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The Dickinson Women's NEWSLETTER

Published by The Advisory and Planning Committee
on Women's Programs

APRIL, 1974

HAVING OPTIONS AS WOMEN: H. O. W.?

by Pamelee McFarland

On Saturday, March 2, 30 Dickinson women students attended a workshop at the Harrisburg Women's Center entitled "Having Options as Women." We planned the workshop with the hopes of stimulating awareness and concern for women's historical role in the job market. Wanda Wilson from the State Employment Securities Office delivered the opening session with some rather grim statistics: while women occupy 40 percent of all jobs, the majority of those jobs are not in decision or policy-making capacities. Thus, while women are 52 percent of the population, they play a minimal role in the country's more important positions.

Dianne Nicholl, Pam Weiss and Martha Zatazelo from the Dickinson School of Law gave the second presentation which dealt with current rape laws and the Equal Rights Amendment. Many women students indicated that they had never considered law as a career until they began thinking of the vital legal issues concerning the future and status of women. The law students also discussed the current discrimination that still exists towards womenlawyers seeking employment in corporations and the larger law firms. Opportunities for women are expanding, however.

There were a variety of fields represented, and women students spent some time talking with resource women individually. The resource women ranged from Mary Harris, Executive

Director of Environmental Protection; Pat Quann and Sue Cameron, Special Assistants in the Criminal Justice Office; Martha Smith, Research Psychologist; Verna Edmunds, Television Communications; Marie Keeney, Affirmative Action Director for the State Insurance Department; Susan Wilson, Safety Engineer; Emily Sopensky, Budget Analyst in the Governor's Office; Barbara Chaapel, Ministry; Dean Mary Watson Carson, Dickinson College; Mary Moser, Dickinson Admissions Office; among others. The women offered diverse backgrounds in entering and succeeding in the job market.

The final session of the day was prepared by Mary Burns, Director of the Harrisburg Women's Center, and Sue Grenager, who shares a job in Public Information for the Department of Education with another woman. The women told of the very real possibility of combining a career with being a wife and mother. It seems that there are some men who are re-evaluating the criteria for fulfillment in marriage and in their occupational life.

The theme of the day indicated to the women students that the choice of an academic major does not necessarily mean inflexibility of life-long career decisions, that the college years are ideal for developing a myriad of skills to be used at any point during a woman's working years, and that marriage and a career are indeed compatible partners.

***** SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

The Women's Advisory and Planning Committee on Women's Programs is sponsoring a Spring Film Festival featuring the following films which are relevant to women's concerns.

- APRIL 11, Thursday, Diary of A Mad Housewife
- APRIL 16, Tuesday, Rachel, Rachel
- APRIL 22, Monday, Splendor in the Grass
- APRIL 29, Monday, The Emerging Woman (documentary, 45 min.)
- MAY 9, Thursday, Kisses for My President
- MAY 12, Sunday, All About Eve (8:00 p.m.)

All films will be shown at 9:00 p.m. in ATS Section B unless otherwise stated.

"WOMEN IN THE ARMY?" -- AN EDITORIAL

This generation may be one of the most prejudiced in history, despite our flaunted mores. While conscious of sexism and racism (on the part of others), we propagate our own hatreds against differentness, age and "the establishment." Not the least of these prejudices is that against the military brought on by the Vietnam War. This was illustrated at the "Women in the Army" panel discussion sponsored by the Dickinson R.O.T.C., when a discussion on career opportunities became centered around the "morality of war" question.

We will graduate into an economy worse than any since the depression. In times like these, job seekers have to adapt if they are to succeed. No one will be chasing us with contracts. Ideals, plans, training and self images will have to be pliable to fit what opportunities are available -- and one of the avenues open to us is the Army.

Due to the discontinuation of the draft, the Army is bending over backwards to get both male and female college graduates into its ranks. It is trying to set an example for the country by adopting the Equal Rights Amendment into all its practices. Since 1970 every branch of the Army except combat has opened to women. Promotion is according to rank and service, not sex; pay is equal, benefits are equal. Training programs, R.O.T.C. and others, appear to be better for women than men. Try to find these in business and industry!

