

# IN CONCERT



October 7, 1978  
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## Education of rural women evaluated in state report

Although the number of rural Nebraska women in the labor force has increased by almost half since 1970, their educational needs are not being met, according to a report published by the Women's Employment Opportunities Division of the Nebraska Division on the Status of Women.

The report, published in September, said rural women do not have equal access and opportunity to educate and support themselves. Efforts to obtain equal services and education are hampered by lack of adequate information.

Although cooperative extension agencies, which are funded at the local, state and federal levels, function in all of Nebraska's 93 counties, they are based on more traditional sex role models, the report said.

### Need different courses

For example, women's extension clubs provide classes in food and nutrition, clothing, health, housing and family life.

"Only recently have courses been offered in estate planning and consumer protection."

Nebraska Educational Television offers credit and non-credit courses through the State University of Nebraska program, which helps those in rural areas. However, "unless a student is near a library resource or learning center, there are no in-depth

research facilities to supplement TV and correspondence work."

Of rural Nebraska women, 66.7 percent are expected to be in the labor force in 1979, which is a 49 percent increase over 1970. Among women aged 16 to 22, the increase is 90 percent over 1970 figures.

### Unemployment high

Unemployment among rural women is higher than the state unemployment rate of 4 percent. Among white rural females, who make up 99.1 percent of the rural female population, the unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. For black women, who comprise .2 percent, and women of other races, who make up .7 percent, the unemployment rate is 13.5 percent.

According to the report, "the legal status of women is of vital concern for the rural women, especially those involved in family farming. Farm wives have been particularly affected by the inheritance tax laws which assume that all property is owned by the husband. On his death, the wife pays an inheritance tax."

In conclusion, the report said, "Farm women and girls make significant contributions as unpaid farm workers and in some instances as owners and managers. To be successful, they need training and education in all aspects of the farm: farm management, financial planning, estate planning, and related areas of the law."

## NUPIRG to sponsor booths providing election information

By Denice Smee

The Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group sponsored booths in the Nebraska Union will provide students in early November with information about the general election, NUPIRG director Margy Meister said.

"We want to make people aware of the important issues in the election and get them to vote," Meister said.

The information will primarily cover three areas: the regents who are up for reelection, an energy proposal, proposition three and the bottle bill.

The regents up for election are Edward Schwartzkopf and Leo Hill in the First District and Harlan M. Nelson and Kermit Hansen in the Second District.

Meister said NUPIRG will try to put together biographical sketches on the regents.

"It will be 'what every student should know about their regents,'" she said.

She said NUPIRG wants students to take a more active role in elections. She added that their parents and friends may then become interested.

"Many people outstate don't even know who they (the regents) are or what they do," she added.

The energy proposal, proposition three, states that Nebraskans will not be taxed for increased property value if they install energy systems powered by the wind, sun, water, or solid waste conversion. Meister said this is strongly supported by a large number of people in the NUPIRG office.

"We're not trying to push students into voting one way or the other, but we want to let them know about the issues," she said. Passage of the bottle bill would require a five cent deposit on beer and pop containers.

NUPIRG as a group advocates passage of the bottle bill, Meister said.

NUPIRG contributes labor to the Nebraskans for Returnable Containers, Inc., which is the group lobbying for the bill's passage, she said.

NUPIRG prepared a slide presentation on the bottle bill that is available upon request, Meister said. The lobbying group paid for the presentation.

NUPIRG is also discussing the possibility of making bottle bill presentations to various groups such as to the Greek houses just before the election, she said.

No definite plans concerning these presentations have been made yet, she added.

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