

SEPTEMBER 19, 1969

Since the last newsletter, we've had a lot of activity and most of the women who are coming regularly to meetings have been involved in one of our projects. The reports in this newsletter will give those women who haven't been involved for some time an idea of what we're doing. And by all means, if one of our projects interests you come out and join in.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING – September 25th, 1969
at the Labour Temple, West Broadway
8 p.m.

TOPIC: Our up-coming conference

The last General Meeting was a panel discussion on day-care. Speakers were Mrs. Maycock, from the Provincial Health and Welfare office, and Meloday Killan, from the S.F.U. co-op nursery. Meloday outlined the history of the nursery, how it was first conceived, [and] the problems encountered with the licensing inspector and the S.F.U. administration. She made a strong case for the success of the nursery after the parents has struck out on their own without official sanction and explained how the parents and children adjusted to the problems of a collective endeavour in the day-to-day operations and inter-relationships within the nursery.

Mrs. Maycock then explained what her job entails, how she has fought a continuous battle with the government to make day-care more accessible and reform the licensing procedures. She expressed the opinion that there was much more day-care available than was being used, but that the government should conduct an advertising campaign to inform the public of the existing facilities. Although she has pushed for this consistently, the government has just as consistently refused to conduct such a campaign.

Both Mrs. Maycock and Melody answered questions from the audience, and a lot of new information became available to us. There were about 60 women (and 5 men!!!!) at the meeting, so it was quite successful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Working committee meetings are held in Room 6 of the Labour Temple, 307 West Broadway, each Thursday evening at 8 p.m. General Meetings are held the last Thursday of every month.

If you're interested in letting some friends know about Women's' Caucus, call Pat Hoffer at 731-5412. She will be holding new member orientation meetings, so that new women can get together and talk on a small group before coming to one of our General Meetings.

REMEMBER: If any of the projects reported on the following pages interest you, the name and phone number of someone involved goes with every report. So don't hesitate to call one of use – even to talk if you haven't time to come out.

REPORT ON THE PEDSETAL – Jean Rands

Enclosed with the newsletter is the first issue of our newspaper, The Pedsetal. Sales of the paper are going very well. Members of Women's Caucus have sold about 400 already at their schools or places

of work, and to their friends. There are still plenty left – our total press run was 3000 copies!! If you can sell some, please call:

Jean Rands
291-3598 (9:30 – 5:30)

Or pick some up any Thursday evening at the office at 307 West Broadway.

This first issue was produced rather informally. We decided to go ahead with it at a general work party just before the last General Meeting. People who worked on the paper in terms of writing, lay-out, etc., included Diane Schrenk, Betsy Meadley, Marcy Toms, Liz Briemberg, Jean Rands, Susan Dubrofsky, Marcy Cohen, Sylvia Lindstrom, Barb Finlayson and Alice James.

Before we produce another issue, we need a general discussion of how the newspaper should be structured (editor? editorial board??), the financial organization, and criticisms of content and lay-out of the first issue. This item will be a major item on the agenda of the Sept. 25th General Meeting.

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FINANCIAL REPORT – Janiel Jolley

Women's Caucus has now moved to a stage where we have financial commitments that must be met each month. We have a downtown office which will cost us \$30 per month, a telephone at \$9.88 per month, and our regular printing expenses. We must have funds to continue the important projects that have been undertaken, such as research. If we really believe that our movement is worth building, we must be prepared to give whatever we can in terms of time and money towards building that movement.

Our financial situation is as follows:

MONEY RECEIVED	
Bal. Fwd	\$98.00
Monthly pledges	\$56.00
Collection at last general mtg.	\$19.00
The Pedestal Sales	\$40.00
Postal Sales	\$25.00
Literature table (at S.F.U.)	<u>\$64.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$242.00

EXPENSES	
Monthly rent	\$30.00
Hall rental (general Meeting)	\$10.00
Telephone	\$9.88
Printing of The Pedestal	\$110.00
Other printing	<u>\$41.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$300.88

HOSPITAL UNION MEETING – Boukje Elzinga

At the last meeting of the Hospital Employees Union, #180, a proposal for equal pay for women workers and re-categorizing jobs, placing nurses' aides in the same category as orderlies, was brought

up during discussion of the new contract in January 1970. Essentially, the jobs are the same, requiring the same experience, skills and education. However, the pay differences are extreme.

