

THE SPINNER

THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
College of Wooster

VOL. I NO. I February 1979

WOMEN SGA CANDIDATES PREP FOR ELECTION

The Student Government Association is holding elections on February 14 for the new term starting Spring Quarter 1979 and ending Winter Quarter 1980. A number of women are running for the ten available positions. The SGA is an important student organization that has much contact with the administration and faculty. It is essential, therefore that the elected officials of the SGA be a fair and equal representation of the student body. Following is a list of women running for the various positions, their qualifications and their proposed ideas.

PRESIDENT - CAROL ROWAN

Carol Rowan has been involved with SGA since her freshman year. Starting as an SGA hall representative, Carol continued to serve as Secretary of SGA her sophomore year and Vice-President this past year. Carol has established lines of communications with the faculty and the administration by working, for example, on the new curriculum as a student representative of the Educational Policy Committee and chairing the committee that adapted a report to keep the quarter system at Wooster. She believes that it is valuable to the presidential position to have a continuity of ideas from the preceding years and a knowledge of the SGA processes.

Carol wants to see the General Assembly become motivated, reaching out to campus instead of being "just a Monday night meeting group". She is also excited about the proposed Statement of Social Responsibility and is glad that the student body and SGA helped bring this issue to the Dean staff's attention. She encourages all fractions of the student body to get involved in the decision

making process.

Most of all, Carol expresses much enthusiasm about the coming years at Wooster. She notes that because of recent events, the students will see an uprising of innovative attitudes and policies coming out of the college community.

VICE-PRESIDENT - GRETCHEN JOHNSON

In the past, Gretchen has been an SGA hall representative and has served on the Educational Affairs Committee and the Cultural Events Committee. Gretchen is concerned that in the past the campus community has been unaware of what the SGA is doing, and she wants to increase publication of SGA activities to solve this problem. As Vice-President, Gretchen would serve on the Educational Policy Comm. and one of her ideas is to explore methods for students to get more out of education than just their academic life, as she feels she has grown considerably outside of the classroom. Gretchen emphasizes that she is willing to talk to all students about their feelings and desires for the college community.

TREASURER - KATHY COLMEY

As an SGA hall representative for the past three quarters, Kathy has served on the Financial Affairs committee. This gives her the experience needed for treasurer. The Financial Affairs Committee would be one of her main duties. Kathy is very anxious to get involved and make students realize the power they do possess. Kathy also stated that she would like to see the SGA "get things done instead of just talking."

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SECRETARY - MISSY BETCHER

Missy is a freshman, but has been on the Student Affairs committee for the past two quarters. Missy was also very active in her highschool government. Missy's main goals are to see that there are more weekend activity options and a more unified student body.

CAMPUS COUNCIL MEMBERS - BETH FARNSWORTH

Beth's qualifications include serving on the Campus Council for the past year and chairing the Social Affairs Committee. Beth believes this experience is necessary and helpful to next years SGA.

CINDY WEILER

Cindy is very aware of what is going on in the college community because her past activities include hall council representative, chairperson of the Student Activities Board (formerly LCB) and her present position of Resident Assistant in Andrews. Cindy stresses that she wants to see the proposed Statement of Social Responsibility become a fact.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - KATIE KNALL

Katie has been an SGA hall representative for the past two years. She has served on the Social Affairs Committee and on the Financial Affairs Committee. Katie wants to reevaluate the student allocation of funds and to look into the student discount buying program. Katie sees the College of Wooster moving toward a more self-regulated student body, especially with the coming of a more self governing visitation policy, and Katie wishes to be a part of making SGA a stronger and more representative organization.

