

## Feminist outcry now subdued

"To me, women are no more than a pastime, a hobby. Nobody devotes too much time to a hobby."

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger

In these subdued days following the feminist outcry of several years ago, the fact that such a statement could be made by an unquestionably intelligent and highly influential man is evidence that the underlying concepts of the women's movement still are being misunderstood, ignored, or rejected by a vast number of Americans.

The saddest part of all is how many women must be included in that number.

The radical approach of the Gloria Steinem's have alienated countless women. And while I have long held similar ideals to be true, it has taken me — as it has taken the women's movement itself — time to mature into the confident and constructive force I had the potential to be.

The crazy days of bra-burning have passed and the form of the movement has so metamorphosized that its new shape leaves no room for criticism of the past. The role of the movement now is to educate the public about this new mode of thinking.

According to statistics released by the Feminist Press, over 1,000 colleges and universities now offer Women's Studies courses, and more than 80 of these have programs leading to an undergraduate degree in this field.

In fact, three major schools presently grant masters degrees in Women's Studies — George Washington University, Sarah Lawrence College and Cambridge/Goddard School for Social Change.

At UNL this semester, six courses in Women's Studies are offered. For example, in the History Dept., two women are team-teaching Women in History, a 300 level course.

## amy struthers broad side

One of the instructors, Ann Kleimola, said 38 students have enrolled in the class, although only four or five of them were men. The semester will be spent reading documentary material on European and American history, with emphasis on the usually ignored roles of women in the course of events.

"All this business about equality bores me. Women were meant to be loved, not understood."

If this statement stirs up enough dissent in students to get them talking, then Pat Knaub's first discussion on Women in Contemporary Society has succeeded.

Even over the telephone, Knaub's eloquence and enthusiasm are clear. She must be dynamite in class, guiding discussion through the stages of women's growth and education.

The English Dept. offers two Women's Studies courses. Sex Roles in Literature, taught by Louis Crompton, will include readings of Kate Millet's "Sexual Politics" and Ibsen's "A Doll's House," along with works by "male chauvinists" such as D. H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy.

The second class, Contemporary Women Writers, is taught by Dorothy Zimmerman and will be an examination of the writings of European women such as Simone de Beauvoir.

Finally, both the Anthropology and Psychology Depts. are offering new courses. Women's Culture will be the topic for the Anthropology seminar, which has three preceding anthropology courses as a prerequisite. Details on the psychology course were unavailable.

This brings the number of Women's Studies hours at UNL to 18, enough to constitute a Plan A minor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

If the response to these classes is good — and, according to the instructors I've talked to, it seems to be — we should be able to look toward an increased number of courses in this area.

The addition of four or five courses would make a Women's Studies major a reality. Currently, students are using the Integrated Studies approach to follow such a curriculum.

It is a reasonable and just question to ask what one might do after graduating with such a major or even a minor. Many fields exist where a specialization in women's studies would be beneficial, including law (divorce and child settlement cases), social welfare, anthropology and medicine, to name just a few.

Even for those who do not plan to follow a Women's Studies program, the experience of just one of the above classes could be an important part of developing self-awareness and sensitivity in both men and women.

## Nostalgia, beer and survival

Old friends gather by chance over a brew or two. After a pitcher and the what-have-you-been-doing's have been shared, the conversation takes the inevitable turn: "Remember the good old days—the late '60s, when we really were alive? What's happened to all that?"

Perhaps that questioning is best answered by a hard analysis of what actually went on during what many of us affectionately referred to as "the Revolution".

Few will argue the contention that the 60s were a time of mass action such as seldom been seen in this country. People—principally students, but later housewives, professionals, and eventually persons from every walk of life—took hard action, to the extent of going into the streets, to effect a change in government policy.

The next question is to ask why. It's easy to write that people were upset by the moral and political consequences of our involvement in Vietnam. But, aside from those idealists among us, very few people get extremely upset over vague moral or political issues, at least not enough to do anything more drastic than talk.

Let's accept, then, the most pragmatic viewpoint—the whole issue was actual, physical survival, life and death, "I don't want to die". Those of draft age were the most concerned; others were worried about the continued existence of their sons, lovers, friends and neighbors.

Guided by natural instincts for survival, people acted in self-interest. And policy changed. Once inertia to action had been overcome by the dominant issue of the War, actions in other areas (ecology, racism, sexism) became easier to take.

Today, the life-and-death situation no longer stares us in the eye. The idealists still peddle their issues, but inertia has resumed for the bulk of us, and once again it's difficult to move.

Perhaps it's time to abstract this analysis a bit for our situations today. The economic scene could very well become life and death, unless some action is taken. (And I don't believe the proper action is to study hard to get good grades in order to secure a good job in order to establish a good standard a living . . . ad nauseum.)

We could abstract a bit further to environmental concerns; to mental survival in this rat race (or is that an abandoned concept?); to the question of anyone's continued survival in a system dominated by repression, sexism, racism and exploitation.

Of course, that may be just a bit too abstract for us. So, let's just continue to sit on our pragmatic asses as long as the old wolf of life and death keeps away from the door. Meanwhile, barkeep, another around.

tim sindelar  
beer and  
loathing



"Remember—Butz said not to do any panic buying."

## Consumers need defense

One of the most important pieces of consumer legislation in years needs to be pushed to a showdown in the Senate.

A Senate filibuster so far has blocked the establishment of a much-needed consumer lobbying within the federal government.

Approved by the House in April, the proposed Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) would operate as a Ralph Nader-type watchdog not so much over business as over agencies and regulatory commissions that supposedly protect consumers.

Such an agency seems necessary because federal consumer regulation procedures too often are dominated by big business' political muscle. Instead of protecting consumers, many agencies are obliged to the industries they supposedly regulate and depend upon them for technical advice.

The CPA would voice consumer's interests to agencies such as those which set airline rates, rule on oil-price increases, set safety standards for cars and school buses and control the flow of mortgage money.

The CPA also could appeal court rulings that conflicted with consumer interests. Labor negotiations and license applications before the Federal Communications Commission would be exempt from the agency's authority.

Though established in the executive branch, the CPA would operate independent of other agencies. It would submit its budget to Congress directly, as well as through the Office of Management and Budget. Hopefully, this independent budget submission would make the CPA almost immune to political influence.

The measure's chief sponsors in the Senate—Democrats Warren Magnuson of Washington and Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut and Republicans Jacob Javits of New York and Charles Percy of Illinois—reportedly will try once more after Senate returns from its Labor Day recess to obtain cloture.

If they succeed and the bill is passed, its enactment despite the strong opposition of major business organizations will be a heartening advance for the consumer movement.

Jane Owens