

CWLJU NEWS

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

BACK FROM HANOI

(Earlier this year Charlotte Bunch Weeks visited North Vietnam as a part of a U.S. delegation representative of groups involved in the anti-war movement. Charlotte is active in Washington D.C. women's liberation)

Observing first hand the development of socialism in North Vietnam, Charlotte noted the integration of politics and culture. The group visited adult education classes, two technical schools, and a kindergarten. They attended cultural events and a rally at the University in solidarity with Kent State students.

which has resulted from US bombing-- the area is marked by huge craters and brown expanses where green hills once were. Each province is now able to be completely independent and can survive even if cut off for long periods of time. Diversified agriculture and decentralized networks of factories make this possible.

After spending time in Hanoi, the group visited in and around Vinh City, a southern province capital on the Gulf of Tonkin. On the way to Vinh City, which has been almost totally destroyed by US bombs, they saw the incredible destruction of the land

While in North Vietnam, Charlotte talked with women in the Women's Union. The Union was formed as an organization to build women's confidence in their ability to do new things. It has been particularly important for older women in promoting discussion of how to choose a husband (previously families determined (contd p. 2)

CALENDAR

- July 23-----CWLJU Steering Committee meeting (office) 8:00
- July 24-----Potluck Dinner, 6:00 at 59th and Woodlawn, 3rd floor (every Friday)
- July 25-----Political Education Committee, 10:30 at 2120 N. Clark, Carol (528 0807)
- July 27-----Suzy Creamcheese on WEAW (105.1 FM) beginning at midnight (every Mon)
- July 21-----VD Training, Center for Continuing Education, 1307 E. 60th Rm 14 8:00 (see separate article)
- August 2 ----Citywide Meeting, 1:00-5:00 at Meehan Hall, St. Basil School 1850 W. Garfield Blvd. (55th and Wood) This is the neighborhood where our medical clinic will be. Focus: Medical Clinic
- August 26----Women's Strike (Call Mary Jean Cullins Robson--268-3535 if you are interested in working on it. Much publicity work needs to be done

SOUTHSIDE CENTER

marriage partners), what to expect in marriage, how to uphold rights as women etc. Further, the Women's Union encourages women to become active in all phases of developing socialism in North Vietnam. The Union is not as important to younger women who are already active in the new society.

Male supremacy still exists in N. Vietnam in many areas. For the most part men do the heavy work. Women are not active in fighting but rather serve as a secondary reserve force. Women do not hold high positions in N. Vietnam's government. Another area is day care which, for the most part, is run by women although a few older men also work at the day care centers.

The situation in South Vietnam is somewhat different. First, it should be noted that the North Vietnamese refuse to talk about the situation in the So. They defer totally to the PRG (Provisional Revolutionary Government which is a coalition of various groups all working to bring about a total withdrawal of US troops but not all agreed on the desirability of socialism) which they recognize as an independent government. Because of the nature of the struggle in the South, women play a more central role both in fighting and in the PRG (that is, women must be an active part of the movement). Madame Binh's participation in Paris peace talks represents this difference. Also, at the recent IndoChina conference only the PRG had women in its delegation.

One of the areas for discussion while the group was in N. Vietnam was the future course of the war. There are two alternatives: 1) US admits defeat (or makes a face-saving move) and gets out; or 2) the war will continue to escalate. The possibility of drawing in China and then using this as a justification for introducing nuclear weapons is not seen as unrealistic.

In view of their trip, Charlotte emphasized the necessity for building a stronger and more sustained anti-war movement here in the US. Such a movement must give Nixon no other alternative but complete withdrawal. Many different levels of protest are needed which will mobilize all people who are against the war.

Liberating women in this society is one fucking hassle. In fact liberating people in this society is damn near impossible. It seems as if the only way it can be done is by liberating the whole mess.

Last August a group of Hyde Park women began a project which would be a first step in doing this...getting together. On August 1, the Southside Women's Liberation Center opened. At that time it was the first one anywhere. By now there is La Dolores at Armitage and Orchard and every major city has its Women's Liberation Center and you wouldn't believe the way out places that have done likewise.

