

EWLU ♀ NEWS

Newsletter of Chicago Womens Liberation Union 2875 W. Cermak Rm. 9 60623 (927-1790)

PLAYBOY ACTION

Our major contribution to April 15 was a semi-obstructionist picket in front of the Playboy mansion where the Moratorium committee was holding a \$50 a head fund-raising dinner. We were asking people to leave their checks at the door (trying to make it clear that we were not asking them to withhold money from the Moratorium), but not to enter the mansion.

We brought out with very short notice 150-200 people for the picket, about 3/4 women. Three of our number were arrested and one woman was thrown bodily out of the mansion.

We claim among our converts: a middle aged woman who emerged from the mansion about 9 pm to tell us that the party was horrible and that she was "so ashamed" to have crossed our picket line; another middle aged woman who took our leaflets into

the party hidden under her scarf, a Playboy secretary who joined our picket line and revealed to the press that two Playboy secretaries had been fired for refusing to type the anti-women's liberation article that appears in the May issue of the magazine. (She was fired herself a few days after the picket.)

Rod Serling, who crossed the picket line to attend the party, was quoted by the press as saying he had never encountered such a "vicious" picket line.

Jay Miller, chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union also crossed the picket line to shouts of "whose side are you on?"

The text of the leaflet distributed appears on page 3 of the newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 30, Thursday	Steering Committee meeting at Union office 7:30 pm, send a rep from your chapter
May 3, Sunday	CITYWIDE MEETING 1-5 pm in room 730 Damen Hall (the tall new building) Loyola Univ. at Sheridan and Devon on northside
May 4, Monday	Chicago 15 trial begins
May 6, Wednesday	Meeting to plan PRESBYTERTIAN ACTION at the national Presbyterian meeting in Chicago
May 9, Saturday	8 pm at northside center, 1980 N. Orchard Meeting of all womens lib. people in Rogers x 2pm picnic in yard of Betsey Vazquez 9 N. Ashland bring food to share ering committee meeting 7:30 office
May 14, Thursday	ional American Medical Association ional convention at Amphitheater.
June 21-23	oup; Thurs. nite women's history work- ; May 23 Laurel & Hardy benefit)

April 1970
do not copy

(Northside center: Wed shop; Friday nites fre beginning week of May

SPEAKER POLICY

1. Every member of CWLU should speak publicly about women's liberation. In order to see that everyone is asked to speak, when a speaking request comes to the Union it will be referred to one of the chapters which will be responsible for filling it. Each chapter is put at the end of the list once it has spoken, and is asked again when its turn comes up. The chapter should see that everyone in it takes a turn speaking and that its members are helped with speech writing, presentation, etc. (We are still in the process of working out a way to contact women who are not part of a chapter to speak.)
2. When you speak, take a sister with you to: provide support for you, evaluate the speech with you, give inexperienced women a chance to develop skills.
3. All fees and contributions which you get for speaking should go to the Union, except for transportation and babysitter costs.
4. Try to take literature and buttons with you to sell when you speak (available at office or southside center).
5. Explain what CWLU is and give our address, etc. If women want to be on the mailing list, get their addresses; if they want to start a group, etc., bring that information to the office.
6. If you had an unusual experience or one you want to share with your sisters, write a piece about it for the newsletter.
7. Refer any media requests that you get to the media committee; and refer future speaking requests you get to the speakers bureau.
8. Please be responsible!!! Always contact the person who has requested the speaker to confirm, time, date, place, subject, etc. And be sure to show up when you say you will. Also ask if they want you to bring something special along, like the Miss Amerika film which is available at the office.

Good luck.

APHRA, a new women's literary magazine, named after Aphra Behn (1640-1689), the first woman known to have earned her living by writing, is now available. One year's sub is \$3.50 (for 4 issues). Write APHRA Box 355 Springtown, Pennsylvania 18081. Single copies also available at CWLU office for \$1.00. You will really like it.

About 30 women attended the speaker training program on April 19. Role playing and practice speaking made up most of the activities. Packets of sample speeches, possible speaking situations, and suggested answers to questions encountered were passed out. Another training program will be held in the near future. Those interested in participating should get their packets from the office beforehand so they have a chance to prepare practice speeches.

