

## PRESS RELEASE

## FROM SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES BOARD

The first Women's Studies Program in the nation at San Diego State has severed all relationships with the proposed Center for Women's Studies because of a conflict over control and responsibility.

The Women's Studies Program is governed by a Board of ten students, six faculty, and three staff members. The proposed Center for Women's Studies was to have been developed by an ad hoc committee of that Board, in conjunction with a Co-ordinator hired by the San Diego State College Foundation. Carol Rowell, Co-ordinator of the proposed Center for Women's Studies, was also a member of the Board in its first semester.

An agreement was reached by all women interested in the Women's Studies Program and the proposed Center for Women's Studies, that the Co-ordinator (Carol Rowell) of the Center would be responsible to the majority decisions of the Board. At the second meeting of the Board of the Women's Studies Program, the Co-ordinator withdrew her previous commitment and stated, "I am neither legally, officially, or morally responsible to the Board..."

The proposed Center was intended to meet the needs of the women in the community as well as on campus. Since the Center would have involved non-academic activities such as child care, funds had to be sought from sources beyond the University, such as the San Diego State College Foundation. It was the understanding of the Board that a large group of women would determine the use of funds and structure for the proposed Center. The unilateral decision of the Co-ordinator repudiating responsibility to the Board, the only existing facet of the proposed Center, clearly removes any decisions concerning the growth of the Women's Movement in San Diego from the women themselves. As a result of the Co-ordinator's action the decisions concerning the development of the Center rests with one individual who chooses to be responsible not to the women in San Diego but to the San Diego State College Foundation.

Thus we as women of the Women's Studies Program and of the San Diego community feel that we must work towards the development of a Center which is truly responsive to the needs of all women rather than one who's structure and goals are imposed from above.