

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER



1736 R STREET N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. * 232-5145 * 232-7533 * October/November Issue 1978
NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER * NEWSLETTER *

REFRESHING FEMALE EGO TRIP

What does a culture-starved feminist do for entertainment that isn't totally male conceived and somewhat sexist, if not downright misogynistic? Usually very little. Of course there are books by women, even feminists, and there are female vocalists to listen and dance to. But when it comes to art and film, one is left to salvage what one can from male works -- "well, it did have such good photography in it" -- or to an appreciation of genre works -- "such an accurate depiction of 20th century male fantasy," etc.

But for the two delicious weeks of the International Women's Film Festival, we had a chance to feast on the works of women artists. How refreshing to see women transformed from victims to victors in Nellie Kaplan's films. And who but a woman, Rosalind Schneider, would explore the vibrant sensuality of luscious folds of cabbage? We saw plastic Miss America pageants and pristine glamour girl advertisements juxtaposed with reality of bloody sanitary napkins, diapers full of shit, and sink drains full of slimy food particles in "Schmeerguntz." "Meshes of the Afternoon," an eerie dream sequence reminiscent of a dada painting, was the first opportunity for many women to see a film by Maya Deren, whose work is rarely shown in spite of the fact that it is the basis for the entire New American Cinema movement. Less a film than a direct experience was "Holding" which followed the rhythm of love between two women as they explore fields, woods, and each other's bodies.

In "Dream Life" two women humorously de-flower the "Man-and-a-Woman" romantic myth and discover their feelings for each other. This film will be commercially run later by the Janus because of its popularity. (cont.)

WE'RE CHANGING OUR STRIPES,
BUT NOT OUR NAME (and maybe that too!)

You might be wondering why this newsletter came out late. Well, these 1500 copies were put out by three women, two of whom were moving, three of whom had colds, and three of whom were discouraged. Huddled under the one lamp in our office, hassled by coffee spilt over newly typed stencils, confounded by a Gestetner mimeo that spit ink all over the place and then broke down twice and refused to spit ink at all, and thwarted by lack of access to an addressograph machine, we were overcome. Overcome we did, though, and here's your copy at last. You might be wondering too why it's a combination October/November issue. We would be left with just one week to get a separate November issue out on time; if the newsletter were our sole *raison d'être* this would be possible -- but since we have jobs and personal lives (we hope we still do anyway) it's not. Another reason for the combination issue is that the support we've received from you has given us new energy and ideas.

Thanks for all the letters and notes you included in the newsletter reply form. To be honest, before your responses came in we were beginning to wonder if anyone out there actually read the newsletter. We were (are) getting tired of putting out essentially an elongated glorified calendar. We want to develop contacts in the community and include feature articles that might make this rag more worth reading. Since there aren't too many of us now, it's going to take time to find new members and develop our ideas. We thought putting out a combination issue would give us this time we need and help us gather our resources and energies. We hope a few of the changes we're thinking of already show up in this issue. If you have any time and energy to contribute to ours, please don't hold back. Call Chris, Ann. or Maureen at the Center. We realize that the coverage of events going on in Nov. might be spotty, if you want to know of anything going on at the Center, give the office a call. See you in December!!!

FILM FESTIVAL CONTINUED.....

Not every movie had a distinctly feminist outlook. One movie, in particular, "Woman is Sweeter", with its commercially "beautiful" women in clothes and perfumes, grated on our nerves. There were minor irritations too, such as last minute program switches and a French movie without subtitles. These irritations, however, didn't come close to spoiling the main spirit of the festival which was, perhaps, most apparent on benefit night when the Women Make Movies Collective from N.Y.C. showed their films to a full house with women sitting in the aisles. "Sweet Bananas" and "Women's Happy Time Commune" showed women at their most exuberant (as did many first efforts at filmmaking by members of the Women's Make Movies Collective) and this spirit was picked up by the audience. At the end of the show just about everyone wanted to go out and make her own movie. Why not? Maybe we can get a women make movies collective started here in D.C.

HUD.

Could you persuade the management where you work to provide space for daycare on the premises, to approve a whole week for women employees to discuss career opportunities and counseling, and pay a woman to work on these and other women's activities, as well? An active core of 60 women at the Department of Housing and Urban Development have accomplished this and more.