The group of women who spoke at Drayer on February 13 represented a variety of life styles. There are no stereotypes in the military unless we choose to create them (outside of recruiting material, that is). Not so surprisingly, several officers mentioned that they joined the Army to "help people," the same logic used by the audience to protest the idea.

If we can rid ourselves of our snobbish attitudes towards the military long enough to examine it on an equal basis with other prospective employers, we might find it worth the taking. The Army is not an organization for losers, not for blood-thirsty maniacs. It is, as Captain Conatser said (DICKINSONIAN, Feb. 7), "a valid career or job alternative which should be investigated." The Army is ready for us. Are we ready for the Army?

"A workshop such as this, in my opinion, provides a golden opportunity for females, such as me, that are confused about and concerned with their role in society of the future, not only as women but as fulfilled human beings -- which I think is the goal of all intelligent, sensitive individuals. Before I came I was definitely perplexed about where my life was leading and why I was at college in the first place. After talking to these talented, positive women who have taken a look at their own lives and directed and transformed them into fully satisfying lives that benefit not only themselves but also their families, I am reassured in the knowledge that there is no reason for my ever falling short of being a total person."

...quote from a woman student who attended the H.O.W. Workshop

The Newsletter is published by the Women's Advisory and Planning Committee of Dickinson College.

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We would like to thank Noel Potter for our masthead. Any contributions would be welcomed (as well as comments or suggestions) at box 1298 or the Office of Student Services.

Typing by Ms. Shirley Trego

MEANDERINGS

by Barbara Chaapel



I had a beautiful experience last Friday evening. You don't hear much about beautiful experiences these days, with something between apathy and complaint as the common lifestyle. But Friday evening in Mathers Theatre an audience was living on the edge of its senses.

Five Dickinson women cast in The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds renewed my hope that there really are playwrights who write good parts for women. And we all know that there are certainly capable women who can act them, as Cathy Wilson, Susan Dierdorf, Elena Martinez-Vidal, Pam Schettini and Elizabeth Hodgson proved last weekend.

I make no pretense of being a drama critic (having already claimed as many roles around here as I have time for)! But I would like to meander through my thoughts on Marigolds for these few paragraphs.

Each of the five women on that stage awakened something within me -- each represented something of the woman I am, that I have been or that I will be. There was Mama -- in her way something of my own mother, a woman whom in some senses life has passed by. In her was the sadness of one who has no one to live for, whose children have caught hold of dreams of their own, and are leaving her behind with dreams unrealized or shattered, no longer even her own.

One of the play's most poignant moments was a scene finding mother and daughter side by side on the sofa singing the vegetable hawker's street song -- "Apples, pears, cucumbers" -- again and again. The song had been her father's as he peddled his wares when she was a small girl. But just once she had stolen away with the horses and cart in the early morning and she had ridden through town singing of her wares, and the song had been her song.

I have always thought that it is stories and myths that we hold onto, that we believe in, that give our lives meaning. And the stories that make us real people, that help us understand our world -- we tell them over and over, and we must get them just right. Whether they are stories about our ancestors, about our gods, or about a father selling vegetables, they are our life-stories -- they shape and give meaning to our lives. So Mama had her story, the one thing which had given her life meaning. And she told it over and over again to Ruth, making sure Ruth got its intonation exactly right. And any joy which Mama found in keeping old ladies, in furnishing tea shops or in having a daughter who had won the science fair, was just a new version of that story, a new vision of her old, own dream. If only each woman could catch onto a dream, could claim her own story, and hold onto it for a lifetime.