The response from the women was favourable. However, the men were not convinced that it was in their interests also to bring about these changes. The proposals were ruled out of order since reclassification had been scheduled two meetings previous.

However, a group of women have got together and are attempting to get these proposals into the new contract. They are meeting with the Union business secretary. Anyone involved with hospital unions who wishes to work with this group, call Boukje (Book), 254-6673.

SIMON FRASER WOMEN'S CAUCUS – Dodie Wepler

The following activities have been planned for the Fall semester:

1. A seminar series with discussion groups as follows:
 - (a) Women in History
 - (b) The Family Co-op
 - (c) Women as Staff at S.F.U.
 - (d) Women as Faculty at S.F.U.
 - (e) Women in Perspective

After tying all the seminars together, these seminars will relate to specific campus issues.

2. Setting up a literature table with Women's Caucus information and papers.
3. Research committees who will delve into campus statistics and pay scale, discrimination, age, etc. (There is a P.S.A. 221 tutorial workshop on women.)
4. A women's page in The Peak will be published each issue. We will show a remarkable contrast from that of The Vancouver Sun.
5. A Manifesto is being drawn up for campus women.

Any woman on campus interested in these projects can call Marcie Toms, 299-6129, or Dodie Wepler, Apt. #537, SFU Residence.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT VANCOUVER CITY COLLEGE – Sue Claus

Our group, though small now, is very active. We hold meetings twice a month. A series of educational has been planned on:

- (a) History of the Suffragette Movement
- (b) P.S.A. and women
- (c) Women on the March – a film
- (d) The Family

We are writing some position papers on women related to V.C.C. activities and the P.S.A. department at SFU which affect our P.S.A courses.

Student Council has given us a grant for the McGill handbook and we have been distributing freely to all women.

We are sending a letter to all the faculty members requesting one hour in each class to discuss Women's Liberation, our general position in society and the work force.

A literature desk is being set up to handle birth control and V.D. information, Women's Caucus papers and other position papers on women.

Articles are being written for the Student Newspaper such as on the reaction of birth control information.

For further information, call Lana Brown at 732-8093 or leave a message at V.C.C. Student Society for Sue Claus, 731-2210.

REPORT ON B.C. CIVIL SERVICE DEMONSTRATION – Betsy Meadley

“WOMEN ON THE WARPATH!”

“Women picket B.C. Civil Service Commission”

The Province newspaper gave the girls who picketed the B.C. Civil Service Commission at 411 Dunsmuir Street the above noted caption, noting it was the first time since the days of the Suffragettes that women took to the streets demanding “Women’s Right.”

The purpose of the picket, held one day before election, was to make government and people aware of economic discrimination against women within the Civil Service. At a time when all eyes were on the news media, Channel 8 gave us some coverage and also some radio stations and both The Province and The Vancouver Sun newspapers.

411 Dunsmuir Street is a significant B.C. government address in that it houses the B.C. Department of Labour’s Women’s Bureau (supposedly for women), and until recently, the B.C. Fire Marshall Office, a branch of the Attorney-General’s department. The Fire Marshall, an officer of the Attorney General, has been quoted as saying, “As long as I am Fire Marshall, no women will work in the back office.” (The back office is where inspectors and executives work). This seemed in direct contradiction of the B.C. Human Rights bill.

During the election, Attorney-General Peterson invited us to “fight back” against discrimination. Therefore the girls picketed his own B.C. Civil Service offices with signs saying “We’re Fighting Back, “B.C. Civil Service Discriminates Against Women,” “Provincial Fire Marshall says No Women to Work in Back Office,” etc.