LA DOLORES CHILDCARE CENTER***

The Northside center at Orchard and Armitage is setting up child care center. The center is named after Dolores Ibarruria, a renowned Marxist woman leader of the Spanish Civil War. Dolores moved up from poverty and obscurity to become a great revolutionary leader and champion of women's freedom. She was the originator of the famous slogan: "It is better to die on one's feet than to live on one's knees."

Sisters!! We need your help. We need a crib, blanket, children's art supplies, toys, records, books, etc. Anything you have!

We also need volunteers to help staff free childrens night. Could you give 3 hours on a Friday night once a month? Call Terry 664-4387, Polly 337-7297 or Arlen, 764-6873 for info. or to volunteer!

**** S*U*R*V*I*V*A*L R*E*V*I*V*A*I* ****

The Northside Crisis Center has been temporarily disconnected. We were evicted, we ran out of money, the phone co. wanted \$95 deposit and WE'RE FREAKING OUT!!!!!! We've decided to call time out to pull ourselves together. Since organizing doesn't happen in a vacuum, we would like to work on a project which would use what we've learned at the center. We are thinking about a weekend overnight party in which we would try to teach all the survival skills we know or can find people to teach. Some of the ideas include ways of dealing with "mashers", verbal and physical responses to that man, fat liberation, orgasms (we thought they were a nice idea) medicine, social liberation role playing, magic, etc. etc. Also, we're doing fund raising for the crisis center. If you're interested in helping on any of this, call the Union office to get our number and info. Flora.

TEXT OF PLAYBOY LEAFLET

WOMEN UNITE WITH OUR SISTERS IN VIETNAM!!

The Moratorium committee is holding its fundraising event at the Playboy Mansion tonight. This is a humiliating and degrading event for women. In this country women have always been the backbone of the peace movement. We have been its secretaries and its shitworkers. And women have had their own active organizations such as Women Mobilized for Change and Women for Peace. Our sisters in Vietnam have formed their own army units to fight against imperialistic invasion.

The Playboy philosophy and magazine are racist--an insult to our black sisters at home. The Vietnam war is racist--killing our yellow sisters abroad. We protest the exportation of American racism through the Playboy media.

The Playboy philosophy has created a generation of prostitutes, both in Amerika (most subtly) and in the occupied countries (Vietnam, Korea, Cambodia, ad nauseum). Playboy exploits women by using them as sexual objects and by encouraging the consumerism which supports the white man's imperialistic war.

For these reasons, we feel this action by the Moratorium Committee cannot be allowed. Those who consider themselves concerned with the oppression of people, should examine their own actions, or they will also find themselves defined as the oppressors.

We urge everyone to contribute money to the Moratorium--but we ask you to join us in protesting the moratorium association with Playboy. SISTERS PROTEST!!

the Vietnamese?

There is a difference, however. The Vietnamese are a people struggling for their freedom, and Vietnamese women are fighting for their own, and their country's liberation. When Vietnamese women partake in the war effort, and in the struggle for their own liberation, it is an aggressive, positive, REVOLUTIONARY act -- not a plug in the manpower drain. Their participation is initiated, controlled, directed by women not by men. The mobilization of women, rather than being a sign of the weakness of the Vietnamese, is a symbol of their strength -- the strength of a people fighting for its own liberation.

We American women are learning. We are learning the strength that comes when a people--a colonized nation, an oppressed sex, an enslaved race--fights for its own liberation. And as we learn that, we're teaching men that when we struggle, we mean it--and that we intend to play an equal part in the society we are fighting for, as well as in the fight to win it. FREE OUR SISTERS!! FREE OURSELVES!!

WOMEN IN VIETNAM

by Ellen Dubois

New York Times, June 25, 1967, p. 3

VIETCONG STRESSING ROLES FOR WOMEN:

"United States sources say the Vietcong probably has increased its woman recruitment and conscription program because of a drainage of manpower in the south."

New York Times, September 17, 1968, p. 10:

"To Western diplomats who closely scrutinize Hanoi broadcasts and publications, the report (that the number of women doctors in North Vietnam has increased 500% in the last five years) was another measure of the drain on manpower that the war has put on the North Vietnamese population."

