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The Dickinson College

Women's Resource Center Newsletter

Carlisle, Pa.

Vol. 2 No. 1

The Women's Resource Center would like to open this year by welcoming the faculty, those students who are returning and those who are coming here for the first time. The WRC invites men as well as women to join in our programs and meetings, though we are primarily geared toward the female populace of the college. Our meetings and newsletter will discuss the future, national issues and concerns dealing with women here on campus.

One of our projects regarding Dickinson College is getting some type of gynecological service started. This will enable women and men to receive information on birth control, pregnancy tests and gynecological examination. There is a program that the college has now, but one must go through several channels and then go offcampus. We would like to see these services provided right here on campus. It is now being investigated by the President's Commission on the Status of Women of Dickinson College and we hope a program will be established in the near future.

Another project we are working on is presenting issues that the women of Dickinson College would be interested in. Our first speaker will be discussing (or possibly has already spoken) RAPE-- how we can prevent it from happening, why it happens, and if it does what we can do. Our second meeting will be on Thursday Sept. 14. This will be a tea with the women faculty and we will have a speaker talking about the Equal Rights Amendment.

Another project we hope to present is a mini-class of auto-mechanics. This was very successful last spring. Details on when it will be held will be announced later. Two other projects we hope to work on are getting a written constitution and presenting a mini-session. Last January we had a mini-health week sponsored by WRC and Student Services. We had various speakers discuss depression and stress, death and dying, physical fitness, natural foods, and many other topics.

If you have any suggestions or topics you would like presented, and/or would like to write for the WRC newsletter please contact Ellen Palzer Box 1180. ♀

The Role Colleges Play In Job Hunting by Cathy Andriodis

Any **woman** who has the benefits of a good **college** education has a good chance of achieving her **career** goals. Colleges are not meant to only prepare us for jobs. The learning experience should be as well-rounded and complete as possible. Many jobs today require the multi-talented individual who has the knowledge of many areas. Specialized fields such as Medicine and Law also advocate the need for liberal arts knowledge as a strong foundation. Today's education should also include some sort of **marketable** skill that can be utilized by varied employers, can be of use for an indefinite period, and can be used as a supplemental aide to one's choice of study for better preparation in job searching. Skills of this type would be accounting; office work (typing, filing, etc.); economics; and writing as examples.

Although discrimination is outlawed, it still exists in certain areas such as construction, mining, airplane pilots, etc. and probably will continue for a long time. Most educated women have careers outside the home. As a

matter of fact, the largest amount of working women today in America are married women (from 35-45 years old) with children. By 1980, almost half of the work force will be women.

In outlining your future, a career decision should be based (at first) on what you have done in the past.

Once you are able to find the general area that fits you best, the molding process will begin and gradually you will be able to pinpoint a specific career. As Joyce Mitchell states in her book OTHER CHOICES FOR BECOMING A WOMEN, it is "your performance, not your potential" that counts in future achievements, so any experience is of help. Women usually make more of what achievements they have from high school than men according to Mitchell, and if this continues, a successful career is much more foreseeable.

A woman who thinks about her basic needs and values will have more insight into what she'll want to do. All of your achievements in and out of school matter- they will help you see exactly what you're equipped for. Career experts tell us that those of us who can use everything we have learned and experienced and can handle as much responsibility as we can take, are the happiest. Whatever the case, the college allows us to make up our own minds, and no matter what choice we make in careers, there is always ^{something} there for all of us. Let it be an academic and social experience that will be worthwhile in the future. It's there waiting for you, so utilize it. ♀



Outstanding Women in History: Fannie Lou Hamer

by Betsy Euwin



We often hear of famous women such as Harriet Tubman, Jane Addams, Sojourner Truth, Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary Bethune. These women are American heroines because of their quests for freedom and among their ranks belongs Fannie Lou Hamer.

Fannie Lou Hamer became fairly well known in the Civil Rights movements of the 1960's. Although when she died she was very poor, Fannie was blessed with insight and a great care for other people. She is best known for her speech at the 1964 Democratic Party Convention proceedings when she denounced the Mississippi Democratic Party for its exclusion of black people. She saw the need for an urgent change in this system, and advocated that the party incorporate more blacks and women into its members.

Fannie Hamer was born in poverty and was the youngest of twenty children in her family. She labored in the fields when she was a young child and later she was a sharecropper for eighteen years. In 1926, she left her sharecropping job when the owner of the plantation threatened to take away her job if she did not withdraw her voter registration. This began her quest for civil and human rights. She was not only an advocate for blacks and women, but she was also an advocate for the poor. Fannie Hamer organized a cooperative Farm in her county to grow food for the white and black poor in her area.