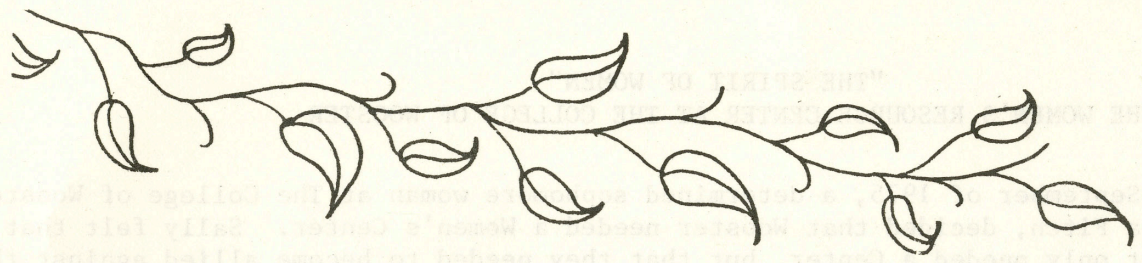
CLUB SYSTEM SUPPORTIVE OF WOMEN

The Club System is one of the oldest women's organizations on campus. It dates back to 1906, when Wooster women established their first national sorority. Today, the clubs are no longer nationally affiliated, but they continue to thrive as an option for women at the College. The Clubs are organized groups of women who sponsor social and service functions for the College and community.

Inter-Club Council, the governing body for all of the clubs, has committed itself to strengthening the power of the Club system on campus. The Council is in the process of formulating a housing proposal which would create living units for club women equal to the section's group housing. They are also trying to establish better public relations with the campus community. In addition, each club is required to perform at least one community service project per quarter.

Each club has its own set of goals and means of achieving those goals, but the primary concern of all of the clubs is to be supportive of each member's individual needs within the group. Lisa Carter, President of Peanuts, believes "the clubs' most important function is that of bringing women with diverse interests together in a community setting." In doing this, adds Linda Snyder, President of Chios, "we come closer to understanding ourselves and others." Carol Lower, EKO President, finds that most members "are very active and supportive of the clubs' needs".

In January, the women of Crandell Lodge chartered themselves with ICC, and formed a fourth club. ICC believes the response to this addition has been favorable and that the increased diversity of the club system will benefit women opting for membership.

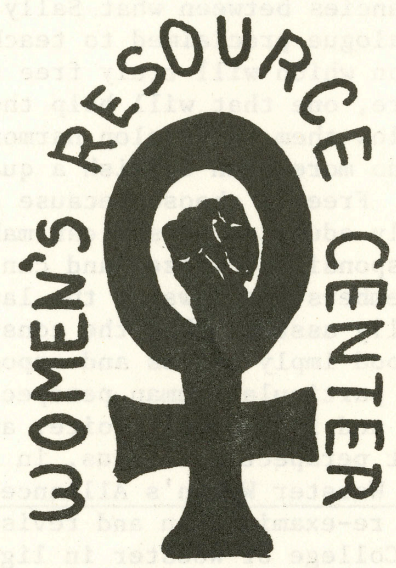


Does your I.S. have something to do about women??
If so, please let the Women's Resource Center
copy it and keep it on permanent file!

The women of the Resource Center are looking
for a logo. We are willing to pay \$20 for
the one we like best. Please submit ideas!!

Welcome to Wooster - Rosetta Taylor Moore.
She is the new Associate Dean of Students
and Director of Career Planning and
Placement.

The WRC has received a new shipment of books.
Come and check out our constantly-expanding
library or just stop by to talk. The Center
is located in the basement of Lowry (next
to Security) and our phone extension is 238.



DUNN HOUSE

Directly across Bever Street sits Dunn House, a white and green shingled program house focusing on women's issues on the Wooster campus. Dunn's 16 members have been active; earlier this quarter they sponsored "A Mosaic of Talent," an evening of entertainment by women students in a relaxed, coffeehouse atmosphere. This celebration of each other's talents was highly successful - the faculty lounge was packed with people and there were several requests for a repeat performance next quarter. If Dunn sponsors another one, the stress will again be on sharing the talents of gifted, but not always recognized, performers.

Much of Dunn's emphasis is on in-house programming, such as dessert discussions with people from the community. This quarter Jenny Smucker came and talked about her decision not to pursue her professional career as a professional speech coach, but to concentrate on her family instead and Lee Culp (the Registrar) shared his impressions of women students through his long career at Wooster. During the Symposium on Liberal Education, house members met for dinner with Mary Briscoe, chairperson of the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh and one of the symposium's speakers. As a result of that meeting and student comments at the "Being Female at Wooster" discussion, the house is considering a series of informal talks where students can get together and share common questions and concerns.

Other proposed projects include a several-day seminar on Women's Health Awareness and incorporating films and workshops in self-help and birth control into the program. In addition, Dunn women meet for supper in Kittredge every Monday night. All are welcome to join their discussions.

