

[AUG 70]

# CWLU NEWS

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

## CWLU HEALTH CENTER

The August citywide meeting focused on the health center which will soon open on the southwest side. Much organizational work has been done and now the health center committee is moving toward implementing the center. A variety of committee meetings were held at the citywide meeting and a number of women volunteered to do some of the tasks outlined.

CWLU has selected a board of directors of the center. They are: Mary Sack, Carol June, Ellen Afterman, Pat McGauley, Toby Silvey, and Hedda Ribolow. The board is necessary for incorporating the center. We have a law firm which is helping with all of the legal problems.

Currently the board is beginning to write a job description for the staff director who will be a fulltime person. The board is also coordinating the work which still needs to be done.

The first phase of the health center has been started. Classes are being offered in: high school sex education, infant care and development, nutrition and diet, first aid, female physiology, and preparation for childbirth. Women are still needed to help teach these classes. It is anticipated that by September the classes will be in full swing. If you can help, please call Carol June (DO3-1348) from now until September first and Toby Silvey (324-4985) after September first.

A number of work committees have been formed to divide the work in getting the center open. All of the committees need volunteers and some of them still need a coordinator who will be responsible for making sure the committee meets, the work gets done, and reports are made to the CWLU. Committees needing coordinators are: Referral--gets detailed information about health and social  
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## CALENDAR

- August 16.....La Dolores Benefit at Alice's Revisited, 950 Wrightwood. 2:00 - midnight. \$1.50 donation at the door. Music, movies, art fair, rummage sale. Our women's rock band will play at 6:00.
- August 18.....Basic Medical skills class cancelled
- August 20.....CWLU steering committee meeting at the office. 8:00.
- August 22.....Political Education committee, 2120 N. Clark, 10:30 a.m. Meets every Saturday
- August 25.....Basic medical skills class, 7:30 at Benita Juarez free clinic, 1831 S. Racine. Come and learn basic skills to help in the health clinic
- August 26.....Women's Strike--rally at Civic Center, noon-2:00. Program in Grant Park, 8:00 (see article in this newsletter)

# STRIKE

August 26th is the 50th anniversary of the 19th amendment. CWLU is participating in the women's strike called by NOW. Events planned include a rally at the Civic Center from noon until 2:00. Speakers will include representatives from NOW, Equal Rights Alliance, Federally Employed Women, and CWLU. The University of Chicago chapter has been assigned the speaking engagement. Speeches will focus on the three national strike demands: free abortion on demand, child care centers and equal opportunity in employment and education.

At 8:00 a rally is scheduled for Grant Park. The program will include skits, historical readings, songs from the suffrage movement, and hopefully the women's rock band. CWLU is also planning a demonstration at Playboy that evening. For more information contact Mary Jean (268-3535) or the CWLU office.

GROUPS\*GROUPS\*GROUPS\*GROUPS\*GROUPS\*

## Marxist Study Group

A Marxist study group is forming on the southside. Call Margie Kinsella or Diane Altman (MI3-4018). Meets on alternate Wednesdays starting August 12 at 8:00.

## Rap Group

A new group aimed at older women will be starting soon on the south side. Call Diane Altman, MI3-4018.

## Lakeview

Susan Berman (477-7488) and Elizabeth Robson (477-9852) are contacts for the Lakeview group. They meet every Sunday at 7:30 pm at 638-40 W. Roscoe. New people are invited to the first meeting of the month. Either come to that meeting or call ahead of time.

## ROOMMATE WANTED

large two-bedroom apartment at 1845 Orchard. Student preferred. \$70 per month. Call Linda, 642-3357

# ABORTION REPEAL

The T.R.I.A.L. coalition, Total Repeal of Illinois Abortion Laws has had several meetings to gather support and momentum for the upcoming struggle in Illinois to repeal the abortion law.

So far its statement of principles is: 1) We the undersigned, feeling that women should have the right to control their own bodies agree to work together for repeal of all Illinois abortion laws; 2) We see this as a first step toward the goal of free and voluntary abortions for all women.

Groups participating in the coalition as of this date are: Planned Parenthood, University of Illinois Women, NOW, Socialist Workers Party, Zero Population Growth, Equal Rights Alliance, Concerned Citizens, ICMCA, Women United. Chapters of CWLU participating thus far: East Rogers Park women, Cassandra, Abortion Resource Committee. Individuals participating are from Chicago Maternity Center, Student Nurse Association and McCormick women. In addition there are several independent women from the Northside who work closely in CWLU actions, etc.