This repetition of the "manpower drain" explanation is no accident; it is the only way "United States sources" can comprehend the activities of Vietnamese women. "Western diplomats" and other chauvinist/imperialist types are blind to the possibility of the liberation of women, and to the equal participation of men and women in all meaningful, creative activity.

Massive increases in the numbers of women doctors, soldiers, and agricultural workers only make sense to them if they assume a "drainage of MANpower"--could a nation possibly have any reason for the mobilization of its women other than the lack of anyone else to mobilize? After all, "Western diplomats" and their lackeys have used American women as reserve labor force, especially in wartime, for decades -- when the men aren't available or won't work at the wages being offered, women are quickly mobilized to fill the gap. So why shouldn't it be that way with

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHAPTERS

Over the past four months CWLU Chapters have been formed and are now more or less functioning. Other groups exist in the city which are not affiliated with CWLU. Perhaps this is a good chance to reaffirm the importance of chapters as the integral part of CWLU and to discuss the significance for the chapters of belonging to the Union;

If we really believe that we want to create a society where people have power to control their own lives, then the chapters are important as the organic expression of local control. They are important as a means for women to develop their talents, for education, and innovative and creative programs to be initiated, and for the development of sisterhood.

But, the existence of chapters places a responsibility on each of us. We must be willing to help new groups form and grow. We must also continue to develop and expand the concerns of already existing chapters. An important part of this development is, of course, chapter affiliation with CWLU as an organization. The operation of the Speakers Bureau and Media Committee depend upon the Chapters participation. Through the chapter structure democratic and equal representation of each group is possible. Through the steering-committee, equal access to the Speakers Bureau and Media Contacts and Communication of information is possible.

With our decentralized form, possibilities for local community activity and programs are numerous. At the Palatine Conference where CWLU was formed, a number of activities were proposed. I would like to repeat several as suggestions for work now and during the summer:

- leafleting at groceries with ff. up meetings
- community forums on womens liberation
- classes to teach skills such as auto repairs, mechanics, use of tools, etc.
- programs on birth control- understanding our bodies.
- ongoing education, the relationship of the oppression of women to other issues
- leadership and speakers training
- self-defense classes
- coordination of academic research
- compilation and development of course outlines for courses on women.

PLAYBOY STRATEGY

On April 23rd a meeting was held to discuss our response to the May issue of Playboy- an anti-womens liberation issue. Several things were discussed or decided.

1. A strategy and research committee was set up.
2. We decided to contact the women who did the research which was twisted in the Playboy article
3. We discussed the possibility of suing Playboy for bodily throwing Marie P. out of Playboy Mansion. We can get help from a woman lawyer in Gay Lib.
4. We would like to see national coordination of women against advertisers in Playboy.
5. We discussed writing a counter-article in Chicagoland.
6. We discussed the importance of supporting the coalition of womens groups which was formed around the firing of the Playboy secretary who spoke out at the last demonstration. This is not the "lunatic fringe" which is what Playboy accused it of being. It is womens lib.
7. Many are interested in a mass demonstration to educate the public and show Playboy that our militancy of last week is serious and will continue. Work need to be done. Call Amy Cederbaum at 955-0595 if you have ideas or want to participate.

WITCH and/or guerilla theatre actions
--leafleting in loop with ff. up lunch programs, esp. to reach secretaries.
--special leaflets and projects for reaching people at the beach.

These are just a few ideas and are only as a way to say that chapters are important and should be a central focus for our work. If you are interested in helping new groups get started, please call the office. We need people who will take responsibility for pulling new women together in specific geographic areas.

BY DAN
CREAMER

SPRING OFFENSIVE

On May 13 the stockholders of Standard Oil of New Jersey will meet in the Chicago Civic Opera House, Wacker and Madison. The New University Conference (NUC) has invited victims of Standard Oil to bring forth their changes in a PEOPLES TRIAL which will tour Chicago schools and community groups between May 4-13. An attempt will be made to take the verdict to the meeting of the stockholders.

The testimony will describe in vivid terms Standard Oil's rape of the people in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the United States. How Standard Oil plunders the valuable resource of oil from the people. How it destroys our health as a major polluter of air through exhaust fumes of automobiles and refineries, and of water through oil seepage and expulsion of wastes by refineries.