HUD's Women's Caucus formed last April when several women's groups in the Department who had not previously known about each other merged. Some of the earlier groups had been composed entirely of black women in lower grade levels and others of white women in upper grade levels. Neither successfully achieved its goals, according to Doris Johnson, Women's Caucus President. Ms. Johnson attributes the success of the current caucus to its broader, more divergent base.

Encompassing women in grade levels 4 to 15, the Caucus has many in the 5, 6, and 7 range (primarily secretarial) but the largest bulk are in grades 7-11 (middle management). Both the Caucus and its Board of Directors are about half black and minority groups, half white. Since the "Women's" Caucus

allows men to participate, they also have one or two male members.

Since last May when they began, programs every Thursday at lunch hour have attracted many of the estimated 250 women who participate in the Caucus activities. Although the programs focus primarily on job and career related issues (acquiring and using skills, sex and race discrimination in jobs, forces affecting the lives of working women), they also explore more general topics of women's self-concepts and development. At one program, Caucus members simply paired off to get to know each other.

Ms. Johnson, a GS 14 herself, admits the interests of secretaries and managers are somewhat different but explains: "We're sensitive to this in all our activities. We have programs of a variety that appeals to different people. For example, 'How to Become a Successful Manager in a Sexist Organization' appeals to middle level and managers, whereas 'Upward Mobility and How to Achieve It' has a different focus.

Working in the Caucus helps many women develop leadership skills, according to Ms. Johnson, through speaking, moderating, workshops and committee work. The Caucus stresses upward mobility and encourages women to use their experience in community work to obtain better jobs. Ms. Johnson believes many women are stuck at low level jobs because 1) management's expectations are very low, and 2) women may not be rating themselves highly in skills - they may not think of community work as important to an employer. "There's certainly a lot of job opportunities in the Federal Government for which you don't have to have a degree," says Doris Johnson.

How has management responded to the Caucus activities? "Very positively," states Ms. Johnson. The Caucus takes a very professional approach, she explains, which is effective with management. When asked if management's hiring a women's coordinator might give them more control to coopt women's activities, Ms. Johnson paused. "Good question," she finally offered. "That depends on who's management and who's in the position (of women's coordinator). We'll have to see how it works out."

(cont.) ➡

HUD ARTICLE CONTINUED....

In the meantime, the Caucus pushes ahead. Federal Women's Program Week, scheduled for October 29-November 1, will draw attention to what the Federal Program offers women and will provide workshops on career opportunities and self development.

A daycare center, long in the works, is finally taking shape. Employees are making donations to set it up; HUD is contributing space and possibly staff. (The Women's Caucus hopes that women with teaching certificates, now in dead-end jobs at HUD, will be employed at the daycare center.) Daycare, at a sliding scale payment rate, is expected to be self sustaining once set up. Can the Women's Caucus boast of any other accomplishments? "Most of us never had the idea of working with other women before," Ms. Johnson mentions, "Now women are being friends with other women all around HUD." *

SUGAR AND SPICE?

NOW's Education Task Force is sponsoring an all-day conference on The Potential of Girls, Nov. 17, 9 to 4, at the Washington Technical Inst., Van Ness and Connecticut Aves.

Estelle Ramey, recently elected President of American Women in Science and Professor of Physiology at Georgetown Univ., will give the keynote address. Elizabeth Koontz, formerly head of the Women's Bureau, and Katherine Cole, Director of the Resource Center on Sex Role in Education will also speak.

Workshops will explore career guidance, sports, the classroom environment, home influence, & other topics. A slide show entitled "Dick and Jane as Victims" which examines school text books will be shown.

A donation of \$3.50 (includes box lunch & info packet) is requested. Checks may be sent in advance, payable to NOW Education Conference, 3200 Porter St. N.W., Wn., D.C. For more info: Carol Jordan 362-2475 or Mary Aronoff 244-1142.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION SCHOOL

The following courses will begin the week of October 29; a donation of \$3.00 for as many courses as you wish to take, is requested.

