2-24-1984

Men's Awareness Week at the University of Dayton

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Recommended Citation
"Men's Awareness Week at the University of Dayton" (1984). News Releases. 4510.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/4510
DAYTON, Ohio, February 24, 1984 -- The Third Annual Men's Awareness Week, a week for men and women featuring films, lectures, awareness sessions, and panel discussions focusing on men's gender-related topics, will take place on the University of Dayton campus March 6 through 10.

"Men's Awareness Week is designed to focus attention on some of the gender-related problems confronting men in today's world," says Eugene August, UD English professor and Men's Awareness Week coordinator. "While the attention devoted to women's concerns is valuable, it needs to be balanced by an equal awareness of men's issues. Only input from both sexes can help us solve positively the problems created by rapidly-changing sex roles in our society," says August.

To kick off the week of events, which are free and open to the public, "Sons and Lovers," the classic film version of D. H. Lawrence's famous autobiographical novel, will be shown on Tuesday, March 6. August will give brief introductory remarks to the film, which will be shown at 7 p.m. in O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall 119.

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, Gary McLouth, co-author with Arthur Shostak of Men and Abortion: Lessons, Losses, and Love, to be published by Praeger in June, 1984, will lead a discussion in O'Leary Auditorium on "Men and Abortion." The discussion will explore the ethical, psychological, and legal implications for a man when a woman decides to have an abortion. McLouth is a member of the English Department faculty at the State University of New York - Albany.

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"Fathers and Families in Divorce" will be the topic of discussion on Thursday, March 8, at 7 p.m. in room 222 of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union. This awareness and information session will be conducted by Ron Braswell, director, and other members of the Ohio Fathers Family Rights Association, along with Dayton Attorney Larry Denny. Issues to be explored include Fathers' and children's emotional reactions during divorce, attorney-client relations, and legal intricacies of divorce and custody.

On Friday, March 9, a rough-cut version of "Heroes and Strangers," a film-in-progress about men, emotions, and the family by Dayton film makers Lorna Rasmussen and Tony Heriza, will be shown at 7 p.m. in Kennedy Union 222, followed by a discussion with Heriza.

The week will conclude on Saturday, March 10, with a panel discussion in Kennedy Union 222 at 1 p.m. The discussion, entitled "Men and Affection," will be moderated by Susan Keon, bibliographer in UD's Roesch Library. Panelists, all UD faculty and staff members, include the Rev. Robert Bouffier, S.M., a professor in the Theatre Division of the Performing and Visual Arts Department; Tom South, a counselor in Psychological Services; the Rev. Matthew Kohmescher, S.M., Religious Studies Department professor; Mark Skiles, a graduate teaching assistant in the Philosophy Department, and others. Some of the topics to be discussed are male-female relationships, homosexuality, male friendships, male chauvinism, and Biblical teachings.

Men's Awareness Week has grown out of an English 380 course entitled "Modern Men: Images and Realities," taught by August.

For more information on Men's Awareness Week, contact the University of Dayton English Department at 229-3434.