It will describe how Standard Oil steals our money by charging inflated gasoline prices. How it destroys our cities by lobbying for costly, poorly planned highway construction. How it excludes Latins Blacks and Women from its better paying jobs. How it makes a profit by paying them menial wages which force them to live in poverty. How it puts local service station owners in a trick bag by requiring them to work long hours to make a living wage and reaps excess profits from their labor.

The testimony will describe how Standard Oil supplies fuel to war machines which kill Vietnamese, other Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans. How it sets up and overthrows puppet governments with its economic influence.

Standard Oil has been singled out for action on and around May 13 because it is the world's largest exploiter of people and resources, and because the stockholders meeting provides a focus for political education. The goal of the action is to raise our political consciousness by dramatizing the ways this monster destroys human life and plunders natural resources. At the same time we intend to serve notice on this corporation that the people are hip to what it does and it's time for them to pay their dues.

To do this the New University Conference is coordinating actions to be organized by various Latin, Black, Poor White, Women and College/University communities in Chicago. This is part of a national and international spring offensive against corporations. We plan to move on issues that unite us. In addition to the Peoples Trial outside the stockholders meetings, other picket lines may be placed at stra-

tegically selected service stations owned and operated by Standard Oil starting the week preceding May 13. We will demand \$1,000,000 as reparations for Third World exploitation to support the free health clinics of the People's Health Coalition.

These are two actions suggested by participating groups. As new groups join, they are invited to suggest actions and demands.

To attack any American corporation is a long and difficult struggle. It has been done before in America by working men and women. It is being done around the world today. Nelson Rockefeller was met by the people of Latin America. We should do no less on our own turf.
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

by Barbara Kessel and Barb Greenberg

A SISTER IN NEED

"I have represented the United States at numerous international track meets--winning a bronze medal at the Olympic games in Rome in 1960. I have raced in Moscow Warsaw, Berlin and London as well as in cities throughout the U.S. I hold the present world's record for the 100 yard dash. As recently as 1968, I ran in a meet in California...I am 28 years old, Negro, female, in good health, divorced and the mother of 3 children..." And she's living in a West side ghetto, applying for public aid. She had to resign from her job as a recreation aide, the job she held for 5 years, when she was changed to the evening shift--coming home at midnight she was too often attacked by hoodlums. Her objective--a good job as a track coach youth leader, or a public relations rep. She is willing to relocate anywhere in the world.

We can help this woman now. Out of the 500 women who receive this newsletter must come several good job possibilities. Contact Elaine Cullor at 829-8515 during the day and 493-8796 at nite. A resume and references are available. Please help!

REPORT OF CITYWIDE MEETING

A city-wide four month evaluation meeting of the Union was held on April 12. Day Creamer, who has been helping to coordinate the Union office, gave a report on the "state of the union." We have 500 women on the mailing list, about 200 of whom are in active chapters, of which there are about 20. About 100 other women are generally active but not in chapters. There is a great need for people to follow up the other 200 women and get them involved in groups. In addition, there are many new women who participated in the March 8th program who are not now in chapters. Any volunteers?

Past activities which were evaluated included the Abortion Speak-Out, the March 8th programs, and the AMA demonstration. The biggest points of criticism which came out of this discussion were the following: Chapters still feel isolated somewhat from the decision making process of the Union. Many felt that the steering committee and office staff play an essential administrative role very well, but have not yet adequately been able to fill the need for political decision making, education and discussion. To correct this, it was suggested that we hold monthly city wide meetings. They will rotate regionally so everyone has an equal chance to participate. The first one will be held on May 3rd, Sunday, at Loyola, room 730, Damen Hall. The meetings will be held the first Sunday of every month.

We also discussed and voted to accept the Womens Para-Medical Center as a Union project. It was decided at a later meeting that the center would be located on the southwest side.

And last but not least----- the Union needs your monthly dues pledge to continue to operate. (Only 58 women out of 500 on the mailing list have given donations so far.) Also, office staff is still needed at the Union office.

New Womens Publications:

Off Our Backs, a bi-weekly newspaper printed in Washington D.C. Copies are available at the office for distribution. 25¢ each.

It Ain't Me Babe, a newspaper from Berkeley California. P.O. Box 6323, Albany, Calif. 94706, \$1.80 for six months.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SISTER MEMBERS OF CWLU, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE CITYWIDE MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 12.