Section two of the Statement of Principles is under attack and those members of CWLU present have stressed the necessity of section two. It is urged that all chapters wishing to participate and seeing the importance of playing a definitive role in this coalition, contact Folly Connelly (337-7297).

The coalition has been invited to have its own speaker at the women's strike program. They will be distributing leaflets and buttons about the coalition, inviting other groups to participate.

In addition, plans are underway to send reach-out committees to downstate organizations in preparation for activities in the fall. A conference committee has been established to call for a conference in late September or early October around the demand for repeal of Illinois abortion laws. At that time, strategy and tactics will be decided. Therefore, it is important that CWLU assume a leadership position in the early formation of the coalition.

# HELP WANTED: CWLU

(At its retreat the CWLU steering committee voted to hire a fulltime staff person for CWLU. The following is an explanation of the job and application procedures.)

The staff position is an important responsibility both to ensure coordination and to further outreach work done through the office. The specific tasks cannot be completely outlined (although a number will be listed) but rather must be seen as a continually changing set of responsibilities as CWLU develops. One of the most important aspects of the staff job is helping other women to develop skills, and encouraging those already skilled to share in the work to be done.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

(the staff woman is responsible for all of the following--where possible tasks should be delegated to others.)

Be responsible for:

1. staffing the office
2. speaking requests--that they are filled
3. answering mail
4. preparing the newsletter and mailing it out (every 3 weeks)
5. mimeographing materials
6. keeping a supply of literature, buttons and paper
7. bookkeeping--recording income and expenses, paying bills

In addition, the staff woman should attend steering committee meetings.

## QUALIFICATIONS

1. Commitment to women's liberation
2. Participation in CWLU--either chapter, committee, or other
3. Administrative skill--some understanding of how to run an office and the relationship of staff responsibilities to CWLU as a whole

4. Some kind of experience relevant to the staff position
5. The job will last for 12 months. Pay will be \$100 per week (plus child allowance where applicable)

## APPLICATION

The application should be no more than one page (double spaced). It should include: 1) participation in CWLU and other relevant experience in women's liberation; 2) statement of relevant experience and how it applies to the staff position. Two women may apply as a staff unit which would divide the work.

A recommendation should be obtained either from the chapter or committee in which she participates or, for those who are not currently in a chapter or on a committee, from a member of CWLU. This should be submitted with the application.

Steering committee members are encouraged to ask their chapters to recommend someone for the job. If more than one sister wants to apply from a chapter, and the chapter feels they are all qualified, they may recommend more than one woman.

Applications should be sent to the office by August 25. Each woman will be interviewed personally by the subcommittee of the Steering Committee.

The subcommittee will submit a recommendation to the Steering Committee at either its September 3 or September 17 meeting. A decision will then be made and the job will begin as soon as possible after that date.



# NBC NEWS EDITORIAL

(The following editorial was broadcast on NBC TV on July 11, 1970)

It is a little difficult to make a judgment on the women's liberation movement. Right now, the movement is split up into a lot of small groups that don't seem to be connected to each other.

It is easy to support some of the goals set by the women's lib movement. They say that females should have business opportunities and salaries that are equal with what men have. That is a justified demand.

But it is sometimes hard to take the women's lib movement seriously when the ladies go around burning bras, forcing their way into all male bars and saying that the only honest women left in America are the prostitutes because they demand payment for their services.

This kind of activity can lead one to believe that the ladies in the women's lib movement are a bunch of man-haters. Apparently, some of the modern females feel that there has been some secret male plot all these years to make the women feel inferior.

This must come as a great surprise to a lot of males in this country who have spent a good deal of their adult lives trying to provide the things that they thought their chosen women wanted. Things like opening doors, holding coats, buying engagement rings, tolerating wedding ceremonies, fixing houses and stocking up on the most modern washers, dryers, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners.

Now the women's lib ladies say they won't stand for that kind of inferior treatment any longer. There's no reason why there can't be a compromise here. Any woman who wants a career should have the same road that a man has with the same rewards. But, any woman who chooses to be a wife and mother should be allowed to do so without having a lot of other women pressuring her and telling her that she's leading an inferior life.

