

BIRTH CONTROL FOR GRINNELL WOMEN

A Proposal by Grinnell Women's Liberation

An isolated college such as Grinnell should accept responsibility for providing the necessary health services which are not readily accessible to its students. The college recognizes this responsibility by maintaining a program with a county mental health clinic. Gynecological services (i.e. birth control) are also necessary health services. Control of one's own body is a major part of staying healthy; this includes the availability of birth control for women who choose it. Birth control is not readily accessible to women at Grinnell; thus, the college should take some action to insure that this health service is provided. Therefore, Women's Liberation submits these two proposals - one of which should be acted upon immediately by the college administration in conjunction with the women students and Planned Parenthood in Des Moines. A more detailed discussion of the rationale for these proposals will be posted at the dining table, the post office and will be available from Women's Liberation. See Mary Sturds, Carnegie 102.

Proposal #1 Grinnell College should initiate the opening of a Planned Parenthood branch clinic in Grinnell or Newton. This clinic would be open to all women, not just college students. Other groups and individuals in communities this size have singlehandedly set up Planned Parenthoods all over Iowa. A clinic is important to this area because of many women's difficulty in getting to Des Moines and because of the Des Moines clinic's difficulty in serving many women outside Des Moines.

The clinic here could be opened at the college health center or at a hospital or doctor's office but should be open to all women and should be staffed by at least one gynecologist. The gynecologist might be able to come from a nearby city. The clinic should be affiliated with Planned Parenthood so as to avail itself of their research, drugs and supplies, and policies. Since birth control is a community health problem, the expense of it should be shared throughout the community. According to Planned Parenthood policy women pay what they are able to for the examination, etc. Here at Grinnell the difference between this amount and what it costs to run the clinic would be made up out of a slight increase in student health fees.

Before the college closes down this spring, Women's Liberation expects to see a timetable of when the college will enact this program. But now while we are waiting to have it put into effect, the college should provide transportation to Des Moines Planned Parenthood.

Proposal #2: This is only a temporary measure until Proposal #1 is put into effect. Grinnell College should provide support for and transportation to Des Moines Planned Parenthood. This program would be administered by the loan of a vehicle in cooperation with the AWS Board and Planned Parenthood. The college would provide transportation to Des Moines Planned Parenthood for women students and any women in town who need this service. Cars would drive in twice a week (as often as they need to be the need). Since, in this case, the college is not providing birth control services here, it should provide and pay for the transportation to Des Moines Planned Parenthood. Women could pay a minimal transportation fee. A fund could be established to raise the expenses of services and transportation, providing that the woman pays for herself. The college would then be able to provide a minimal fee to Planned Parenthood.