

Panelist: law hinders true marriage

In Nebraska, marriage is non-existent because of the state's no-fault divorce law, Ruth Morgan said at Thursday's Women/Speak '75, sponsored by the Student Y.

Morgan was a panel member of "Homemaker's Right's, What Are They?" Other panel members included Kappie Weber, coordinator for Women's communication at the YMCA, Janet Hiemstra, mother of two children and part-time teacher and Connie Stauass, homemaker.

Morgan, Lincoln chapter chairperson of National Organization for Women (NOW), said that under Nebraska law a husband can cite irreconcilable differences to divorce his wife and the wife cannot protest the divorce.

Morgan, married 33 years, said she considers marriage as a contract and herself a partner. It takes two to create a marriage and one can destroy it, she said.

Other panel members said that the homemaker does not feel or hear the same things as the woman who works outside the home, but feels threatened by the women's movement.

Weber said 41 per cent of Nebraska women are employed outside the home.

She said homemakers should be involved in women's movement for several reasons.

Welfare criticisms

If homemakers understand the reasons women are on welfare, they will not criticize them, she said. Many women whose husbands have either divorced or left them and do not pay child support are forced to be on welfare, Weber said.

She said homemakers are unaware of pension benefits, inheritance laws, credit ratings, insurance and social security benefits. In many instances the homemaker will receive little or nothing of her husband's pension if he dies, he said. Only two per cent of widows 65 years of age or older receive any of their husband's pension. Since

women live on the average 15 years longer after 65 years of age than men, they should investigate survivor's benefits, she said.

Women cannot receive inheritance unless they can prove they are the heirs, while men automatically receive it without proof, Weber said. Credit ratings are in a husband's name and if he dies, the wife has no record of credit, she said.

Women's rights equal responsibility and each person is responsible for themselves, Heimstra said, citing fulfillment as a wife, mother and individual in a give and take marriage.

Strauss said the homemaker is a first class citizen and very often men are not aware that they are treating women in a defensive way.

The next Women's speak panel, Tues. Oct. 21, will discuss women and aging.

Law talks planned

The Law Student Division of the American Bar Association is sponsoring the annual Eighth Circuit Roundtable at the College of Law, Saturday.

The one-day conference brings together 40 to 50 Student Bar Association (SBA) presidents and student government leaders from law schools throughout the Midwest, according to Ed Sands, a UNL law student and Roundtable chairperson.

A panel discussion, "Victimless Crimes in the Criminal Justice System" at 10:30 a.m. will be open to the public.

The conference will include meetings and workshops on client counseling, legal research and writing, women and minorities.

An address by Warren Urbom, Chief Judge of the Federal District Court, Nebraska District, will conclude the conference.

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