Along with founding the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Fannie also ran for Congress in 1965. She also spoke out challenging the right of the Mississippi Congressional delegation to sit in Congress. Fannie Hamer

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Poets Corner

MY PEOPLE

When I was a child
my family was my people.
I was not proud of us
but I thought we were unique,
and knew our family history
by heart, even songs
from my grandfather's growing up.

When I was an adolescent
I thought the Jews were my people.
I never said it that way,
but everyone I knew was Jewish
and the deep sorrow of Jewish prayers
made me proud of my suffering:
oh God (oh Boyfriend)
why hast thou forsaken me?

As a young married woman
my husband was my people
in a nation of two
with bedroom sized boundaries.
We shared some sacred truths
and our own language
everyone else was on the outside.

Now I say that women are my people.
I call us mirror-sisters
because when I look inside your words
I see myself.
I call us Awakening Nation
because I think of us as a baby
discovering its body
and the power of its cry
I call us a people
although we have just begun to move together.
What unites us is not our past
but our future.
by Margery Himel

Getting Ahead? By Ellen Palzer

College education has almost become a necessity of life. One needs a higher education than highschool to get those better paying jobs, right? And that is what most of us are here for. By March of 1976 there were 38.8 million working women, most of them between the ages of 25 and 44. By 1970 women constituted 40.7 percent of the labor force. Since women compose nearly half of the working populace, you would think they would have an equal chance at 'good' paying jobs and would receive the same salary as men - Wrong. In 1955, men's earnings exceeded women's by 75%. Of course we have had a bit of inflation. Expressed in constant dollar terms the picture gets even worse - in 1976 men earned 70% more than women. This means that if a woman earned \$6,772, a man earned \$11,835. Or expressed in other words, it took 9 days for women to earn what men earned in 5 days. There are two reasons for this widening gap of income. One, is that women will more willingly take a lower paying job and the other, is that there are more women working at these lower income jobs. But one must take a closer look at the statistics.

In 1974 32% of the labor force was female. However, 63% of the women earned less than \$4,999 and 58% earned between \$5,000 and \$6,999. Where as only 5% earned \$15,000 and over. Again there are some possible suggestions that might explain the difference. One, women are in less skilled and lower paying jobs. Two, women work less overtime than men. Three, women receive different kinds of education, training, and counseling. Four, women have less years of worklife experience. However, even when one adjusts the difference in male-female income by these and other factors, there is still a large gap - explainable only by discrimination based on sex.

It is interesting to note that as men and women receive more education, the dollar gap becomes wider (except after 5 or more years of college, in which the gap does

decrease a bit).

Comparison of Median Income of Year-Round Full-Time
Workers, by Educational Attainment and Sex, 1974
(Persons 25 years of age and over)

| Years of school completed | Women | Men | Gap | Marginal \$ value of increased education- al attainment | |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---|---------|
| | | | | Women | Men |
| High- school 4yrs. | \$7,150 | \$12,642 | \$5,492 | \$1,231 | \$1,417 |
| College 1-3yrs. | 8,072 | 13,718 | 5,646 | 922 | 1,076 |
| College 4yrs. | 9,523 | 16,240 | 6,717 | 1,451 | 2,522 |

Conclusion:

"Schools must help provide much needed career guidance and counseling assistance. Employers must respond, too, by offering women greater opportunity to obtain specific on-the-job training. Organized labor must also make concerted efforts to open more skilled trades to women. As women are allowed easier access to more higher paid professional, technical, managerial, and craft occupations, only then will the earning differential narrow."¹

¹This article and quote has been based on the pamphlet entitled "The earnings Gap Between Women and Men" supplied by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Women's Bureau 1976 ♀

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was a courageous woman. She stuck to her beliefs through many hardships including frequent threats on her life. She was a selfless person, as opposed to a selfish person in the way that she gave to others even when she had little herself. Fannie Lou Hamer deserves our respect and recognition as a strong and courageous woman who should not be forgotten in the pages of history books or feminist literature, but who should serve as an example for us to follow today.

This article was based on another article from M.S. magazine, July 1977. ♀

The cartoon on p.3 was taken from the book The Not-So-Helpless Female by Tish Sommers and drawings by Genny Guracar, David McKay Company, Inc, New York, 1973.

The poem by Margery Himel on p.5 was published in I Hear My Sisters Saying, edited by Carol Konek and Dorothy Walters, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1976.

Many thanks to Anne Bellwoar for the use of her artistic talents.