Then there was Tillie -- the one figure in the play who had caught hold to a dream and was beginning to form her story. Her eyes, her face, her movements, her words -- somewhere in the haziness between girl and woman -- were a wonder to behold, even from the last row. "The Atom" was her vision -- the unit of life that made up her rabbit, her man-in-the-moon marigolds and herself. The hope of making a meaning out of life, of realizing full and whole womanhood, was in Tillie, and both Ruth and Mama knew that when, although only fleetingly, they could say, "she is my sister, my daughter" -- she is the woman in me, the woman I want to be. I wonder how many women in the audience (indeed, how many men) felt that longing with them.

Ruth is a part of me, too. How many times have I decided inside my head, because I was confused and hurt, that if I can't have something, I'll make sure no one else can either. It comes of such a need for acceptance and love that jealousy and possession take over, and hurting someone else is only bested by having exactly what you want for yourself. So Ruth bought the rabbit with her promise not to hurt Mama. But when she was denied a share in her sister's success and left at home, she struck out in the only way she knew how -- to return hurt for hurt and take away her mother's share of the dream. I can't help but think of the Biblical Ruth, who clung to a

continued, page 4...

LUBIN TO PLAN WOMEN'S THEATER PRODUCTION

When I think of women today, I think about expression, because expression seems to be what women are working towards so desperately. An expression of themselves as women and at the same time as individuals -- this is what women are beginning to devote their lives to.

When I think of expression, I think of drama, simply because that's my favorite, or ultimate, form of expression.

Now, putting one and one together, instead of the dull, usual answer of two, I come up with one. Here's the one.

A dramatic presentation of woman -- a not very original or brilliant idea, is it? But the more I read and research, the more plausible the idea seems to be.

As it stands, the program will be readings of women's literature. The first half of the program has yet to be planned -- for that I need help. There are so many authors and pieces to choose from, I look at piles of books and shudder at the thought of excluding any. Planning a half-hour program of readings that all adhere to one theme, or to the progression of a theme through time, will be hard work, but seeing it all on stage will be well worth the work. The second half of the program is already chosen, and all that is needed are three voices. The piece is by Sylvia Plath. "Three Voices" is a radio play in blank verse. There are three women experiencing childbirth: a "normal," married woman, another woman whose child is born dead, and a college girl who will give the child up for adoption. It's powerful, almost frightening.

So, we need readers; we need a planning committee, and we need a reaction from all the women on campus. Come help -- come express.

WOMEN AND MEDICINE

by Kathy Rosen

On December 1, five Dickinson women attended a symposium in Newark, New Jersey, given by the American Medical Women's Association of the New Jersey Medical School. The symposium was titled "The Momentum of Women in Medicine" and gave women "pre-med" students from all over the East a closer look into the medical profession from the points of view of female doctors.

The first discussion was "Women, Sex -- Psychiatry" in which Gwendolyn Offit, M.D., Chief of the Sexual Therapy and Consultation Center of Lenox Hill Hospital, dealt with woman's sex role as engendered by our society, and the psychoanalytic identification process. Dr. Offit spoke of the American woman's cultural indoctrination of "success avoidance," but she stressed that now it is easier than ever before for a woman to break out of her societal mold and become whatever she wants to be. If being a doctor is her goal, she will have to struggle along with the other part of the pre-med population.

The symposium was truly enlightening, and many of our questions were answered. We learned that being a woman involved in a medical practice is a lot of work, but it can be done and a family life is still possible.

MEANDERINGS (CONTINUED)

mother-in-law in a strange land -- "Whither thou goest, there also will I go" -- and Lindel's Ruth, who wanted so desperately to cling loyally to mother and sister but could not. How many of us women can say, "My sister" to one another in love and mean it? Those two words come hard.

And, of course, Nanny, whose silence was as deafening as my own grandmother's incessant talking. Her presence was the chaining burden of age which we as a society have imposed even more heavily on women than on men. And Janice Vickery -- the product of American education personified -- pure, unadulterated achievement, untainted by humaneness or dreams. But she didn't win the science fair... -- I wonder.