## OUR REPLY

(Several women in CWLU demanded equal time. Our statement was read by Susan Berman who is in the Lakeview chapter. It appeared on NBC-TV on July 18.)

Sisters: What is a woman in America? Somebody's wife or else a spinster to be pitied. Somebody's mother or else barren and to be pitied. Somebody's assistant secretary, nurse--because if she's the boss she's too aggressive, too masculine and to be pitied. She's forced into a narrow role where fulfillment is difficult, where self-esteem must come from outside--from the approval of men and the jealousy of other women.

What should a woman be? Liberated. Her own person with freedom of choice. Freedom: to choose whether or not to marry, whether or not to have children, whether or not to have abortions--free from stigma and coercion. To choose to share the responsibilities of relationships, of child rearing, of housework on equal footing with no one as master and no one as servant. To choose her career according to her maximum potential.

Why can't a woman be liberated in this society? Because the profits of male-dominated corporations depend on her cheap labor force and her continual consumption of useless goods. Because the same elitist, benign neglect that fosters the exploitation of non-whites and poor people works to keep her mute, isolated and decorative. The struggle for women's liberation is a revolutionary struggle. Women's liberation is essential to the liberation of all oppressed people. Power to the people.

# SUZIE CREAM CHEESE-- A HISTORY

The all-woman Suzie Cream Cheese Collective is doing a show on Radio Free Chicago, WEAW-FM, 105.1. Having begun with a 2½ hour spot once a week we are now doing two five-hour shows each week--midnight to 5:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday mornings. During our first month we have had many problems. But we're getting it together--learning the meaning of a collective, functioning more collectively each week, gaining the technical skills and self-confidence necessary to do a good show, and struggling to raise the level of consciousness of the larger Radio Free Chicago collective and our listeners. We believe that we in the women's movement learn best from each other, and that we must always work to serve the community of all women. So we'd like to share our experiences with you and invite your suggestions and participation on the show.

The concept of Radio Free Chicago had been in the heads of northside "media freaks" for nearly eight months. When Bob Rudnick, radical disc jockey and White Panther Party organizer, came to Chicago last winter, the concept took on a tinge of reality. Rudnick had been on radio for two years, trying to serve the radical/hip community as well as possible on overground radio. He came to Chicago to do the same thing. this time on WGLD-FM. (GLD had for some time been doing "ethnic programming". Like a lot of other capitalists however, the owners realized that they could make more money airing rock). Rudnick began implementing the concept by airing announcements of Panther, Young Lords, and other political rallies, announcements of projects and office locations, and a satirical version of news, "The Kokaine Karma Knus." To no one's surprise, he was harrassed by the station management and owners. Charles Hanson, general manager, finally sent him a memo declaring that "GLD does not advocate anything, has no opinions," and would no longer program the Kokaine Karma Knus. With style, Rudnick read the memo over the air, stated that the dictum made his work impossible, put "Street Fighting Man" on the turntable, and left the studio. He didn't beg to return; and no one begged him to return.

Rudnick, his managers, and the Chicago White Panther Collective then explored the possibilities of setting up an underground radio station in Chicago. Because there would be no owners and no FCC to deal with, the station could be run democratically, have open air time for any group, air all political announcements, report community news--in short, serve the people. The insurmountable problem was building a system which would have a broadcasting range beyond a ten block radius. Hence the plan was tabled, and overground stations in several cities were approached.

After more than a month of on and off negotiations, WEAW-FM and Rudnick's managers signed a contract for 32½ hours of air time--midnight to 2:30 am on Tuesday mornings and midnight to 5:00 a.m. the other six mornings. At this time, Rudnick was making most of the decisions, largely because only his work was familiar to the WEAW owners. His first job became selecting a reliable and politically-oriented staff, then selling this staff to the owners.

He naturally chose people from the White Panther commune, the Seed, and other brothers and sisters close to him who asked to work on the shows. Thus the staff came together quickly but for one problem: although several women were participating in the shows, no women were to be on the air; either they weren't confident enough in their own ability to learn or didn't feel they could make the heavy time commitment. One woman close to Radio Free Chicago suggested a sister who digs good music, had the time and energy to do a show consistently, and relates strongly to the women's liberation movement. Rudnick's practice is a little sloppy, but he knows what's correct: he contacted this woman right away. Shortly thereafter, she, and the other women involved in Radio Free Chicago, and a few sisters close to this group met to discuss the show.

