

NEWSLETTER

March 1970

Women's Caucus
307 W. Broadway, Rm. 6
Phone: 879-9722

At the Feb. 26 monthly meeting of Women's Caucus, we discussed the problem of communication among the various groups and workshops. We decided that a coordinating committee made up of members from the different groups and others interested in attending should meet every second Monday night to report activities of their group and discuss future activities.

The first meeting was held March 9.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the March 14th march and two different opinions emerged. Some argued that Women's Caucus' endorsement of the march involved a change in strategy, which should have warranted a discussion in Women's Caucus before it was voted on. Also, the march would only appeal to a very small minority of women at the risk of alienating other women.

Others felt it was vitally important for Women's Caucus to identify with other groups in the march and recognize their common oppression. They argued that street people and students, who the march would appeal to, were important people for Women's Caucus to reach.

From the discussion, we decided it was important for Women's Caucus to work out the means of establishing a minority position and to study at a future conference Women's Caucus' relations with other groups.

REPORTS FROM PROJECTS

Educationals – Karen Malo outlined educationals planned for March and April (see Calendar) and the need to include new members in Women's Caucus through the educationals. Report given on make-up of special kit to be given to new members as an introduction to Women's Caucus.

Working Women's Workshop – Jean Rands reported on the new pamphlet produced, Equal Pay for Equal Work, to be distributed at a shift change to workers at hospitals and other places with large concentrations of women. Leaflets of the situation of temporary office workers are to be distributed on pa-days at the various employment agencies and hopefully a meeting with interested workers will result.

Abortion Campaign – Betsy Meadley's letter to Health Minister Lofmark was approved. Dawn Carroll is going across Canada next week to do national organizing work around the abortion campaign.

Women's Artist Co-op – Pat Hoffer reported that the Co-op is setting up a lounge and reading room. Comfortable chairs, books and articles on women are needed. One of the honorariums from Capilano College for the two educationals to be presented there was designated to the Co-op, particularly for the use of Katherine Stone's slideshow.

The agenda for the monthly meeting was discussed with emphasis on the need to discuss past activities and matters of strategy.

-- Mary Metheson, Secretary for the meeting

JOIN WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The next general monthly meeting of Women's Caucus will be held Thursday, March 26, at 8 PM at 307 West Broadway. (See agenda enclosed.)

Calendar of Events

ABORTION Abortion Information Service – Tuesdays, 7:30 PM, 307 West Broadway
Abortion campaign – contact office, 879-9722

ARTISTS Women's Artists Co-op, 137 Water Street or Pat Hoffer, 731-5412

WORKING WOMEN

Workshop on problems faced by working women and what can be done.
Friday, March 20, at 8 PM, Centre, 454 W. Pender. Then every second Tuesday,
beginning Tuesday, March 31, at the Centre, 8 p.m.

EDUCATIONALS

Presentation and discussion of topics relevant to women and their liberation. A good way for new members to find out about Women's Caucus.

March 18 – Politics of Women's Liberation: Are they necessary?

March 25 – How is Women's Caucus organized?

April 1 – Abortion Information Service – what is it doing?

April 8 – Medicine, Drugs, Hospitalization

April 15 – Sex education in the high schools – morality, promiscuity, birth control info

April 22 – Abortion: the situation now and what we can do

THE PEDESTAL Meetings to put out monthly newspaper. Tuesday, March 17, and Tuesday, March 24, at Women's Artists Co-op, 137 Water St., 8 p.m.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 23, 8 p.m. Meetings open to all.

NORTH SHORE Panel discussion on oppression in the family with Dr. Margaret Benston, Liz Briemberg, Mary Stolk and Betsey Meadley. Thursday, March 19, Park Royal Lanes Bldg., 8 p.m.

UNIVERSITIES Groups are active at UBC, SFU and VCC. See next page for people to contact.

OFFICE We need volunteers to work in the office during the day on week days. If you have a day or half a day a week to contribute, please call the office, 879-9722

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT

Dr. Robert Mackaroff has been charged under Canada's inhuman abortion law. Vancouver Women's Caucus is calling a PROTEST DEMONSTRATION at the Police Station at Main and Hastings for 9:30 THURSDAY, MARCH 19, when the case comes up next. Everyone is urged to come out.