We opened the center because we figured women need a place to meet-- not just a place to have meetings, but to meet each other. There wouldn't be any men around to distract us or be the center of attention. Instead we and our relationship to each other would be something to really groove on. A communications center was needed, too. Women who had recently heard of the movement could stop by and find out what it was REALLY about. The center was filled with all the available literature about women and the movement, and information on what groups were meeting and when, was put together in one place. Next we drew up an overly ambitious program which included rap groups for every type of women in every conceivable situation; study groups on everything study-able, and some that might not have been; and workshops to provide women with every skill they could remotely need in order to build the women's movement and to survive in this society in the process. (continued on p. 8)

CITYWIDE MEETING

August 2 1:00-5:00

Come see the neighborhood where our new medical clinic will be located.

Place for meeting:

Meehan Hall, St. Basil School
1850 W. Garfield Blvd. (55th and Wood)

We will discuss the medical clinic and have work groups. COME

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY ANTI - WAR
CONFERENCE IN CLEVELAND JUNE 19 - 21
by RACHEL JACOBS

CWLU sponsored two delegates to the conference: Rachel Jacobs and Sandy Wilson. Both of us were disturbed at the fragmentizing political struggle that occurred. We were also disappointed in the women's lack of organization as women against the war. To summarize the first point: the debate centered on whether the anti-war movement should be exclusionist or non-exclusionist. SDS and Progressive Labor supported the former view, saying it was wrong to ally with groups merely on the basis of an anti-war position. Thus liberal politicians should never be allowed to speak at anti-war rallies. However, the majority of the conference (STUDENT MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE, local peace coalitions and independents) favored a non-exclusionist position saying we should work with anyone who opposes the war, no matter what their political -economic credentials.

Another split was over tactics. The proposal that the conference finally accepted favors organizing and educating to reach out to increasingly large numbers of Americans to show how the war is against their interests. The prospects are becoming good that sectors of the trade union movement will join the anti-war movement. As a tactic, violent confrontations were opposed on the basis that they alienate potential anti-war allies. The conference endorsed massive anti-war actions. 1. local anti-war rallies are urged for August 6-9 (Hiroshima-Nagasaki...25 years ago) to remember that nuclear bombs were used first against Third World people. 2. Support for the August 29 Chicano Moratorium. 3. A massive local rally Saturday Oct. 31.

The Women's Caucus mirrored the political arguments of the plenary body and thus didn't work out a plan for anti-war action. Poor organization also meant that a radical women's caucus presented some proposals which there was no time to discuss as a plenary body.

One thing we can do as women now is to organize locally to be strong in the leadership of the anti-war movement. In such an inside, decision-making capacity we can insist that women help organize, marshal at and speak or act at mass rallies. For ourselves, we must begin to reach out to

NOTICES

The baby of a Panther sister needs clothing and furniture badly. If you have 2 year old "boy" clothes please call Harriet Stuhlman 525-0906.

IMPORTANT!!!

Training session for Potential VD counselors: July 21, 7 pm, Center for Continuing Education, 1307 East 60th St. Room 14. A color-slide presentation and discussion (used with medical school classes) of the problem will be presented by Mr. Jerry Lama of Chicago Public Health Department. For further info. contact Eleanor Oliver 752-6439, evenings.

WANTED....

Young MD's to work with national organization in establishing neighborhood abortion clinic, excellent salary to start, in-service training, research grants available, OPENING NOW in New York and California. Call now (Chicago) PLAZA 2-3800, Ext. 508. If no answer, leave name, address or telephone number or WRITE: National Abortion Council 11914 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles, California 90025.

People interested in learning and teaching nutrition classes for the women's liberation medical clinic call Abby Gollon 964-5371.

previously uncommitted women and to mobilize them against the war (i.e. get your mothers, co-workers etc. out to the next rally.....possibly as marshalls. say we are working on day-care arrangements for the times of the rallies too.) In the process of getting women out to demonstrate against the war we can also build a stronger women's liberation movement (through leaflets linking sex roles, women's oppression and the war). Women interested in actively working through Women's Liberation against the war can call Rachel Jacobs at 225-1632. We have to end it!