"THE SPIRIT OF WOMEN"
THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER AT THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

In September of 1975, a determined sophomore woman at The College of Wooster, Sally Lea Fitch, decided that Wooster needed a Women's Center. Sally felt that women not only needed a Center, but that they needed to become allied against the discrepancies between what Sally perceived as reality at the College and what the Catalogue proclaimed to teach at the College. "A liberal education is an education which will truly free undergraduates for a lifetime of intellectual adventure, one that will help them meet new situations as they arise, one that will allow them to develop harmoniously and independently. Liberal arts studies should do more than furnish a quality in men and women - they should generate action. Free to choose because an individual knows what the choices are, the liberally educated person can make the value judgments that are the very life of a responsible citizen and can act with courage and independence even while one remembers the laws of the land and the obligations one owes to society."

Sally assumed that the constructs of freedom of choice and freedom of personhood imply access and exposure to all perspectives of the human experience. To deny particular human perspectives overtly or covertly, is to deny human freedom and freedom of choice, and indeed, women at Wooster were denied a feminist perspective. Thus, in January of 1976, Sally Fitch drew up a charter for The Wooster Women's Alliance. Her ideal was that the Alliance would support a basic re-examination and revision of the curricular and co-curricular patterns at The College of Wooster in light of the scarcity of a feminist perspective. Further, Sally wrote in her notes on the charter, "...in a college community, students should have opportunities to learn about themselves as people...and the Wooster Women's Alliance seeks to help women learn more about themselves, the social and sex roles imposed on them in various life settings, their feelings and personal goals...and through workshops, discussion groups, films and literature, the Alliance will aid, support and encourage young women in their explorations of themselves."

The original Women's Alliance was located in the basement of Holden Hall and at the risk of appearing to be ironic, I must add that the tiny Center was located next to the laundry room. The Alliance consisted of a very small group of dedicated women who acted as coordinators of the Alliance and Alliance-sponsored activities. The women had a library which was a collection of feminist literature owned by members but placed in the Holden room to be used by anyone who was lucky enough to find the place. If you didn't live in Holden and/or didn't use the laundry room, your chances of finding the room were slim indeed! The women had no allocated money and no telephone, just pure determination that the Alliance should succeed.

Fall quarter of 1976 attracted a few more interested women students to the Alliance, however Sally began to feel that perhaps women needed to be resources for each other before they could become 'allied.' She changed the name of the organization to The Women's Resource Center and developed goals that might be realistically achieved. The amendment to the charter stated that "...the Center would hope to 1) provide literature written for and about women in a variety of areas: history, legal rights, occupational alternatives, social stereotyping and the physiology of women, 2) offer campus-wide programs that examine and question women's issues, 3) participate in the Women's Lunch Table to establish contact with women faculty members, 4) exist as a central place to publicize events concerning women on campus, 5) serve as an organization to which women can go for support when dealing with women's issues and 6) by serving as a referral service to provide information about various women's activities, interests and concerns both on campus and in the community."

The new Center was also to be considered a "collective organization and members will take turns heading weekly meetings." The small group of women students in 1976 did not want a traditional male organization headed by a president, vice president, treasurer, etc., but a truly collective organization in the spirit of a womens' community. The Center was modeled upon the tradition of women's lives and women's lives and culture dictated that women do everything, not one specific task. Women have always shared work, always helped each other out in times of need and always lived in a hierarchy where their tasks were not assigned status titles. This structure still exists today as a means of organizing and running the Center.

The Women's Resource Center struggled on for another year in the basement of Holden Hall. Sally Fitch sought with singular dedication during her senior year at Wooster, to obtain a better facility for the women student's Resource Center. This finally happened upon Sally's graduation at which time the Center was allocated space in Lowry at the end of Spring Quarter, 1977.

The Resource Center had been moved away from the laundry room, but it still took some ingenuity to find it in Lowry. One had to follow a maze of directions which inevitably led one to the College darkroom and then you had a 50/50 chance of finding the Center. However, if you were extremely persevering or very lucky you could find the new Women's Resource Center, which also had a telephone and a budget of \$80.00 for the year. Forty dollars of that money went toward a filing cabinet in the fall of 1977.

