

[MAY 70]

CWLJ NEWS

Newsletter of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union 2875 W. Cermak Rm. 9 (927-1790)

STRIKE ACTIONS

Campus Women's Liberation groups were very active in strike activity throughout the city last week. In some cases women participated as individuals and in others they participated as an organized group.

Women in women's liberation made attempts to help people understand the interrelationship between women's oppression and the war in Southeast Asia and American imperialism. Many women, including those at Northwestern University passed out special leaflets addressed to women.

On most campuses women's courses were set up as part of emerging alternate university structures. These included a course in sexuality and the war at Mundelein and one on the theory and ideology of childcare at Northwestern.

At Mundelein women took over a campus building and set up a day care center. This was part of a community oriented pro-

gram. The daycare center is intended to help free community women to participate in political activities and the alternate university courses.

At an emergency meeting called for last Friday a week ago (May 8) members of the CWLU agreed to sponsor a consumer boycott in support of the three basic strike demands to give non-campus women a way to voice their opposition to Nixon's policies. Over 10,000 leaflets were distributed in the Loop and local communities.

In addition, mysterious graffiti has appeared in the Loop in the form of "U.S. out of Southeast Asia," "Strike," "Free all political prisoners," apparently the work of a local WITCH coven.

Unfortunately, women still face some of the same old problems of discrimination in the movement. At Northwestern sympathetic male faculty offered their secretaries, as part of their offices and equipment, to be used for strike activities. Also the CWLU speaker at the Peaco Council Grant Park rally found herself virtually last on the list of over 10 speakers, and jeered at once she had a chance to speak at all.

CALENDAR

- Tuesday, May 19 Workshop on how to give pregnancy tests for WL free medical center, 7:30 pm at CWLU office 2875 W. Cermak
- Wednesday, May 20 ... United Presbyterian Convention begins, see article P. 2
... 7:30 meeting to plan Playboy activities, call office for place
- Thursday, May 21 Spanish class for para-medical center 8 pm Sandy Cross's house 5463 S. Ellis
- Saturday, May 23 1-5 training session to speak about the medical clinic at Blue Gargoyle 5655 S. University (955-1025) see article p. 3
.... Film festival to raise money at Northside Center 1980 N. Orchard, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24 Rummage sale Northside Center, afternoon. Come and bring all you want to get rid of.
- Thursday, May 28 Steering committee meeting 7:30 send a rep from your group
- Sunday, June 7 NEXT CITYWIDE MEETING, no place yet decided on. Ideas?

MAY 20-27

CHURCH ACTION

From May 20-27 the United Presbyterian Church is having its national convention in Chicago. Several women from the Union have been planning activities to accuse the church of exploitation for its role in helping to create and maintain an oppressive position for women in the past and the present.

Out of 800 delegates to the convention only 92 are women. The task force on women which is a women's caucus within the church is interested in meeting with us and planning supportive activities.

The main purpose of our activities will be to try to get funds for our medical center, to support LADOs proposal for money for their welfare union, and to do general educational work.

At the breakfast of the first day of the convention, Melvin Laird, world famous war monger and killer of Vietnamese peasants will speak, and women may want to do some kind of appropriate action.

Women will be needed to sit at our literature table throughout the week of the convention and to help plan and take part in the various activities. Please call Betsey Vazques (465-4943) if you are interested. Your help is greatly needed!

Following is the text of a proposed leaflet to be distributed at the convention:

"She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man" Genesis 2.3

And so the Church has denied this 51% minority group full status as human beings. Christian traditions have reinforced ideas of women's inferiority and subservience. Church life focuses on women serving the church -- as secretaries, as teachers, as fundraisers. Men make the decisions.

To be good Christians women must also be servants at home -- to our husbands, to our children. If we are dissatisfied with our position in life, we are told that we have personal problems. If we attempt to change our living pattern, we suffer guilt feelings, feelings which are reinforced and created by the Church.

