April, 1985 Newsletter of the Division on Women and Crime

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

Nanci Koser Wilson
Notes from the Annual Meeting of the Division

The Division on Women and Crime again co-sponsored a no-host cocktail party jointly with the International Division.

At the annual meeting of the Division a number of projects were planned for the coming year. A committee has been formed to nominate women for ASC Fellows. Nicole Rafter chairs this committee. Virginia Morris is working to develop nominations for offices within ASC. Program chairs for the sessions for 1985 will be Donna Hale, who will collect papers on women as victims and the social control aspects of crime, and Martha Myers who will solicit papers on women as offenders and legal aspects. It was agreed to devise a flyer or brochure for the Division, and Chris Rasche volunteered to work on this effort. The Division is also looking into the possibility of establishing a hospitality room at the 1985 meetings.

Executive Counselors for the Division elected at this meeting are: Chris Rasche, Nicole Rafter and Virginia Morris.

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Continued Growth of Interest in Gender and Crime

An analysis of the program topics for this year's meetings compared with those of previous years indicates substantial growth in the topic which our division was founded to encourage.

This year there were 94 papers delivered devoted to issues in gender and crime. Comparisons with the previous years are as follows:

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Papers</th>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>94</td>
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While most of the papers in 1983 dealt with women offenders (some 60%), this year's topics were broader. Over 30% of the papers focused on offenders, there were 19 on victims, 4 on the victim-offender relationship. Ten presentations dealt with women as workers in the criminal justice system, and 22 papers focused on the criminal justice system--including sentencing studies and studies of women in prison. Additionally 2 panels (7 presentations) focused on media coverage of female offenders and victims--a welcome new addition.

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Gender Differences in ASC Participation

The participation of women in the annual meetings remains stable at around twenty-three percent. The Cincinnati meetings had a total of 235 women participants, which is 22.66% of the total participants. This compares to 22% in 1983, 24% in 1982 and 20% in 1981.

Last year's spring newsletter asked the question whether women in our society were limiting themselves to "feminine" areas, and whether men were equally interested in issues of gender and crime. In the 1983 program we found that 56.38% of the presenters on gender issues were women, 43.62% men. The comparable figures for 1984 are: 64% women, 36% men. Thus close to 60% of persons interested in gender issues are women, while less than half the membership of the society is female. There is an imbalance; but male interest in redressing the traditionally masculine orientation in criminology is substantial.

Also, it continues to be true that women members of the society do not limit themselves to gender issues. In 1983 30% of the women participants, and in 1984 34% presented papers on topics outside the area of gender and crime.
This year the President-Elect, Austin Turk, submitted 33 nominations of women to offices and committees in the organization. This amounts to slightly over 27 percent of the total. This compares to 23% female appointments submitted by Mr. Hirschi in the previous year and 21% submitted by Mr. Reiss in 1982. It is gratifying to notice the progress women are making in contributing to the work of ASC through committee participation.

Contact with Other Organizations Devoted to the Study of Gender

If you know of other organizations which have a section or division or caucus devoted to women's issues, we would like to be in contact with them. Please send any information you have to:

Phyllis Jo Baunach
12203 Winder Place
Ft. Washing, MC 20744
Ph: 202/724-7755

ASC Elections

The Division supports and encourages the election of women to office in ASC, both to increase the visibility of women in the Society and to encourage the topic area to which the Division is devoted.

This year two women have been nominated for office. Edith Flynn is running for Vice-President. Dr. Flynn has worked hard for the Society, having served as executive counselor and as the 1974 Program Chair, among other duties. She served on the Joint Commission of ASC and ACJS to develop criminal justice standards. (This work was published under the title "Quest for Quality.") Her most recent work was commissioned by the secretary-general of the United Nations and is titled "Fair and Equal Treatment of Women in the Criminal Justice System." Nicole Hahn Rafter is nominated for executive counselor. Dr. Rafter, associate professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University, has served on several of the Society's committees, including the Student Paper Committee, the Nominations Committee and the Committee on Ethical Issues in Criminological Research. She has written extensively in the area of women and crime, her most recent work being Partial Justice: Women in State Prisons 1800-1935.