The following is a statement issued by Linda Quint of Chicago. She was a member of the "Chicago 15", the group recently convicted of burning draft files at a Selective Service complex in Chicago. She refused to show up for conviction and sentencing, choosing instead to go "underground." If found, she faces a sentence of 10 years in prison and five years probation. In her statement she explains the motivation behind her action.

At the present stage, it is clear to me that no real change will be tolerated by a system which becomes increasingly more static and more impotent in dealing with the misery produced by its institutions and policies. Thus "the objective conditions for struggle are provided by the people's hunger; their reaction to that hunger, the terror unleashed to crush the people's reaction, and the wave of hatred that the repression creates." (Che) The forces of naked repression unleashed against Vietnamese, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans blacks (to name a few) reveal the fact: the Man's entire system of socio-economic exploitation is maintained by organized violence. And clearly, political power comes from the barrel of a gun. That's what people are up against. We, in the white movement, are beginning to understand better the terror and hunger to get these pigs, politicians and corporate giants off our backs.....

It is time to work out our disputes and to place ourselves at the service of the struggle. It is time to resist the forces of repression (courts, fascist laws, political police and their agents, etc) in an organized manner appropriate to the nature, conditions and arenas before us. Know your enemy and how he works, including those traps he sets to cool you. On every level -- political, cultural and economic, we need revolutionaries who can reach, serve and champion the people. A revolution is not a coup or an upshot of plots by a small number of us. It is a long struggle, brothers and sisters, which will require all our endurance, skills, love and imagination. The repercussions of this country's oppression are worldwide; there are lots of us who are tired of having no say, tired of being used as cheap labor, tired of protecting the man's interests.

I have accepted the risks of being in the struggle. Submitting to prison voluntarily, unless for tactical reasons, is

ORGANIZING AROUND WOMEN'S ISSUES IN THE HUMAN SERVICES..... A CONFERENCE

A national conference of women workers in the human services who are interested in organizing and relating to sisters in the health, education and welfare workplaces will be held the weekend of Aug. 7, 8 and 9 (Friday evening to Sunday noon).

Women workers in the human services field are invited who share a general political belief in the following main issues: 1) deprofessionalization 2) decentralization and community worker control of institutions and 3) redistribution of wealth.

If you are interested call Day Crawford 643-1897 before Sunday, July 26.

LITERATURE AVAILABLE.. Many pamphlets and articles on women's oppression are available at the CWIU office for use by individual women and by groups for their education. They include "Giving Birth in Dignity" & "Free Abortion is Everywoman's Right" *****

Northwestern University Legal Assistance Clinic is offering free legal assistance to women's liberation groups throughout the city. Sisters interested in using legal means to combat the oppression of women in an oppressive society should contact either Diane Crawford or Jane Lawrence at 649-8576, 360 East Superior. *****

counter-revolutionary -- a lie to myself and to my brothers and sisters in struggle. It is time to put ourselves together and create a revolutionary movement worthy of its name.

For me, prison, exile or an irrelevant isolation in this country is going backward into submission and privilege. For the moment, I have found it necessary to leave the country, but I will return soon. My goals remain the same; the change is in the position from which I am working. Our struggle is being born; we need to seize the time.

All power to the people.

Linda Quint

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Dear People:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter of resignation Anselma dell'Olio read to the May meeting of the Congress to Unite Women (in New York). In the 6 months since I quit the Chicago Women's Liberation movement I have been asked many times why I did so and always managed to avoid answering that question.

I'm sending you this letter because it is the letter I should have had the guts to write in December instead of just dropping out. Not all of the things Anselma writes about apply to my situation -- the Chicago movement is still quite different from that of New York -- but the gist of it does. If I had the time, I'd write my own version. Nonetheless, I stand by the suggestions she makes at the end of her article.

I'll be curious to see if you find yourselves able to print her letter -- all of it. Or if this too will be swept under the rug like all the other things the Chicago movement doesn't think it's nice to talk about.