Student membership continued to increase and the Center had an alumna advisor who devoted hours and hours of time and energy to broaden the scope of women students. 1977-78 brought about a campus womens' newspaper publication focusing on areas of interest to Wooster College women, the purchase of a limited library, a faculty lecture series centering on women's issues and a Women's Career Day concurrent with a workshop series of life-planning, decision making and special career counseling. Events sponsored by the Women's Resource Center were funded through the consistent efforts of student members and their advisor to obtain small grants from the College of Wooster Campus Activities Council or from local community groups such as AAUW, as well as, at times, outright monies from student member's meager resources. The alumna advisor, Dottie Gerrity wrote and received four outside grants during 1977-1978. Two came from GLCA, one from AAUW and a large grant of \$10,925 from the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. Once again, a consistent effort was made to have the Center moved to a more visable locality and this was finally achieved during the summer of 1978. The present Women's Resource Center is located next to the CPPS office in Lowry Center.

Today, The Women's Resource Center has recognized areas of student life in which women students may require services not just equal to but somewhat different from those available to male students. The Center is firmly committed to the premise that it will have a concern for and promote the full development of women students within the College community. The Women's Resource Center presently addresses a broad range of women's interests; serving as a fact finding committee, an advisory and/or advocacy body and providing the leadership and organizational skills necessary for numerous programs beneficial to Wooster college women. The Center is open to all members of the College community and welcomes support from students, faculty and administrators. Hopefully the greatest benefit to women students will be the encouragement they will receive from seeing that women's potential and aspirations are taken seriously and efforts are being made to meet the needs they articulate. The Center is a statement that women's concerns are making themselves felt on campus and the spirit of women students is still one of dedication, determination and sometimes exhilaration at any small gain that will ultimately benefit women students in the future.

EXPRESSION

MAKING VOICES

Voices is a powerful poetic drama written by Susan Griffin. Written in free verse form, the play tells the stories of five women of different generations. Their ages range from 19 - 70--they speak from their experiences, from shared history and from their hearts.

Bunny McKee, a speech major, will be directing Voices as part of her Independent Study. She has conducted research on Susan Griffin and will be using this information in combination with an in-depth script and character analysis as a basis for the production--scheduled for March 1 and 3 in the Shoolroy Theatre. The play's cast includes Cyndi Raftus, Mary Beidler, Cathy McQueen, Becky Boyer, and Sue Reed--five strong and extremely talented actresses.

Voices is a very unique show in nature due to the fact that although all of the women speak extensively, they never speak or physically interact with each other. Possessing a rather timeless quality, the play will be staged "environmentally", having the women move and speak from organically shaped platforms and levels placed throughout the theatre. This staging will create the intimacy and intensity found in the play and within each of its incredibly "human" characters.

Quote from Voices- Grace: People are born and all of us die.
The generations pass
each wearing new costumes
so at first we do not
recognize the
similarity.

Susan Griffin

Bunny McKee is currently preparing and rehearsing for Voices. Anyone that is interested in helping with the production, please contact Bunny, at box 2234 or extension 376.

Susan Griffin is a major poet and dramatist. She will be visiting the campus on March 27, 1979. More details about Susan Griffin's visit will be in the next newsletter.

IMAGES OF WOMEN - WOMEN'S FILM WEEK

(sponsored by the women of The Resource Center, Department of History, and the Women's Studies Committee.)

- February 18 - Salt of the Earth, 8 P.M. Mateer Auditorium
- February 19 - Life and Death of Frida Kahlo/The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama, 8 P.M. Mateer Auditorium
- February 20 - Clorae and Albie/Angela Davis: Portrait of a Revolutionary, 8 P.M. Lean Lecture Room
- February 21 - Lavender/Portrait of my Mother, 8 P.M. Mateer Auditorium
- February 22 - Cover Girl/Womanhouse, 8 P.M. Mateer Auditorium

WOMEN AND MUSIC - There are two women giving recitals this month.

Gretchen Johnson - Flute Recital, February 24, Mackey Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Maxine Naujoks - Piano Recital playing Bach, Beethoven and Lizst. February 24, Mackey Hall, 7:30 P.M.