Because the case is before the Courts, it is important that individuals should not make public statements on it. The following statement from Women's Caucus will be distributed to people at the demonstration, to be used in talking to the press, etc.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS STATEMENT ON MACKAROFF CASE

Vancouver Women's Caucus protests the charging of Dr. Robert Mackaroff with conspiring to procure an abortion. Canada's abortion law denies women the right to decide when and whether they will bear a child, and condemns at least 2,000 Canadian women yearly to death or permanent disability, through self-induced or "quack" abortions.

Although the federal government claims it is possible for any woman to obtain a legal abortion, the fact that a doctor is charged is clear evidence that the new law and the hospital facilities are inadequate.

To charge anyone under this law, when the law itself denied to women their basic human rights, is outrageous and inhuman.

Women's Caucus, together with women's liberation groups across Canada, is engaged in a campaign to remove all mention of abortion from the Criminal Code. The campaign will culminate with demonstrations across Canada, focused on Ottawa, on Mother's Day, May 10. In Vancouver, the demonstration will start at Lost Lagoon, Stanley Park, at 1:30.

OTTAWA CAVALCADE

The Ottawa Cavalcade, which will arrive in Ottawa for demonstrations starting Mother's Day, will leave Vancouver on April 29. The entire trip will take three weeks, including the return trip. The cars will make stops in major centres across Canada, and encourage others to join in along the way. If you would like to go all the way, or if you would like to go part of the way, please contact Marge Hollibaugh, at 936-9728. Please call IMMEDIATELY!

HELP THE RESEARCH FOR THE CAMPAIGN – PLEASE FILL OUT & RETURN THE FOLLOWING SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE

Because we are interested in finding out about the abuses of birth control pills, which result from doctors' neglect, we would like you to answer the following questions:

1. Were you ever asked for a medical history before you got the pills?
2. Are you getting PAP smear tests every six months while on the pills? Or how often?
3. Were you warned of any symptoms or side effects of the pill, before you got the pill?

DON'T FORGET TO PLEDGE!!!

**MONTHLY MEETING
Thursday, March 26, 8 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Abortion Campaign
 - (a) Report on progress and future plans

- (b) Discussion of actions, directions, etc.
- 2. The Pedestal
 - (a) Election of Editorial Board
 - (b) Discussion of aims, uses, direction of the newspaper
- 3. Minority positions in Women's Caucus
 - (a) Strategy disagreements and how to handle them
 - (b) Where is Women's Caucus going and how to get there
- 4. Reports on Women's Caucus activities through March
- 5. Vietnam Action Committee has requested we send a representative to steering committee meetings. Decision to be made regarding support of and/or alignment with other groups
- 6. Plans for strategy conference in May

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The celebration, March 7 and 8, included readings, poetry, guerilla theatre and a slide show of images of women. Saturday night about 60 people attended and about 30 came to the films on women Sunday afternoon. International Women's Day has been traditionally celebrated in such countries as Russia, China, Vietnam, England and Cuba and used to be celebrated by working people in the U.S. and Canada. Women's Liberation groups across North America this year revived the holiday and hopefully it will become a grander event yearly.

POSTERS

Now available – Vietnamese woman – Liberation fighter -- \$1.50
 Legalize Abortion Now – 50 cents

THE PEDESTAL Many members have to yet send in subscriptions for The Pedestal. We know you don't want to miss any issues ... so get in the \$1.50 for the yearly sub. Also, The Pedestal needs money. If you feel like writing on anything that concerns you as a woman, please come to a meeting or sent it to the office. Any pictures, poetry, cartoons, etc. very much needed.

BULLETIN

On Tuesday, March 10, Dr. Makaroff was charged with procuring a miscarriage. On Wednesday, his care was remanded until March 19 to set a date for trial. Abortion is not a crime! Just as we oppose the existence of a law which denies us the right of abortion, we must protest charging any doctor under this law.

PLEDGES

Support yourself and Women's Caucus at the same time. Money is needed to carry on the fight! Send donations to the office – better yet, commit yourself to a monthly pledge of what you can afford. Send a number of post-dated cheques.