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1979

Notes on the Lesbian Caucus at Kansas

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enough to make the personal and program commitments for change. Change in the feminist workplace could come in many forms, including written job descriptions which truthfully reflect job function, released time for all program members to seek professional growth and development, and participation in decision-making processes.

In the coming year, the Staff Caucus hopes to concentrate on developing methods for confronting change. Those who were able to attend the Kansas Convention invite all others to join them in developing a short history of women in clerical work, with an understanding of the social and cultural bias toward such work; guides for discussing hierarchical structure in the feminist workplace; and surveys of workers in women's studies programs.

Opportunities to enlarge and discuss Staff Caucus issues will be available throughout the year, particularly with the objective of providing a full schedule of workshops, panels, and meetings for the Second Annual NWSA Convention next year in Bloomington. Those interested in getting in touch with the NWSA Staff Caucus should contact its newly-elected representative to the Coordinating Council, Sharon Hagan, 3425 Tulane Drive, #11, Hyattsville, MD 20783.

Submitted by Barbara Parker

NOTES ON THE LESBIAN CAUCUS AT KANSAS

Members of the Lesbian Caucus spent hundreds of hours at Lawrence working to ensure that the caucus can become a viable, active network for lesbians in women's studies all over the country. Accomplishments included the formation of a fourteen-member steering committee, a fundraising committee, and a taskforce to compile and distribute to NWSA members educational materials on lesbianism. Plans include a newsletter, national networking through liaisons with the NWSA regions, and international networking and support through international periodicals and

organizations. (We thought we ought to start with relatively modest goals.)

To keep the Lesbian Caucus alive between conventions, the steering committee will compile a caucus mailing list; maintain contacts with designated regional liaisons; stay in touch with caucus committees or taskforces and with caucus representatives to the Coordinating Council and NWSA committees; and be responsible for lesbian input into program planning for the 1980 Convention. The co-conveners of the steering committee are Coralyn Fontaine, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, and Kyrila Lowe, 4501 West Garner, Muncie, IN 47304. Women interested in the work of the steering committee may contact either of the co-conveners. Coralyn Fontaine also heads up the taskforce on educational materials, and Kyrila Lowe has volunteered to edit the newsletter. Any questions or contributions for those projects can be directed to them, too.

Those who have never signed a Lesbian Caucus mailing list should contact Charlotte Criste, #4 East Cleveland Avenue, Newark, DE 19711, very soon in order to receive the newsletter. Although we were able to collect over sixty dollars from the steering committee, we reluctantly decided that we would have to institute Caucus dues to finance the newsletter and other Caucus projects. Information and discussion on dues will appear in the first newsletter.

Submitted by Nan Cinnater

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

The National Office is seeking photographs of the First Annual NWSA Convention for its "archives." If you have photographs that you are willing to donate, loan, or copy, please send them to the National Women's Studies Association, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

NOTES ON THE STUDENT CAUCUS AT KANSAS

Approximately 50 students from around the country attended the recent NWSA Convention in Kansas. The majority met one another for the first time at meetings of the Student Caucus there. Several major issues were identified in the course of our caucus discussions:

Information — Students are uninformed about women's studies beyond their immediate environment and need information about jobs, grants, and, in general, what-to-do-with-a-women's-studies-degree. Our isolation from one another has weakened our power to politicize collectively and organize as students.

Public Education Crisis — Students feel frightened and bitter about the cuts and lack of resources that are currently plaguing women's studies programs. The toll, more than dollars, is the general apathy of the student movement, and the alienation that students and teachers often feel in relation to each other.

Diversity of Needs — Our needs and priorities were diverse. We were made up of graduate, undergraduate, and reentry students. Public, private, four-year, community, traditional, and experimental schools were represented. Some of us came from schools with no Women's Studies Program at all. Our feminist politics varied: liberal, radical, socialist, lesbian, or brand-new. Women of color, community college students, and working-class students were barely represented.

Money — Financial accessibility to the NWSA and its functions was the dominant single issue in our caucus. Many of us regarded our presence at the Convention as exceptional, a stroke of luck. We were particularly conscious of the students who weren't with us.

Feminist Process/Student Power — Lack of money was the most tangible element of the students' feeling of powerlessness. Many of us experienced alienation and a lack of