COURSE	DATE	TIME	PLACE	INSTRUCTOR	1st CLASS
Basic Carpentry Skills	every Tuesday (registration taken)	7-9 PM at first class	W.C.		Oct. 30
Beginning Journalism (writing, layout, editing)	every Wednesday	8 PM	W.C.	Adrienne Cook News Staff	Oct. 31
Investment in Stocks & Finances	every Wednesday Pre-registration required, call W.C. now.	7 PM	W.C.	Pauline Sacks	Nov. 7
Women & Alcoholic Problems (discussion group)	Please call instructor, 546-8391 (home), 333-1415 (work)			Laurie Berry	to be announced
Radio (preparation for getting 3rd class radio license- working with WGTB women doing news; public affairs programs; gaining technical knowledge of how to be "on the air". - call the W.C. the week of Oct. 29 to register)	WGTB studios-Ruth Stenstrom				
Basic Auto Mechanics (classes filled. You may call to register (1st come, 1st serve) for next session. Make sure the women taking your registration dates your call)					
Feminist Theory (discussion of: Political & Economic Theories & Strategies/ The Place of Reformism in Radical Politics/ The Sexual Basis of Pride & Prejudice in War/ Self-hood for Women/	(543-2747) (543-0979) (eves.)		Charlotte Brunch Juanita Weaver		

Interest has been shown for the following subjects: Crafts/ Electricity/ Plumbing/ Photography/ Para-Legal/ Women Herstory/

If you are interested in leading any of the above courses -- we need you.

If you know of any women who may be interested, let us know.

If you would like to learn a skill or discuss a topic not mentioned, call the Women's Center 232-5145.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1973

- OCTOBER 12, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, Willie Tyson, 8:30 PM
 13, Sat. Law Conference, WOMEN's RIGHTS COLLECTIVE, Georgetown Law Center, 600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Wn., D.C. 10:30 AM
 13, Sat. NOW General Mtg., WOMEN IN CABLE TV, Martin Luther King Library, G between 9
 16, Tues. WLDF Mtg., New Board, G.W. Law School, 8 PM
 17, Wed. BACK ALLEY THEATRE, Meg Christian, w/Chris Williamson, 8:30 PM, \$2
 17, Wed. FCC ORIENTATION SESSION, W.C. 7:30 PM (every 3rd Wed./month)
 18, Thur. COORDINATING COUNCIL, W.C. , 7:30 PM
 19, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR Committee Mtg., W.C. 7:30 PM
 24, Wed. OFFICE ORIENTATION for new staffers, W.C. 6 PM
 MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP for new office staffers 7 PM
 25, Thur. OFFICE COLLECTIVE Mtg. (Mental Health Workshop II) call office for time
 26, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, to be announced
 29, Mon. EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION Group, 7:45 PM
- NOVEMBER 1, Thur. COORDINATING COUNCIL, W.C. 7:30 PM
 2, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, Meg Christian, W.C. 8:30 PM
 3, Sat. NOW Seminar, SEX DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT, Martin Luther King Library, 9:30-1:30
 9, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, Open House (live entertainment, punch & fun)
 14, Wed. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for December articles
 15, Thur. COORDINATING COUNCIL, W.C. , 7:30 PM
 16, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, Meg Christian, W.C. 8:30 PM
 17, Sat. NOW Conference The Potential of Girls , Wn. Tech. Inst., 9 AM to 4 PM
 21, Wed. NEWSLETTER COLLATING, 6 PM, W.C.
 23, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, Open
 29, Thur. COORDINATING COUNCIL, W.C. 7:30 PM
 30, Fri. SOPHIE's PARLOR, to be announced.

* Every Sunday evening= business mtg. of Rape Crisis Center, 8PM, call 333-RAPE for mtg. place.
 * Every Monday evening= Abortion & Birth Control Information Collective Meeting, 8 PM, W.C.