Men piously make decisions about our lives. They tell us that we are committing murder if we have an abortion and therefore abortion should be illegal. Or they tell us under what conditions we are allowed to have abortions. We know that 9,000 of our sisters will die this year

from unsafe, illegal abortions.

The Church ought to be a center for concern about human needs. Yet, this church supports corporations which exploit and oppress our sisters in the United States and abroad. The United Presbyterian Church must respond to the peoples' needs.

We demand the adoption of this resolution as part of the official position on women by the United Presbyterian Church General Assembly.

Acknowledging the role of the Church as a reinforcer of social institutions, Acknowledging the legitimacy of the women's liberation movement and the right of women to self-realization,

We resolve:

To work toward eliminating discrimination against women at all levels of society;
To provide for proportional representation of women at all levels of the United Pres. Church

To support women's right to free abortions on demand

To oppose forced sterilization of women and to allow voluntary sterilization

To support the provision of free birth control information and devices.

In accordance with this resolution, we demand:

The United Presbyterian Church use its funds and facilities to provide free client-controlled child care centers. The United Presbyterian Church provide sex education free of the double standard of a morality which oppresses and channels women.

The United Presbyterian Church provide operating funds for one year for the Chicago Women's Liberation Union Paramedical Clinic.

The United Presbyterian Church provide funds to the Latin American Defense Organization for its Welfare Union.

MEDICAL CLINIC TRAINING

1. CAN YOU TALK TO CATHOLICS ABOUT ABORTION? Come to the May 23 Training Session at the Blue Gargoyle.
2. Afraid of the working class? Come to the May 23 Training Session.
3. The biggest job to be done now on the Free Medical Clinic project is talking with people in the Southwest community about their medical needs, our analysis of the national medical crisis, and the function and implications of a free clinic. To prepare ourselves for speaking at high schools, churches, PTAs etc., we're having a training session on Saturday, May 23, at the Blue Gargoyle (5655 South University) from 1:00 to 5:00. Part of the work will center on the questions about women's liberation, abortion, sex education and the health (sickness) business that we can expect from the community. Sample talks, fact sheets, questions and Answers, have been printed and are available to read before the workshop. Call the Union office (927-1790) to get a packet mailed to you. All of us will find ourselves dealing with these questions sooner or later, so come May 23 and get READY.

ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

by Margaret Schmid

Lucy Stone and Harriet Tubman will be the Union's two all-expenses paid delegates to the First National Congress on Optimum Population and Environment, an establishment liberal conference being held here in Chicago June 7-11. After having been invited by mail and telegram, the Union protested that the tremendously high fees excluded all but rich organizations; the Congress responded by giving us two "scholarships" covering the \$20.00 registration fee and all meals. It seems to me that this is an important opportunity for us to develop a position on the crucial question of population control (which, after all, is what "optimum population" means), and to begin to force that position to be heard in national discussions of the question.

First, concerning our position. The discussions I've been in on so far deal with two positions: one, that the so-called "population problem" is in fact a matter of the mal-distribution of resources caused by capitalism and imperialism, and that discussion about excess numbers serves only to avoid dealing with the real problem: the other, that while distribution of resources is obviously a crucial factor, a human population, like any other biological population, can multiply beyond the ability of the environment to support it, and that that fact must be faced and dealt with. These two positions must be investigated and dealt with, whether we want to accept one and reject the other, reconcile the two, or develop an entirely new position. Also, we must deal with the fact that our society, and many others, are so structured as to encourage women to have children and to view children as their major means of personal expression and gratification -- we must make it clear that women are now being criticized for doing exactly what they have been taught to do.

Second, is the question of presenting our position (s) at the Congress itself.

A number of exciting possibilities seem to exist, and we might want to carry out a number of them. Different women can attend as Lucy and Harriet on different days, and therefore a number of us can have the experience of attending, checking things out, making our voices heard at the official proceedings (as well as getting the free food). Any formal papers we produce could be used in this way. Possibilities of actions such as leaf-letting, staging press conference actions, WITCH actions, demonstrations outside (or inside) the Congress, etc., are also all possible, alone or in combination.