(In response to the discussion about whether or not to have a women's para-medical center as a project of the Union)

...My God, how can you sit and argue whether a para medical center should be political or not? You sound like a pack of SS troops discussing the efficiency of the new delousing shed on the corner. You gave the impression that you felt the sisters coming to the center were first to be political conquests just waiting for you.

Not once were the speakers concerned about the humans with human needs that need the center. Don't these women deserve to be treated like humans instead of objects? If we can do no more at the center than to be humane women to other women then we'll be a success. Once we treat other sisters at the center as humans, do you realize what we would be doing? The most dangerous and true politics begin when humans face humans as humans. Or are we afraid to take that risk?

One argument against a para medical center was that we would not be able to give our sisters the same kind of medical care that doctors could. I pray to God we don't!! When was the last time you were in Cook County, St. Annes, Michael Reese? Would you really like to give medical care like that?

...If the medical center is to be first a woman-human to human-woman venture then I shall back it all I can. But if it is meant only as a trick or gimmick to make the women come,...then forget it sisters...

Jo Anne Konkle
West Sub. Chapter

THE DOCTORS CASE AGAINST THE PILL by Barbara Seaman, a new book out about facts, studies, etc. on the birth control pills. Available from Avon Books, 95¢

Send newsletter articles to the CWLU office, marked "for newsletter." We need the news from your groups, ideas, etc.

UNGAG THE CHICAGO 15!!

On May 25, 1969, 15 people burned thousands of I-A files from draft boards 48 and 60-92 at Selective Service Draft Board Complex (63rd and Western) to speak, through an act of resistance, about the racism and militarism which the selective service system represents. Amongst the 15 were 2 women, Linda Quint and Margaret Katroschik.

The Chicago 15 go to trial in Chicago before Chief Federal Judge Edwin A. Robson on MAY 4. The Federal Building will be under armed guard; the judge has stated he intends to control the trial. On February 24th he ordered: "that counsel and every defendant herein, make or issue no statements, written or oral, either at a public meeting or occasion, or for public reporting or dissemination in any fashion, regarding the jury or jurors in this case, prospective or selected, the merits of the case, the evidence actual or anticipated, the witnesses or the rulings of the court." This is called a "gag rule."

That means that the Chicago 15 cannot talk to the people, through the mass media or through public forums or rallies about their case to raise defense funds, educate, etc. That also means that this ruling is being and can be applied to other political cases throughout the country, such as the Panther 21 in New York and other cases coming up.

It has been proposed that women from the CWLU "become" Linda Quint and Margaret Katroschik and take the message of their trial and its repression to the people of Chicago. Women could speak everywhere that these two cannot; on TV, in public forums, colleges, high schools, etc. We can speak about the war, sexism, racism, and repression and in the meantime we could help our sisters facing up to 23 years in jail for their act of resistance against the war in Vietnam.

Please keep this idea in mind. It will be discussed further at our citywide meeting on May 3. Anyone interested should call the Union office or come to the citywide meeting. Defend our sisters and ourselves!

(Fill out and send to CWLU office)

If the Women's Liberation Clinic is going to get off the ground and DO something, everyone is going to have to work on setting it up and running it after it opens, in one way or another. All of the jobs below need doing by us, Union members; some involve a commitment of time before we open and some won't begin until then. Sign up for as many areas as you can take on now and try to overestimate your own resources rather than underestimate.....We're all busy.

- Are you trained as a:
 - doctor I have \$\$\$ contacts, ideas
 - nurse or aid I know someone we should call.
 - nutritionist I can speak (teach) Spanish
 - psychologist
 - lab technician or chemist
 - social worker



- Do you know something about or can you:
 - perform basic nursing skills; keep office records; do simple lab analysis
 - teach prenatal care; teach nutrition/diet; do abortion counseling;
 - teach female physiology and reproduction; give legal advice; teach infant care

- Will you work on:
 - contacting doctors nurses lawyers med. students
 - collecting medical supplies & equipment; designing publicity; gen. office work
- Are you willing to be trained to give preliminary examinations & tests?

Name _____ Phone _____
 Hours you can be reached by phone _____ Chapter _____