

## A PROPOSAL FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

The inequalities in women's economic, political, legal, and social status have long been of concern to and are recognized by increasing numbers of women and men. Even within the limited fields open to them, relatively few women achieve prestigious, responsible positions--a process of affairs which is symptomatic of a much more complex problem.

Students in our colleges and universities are subjected as a matter of course to male-oriented, for the most part male-taught, studies and years of curriculums where reference to the contributions of women are distorted or conspicuously omitted. In economic and history texts women are mere footnotes; in psychology they have been negatively defined (largely by male psychologists); in literature they have been grossly stereotyped; in sociology their needs for alternative institutions or life styles have been neglected. "Don't worry," says the kindly male professor to a woman student humiliated by a C- grade, "in a few years you'll have forgotten all this over a sink full of dirty diapers!" How, under such circumstances, can a woman possibly explore or develop her full human potential?

Women desperately need an educational environment, administered by women who understand the problems, in which they can examine the definition of woman, consider how it was arrived at, and become aware of the consequences. Women, as part of a rapidly changing, technologically sophisticated world, urgently need courses which speak to the real, immediate, and long range problems that develop with rapid change and technological sophistication. What, for example, are new and/or alternative vocations open to women? How will women--and men for that matter--handle their interpersonal relationships when they no longer see women as "secretary, spender, sow, civic worker, sickie, and sexpot."?

In an attempt to answer these and many more crucial questions, we propose the creation of Women's Studies, administered and taught by women whose liberation has given them a depth of judgement and insight. Women's Studies courses would be open to all students, offered for credit, and would cover such subjects as:

- Towards a New Psychology of Women
- The Economic Origins of Women's Roles
- Women as Political Force
- The Role of women in various cultures
- America's Invisible Colony: Women
- History of Women's Liberation
- Women Writers
- Woman's Role in Different U.S. Sub-Cultures
- Women as Portrayed in Literature
- Alternatives to the Nuclear Family

We will be circulating a petition soon to determine how many people would be interested in a program of Women's Studies.

Interested Women Students

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