HOUSEWIFE

I know from books
 the plain that lies beneath these towns
 How settlers came skimmed off the wildness
 and took pride in little tamings
 Lived raw and close to the ground
 And if times got too barbaric
 or too civilized for a man's tastes
 he could uproot his small sodpatch of a family
 and head West again

"I have such despair
 on this desolate
 plain." from a
 song by Mrs. A.M.
 Green (1887)

Until the West ended in ocean
 And a man had to face what he had turned his back on
 And refine the human touch

We have built on and built up
 for so long now I can look out this window
 and see into neighbor's houses

But I understand about the desolate plain
 I know a woman's grim smile
 to see the tamings stare up expectant
 and to hear men lament in pioneer voices
 that there are no frontiers left
 but space

Deb Allbery

EXTENDED RANGE

1. as if a bomb dropped
 stark white figures stand ripped apart in late dull
 gold sunlight
 the slightly stronger supporting other collapsed bodies
 expressionless clay aces of the half-dead falling away
 the women with crying hands held up to her missing face
 frozen half-bodies occupying space;
 figures of horror and desolation
11. as if the figures are a woman
 in painful self-realization
 range extending into identity
 one stretches to freedom only to be held back
 only to be ripped in half
 continually discovering myself in the sculptor's
 own image:
 one with the rough plaster and burlap figures
 and these are the sculptor's arms

after Carol Parker's exhibit "Extended Range," Squibb Gallery
 Princeton, New Jersey

Elizabeth Udris

THE DINNER PARTY COMES TO WOOSTER

Judy Chicago, a woman and an artist and an author (Through the Flowers: My Struggle as a Woman Artist), is responsible for a large scale feminist art project called The Dinner Party. The Dinner Party is an imaginative week paying homage to 39 women who have been major contributors in Western history and recognizing 999 other women in our past. More about The Dinner Party and an interview with Judy Chicago are available in the center.

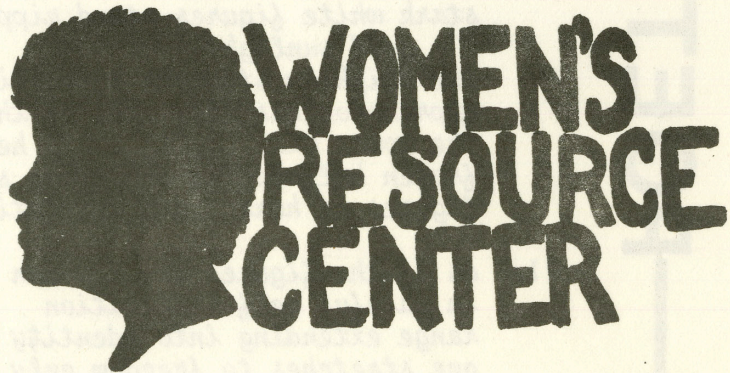
The influence of Judy Chicago's art project will be felt round the world in March--including Wooster. We, the women of the resource center, recently received an invitation from a group of women in California: an invitation to organize a dinner party of our own recognizing women we know who have affected our lives, who support, nourish, and sustain us. Our dinner party will be "registered" with others in different countries and different states. Respect, appreciation, and love for women will be expressed through our dinner party in March.

PREPARE FOR WOMEN'S CAREER DAY
APRIL 21st

Women's Career Day, initiated last winter by women from the Women's Resource Center, is being organized by The Career Planning and Placement Office this year. In preparation for Women's Career Day, CPPS is offering workshops in resume writing, interviewing and life planning. The workshops are designed to assist women in preparing resumes and in acquiring interview skills, with the life planning workshop challenging women to think about their careers as integral with their definition of themselves. The workshops will be offered various times throughout winter quarter and spring quarter prior to the career day. Watch for the CPPS brochure and prepare for Women's Career Day.

Have you encountered sexism in any of your courses? - sexist attitudes, jokes, comments, examples, expectations, unequal treatment, etc? Do you feel that your advisor has discouraged you from certain career goals because you are a women? If so here is what you can do:

1. talk to the professor about your feelings or observations
2. discuss it with someone in the Dean's Office
3. report it to the committee on the Status of Women (Barb Burnell is chairperson)
4. report it to the Women's Resource Center (we are willing to advise you on alternative courses of action)



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REMEMBER, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD.