

# Speaker: Women must learn to accept power

By Beth Headrick

The fears and insecurities, as well as the advantages of accepting personal power as a tool was the topic of a speech delivered Thursday to about 100 women at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

As part of a program sponsored by UNL's Small Business Center, Marge Rossman, president of Women's Inc. said the National Association of Women Business Owners, said her personal experiences led her to be consultant for women in managerial positions.

Women may be assertive and they may be talented, Rossman said, but women won't be successful until they learn to accept the personal power that comes with success.

Part of the reason women are frightened of personal power is that their upbringings haven't prepared them to take risks, to compete and to demand more, she said.

Nine years ago, Rossman said, she hit the corporate trail with a liberal arts degree in hand. After trying to sell herself as managerial material with great potential, she said, the inevitable question was asked: "How fast can you type?"

Rossman's theory follows along the lines of "nothing

risked, nothing gained."

"Anytime you take a risk, you build confidence, and the only way you'll build confidence is from taking risks," she said.

This cycle, Rossman said, provides a woman with the personal power she needs to be effective.

Rossman defined personal power as the ability to withhold something someone else wants or needs. Power can only be given, she said, it can't be taken.

If women don't strike out into the unknown of risk-taking, they can't get ahead in the business world, she said. Unfortunately, as girls growing up, they are not expected to take risks or be rewarded for doing so. When women aren't rewarded for competing, for testing themselves, this breeds fear, Rossman said.

The fear that women feel entering the business world is not the fear of failure, Rossman said, but the fear of success.

Women experience conflict if they stand to gain personal power or success, she said. The conflict lies between the need for success and the need to be accepted in the traditional feminine role, Rossman said.

When a woman is personally powerful she may not gain approval, Rossman said. This is an anathema to most

women, who are generally raised to seek approval and to be liked, she said.

When men demonstrate personal power they are called incisive, decisive a leader, she said. Women are called argumentative, brazen a broad, Rossman added.

"Having personal power doesn't mean you're going to be loved," she said.

One of the ways women can accept personal power more easily is to get used to not having everybody like them, Rossman said.

Because of the ways women are socialized, they start out at a disadvantage, she said. But these are starting-line differences only. As more women get into the game the rules will change and there will be more successful role models for other women, Rossman added.

Organizations were made by men for men, she said, and it's hard for women to be accepted as equals. But the alternative to striving for power is passivity, which she called a greater hardship.

The politics of organizations are neutral, Rossman said. Politics aren't good or bad, but are a system made up by people. When more women get off the sidelines and participate, Rossman said, they'll have more power to change things for other women.

## Food stamps . . .

Continued from Page 1

Stillman and Raines said that having cars helped them to shop for food bargains at several grocery stores, but that poor people wouldn't be able to shop.

"I also found I couldn't shop in bulk," Stillman said, because she didn't have enough to buy the large quantities that are usually cheaper.

"You can't take advantage of the sales," she said. "I thought of how often people look in people's food basket when they know they receive food stamps."

Raines said she spent \$60 to \$65 a week on food. Stillman said she usually spent \$55 a week on food for her family. The Stillmans have two young children at home.

"I was getting further and further behind," Stillman said. "The next week I would be back in the same rut."

They said their families ate less meat, fresh fruits and vegetables.

"We will have a good dinner tonight," Raines said. Her daughter wants to have steak, she said.

John Hangar, the director of Nebraskans United for

Food, said the proposed food stamp budget cuts would hurt poor people.

Hangar said he disputed whether President Reagan was actually leaving a safety net for the "truly needy" when he proposes to cut food stamps, aid for dependent children and other programs to help poor people.

"The poor are not going to be saved by that net," he said. "It's kicking people who don't need to be kicked any more."

## Charges dropped in trespass case

Charges have been dropped against a UNL student accused of first-degree criminal trespassing, said Paul Boeshart, deputy county attorney.

Boeshart said Greg Downing is being considered for the county's pretrial diversion program. He said the charges have been dismissed pending a final decision to admit Downing to the program.

Boeshart said a decision should be made in about three to four weeks.

Downing and Anthony Kelley were accused of trespassing at 329 Abel Hall on Jan. 31. Both pleaded innocent at their arraignment on Feb. 5.

Boeshart said if Downing is admitted to the program, the charges would not be refiled. He said they probably would be refiled if Downing was not admitted to the program.

The pretrial diversion program would involve about six to eight months of some community service, he said.

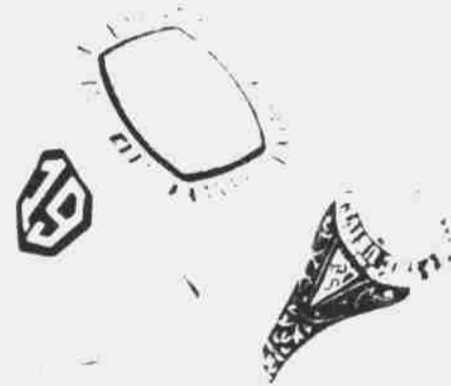
Boeshart said a decision has not yet been made on Kelley's case.

# THE \$74.95 DIPLOMA.

(Save up to \$20 on Siladium® College Rings.)

Siladium rings are made from a fine jeweler's stainless alloy that produces a brilliant white lustre. It is unusually strong and is resistant to deterioration from corrosion or skin reactions.

In short, it's quality and durability at an affordable price.



Both men's and women's Siladium ring styles are on sale this week only through your ArtCarved representative. Trade in your 10K gold high school ring and save even more.

It's a great way of saying you've earned it.

**ARTCARVED**  
COLLEGE RINGS

Symbolizing your ability to achieve.

Friday, March 20, 1981

North Lobby—Nebraska Union

Date

Location

**BOOK STORES**  
**UNL**

Debit-authorized. Master Charge & Visa accepted.

Ready for  
Mt. St. Helens,  
Hurricane Allen,  
Love Canal.

Red Cross: Ready for a new century.



Ad

# TIGHT BUDGET?

MAKE IT  
WITH  
**JUAREZ**  
TEQUILA



MADE IN MEXICO