Joreen

DIVISIVENESS AND SELF-DESTRUCTION IN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT by Anselma dell'Olio

I have come to announce my swan-song to the woman's movement. I am returning to the hordes of women living out their lives in quiet desperation. And I go with the sorrow and in the depths of despair known only to those who fall defeated just as they think that victory is in sight. I can think of no greater cruelty. Disappointment is far too mild a word. I have been destroyed. Defeated by myself perhaps, with a big push from my sisters in the struggle. I have decided to speak to you, instead of leaving quietly, in the hopes of preventing others from being destroyed and defeated as I have been. I learned $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago that women had always been divided against one another, were self-destructive and filled with impotent rage. I thought the movement would change all that. I never dreamed that I would see the day when this rage, masquerading as a pseudo-egalitarian radicalism under the "pro-woman" banner, would turn into frighteningly vicious anti-intellectual fascism of the left, and used within the movement to strike down sisters singled out for punishment with all the subtlety and justice of a kangaroo court of the Ku Klux Klan. I am referring, of course, to the personal attacks, both overt and insidious, to

which women in the movement, who have painfully managed any degree of achievement, have been subjected.

These attacks take different forms. The most common and pervasive is character assassination; the attempt to undermine and destroy belief in the integrity of the individual under attack. Needless to say this generally takes place behind the woman's back. Another form is the "purge". This is also done by devious methods and usually takes the form of phone calls to the woman's friends or group-members, sometimes followed by a meeting carefully convoked without the knowledge of the woman to be purged. In other words, the ultimate tactic is to isolate her. If she has a close friend in the group, that friend is told the group finds their relationship "destructive". The power of suggestion and collective attack is used to elicit grievances or problems that are likely to exist in any relationship. These are then played upon and the friend is co-opted if that is at all possible..and this is made attractive as she is offered to be taken to the bosom of a whole new set of "friends" who will applaud her courage and second her decision should she show signs of faltering. If the friend persists in her loyalty and insists that the only honest thing to do is to confront the woman personally, the deed is exposed--but the damage is done. The rape of the ego is accomplished in any case. Before we got it from men now we're getting it from our sisters--and often from those who espouse the pro-woman line the most strongly. Those whose surface personalities are the least "forceful", the most "feminine" or "womanly"--and who do they attack? Generally two categories--some women are unlucky to fall into both--achievement or accomplishment of any kind would seem to be the worst crime. Write a book, publish an article, appear on TV, be interviewed in the newspapers, start a theater group dedicated to feminist principles, make a film, be asked to give a lecture and do it well so that you're asked back again or referred to other places. Do anything, in short, that every other woman secretly or otherwise feels she could do just as well -- and baby, watch out, because you're in for it. (continued next

LETTER OF RESIGNATION CONTINUED.....

If then, God forbid, you should also have the qualities of the second category open to attack, buy yourself a suit of armour, or head for the Himalayas; that is, you are assertive, have what is generally described as a "forceful personality", if you "come on strong" even if you're talking about potato chips...if, in short, you do not fit the conventional stereotype of a "feminine" woman--if you are a bitch--forget it baby, it's all over, unless you have the patience of Penelope, the shell of an armadillo and the perennial optimism of Voltaire's "Candide"-- in which case what the hell do you need the women's movement for anyway?

If you are in the first category (an achiever) you are immediately labelled a thrill-seeking opportunist, a ruthless mercenary, out to make her fame and fortune over the dead bodies of selfless sisters who have buried their abilities and sacrificed their ambitions for the greater glory of Feminism. Productivity seems to be the major crime -- but if you have the misfortune of being outspoken and articulate, you are also accused of being power-mad, elitist, fascist, and finally the worst epithet of all: A MALE IDENTIFIER, AAARRGGG!!

The interesting thing about these attacks is that they are seldom if ever, logical, consistent, or in good faith. Whether the attack takes the form of backbiting invective, or even more insidiously a "straight-from-the-shoulder" "We're telling you this for your own good" or "everybody agrees with us" or a last ditch "my politics are superior and you're a decadent sell-out" and "you'll be ostracized if you don't go along," it (the attack) is invariably couched in the best New Left-cum-Women's Lib rhetoric.