Five women whose lives touched one another at the most intimate points. Yet maybe five parts of the same woman, who each one of us is or shall be. When I left the theater, I was somewhere between sadness and wonder -- which is a place I haven't been for a long time.

by Gail Tyson

Is Girl Scouting relevant in today's world? As a woman in the seventies, can I defend my green uniform as anything but a fanciful escape from the real world? Without hesitation I would have to answer yes. Perhaps, however, it is a healthy sign that these questions have been and are continually being asked by the Organization and many members of themselves during the more than sixty years Scouting has existed in the states.

It would be presumptuous of me to speak for the Girl Scout and Girl Guide organization or any other member in the World Association which spans the globe. Its value and significance adapt differently to each individual. Definitely, it is an organization for all times -- past, present and future. I can only speak for myself. The opportunities I've had in Scouting have provided me the chance to obtain a better understanding of the world, other people and myself.

For thirteen years Scouting has played an important part in my growth as a woman. In a way Girl Scouting is the most effective, far-reaching women's movement in existence. Encompassing all ages, Scouting concentrates its energies towards girls 7-17 years of age. These are the years that girls are forming their opinions of the world and, most importantly, of themselves.

Many talented women volunteered their time and concern to being the Leaders and Advisors for the Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior troops in which I took part. As women they served as role models for girls still searching out their own identity. As leaders they allowed us to benefit from a Scouting program as varied as our imaginations.

As I progressed in Scouting my leaders went from Mother to Teacher to Enabler to a role as an Advisor. My troopmates and I were challenged physically and emotionally. Could we hike twenty miles, backpack the Appalachian trail, canvass the city on an eco-project or give first aid? Could we relate to senior citizens or young children with ease, choose our values or life goals and be happy with ourselves? Sex discrimination was unheard of -- we could do anything the Boy Scouts could do, do a bit more and be better at it! I came to believe that a "woman's place" was wherever she wanted it to be. There's room in our movement for the Homemaker and the Trailblazer, the Social Activist and the Aviator.

Till this point I've stressed the opportunities for self-growth. Scouts hasn't been solely an individual head-trip for me. Girl Scouting is a movement of people. I went to school with kids who thought much like myself, lived near kids of the same race and worshipped with those of my faith. Scouting has been the major access to interaction between myself and people of different ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

While wearing my Girl Scout green I've been welcomed into the homes of legislators and tenant farmers. As a Scout counselor my children are all unique; one has instructed me on how to corn roll her afro while another is teaching me Hebrew. My sisters in Scouting are many and we have much to give and share with each other.

I've tried to recount a part of what I've learned, through Scouting, of myself and the society in which I live. Scouting is also responsible for taking me one step further by making Marshall McLuhan's concept of a "global village" a personal reality. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, financed by contributions given to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, sponsors a counselor exchange within established Guide and Scout camps. Through this program I have started friendships, still growing through correspondence, with women in France and Japan.

In January 1973 the JLWFF enabled a Scouting dream of mine to come true. I was selected as one of six regional delegates from the U.S.A. to participate in an International Campus Scout Event. The two-week event was held at Our Cabana, one of Scouting's four world centers, located in Cuernavaca, Mexico. As women from four different and diverse countries we shared our cultures, our feelings and ourselves. We gained as much from informal midnight rap sessions as we did from panel discussions. After the conference I came away with a myriad of memories and new perspectives, not only on Scouting but also on education and the status of women in my country and theirs.

My memories of Scouting have been good but don't put away my greenies just yet. I'm a Scouting Adult now serving as a Campus Scout (yes, Virginia, Dickinson Campus Scouts do exist) and as co-leader, with my roommate, of a Junior Scout troop. Yep, I've gone full cycle from Brownie Scout to Scout leader.

Juliette Low, the founder of Girl Scouting, once summed up the purpose of Scouting by saying that "a good leader should teach girls things of value and help them to have fun. If you can't do both -- have fun!" My troop is having fun and if but one of my thirty girls gains something of value through Scouting, then maybe I've filled this role with a measure of success.

