studies Committee exists. The Committee has established a legitimate position (and self-image) of visible leadership. Whatever role a Committee member plays on her own campus, she feels enabled to participate in shaping a wider consortial action.

What might it cost to launch a consortial approach to women's studies? Money is crucial, but at the outset much can be accomplished with a modest budget. The size and spread of the consortium are naturally significant variables. In GLCA, an overnight meeting of the Women's Studies Committee costs around \$500. The first workshop for 60 faculty members cost approximately \$3,000, excluding planning and travel of the participants, but including food, lodging for two nights, and program. The more complex 1977 conference for 100 persons for *three* nights cost less than \$10,000 (excluding planning and participant travel). This year's budget, in addition to salary and travel for the coordinator, part-time secretarial support, and salary for a one-semester Women's Studies Visiting Scholar, provides (in approximate figures) for the following: office and printing expenses, \$5,000; travel for the Committee, \$3,000; fees and travel for speakers/consultants for workshops and major conferences, \$6,500; program (materials library, conference, weekend and one-day workshops, exchange of consultants within GLCA, and mini-grants to support women's studies teaching), \$21,500; honoraria and travel for evaluation team, \$2,400. Federal support for 1977-78 will total \$53,850, and additional general support and cash outlay will be contributed by the colleges and the GLCA operating budget.

Past accomplishments and receipt of the FIPSE grant notwithstanding, some tough problems persist for women's studies within the GLCA. Administrative support on individual campuses, while increasing, is hardly adequate, and there is no indication

that the number of faculty women on each campus is likely to increase radically in the foreseeable future. Untenured, vastly outnumbered faculty women, struggling to gain a secure foothold in academe, are often reluctant to assume the additional burdens and risks of promoting women's studies, and on each campus only a handful of students and an occasional male faculty member contribute regular support. Yet the

base of involvement must become wider if future funding is to be gleaned from slim administrative budgets and if women's studies is to exert a dynamic influence on the mainstream curricula and the teaching and advising of all women students. Increasing this base of involvement is the most crucial challenge of the GLCA Women's Studies Committee in the next two years. □

Ellen Bass

Even Our Language Is an Ever Present Indictment

The word innocent means not guilty
free from sin, guileless, simple, naive,
and spotless, unsullied.

The dictionary example is innocent snow.
They mean snow which hasn't been walked on, had
car exhausts blow it gray, turned slush, been
scraped to sides of Northeast streets in unmeltable piles.

Do they think this battered snow is then guilty?
Has it sinned? Has the snow been
asking for it? Did it have it
coming to it?
Was it out at night? Did it
give in too easy?

Why don't little girls tell
when the dentist or the neighbor or her father
reaches under her skirt and splits
her small opening with a shove?

Why don't they tell?
Websters'll tell you—
when you're no longer innocent
you're guilty.

Untitled

I am writing a poem about birth
and need an image for pushing through
pushing out. Roget's thesaurus lists
push aside, push back, push down, push forward
push in, push off and upon.
It also considers push the pencil, push car, pusher, and push-over.

On page one opposite a sepia portrait
is Roget's biography:
"Peter Mark Roget was the only son of John Roget."
Ah. So there was no pushing out.