RESOURCE LIST

(* indicates contact W.C.-232-5145)

- CHILD CARE - Laurie 526-6477 (eves.), Susan 387-0639
 MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING - Sharen Holson *
 CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS- Liz Milbrandt 654-1760
 DOMESTIC RELATIONS- Valle Jones 628-0314 (eves)
 Nan Hunter 544-8278
 EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION - Gayla Salinas 530-1959
 Nancy Balles 362-1895
 FEMINIST COUNSELING COLLECTIVE -234-3726 (Answ.Serv.)
 GAY WOMEN'S OPEN HOUSE - 671-3762
 ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION GROUP
 483-4632
 WOMEN'S PAINTING CREW -462-2371

- WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND - 232-5293
 LIBERATION SCHOOL - *
 LIBRARY - Caroline Raschick 797-1147
 NEWSLETTER - Chris Taylor *
 NOW - 387-6895 (answering service)
 OFFICE COLLECTIVE (W.C.)-232-5145, 232-7
 RAPE CRISIS CENTER - 333-RAPE
 SOPHIE's PARLOR -Susan Becker 521-8850
 SPEAKERS BUREAU -Sue Martin 320-5363 *
 WN. AREA WOMEN'S HOME REPAIR B. Strand
 587-1224
 WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC - Bette Goldpers
 966-9138, Jamie Agins 244-5617
 WOMEN's COOP AUTO REPAIR - *

DISCLAIMER
12/12/81
9:15
♀

The D.C. City Council conducted hearings on the subject of rape between September 18th and 21st. The hearings were constituted primarily of testimony from community groups, professionals and rape victims.

Many of the testimonies dealt with the subject generally or with a specific area involving rape. Other testimonies included comprehensive recommendations: among these testimonies were the D.C. Task Force on Rape, the Rape Crisis Center and the D.C. Dept. of Human Resources. Among the groups that testified were the Women's Legal Defense Fund, the National Organization for Women, the Capitol Hill Women's Political Caucus, the D.C. Commission on the Status of Women, Pride, Inc., and the D. C. Police Dept.

The recommendations included changes in the legal, medical and psychological institutions that deal with the crime of rape.

*** Rape Crisis Center Business meetings will now be held on Sunday evenings at 8:00 PM. Call 333-RAPE for meeting place.

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The rape issue has become explosive in D.C. Things are happening fast, and it is imperative that feminists have as much control as possible over activity surrounding the issue.

Mr. Joseph Yeldell, Director of the Department of Human Resources, D.C. government, has present a proposal to the D.C. City Council for general reform in the public institutions that deal with rape.

Mr. Yeldell wants a 24-hour crisis line with emphasis on community education. We at the Rape Crisis Center have been in contact with rape victims in a supportive role for a year and a half. Our primary emphasis has been on community education. While we are encouraged by this interest in the problems of rape, we are wary of such a program being run by the D.C. government. Feminist groups such as the Rape Crisis Center should play a major part in the establishment of these projects.

At this point, the Rape Crisis Center needs input and energy from feminists. If you can work with us, call Jackie or Sue at 387-6068 or the Rape Crisis Center at 333-RAPE.

ABORTION

The ABORTION COUNSELING AND BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION COLLECTIVE at the W.C. has done an evaluation of local abortion clinics in the area. It is unfortunately impossible to print their evaluation in the newsletter because of lack of space, but an article and chart on the group's findings appears in the September issue of OFF OUR BACKS (on sale at the W.C. and Community Bookshop). Fourteen local clinics are evaluated in terms of price; last menstrual period time limit; the kind of lab tests run; when pelvic exams are given; method of abortion used; kinds of anesthetics and tranquilizers, if any, used; policies on i.u.d. insertion; medicaid or insurance policies; kinds of counseling provided; age requirements and policies on marital status; kinds of facilities; and personnel-patient relationships. A general reason for each rating is also given. This article is worth getting and saving for reference if you feel you or any of your friends might ever need an abortion.

The Collective is also preparing a more extensive report which deals with abortion in general. A preliminary study entitled How to Get an Abortion in D.C. ranges from general topics such as -what is an abortion; what are the different kinds of abortions; -to specific evaluations of Washington area abortion clinics. For further info call the Women's Health and Abortion Information Group at the Women's Center, 483-4632 or 232-5145.

"You rape 'em -- we scrape 'em"

You've been raped. Fearing pregnancy, you go to a clinic. The pregnancy test results are inconclusive, but for lack of adequate counselling and not knowing what direction to take, you decide to get an abortion. You start having symptoms indicating something is seriously wrong. You start hemorrhaging every month. You're turned out of the emergency room of a hospital while you're hemorrhaging and told to come back if it persists. At another emergency room they refuse to treat you unless you find a private doctor. You have great difficulty locating a private doctor since many of them prefer to take only a certain quota of medicaid patients. Your condition has been alternately diagnosed as "nerves", "hormonal imbalance", and "incurable". You've been given hormone pills, D & C's, and "substitute medicine" at an emergency room because the prescribed medicine was not on hand. Eight months have passed since the rape and abortion: you've had 3 D & C's and 20 pelvics by this time. You don't know what's wrong, have no money, no doctor, and next month you're going to start hemorrhaging again.