The Congress is set up in such a way as to confine the discussion within the boundaries of the present American political-economic system through such devices as having rigidly defined workshops divided along establishment-dictated lines, having few general plenaries, etc. It is crucial to the liberation of women and of the other oppressed groups (blacks brown people, workers, etc.) upon whom the burden of likely recommendations will fall (limits on child-bearing, forced sterilization and abortion, etc., which would fall most heavily on already oppressed groups; taxes on consumers for the

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REPRESSION AND G.E.

There are two bills currently in Congress directly intended to stop political activity and dissent. The first is called the Defense Facilities and Industrial Security Act. It threatens with job loss anyone in a "defense facility" who's "guilty of an act of subversion." A defense facility is defined in the bill as almost anything; schools, railroads, laboratories, public utilities, research organizations, etc. An "act of subversion" is defined to include association with almost any group which opposes government policy as well as constitutionally protected dissent.

This same bill would authorize the government to investigate anyone or any organization in the U.S. and furthermore, provides nearly impossible appeal conditions and prohibits cross examination. Refusal to answer questions and to take psychiatric exams costs you your job. Dig?

This bill has already passed the House, is in committee, and could be defeated in the Senate.

The second bill (Senate Bill 1872) would repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950--the McCarren Act. Although the repeal bill isn't all it should be, it has to pass. Title II is called the "concentration camp" act -- it provides that in a "national emergency" the president may order a mass round-up of people and

put them away without a hearing or trial. Suspicions that you will "probably engage in or probably conspire with others to engage in espionage or sabotage" is enough.

One of the most powerful supporters of these fascist rulings is General Electric, the second largest winner of war contracts and the 4th largest corporation in the nation. These war profits are directly threatened by the growing demand to end the war.

The Steering Committee of the Women's Liberation Union, in its May 14 meeting, voted to support a massive leaflet campaign and demonstration at the G.E. building (111 N. Wacker) on May 28. The Steering Committee ordered several thousand leaflets describing the bills and G.E.'s relationship to them. This literature will be available from the Union office and from both the northside and southside women's liberation centers. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to distribute these leaflets and to organize support for the May 28 demonstration.

by Toby Silvey

AMA CONVENTION

ECOLOGY CONFERENCE CONTINUED

cost of pollution control equipment -- produced, of course, by the same industries which are busily destroying the environment, etc.) to object, to present radical analyses and alternatives, to make our voices heard as soon and as loudly as possible.

The political education committee will be distributing material for study and discussion of the population-ecology question to the chapters soon. The material will also be available at the office and the north and southside centers.

Anyone interested in participating in the development of a Union position on this issue or planning actions around the conference should call the office or Margaret or Shirley at 338-7149.

At the end of June the American Medical Association is having its national convention at the Amphitheater in Chicago. A coalition of groups, including the Medical Committee for Human Rights, the People's Health Coalition and Women's Liberation, is planning a counter-convention to take place during the AMA convention. Women's oppression in the medical field and services will be one of the four main issues raised by the counter-convention. The emphasis will be on health, rather than sickness, preventative medicine as opposed to curative. Women are needed to help plan the "Festival of Health." Call Toby Silvey (324-4985) or Estelle Carole for more information and to help work on it.

POLITICAL EDUCATION



A political education committee for the Union developed out of one of the workshops at the last citywide meeting. Women wanting information about women's liberation face a number of problems -- lack of good, easily accessible information in some areas; lack of adequate guides to the literature that does exist; lack of material dealing specifically with the relationship between women's liberation and other issues -- and the political education committee will attempt to deal with them.

The committee will be basically administrative, responsible for collecting and distributing educational material on relevant subjects. It will supply articles for the newsletter, will distribute materials to the chapter, will supply information to the speakers bureau, and will make material available through the union office and the northside and southside centers. No particular line will be pushed by the committee; rather we see its responsibility as that of presenting all viewpoints, thus helping CWLU members to become familiar with alternative types of analysis and to develop their own critical ability.

