

DAILY 4/4/68
**Author calls for Americans
to join 'revolution of women'**

By MARY ANN STAHR

Betty Friedan, noted social critic and author of the controversial best seller, 'The Feminine Mystique,' called for Americans to join the revolution of women for equality, independence and individual identity and break through the "Silken Curtain of Discrimination."

Mrs. Friedan spoke to a capacity crowd in MacKay Auditorium Thursday night. She was the last speaker in the "Free to be Female" series. The program was sponsored by the Women's Residence Association, YWCA, Union Board, Mortar Board, Ward System and Panhellenic Council.

"The idea that American women enjoy more equality than any other country is just a cliché," said Mrs. Friedan. "American women are suffering from denegation from society and from themselves."

Sex Discrimination

Mrs. Friedan paralleled the revolution of American women with the Negro civil rights revolution. "The Negroes are seeking to eliminate discrimination based on race. We are seeking to eliminate discrimination based on sex."

Mrs. Friedan said that the

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Motherhood is unimportant

revolution must take place for two reasons.

First of all, she said, the life expectancy of a woman today is 75 years. Although every woman wants to be a mother, the amount of time spent being a mother is relatively unimportant with the total 75 years. She said a woman could take perhaps 15 years out for motherhood, but that it was impossible to define a woman today only through motherhood.

She said that it was possible today for a woman to control her body with the pill and abortions. She said, "A woman should not be faced to have or not to have a child."

Face Real Challenges

The other reason cited by Mrs. Friedan was that the woman of today should face up to the real challenges of society.

She said that women must break through the "Silken Curtain of Discrimination." She said that although 28 million women work, three out of four work at the most menial jobs such as sales clerks, secretaries and hospital aides. She also said that their wage scale was half that of the man's—in other words the woman is making a "poverty level wage."

The other image according to Mrs. Friedan is that the American woman is only a sex object. "She is a faceless animal object that is like a disposable kleenex which is used and thrown away."

She said that today a woman

has "had it" when she reaches 20.

No Open Violence

Mrs. Friedan continued that the revolution would not be like the Negro revolution in that there would be no open violence. She said that if the revolution does not take place the violence in women would be turned inward and the hate and resentment will be turned against the man and the children.

The revolution, according to Mrs. Friedan, will be creative. She said that simple inventions such as child care centers will speed the revolution. These centers would free the mother to pursue her abilities and would at the same time benefit the child through socialization.

She said that the revolution of real equality between man and woman will liberate the personalities of the two sexes.