This is the situation a woman we will call Ann described to us when she called the Women's Center the week of September 10. The story was disjointed and complicated, but the fact that Ann felt she had been mistreated by doctors came through clearly. She does not feel her situation, although extreme, is an anomaly when it comes to medical treatment of women, particularly low-income women. Her complaints about doctors center on: their refusal and/or inability to communicate with women about women's bodies, withholding information, discrimination toward medicaid patients, and insensitivity toward women ("One of the pelvics I had," she said, "was hard to distinguish from the rape."). What to do about this situation? According to Ann, "If we as women were more educated about our bodies, we could save ourselves a lot of grief.... Once we as women start to assert ourselves and demand communication with doctors then we won't have to have them pushing tranquilizers, anesthetics, hormones, unnecessary surgery, and fear down our mouths." She feels it is crucial for women to organize in the health field and said to the Abortion & Birth Control Information Collective at the Center, "If I weren't sick I'd be right in there working with you."

Right now in Washington, the Women's Health Clinic is attempting to provide an alternative to the existing medical establishment, but they are in great need of women doctors. The Abortion & Birth Control Collective at the Center works as both an educational and service oriented group; they also need to know of doctors. At the Women's Center office, there are few good doctors we know of, fewer who are women, few who are in gynecology, fewer still who accept medicaid. Ann's call is not atypical of calls we get everyday. When a woman requests, as Ann did, a female specialist who accepts medicaid, there is little we can do now. In Ann's case we had no woman doctor to recommend; she saw a male doctor the abortion group knew of. Although we realize that letting people know of good doctors is only a beginning, it is a beginning, and we request that you fill out the enclosed questionnaire. Any further suggestions for better medical care would be appreciated.

*According to Ann this was a sign hanging on a gynecologist's door in Silver Spring as reported in Barbara Seaman's book #Free & Female" (C.5, title pg.)

Since we don't have much space, we're putting two questionnaire's on this page. If you've already responded to the newsletter, ignore the second section.

PROJECT GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE * WOMEN'S CENTER OFFICE

Please send this questionnaire as soon as possible to the Center. It's vital that we develop better resources NOW since we're getting calls we're having a hard time answering, particularly in the health and legal field.

This is one of those don't call us, we'll call you deals, unless you don't have enough money for a stamp. In that case call us since we need the information. Thanks.

YOUR NAME _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

- 1) Do you know of a doctor (any field) you can recommend (female or male)? YES _____ NO _____
- 2) Do you know of a lawyer (any field) you can recommend (female or male)? YES _____ NO _____
- 3) Have you had any experience with public legal agencies such as Neighborhood Legal Service Public Defenders, etc.? YES _____ NO _____
- 4) Do you know of a woman dentist you can recommend? YES _____ NO _____
- 5) Would you be available for crisis housing? YES _____ NO _____
- 6) Do you know of any non-sexist child care centers, co-ops, etc.? YES _____ NO _____
- 7) Do you have a particular skill or talent you'd be willing to share with other women? YES _____ NO _____
- 8) Do you have a business, collective, or organization you'd like other women to know about or join? YES _____ NO _____
- 9) Do you have a car for use in emergencies? YES _____ NO _____
- 10) If you know of any inexpensive places to stay (hotels, hostels, etc.) please list on a separate sheet of paper.
- 11) If you know of any women's centers in other cities please list.
- 12) If you know of any community organization that might be helpful to local women please list.
- 13) If you know of any places in the community where women might learn skills inexpensively, please list.

SPACE:

NEWSLETTER REPLY - 2nd NOTICE - If you have not already responded;
URGENT - YOU MUST READ THIS TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER:

The amount of time, energy and money being poured into the Newsletter these days boggles the mind, the body, and the wallet! Our mailing list has grown to 1200; paper, ink, postage run over \$1,000 per year. We are considering off-set printing in order to improve the quality of our publication. The Newsletter Staff feels that in order to meet expenditures and continue sending the newsletter; we are asking a contribution of \$2/year. If you really can't afford \$2/year, fill out the form and you will receive the newsletter. The form will also help to update our mailing list.