We want to urge all Union members to write articles for distribution by the committee; while we may do some writing ourselves, we view the writing (and the work of analysis proceeding it) as the common task of all of our sisters.

The Political Education committee members have decided on two initial projects:

1. compilation of a list of the introductory women's liberation literature which is available, along with analytical remarks on each article indicating the topic, general approach taken, other relevant things to read, etc. Hopefully this will enable other women to benefit from our common past experience, develop a more adequate understanding more rapidly, and to avoid some of our past floundering.

2. development of an educational packet on the AMA and the medical system as a whole. This will enable us to make more informed decisions about possible actions around the AMA convention here in June. Also, such a packet will enable individual women to make informed decisions as to what they do in relationship to the action; it seems that in the past someone who didn't know much about the basis of a proposed action had only the choices of "blind"

If you are a student or teacher and busy during the year, why not give your summer to the women's liberation movement? Several projects need summer workers including the medical clinic, the political education committee, the national womens strike project, etc. Women are also needed to help staff the office, work on a mass paper, etc

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A DAYTIME RAP GROUP HAS BEEN STARTED ON THE NORTHSIDE.....So far there are only three women meeting, and they would like more.

The meetings have be on Wednesday afternoons at 2828 North Burling. If you are interested in attending, contact Veronica Zehner, 528-6463.

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Women interested in Union organizing at their place of work call Marge Kinsella 525-0195 or write her at 2552 N. Southport 60614. The group will be meeting at the northside center at Orchard and Armitage.

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P.E. COMMITTEE CONTINUED

participation or personal refusal, without any educational alternatives. Finally, this is a model for the future, for the committee intends to collect similar educational packets on major issues and proposed actions in the future. We see this as a way of performing the important task of internal education, helping us to develop our understanding of women's liberation and its relationship to other issues.

The committee, of course, is an open committee and anyone interested in joining is urged to contact the office. We welcome any material on any relevant subject, either original articles or suggestions for reprints, as well as suggestions for articles or educational packets, or anything else.

Sisters interested in either of the 2 projects started so far, or others should leave their name and phone number with the office (927-1790).

STATE CHAPTERS A.M.D.

- Margaret Schmid 338-7149
- Judy Zazek 326-2481
- Pat McGauley 373-1420 or
- Liz Butters 538-2877
- Sue Holtzman 453-3818
- Ellen Dubois 973-3390
- Jean Hubbuch 262-9279
- Jody Parsons 373-7561
- Eleanor Oliver 752-6439
- Joanne Konkle 287-3639
- Carol June 363-1348
- Amy Kesselman 327-0143
- Beth Rainsford 731-1666
- or Elaine Cullor 275-5924
- Tobey Silvey 324-4985
- Hedda Kibolow 752-1158
- Polly Connolly 337-7297
- Artemis Loberg 728-3851
- Judy Forbes 667-7255
- Elleen Myer 386-6819
- Kathy Lopke 643-2851
- Betsy Vazquez 465-4943
- Linda Friedman 4630-0308

There are several new groups which are just forming and are not yet chapters of the Union. To get in touch with them call:

- Hyde Park Rap Group II
- Southside Univ. Women's Association
- Cassandra (northside group)
- Northside Rap Group
- Abortion Resource Group
- Third Unitarian Group
- Bogan Jr. College
- East Rogers Park
- Northwestside Group
- Near Southside group
- Southwest side group
- Roosevelt University
- Northwestern University
- Loyola University
- ACIU Women's Caucus
- Counseling Service Group
- West Suburban group
- Southside Center
- Lakeview Group
- Hyde Park Rap Group I

Other addresses and numbers:

- Far West Suburban Group
- South Shore and Far Southside
- Far northern suburbs
- Northside rap group
- Southside Womens Liberation Center
- La Dolores (northside center)
- CWU Office

- Abby Golton 964-5371
- Gretchen Vetzner
- Jenny Knauß
- Jullanna Hackman or Susan Dawes

- 5406 South Dorchester 363-1485
- 1980 North Orchard 337-7297
- 2875 W. Cermak Rm. 9 927-1790