To emerge unscathed from this kind of assault is impossible. The effects I have observed, to name just a few, are 1) gradual

or immediate decrease in productivity; 2) an upsurge in self-doubt; 3) depletion of whatever ego-strength had been salvaged from our pasts or recovered during the early stages of the movement; 4) an increase in impotence and passivity coupled with a rampant paranoia (completely justified); 5) a severe dropping off of self-confidence and faith in one's ability; 6) a detailed and obsessive self-examination for real or imagined sins which is completely useless since the mind-fucking has destroyed objectivity.

I do not feel that I have stated the case too strongly. However, my intention

was not just to bring this festering sore into the open, but to suggest some concrete guidelines to correct the situation, before we lose or destroy some of the best minds this movement is ever likely to have.

- 1) Beware of criticizing achievements by others in the movement. Examine your conscience; are you sure you are not being motivated by jealousy or envy?
- 2) It is natural for a woman to feel creatively "blocked". Perhaps those who have broken through the "block can help you. That's what this movement is all about.
- 3) Fear of competition is nothing to be ashamed of if you can admit it and confront it and not allow it to cloud your opinions of another's accomplishments.
- 4) Watch your motives when you are telling another woman "what's good for her" or when you are criticizing other people's relationships. (i.e. "I think your friendship with X is destructive.")
- 5) Be cautious about using movement rhetoric to justify personality conflicts or personal grievances.
- 6) Don't fall into the trap of confusing leadership qualities with a desire to "be a leader." In the same vein, don't confuse achievement or productivity with a desire to be a leader.
- 7) As long as we have rejected the masculine definition of "feminine behavior" let's not fall into the trap of feeling antagonism towards women with forceful or assertive personalities.
- 8) Remember there are all kinds of ways to manipulate. Manipulation can be exerted just as much by a docile, sweet-natured person as it can be by a forceful person-- and it's a good deal less obvious, therefore more potentially dangerous.
- 9) Women with aggressive/assertive personalities have been getting flack all their lives for not being "lady-like" or feminine enough. They didn't join the movement to get the same shit from their sisters just because the words have changed from "unlady-like" to "male-identifier."
- 10) A desire for power is no more an automatic consequence of a forceful personality than it is of a non-forceful one.
- 11) "STRONG" women do not necessarily want power. "WEAK" women do not necessarily NOT want power.
- 12) Participants in consciousness-raising sessions should learn to deal with personal animosities towards members of the group openly and honestly and explicitly during

(Continued next page)

SISTERHOOD

MALE SERVICE

All women are invited to the women's pot-luck dinners every Friday at 6 pm on the 3rd floor of Fred Hampton Community Center (Ida Noyes Hall) at 59th and Woodlawn. These dinners were started by the U of C chapter, but are not regular chapter meetings. Instead, they are a chance for all of us to establish and enjoy sisterhood with the women in our organization and those sisters not yet in groups. Come and learn/practice "sisterhood is beautiful" -- eat, share, talk, learn and watch films with your sisters. Children are welcome.

IS BEAUTIFUL

LETTER OF RESIGNATION CONTINUED.....

the session itself, WHILE THE MEMBER UNDER DISCUSSION IS PRESENT.

a) The discussion should be motivated by a genuine desire for mutual enlightenment rather than a subterranean desire for a personal attack.

b) The discussion should foster group unity and a better understanding of how women perpetuate their own oppression on each other and thus remain divided, just as men have divided us all along.

c) The group should keep in mind the destructive potential of such a discussion, especially if critiques of personalities come into play.

d) If the discussion at any time shows signs of being or becoming a personal attack, it is the responsibility of each woman to intercede immediately, and draw attention to this fact.

e) No matter what happens, we should always have the assurance of mutual support. If differences cannot be resolved, discuss the possibility of splitting into different groups openly before doing so, with all members of the original group present.