The pickets brought attention to the fact that Attorney-General Peterson and the Labour Department spent huge sums of money to let people know they had rights – yes, even women – while at the same time carrying on discrimination against women by allowing the B.C. Civil Service to continue its economic discrimination against women.

We feel our objective was reached, in that we received good coverage through the news media and word of mouth. Most important, it reached our target – government itself. Rest assured that the news of the picket reached Victoria. It also let women know their plight has been noticed and is valid.

For a number of reasons, the B.C. Civil Service is a prime target for Women’s Caucus, publicity-wise, and because they can no longer look the other way, having passed a Human Rights bill, all eyes will be watching to see whether they practice what they preach ...

And if they don’t? Like MacArthur ... “WE SHALL RETURN!”

CONFERENCE REPORT – Orleen Martin and Marge Hollibaugh

So far, we have had a number of favourable responses to our proposition for a Western Regional Conference of Women. The general theme of this conference has been decided upon – Women: Reform or Revolution? The conference is planned for the 11th, 12th and 13th of October. A general estimate of people planning to attend ranges from 150 to 200 people. Although arrangements are still in the formative stages, we hope to hold the conference at the Student Union Building at UBC.

At this moment, our main concern is the billeting of this number of people. We have requested out-of-towners to bring sleeping bags. Anyone who can possibly take billets is requested to phone Orleen Martin at 298-2621 or Marge Hollibaugh at 936-9728. The plan is for all out-of-towners to meet at Ellen Woodworth’s place, 2116 West 3rd Ave., on Friday evening. Everybody is welcome to come along

for an informal get together. People who are taking billets are asked to be there to pick up their billets. We will also need a few people with cars who will be willing to pick people up at the airport, bus depot or train station and bring them back to Ellen's. We are considering at the moment charging a nominal fee to all people who live in town for the conference. These proceeds will go towards a partial reimbursement of travel expenses for out-of-town people. Food arrangements are to be the delegates own responsibility.

A basic agenda for the conference has been suggested. We felt it was necessary to retain as informal an atmosphere as possible without having a totally unproductive discussion. We felt it was necessary to start with concrete problems concerning women in the various working concentrates and from there to move on to more theoretical problems. Here is a very sketchy outline of the agenda.

SATURDAY – PANEL DISCUSSION – WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE (Historical and Immediate)

MORNING: Workshops – Organizing in specific areas – hospitals, offices, trade unions, teachers, etc.

LUNCH

AFTERNOON: Plenary session – Campus Organizing
Miscellaneous

EVENING: General Work Session – exchange of position papers, printing of some ideas which have come out of the workshops. Move to Jean's place at 3484 Oxford Street, Vancouver.

PARTY

SUNDAY – PLENARY SESSION – EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZING

Workshops?

Lunch

Plenary Session – The Family

Workshops?

Dinner

Films – Tentative – “Salt of the Earth” or “Red Flower” – Japanese Women's Liberation Film

MONDAY – PLENARY SESSION – How does change come about? Reform or revolution?

Results of workshops – concrete proposals for action

We would like people to commit themselves to specific interest areas and to come prepared with some concrete research and statistics. People of contact in various areas:

Jean Rands	Working Women	298-8430
Elizabeth Briemberg	The Family	298-9638
Donna Liberson & Marcy Cohen	Education	733-8864

Working Committee meetings are held in Room 6 at the Labour Temple, 307 West Broadway, each Thursday evening at 8 p.m. If you are interested in working on any of these projects, contact the woman involved and come to these meetings to work on general things, such as publicity, mailing, etc. New projects and proposals may be brought up at this time.

To get announcements of general interest or project work in this newsletter, which is issued each month prior to the General Meeting, call Donna Liberson, 733-8864, or Drena, 522-0400. For new member orientation, call Pat Hoffer at 731-5412.