

Historians: women's herstory popular

Ann Kleimola and Jane Hood, UNL history department faculty members, discussed "Women's History" at Tuesday's Women/Speak.

Kleimola said women's history is becoming more popular again. Interest in women's history seems to run in cycles, she said. There was a great deal of interest in women's history after the passage of the 19th amendment in the 1920s, Kleimola said. The second cycle of interest in women's history was before World War II, she said, while interest dropped in the 1940s and 50s.

The late 50s and early 60s saw interest in women's history increase, Kleimola said. She credited today's interest to the rise in contemporary feminism, the women's liberation movement and a renewed interest in social history.

Fashionable topic

Kleimola said there is more interest in women's history during those times when more women are active as social historians and when social history is a fashionable topic.

Today, Kleimola said, there is a change in the study of history generally. Historians are studying topics that were overlooked in the past.

"There is a great deal of work yet to be done," Kleimola said. "Public school textbooks don't deal with women and little has been done to incorporate new information about women into new textbooks," she said.

Kleimola didn't take a total feminist position in her views on women's history. "Some women's history as it is now written is feminist propaganda," she said. Literature about women, she said, falls into two categories; the biographies of feminists and reformers, and studies of progress of the women's movement.

Time to integrate

It is time, Kleimola said, to integrate women's history into a general anthology of American history. She said this should include the relation of women's history to intellectual history, feminism as an ideology, female attitudes in history and the history of the family.

Kleimola said the study of women's history involves "three separate but related areas; how society defines women

and their roles, roles that women actually did play, and an investigation of the whole feminist response."

Kleimola concluded her presentation by saying that if women's history were properly included in public school textbooks it could change the stereotypes which exist about women.

Feminist historian

Jane Hood spoke about the problem of the feminist historian. "The problem," Hood said, "lies with objectivity." She said that feminism is an "ism" and history is a critical analysis of the past. The feminist historian, Hood said, must put her feminist beliefs in limbo when she is concerned with reporting the past.

Hood said, "Isms become dogma for their movement against which everything, even history is measured. The understanding of the past must be as clear as possible if we are to understand the present."

Hood said that the danger lies in setting up models to which all members of the movement must conform.

Parking fine reversal asked

Controversy about the ASUN Parking Appeals Board (PAB) decision to void certain tickets given over spring break has prompted UNL Parking Coordinator John Duve to ask Business Manager Ron Wright to reverse the decision and force those who received tickets to pay.

According to PAB Chairman Todd Manvitz, six people who appealed their tickets to the board were granted favorable decisions.

The appeals were granted because university classes were not in session since it was spring break, Manvitz said.

University rules stipulate that parking regulations remain in effect all year, according to Duve.

Outside jurisdiction

"The action of the appeals board was contrary to rules and regulations formulated by the university," Duve said. "The committee has gone outside of its jurisdiction."

Duve's appeal has gone to the Business and Finance Office. According to Assistant Business Manager Kay Coffey, Wright is the next higher authority over Duve and the decision will rest with him.

"A situation like this has probably never arisen before," Coffey said. "Appeals Board actions in the past have been approved as I understand it."

Not reviewed

Duve has already filed the appeal with the business office, according to Coffey, but Wright

has not had a chance to review it because he had been "tied up with the budget requests for capital construction funds."

Wright was unavailable for comment.

Problems encountered with the PAB decision include the "inequity" that university staff members who received tickets over the break were required to pay, according to Duve. Staff appeals go directly to Duve and are not considered by the PAB.

"People have got to remember that when students are gone, the staff is still here," Duve said. "The university is a business and doesn't stop entirely at break; staff members still have to find a place to park."

Students in staff lots

According to Duve, some of the violations that the PAB overturned involved students parking in staff lots.

"The (university) Police Department is obligated to enforce the rules and regulations," Duve said. "Essentially the ASUN appeals committee was established to hear appeals and make their decisions using the traffic and parking regulations just as the police would."

Duve has charged that the PAB is, and should not be, making regulations.

"The people who paid should be subject to the same consideration as those who didn't pay," Duve said. "I'm seeking a higher determination; if the regulations that have been written cannot be enforced, then we're wasting our time."

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