One last plea: If we women are ever to pull ourselves out of the morass of self-pity, self-destruction and impotence which has been our heritage for as long as we can remember, then it is perhaps even more important that we be as supportive of each

Dear Women's Liberation:

I along with, I am sure, thousands of other women postal employees resent the reference made only to "men" in the following message by Postmaster General Blount, which appears on the back of our "Earnings and Deductions Statement" which we receive together with our check every two weeks:

"We must create in the Postal Service a climate where each man can develop to his maximum potential. I firmly believe if a man is set free to express himself to the fullest, his accomplishments will be far beyond his dreams, and he will not only contribute to the caliber of his organization, but will also be a more useful citizen and contribute to the larger society."

Women postal workers do the same work as men, that is, sort mail and deliver the mail, therefore, could your organization possibly convince postmaster General Blount to include the word "women" in his statement so that we women could get credit for working in the United States Post Office.

Yours truly,

E.G. (Woman Postal Employee -- Chicago)

U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM

Anyone interested in working on an anti-war skit to be presented at peace demonstrations, call Rachel Jacobs 225-1632.

U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM

Suzy Creamcheese began on radio on Monday night, June 30 (or Tuesday morning July 1, if you prefer). Suzy Creamcheese is a women's liberation radio program on WEAW, 105.1 FM, from Midnight to 3:00 am every Monday night/ Tuesday morning. Suzy will be broadcasting (!) news about Women's Liberation activities in the Chicago area, as well as music, interviews, and the like

other's achievements and successes and strengths, than it is for us to be compassionate and understanding of each other's failures and weaknesses. END

Since we knew a whole lot about what a woman is up against in this world, having faced most of it ourselves, we planned to set up a crisis center so that women would be able to turn to their sisters for help instead of following the usual patterns of turning to those who probably were the crisis initiators-men. Before we had a chance to do that calls began coming in from people who needed a place to crash or a place to leave a kid for a few hours. So far we have managed to get together emergency housing for people with women in the community.

The center exists as a place where women can come together to find each other, support each other and work together. Now, groups which meet on a regular basis include an introductory rap every Saturday at 2 pm, a number of rap groups at various times, political history, study group, childcare committee high school group, and, for awhile, a local grade school group was coming in. In April, girls at a local grade school picketed their school because girls were not allowed to be school guards, and their physical education program was not as good as the boys'. When the boys ripped up their signs and neither the teachers nor the principal came to the aid of the girls, these ten year olds grasped the full meaning: men will protect you as long as you promise to stay beaten down. They knew it was time for serious action. Their first stop

was at the center where they got buttons and decided to stay and hold a meeting. With ample supply of candy and candies, they proceeded to lay the ground rules for their group. The first was that "boy crazy" girls were not welcome!

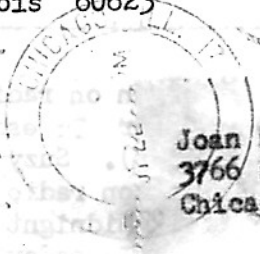
The childcare committee has been working on a proposal which has been submitted to several local churches. We hope that during the summer at least one cooperative day care center will be operating. Several other women's groups in Hyde Park have been developing other proposals.

The center is located in a big old house at 5406 S. Dorchester; phone number is DO3-1348. During the past few weeks, collective woman power (and some man power too), has painted, washed, waxed, and otherwise de-sooted everything in sight. Sisters who stop in will find not only a newly decorated center, but also the old assortment of women, children, cat, room for improvement, and "friendly chaos" that has always characterized the center. Stop by!

ATTENTION . . .

Any woman in the Hyde Park Kenwood area who would like to have inexpensive, loving childcare with liberation orientation, contact the office. Hot lunches will be served and 2 snacks. Cost \$15 per child, Monday through Fri. open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 2½ to 5 year olds. 50th and Dorchester is location of the center

Chicago Women's Liberation Union
2875 West Cermak, Room 9
Chicago, Illinois 60623



Joan Berman
3766 N. Wayne
Chicago, Ill. 60613