In order to continue receiving the Newsletter after DECEMBER, fill out the following form:

I wish to receive the W.C. Newsletter:

and

My contribution is enclosed:

but

I can't send a contribution at this time:

or

I wish to discontinue the newsletter:

NAME..... PHONE.....
ADDRESS..... ZIP.....

THIS NOTICE WILL APPEAR IN ONE MORE ISSUE ***

7
TO MAIL BACK AS ENVELOPE, FOLD ON LINES AND STAPLE

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

1736 R Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20009

YOUR ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR ERA RATIFICATION

The month of January is critical for this year's effort for ERA. It will be close in the Senate and your effort may mean the difference. Please do your part. Women are depending on you. Events are being planned in which you should participate. Write letters. Visit your legislators on week-ends or get other people to go. Send names of women who want to help or send contributions to your local organizations working for ERA or the Virginia ERA Ratification Council, P. O. Box 3156, Falls Church, Virginia 22043.

DECEMBER 31 Virginia ERA Ratification Council will make a mailing to its mailing list plus 600 active women including the following information:

- An activity schedule of events
- Suggestions for letter-writing and lobbying
- ERA Fact Sheet-Petition
- Address and Phone Numbers of Richmond office of Legislators
- Envelope for individual contributions

We are asking member organizations to plan such a mailing to their individual members. We must enlarge our communication to succeed.

JANUARY 8 Opening day of the 1975 session. At High Noon Catholic Women for the ERA will meet on the capitol steps to conduct a pray-in. An official ERA prayer has been composed. All women are invited to join. For further information contact Glenn Ellefson-Brooks, (703) 451-7579. Support this effort.

Lobbying Office will open at Raleigh Hotel, 9th and Bank Streets, Richmond.

JANUARY 14 There will be a meeting and press conference of the Virginia State-wide Ratification Council AND the 10 Area Councils. The meeting will be from 10 to 2 P.M. It will be held at the St. Pauls Episcopal Church at 8th and Grace Street right across from the Capitol grounds. Plans are being made to make this a full and eventful day for the women and the members of the Virginia Assembly. The meeting room holds 200. Coffee will be served.

We are inviting the participation of all organizations. We will also invite the Virginia Advisory Committee of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission.

JANUARY 18 The Virginia Women's Political Caucus will have its state-wide meeting in Richmond on Saturday. The meeting will be at the Hill School, 3400 Patterson Avenue in Richmond. Registration fee is \$10.00. The meeting is from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Get in touch with your Congressional District Caucus or call (804) 643/0379, Beth Marschak, 3rd District Coordinator.

In addition to the above events individual actions are most important as are the activities by the many other organizations working for ERA ratification. Effective action depends on organization, information and communication. The League of Women Voters is planning a bus trip to Richmond by its members all over the State. Other organizations could do the same. Area Councils may be planning to be in Richmond on specific days. For further information call your organization or the Area Council contacts listed on the other side.

VIRGINIA

THE WOMAN ACTIVIST

DECEMBER, 1974

VIRGINIA WOMEN PLAN JANUARY PUSH FOR ERA RATIFICATION

The Virginia ERA Ratification State-wide and Area Councils have been meeting and planning since August of this year to organize and build support for the ratification of the ERA by the 1975 session of the Virginia Assembly. This will be our third attempt to secure ratification. Our success will depend on the energy, strength and numbers of women in the 46 member organizations in the State-wide Council and their activity in the month of January. The main generation of this activity is in the local area Councils where the legislators live.

The present number of organizations at the state-wide level is 46 with the addition of the Washington Urban League and Women's Lobby of Virginia, Inc. Area Council contacts are: Newport News/Hampton, Judy Fried (804) 877/5156; Tidewater/Norfolk, Kathleen Erb (804) 484/7098; Petersburg, Ginger Hawks (804) 733/4567; Richmond, Ganniel Poindexter (804) 748/0188; Danville/Farmville, Rhonda Fleming (804) 797/2239; Roanoke, Lela Spitz (703) 389/4187; Charlottesville/Fredericksburg (804) 296/1335; Northern Virginia, Kay Brooks (703) 938/4137; Shenandoah, Carolyn Hill (703) 635/3630; Southwest Virginia, Martie Benedict (703) 944/5714.