First, we had to figure out how to deal with a few givens. Most important in terms of our survival was the attitude of WEAW. This station is the most right-wing station in Chicago. The owners sell time to whomever they

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SUZIE CREAM CHEESE (Continued)

wish, and the bulk of it goes to fundamentalist church groups and politically right-wing syndicated shows. This station is also the richest in Chicago, deriving most of its income from muzak contracts. Best evidence of this is WEAW's ownership of all John Hancock tower air rights. Obviously the bond between WEAW and Radio Free Chicago is unnatural and most tenuous. WEAW's secret is that its FCC license is up for renewal this fall, and it is most susceptible to a violation of the "fairness doctrine." The owners contracted with Radio Free Chicago to keep their license. Neither the Suzie Cream Cheese Collective nor the larger Radio Free Chicago collective has come to terms with the conflict between either tolerating this sort of complicity and following station rules more rigid than FCC restrictions or having no regular access to the radio medium in Chicago.

We also had to determine how we would structure our work group and the show itself. The seven of us knew each other; some of us had worked together on projects before; but as a group we had never worked together. We were each committed to sharing all decision-making, programming, and announcements or raps over the air. So we began by constituting ourselves as a collective. We chose "Suzie Cream Cheese" partly as a spoof on the Suzie Cream Cheese who pops up in Frank Zappa's jag-off music and partly as a symbol of a women's alternative to the old Suzie's role. We unanimously decided that we would never use individual names over the air but rather would identify ourselves as Suzie Cream Cheese or a woman in the Suzie Cream Cheese Collective, depending on the context. We decided to do this for several reasons: to avoid developing one personality upon which the success of the show might depend; to counteract the "personality cult" mentality so prevalent in media and rock music; to set an example for the other shows on Radio Free Chicago; and to counteract our own individualistic tendencies and egotistical desires to be known by name. We didn't function well as a collective at first, because we weren't tight enough emotionally and had other commitments that made it hard for us to meet. But we began with a really strong sense of collectivity: we were

women getting together to work collectively on a project with revolutionary consciousness and directed especially toward the liberation of women..

The men in Radio Free Chicago freaked. The first few weeks we heard the same lines over and over. "Well, ah, how's her taste in music?" (They're the judges?) "Wouldn't it be better to integrate with the rest of Radio Free Chicago?" Apparently being involved in general meetings, programming in advance, airing all general announcements and identifying ourselves as the Suzie Cream Cheese Collective of Radio Free Chicago wasn't "integrating" enough. We felt it necessary to keep a distinct image so that we could learn how to do a show ourselves. We wouldn't have to experience the subordinate role we would inevitably occupy on any shows done jointly. On a gut level, the men dug this position and were afraid of it. On an intellectual level, they couldn't relate to it at all.

At the same time, members of our collective weren't consulted before meetings were scheduled. If conflicts arose, the meetings were seldom rescheduled so we could attend. We were enraged and yet also wanted to deal with the male chauvinism. So we and the men yelled at each other, rationally discussed our position in small groups, then held a Radio Free Chicago meeting solely about sexism in society and in our group.

At this meeting, some of the men acted as if they knew exactly what we were talking about and proceeded to speak for us. (continued on p. )

SISTERS

The office is trying to compile a reliable list of women's liberation groups and contacts across the country. If you know of any addresses we should have, send them into the office. This is useful information both to women who write us; and for us when we move or travel.

UNITE



SUZIE CREAM CHEESE (continued)

Some challenged us to explain: "OK, how are women really oppressed" but wouldn't accept any answers. Some sat and listened. One walked out. So we have decided not to waste a lot of time with this approach. Instead, we'll concentrate on doing the show, on pointing out and rapping about the men's sexism whenever necessary rather than prodding them to attend meetings. As we get ourselves together--and as we go through the bullshit of "proving ourselves" again--the manifestations of sexism are diminishing. The men and women of Radio Free Chicago are beginning to relate more collectively, and the separate women's collective within the larger collective is regarded as a given not to be overtly challenged. Hopefully the time when a sexism meeting will be more productive is approaching.

