

Women's Center On The Move

The Orange County Women's Center will move in mid-October to a house at 406 West Rosemary Street, from their present location on North Columbia Street in Chapel Hill.

The Center is appealing for volunteers with trucks and vans and ready hands to help them in the move. The new residence, located beside a bicycle shop, is presently being renovated.

The Center is sponsoring a pot-luck supper on Wed., Oct. 8, at 6:30 for present members and all women interested in becoming members.

On Oct. 20 there will be a forum on "Displaced Homemakers and their Employment Options" at 8 pm in the lounge of the Presbyterian Student Center. The speaker for this forum will be Clare Millar of the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women.

Ongoing activities of the Women's Center include a weekly poetry workshop and bag lunches each Wednesday. The bag lunches are a time for informal discussion with occasional speakers and are held in the Presbyterian Student Center.

Women interested in the poetry workshops may call Sophia Pappas at 929-3481 for day and meeting time.

Plans are underway for several support groups to begin mid-October. To date, suggestions include groups for lesbians, working women who are graduate students, newcomers, divorcees, and new mothers.

Plans for other activities include a monthly sports night and a basketball team. Suggestions for the sports night include self-defense instruction and volleyball.

The basketball team has been formed to compete in the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department's women's basketball league, which opens its season on Oct. 13. Women interested in joining the team should call Judy Goldberg at 967-7745.

Women wanting to participate in Center activities may contact it Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm at:

Orange County Women's Center
307 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 968-4646

Platform Contains Gay Rights

The 1980 National Democratic Party's Platform includes a gay rights clause. This is in sharp contrast to the 1976 Democratic Platform, in which Carter and the Democrats staunchly opposed a gay plank.

The plank, adopted unanimously after several weeks of hearings on gay issues, says, "We must affirm the dignity of all people and the rights of each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society, including actions to protect all groups from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation.

"This includes specifically the rights of foreign citizens to enter into this country.

"Appropriate legislative action and administrative actions to achieve these goals should be undertaken."

Brooklyn's Ginny Apuzzo, one of several open gays who served on the National Platform Committee said, "I'm delighted we fought and won. As a political person, I think it's terribly important. It helps legitimize our drive for equal rights."

The plank was similar to the one proposed by the Carter administration.

The Kennedy forces had offered a stronger plank, but were out-voted by about 2-1 on the platform committee.

The plank adopted by the platform committee was intended to draw gay support from Independent Candidate John Anderson, but still not offend those who oppose gay rights.