The Scouting future looks good. One recent innovation has turned us coed (feminism to humanism?). I believe in the movement and will continue after graduation as a volunteer or professional Girl Scout. I've learned more than how to sell cookies or burn marshmallows over a fire. I've discovered a big world, a lot of friends and myself.

DICKINSON WOMEN VOLUNTEER AT FAMILY PLANNING

by Doneby Smith with Ms. Elizabeth Rice

Dickinson women and Tri-County Family Planning Service in Carlisle? Yes, a long and interesting involvement. Women from the College have played in all the roles -- patient, volunteer and staff.

In 1973, approximately 100 out of 460 patient visits were Dickinson students. All our patients receive a pelvic examination, a pap test, breast examination, information on birth control methods, the birth control method of their choice, and treatment of minor vaginal infections if indicated. We are about to reinstitute a routine gonorrhea test for all patients. (It was temporarily discontinued for lack of equipment.) Other services include syphilis testing, pregnancy testing, and problem pregnancy counseling and referrals, all on request.

"Clinics" are the three sessions a month at which one of our rotating team of doctors does the examination, writes prescriptions, etc. We have a nurse, Nancy Sassaman, on duty at all clinics and on call between clinics to help deal with any medical problems or questions that Ms. Rice, the Carlisle supervisor, or Doneby Smith, her assistant, can't handle. Some of our doctors are general practitioners; some are obstetrician-gynecologists. Unfortunately, we cannot assure that a woman will see the same doctor each time she comes, but this is where Nancy provides some medical continuity.

Appointments are made by calling 243-0515 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Costs to students run: \$5.00 for doctor's fee, \$5.00 for pap test, \$1.00 per cycle for pills, \$3.50 for diaphragm, various costs for IUD's, condoms and foam generally free.

Listening, discussing, teaching, and making referrals are an important but often neglected side of our service. We don't assume that just because a woman is a college student, she already "knows everything" or is sure about which method she wants, or is free from problems or worries about sex. We make referrals for other medical services: X-rays, abortions, major gynecological treatment, etc. Equally important are the referrals made to social services: Family Guidance Clinic, County Board of Assistance, Youth Service Center, Clergy Consultation Service, etc.

The college woman is sometimes in the awkward position of being responsible for her own decisions but without the means to implement them on her own. Thus, she may decide that contraception is an important responsibility but may not be able to afford a private physician. There have been efforts in the past by Dickinson to have general gynecological care including access to contraception made available through the campus health service. In spring of 1972 this program came closest to acceptance, having won approval of certain community groups. The response to date has been an arrangement with Drs. Beachy and Kempfe to set aside certain hours for Dickinson women. Although helpful on the whole, this has sometimes been less than satisfactory.

Tri-County FPS has not always been helpful either. There have been periods when Dickinson students were discouraged from using the service. The reason behind this was presumably that they were not as "needy" as other sectors of the community. However, an established patient has never been turned away, whether student or not.

A second role is that of volunteer. Dickinson women have been very important in helping us (wo)man the phone, keeping up with paperwork, and running our clinics smoothly.

"Outreach" is a general term covering follow-up care for established patients, making prospective patients aware of the services offered and other one-to-one or one-to-two activities. Community work tends to be on more of a group basis. We depend on volunteers to give us the freedom and time to do "Outreach" and other community work. Presently, we need volunteers and someone to organize a squad whose members would work at regular hours or could be available for last-minute service. With the establishment of a squad of interested volunteers, we could develop ways to integrate the volunteer into a wider range of our activities.

Since Family Planning Service started in Carlisle, there have been a succession of Dickinson women employed in various capacities both full- and part-time: Betsy Kent, Susan Weinstein, Cathy Brooks, Laura Davidson, and presently Doneby Smith. Most started out as volunteers. Cathy Brooks has maintained an interest in Family Planning and is now working at a clinic in Vermont.

