

Women's liberation continues today: Resource Center a catalyst for female advancement

Rose Jones

by: [Rose Jones](#) on February 4, 2013
[inShare0](#)

The Women's Resource Center at the U is a catalyst for releasing women from traditional Old English subservience to their platform of excellence and empowerment.

Beginning with a greeting exuding positive energy, the women from the WRC present themselves with confidence and strength. I went into the WRC out of curiosity, and came out knowing I wanted to feel like the women there feel. I also knew that I had found the perfect place for assistance and encouragement in gaining my full potential.

The WRC came into existence in 1971, and offers an array of services including helping women return to school, counseling on an independent basis, offering nontraditional scholarships and advancing career goals for single parents.



The graduation rate for women in Utah is the lowest in the nation. Women, especially women of color, are rendered invisible in the decision processes of our state Legislature.

Perhaps with the exceptional work and effort given at the WRC, we will someday see a woman in Utah take a national Congressional seat.

Unlike the old-school "gentleman's clubs," which ostracize women by canonizing principles such as Freemasonry and religious hierarchy, the WRC does not reject men. Men can apply for the same services.

Being raised in Utah during the 1970s and '80s, I watched the rise in female power from a distance. The majority of Utah's young women, as with many across the nation, were saddled with the text "Fascinating Womanhood" and were forced to take high school courses in home economics — in other words, women were given housewife instruction, and discouraged from pursuing professional careers.

But even in apron-clad times, the advances of heroes such as Gloria Steinem and her Ms. Magazine crept into our bedrooms. Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" guaranteed at least four months of girlfriend sleepovers reading about empowerment. The same book caused many fretful brows on male church leaders.

Moreover, we learned that there was a world beyond Utah from courageous publications written by women such as Maya Angelou, who worked closely and took many risks to get out the message of equality driven by Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. Oprah Winfrey's iconic vision has empowered women for decades.

A hundred years ago, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns began the fight for American women's voting rights, and in 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensured it. But it is nothing to celebrate, really, because

the 12th Amendment ruled that the “electors,” gender neutral, should vote in their states for the president of the United States.

So women as a necessary part of “We the People” should have begun in 1803.

The dominant white man ruling culture in America has brought us to near collapse. We had a Revolutionary War to escape the royal ironhandedness, but it seems we failed to remove the queen Victorian women’s repressive policies from the New World.

For 200 years, such policies have spawned a battle against constitutional women’s rights such as abortion and birth control. Laws championed by brave women such as Margaret Sanger 90 years ago, and Jane Roe 40 years ago, are being ridiculed fiercely.

Anti-women obstructionists such as Phyllis Schlafly and Gayle Ruzicka of the regressive Eagle Forum claim women rape themselves. This is the world in which we live, and people such as Schlafly and Ruzicka make the mission of the WRC even more important.

It is critical to support the WRC because it is vital for women’s academic success, from which empowerment proceeds.

We need more female law makers such as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who said, “Women are the most significant economic engine in the U.S.”

The WRC is producing such dynamics.

Contact Rose Jones at rjones@chronicle.utah.edu

Short URL: <http://www.dailyutahchronicle.com/?p=2583517>

Posted by [Rose Jones](#) on Feb 4 2013. Filed under [Columns](#), [Opinion](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