The objective to contact all of the legislators before the opening of the session January 8 is in progress. We are in the process of assigning one woman to each legislator for quick communication. Plans are being made for a state-wide mailout to reach as many active women as possible to get the letters into the legislators when the session opens in increasing numbers until ratification action takes place. Please contact your area person if you have not yet done so. You can also write the Virginia ERA Ratification Council, P. O. Box 3156, Falls Church, Va 22043 or call 703/573/8716.

U. S. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MAKES ERA PRIORITY. ITS VIRGINIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLANS SUPPORT

ERA LOBBYING OFFICE TO OPEN JANUARY 8

Virginia ERA Central will be opening its lobbying office in Richmond at the Raleigh Hotel, 9th and Bank Streets, Richmond 23219. They will be in operation during the session. Their chief will be professional lobbyist Elise Heinz. She will need help and support from many women and their organizations. The Virginia ERA Ratification Council has a \$700 budget for its support. You should make direct contributions to the office if possible--\$1 to \$100. As soon as they get a phone you will be able to get quick information about the progress of ERA. When you go to Richmond and you should, check in with Elise if possible. Elise is also suggesting week-end constituent lobbying in the home districts of the legislators. Elise will need your help. Her present number is 703/527/5144 in Arlington.

AT ITS DECEMBER 14 MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG THE VIRGINIA ERA RATIFICATION COUNCIL RESOLVED: MEMBERS OF THE ERA RATIFICATION COUNCIL WILL TAKE ACTION TO ASSURE THAT NO ANTI-ERA LEGISLATOR WILL BE UNOPPOSED IN THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION IN 1975!! ARE YOU RUNNING?????

CAMPAIGN REFORM

William V. Rawlings, State Senator and member from the Petersburg area has chaired a committee on campaign reform. The report is ready. You can get it by writing to him at Box 126, Capron, Virginia 23829. Senator Rawlings is also a critical vote on the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. We need his support. He needs support for his legislation. Get informed about this legislation.

FITZPATRICK, CHAIRMAN, VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WANTS DEMOCRATS TO HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN VIRGINIA. DEMOCRATIC WOMEN WILL NOT ALLOW CONVENTION IN UNRATIFIED STATE

VIRGINIA WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS MEETS IN RICHMOND, JANUARY 18. PLAN TO ATTEND!!!!!!!!!!!!

(See other side for other events and actions planned for January to help win ratification.)

END MINDFUCK!

Introducing:

The Scarlet Letter Brigade, dedicated to ending the mindrape that every woman in this city faces at all times. Patrol groups of three or more women will arm themselves with water pistols filled with indelible red ink, and zap all of those pigs who are accustomed to verbally harassing women with impunity.

Also available on request are cards which read:

You have just insulted a woman.
This card has been chemically treated. In three days your prick will fall off.

Interested? Call 232-5145.

"The only good flower is an armed flower."--the Rose of Cimarron, Jeannie Metcalf, member of the famous Doo-little Gang

AUTOMOTIVE AWARENESS CLASSES for women will be offered during the winter session of the Glen Echo Park Creative Education Programs. Classes start the week of Jan. 21. Call 229-3031 for further information.

SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND RELIGION

Sally Gaarhart, Professor of Speech Communications at San Francisco State College, will be giving a Seminar on Feminism and the Church, Monday, January 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Sally is active in the women's movement and has a long history of involvement with women's theater and women in the Church issues. She has been active in Church affairs for some time, including being Director of the Council on Religion and Homosexuality. Her speech to the Pacific School of Religion's Pastors Conference called, "The Lesbian and God the Father, or All the Church Needs is a Good Lay on its Side," became the center of much discussion and has since been reprinted in several places.

Sally would like to meet with women who are interested in doing a feminist critique of religion and the Church.

The seminar will be held at the Institute for Policy Studies, Second Floor, 1520 New Hampshire Avenue NW. Contact Judy Davis or Charlotte Bunch at 234-9382 for further information.

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