Our show, like the other Radio Free Chicago shows, consists primarily of blues, jazz, and rock music. One of the main problems here is finding music that isn't permeated with male chauvenism. But now we finally have an opportunity to rap about this lyrical content and to concentrate on the great women musicians whose albums have too often stayed on the shelves in radio studios--Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Alice Coltrane, Dorothy Ashby, etc. We're trying to obtain the albums of good female rock groups.

We do as many raps as anyone can listen to from midnight on when she's either exhausted or high. We've done a special on women musicians; a long rap about abortion, the politics of legal reform, the procedure itself, and the channels available in Illinois. a reading of poems by revolutionary sisters; an interview with a woman from Berkeley who had run with bikers and is now living in a women's commune. We're working on features about the women's movement in England, the women of Rising Up Angry, Cuban and Vietnamese women, and the Red Star Sisters--the women of the White Panther Party. We try to announce all the CWLU, South side center and La Dalores activities that we know about. If you know about an event or news item, be sure to call us during the shows. We'll announce

it right away and drop a message in the Public Service Announcement folder so that the other shows will carry it too.

Most important, we need to know what kinds of things you'd like to hear and what aspects of the movement are important to you but neglected by us. We'd especially dig it if chapters would write up what they're doing, when they meet, and how they can be contacted so that each week we can give information to women turned on by the movement but not knowing what to do or where to go next. This information should be forwarded to CWLU, which will then send it on to us. Better yet, chapters or individuals having the time, energy, and inclination should contact the CWLU media committee or us about doing interviews or other features. Interviews must be taped-- a new rule laid down after the abortion rap, which one owner considered "obscene and personally, morally offensive." Right on!

You can reach us the nights of the show by calling 273-3330 from Chicago or 869-8900 from the suburbs. You can write to us at 2551 N. Halsted.

Power to the sisters!

All Power to the People!

Suzie Cream Cheese Collective

*Linda, Gretchen*

One of our sisters is in desperate need of a job. She has an infant daughter who cost her several hundred dollars in medical bills. Now she can't get a job because male employers and employment agencies say her baby will make her quit. Between medical exploitation and job discrimination, she is screwed. If you know of any leads for full-time jobs, call Kathleen Mendoza, 472-7844.

The new women's journal is out! We have copies in the office for \$1.25. This issue focuses on women in revolution.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION FREE HEALTH CENTER

services available. Child care-- works to plan play area and recruits volunteers to help with child care. Drug Committee--locates free or at cost drugs, does inventory and maintains stocks. Medical records and office--determines office needs and procures supplies, takes basic histories. Volunteers are also needed to work on these committees.

Committees with coordinators also need more volunteers to help. These are: Patient Advocates--help women who come to the center by interpreting medical instructions, finding child care, cutting red tape, etc. Call Rachel Jacobs (225-1632) Community Relations--develop community support base. Much leafleting and talking to women in the community is still needed. Call Estelle Carol (493-8085)

Other committees which are being formed include: Rehabilitation--making the building usable as a health center. "Environment"--furnishing the center, includes deciding on literature to be available, etc. Equipment--getting what is needed. Medical Supplies--develops list of needed materials and finds these at low cost.

Toby Silvey is working as general coordinator. If you haven't volunteered for any of the tasks or if you are interested in learning more about what you might do, call Toby after September first (324-4985). Until September first, call Carol June (D03-1348)

The success of the health center depends upon members of CWLU. Each of us should volunteer to work on some aspect of the center. The health center committee is hopeful to open the center in the fall. Although our recent attempt to sign a lease was unsuccessful, new locations are being considered. Your help is crucial. Each chapter should also consider undertaking a particular responsibility which could then be divided among members of the chapter.

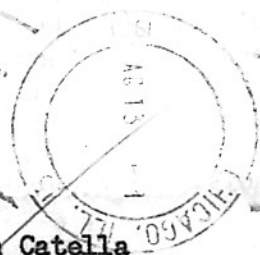
# NOTICE

John Rossen is willing to help print up and distribute in his theaters women's liberation literature in Spanish for Latin women. Call the office if you are interested in writing or translating leaflets for such a project.

# CHURCH WOMEN

The Chicago Conference of Laymen, a group of lay people interested in Church reform, is starting a Commission on Women. If you are interested in this, contact Bernice McMeela at MA3-1860.

Chicago Women's Liberation Union  
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Kathleen Catella  
1445 W. Catalpa  
Chicago 60640

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RETURN TO WRITER

