



Women - Mayor's Task Force on

*Mayor's Task Force
on the Status of
Women in Toronto*

newsletter

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES ORGANIZE IN TASK FORCE

The Task Force report on sexual discrimination against 209 of the City's Public Health Nurses has met with strong support from the rank and file members of C.U.P.E. Local 79.

Seventy-five Public Health Nurses turned out for a general meeting on May 27 at City Hall to discuss the future of the Task Force report on sexual discrimination. The report, presently before the City Executive Committee, charged sexual discrimination in wages paid to 209 Public Health Nurses employed by the City.

Recommendations in the report included a classification review system be established within the Civic Service to rectify all instances of sexual discrimination.

The Task Force expects the Executive Committee to act over the summer on the report and its recommendations.

Public Health Nurses at the meeting formed two interim committees to promote greater involvement of nurses within the Board of Health procedures, and to encourage and plan better in-service training courses.

A formal request was made by the Task Force on behalf of the nurses

to the Board of Health for greater involvement in Board meetings. Initially, the nurses are asking for one paid representative from each of the 8 district offices to attend every board meeting.

Task Force Co-ordinator, Judith Adam, said, "Public Health Nurses are front line representatives of the Board. They carry out the Board's policies in every community and have first hand knowledge and information of the public health care delivery system in Toronto. I can't think of a more valuable resource group that should be at the Board's disposal at every meeting."

Ms. Adam will be appearing before the Board of Health at its June 17th meeting on behalf of the Public Health Nurses.

DON'T COMPROMISE, ORGANIZE

The next time an antifeminist barks that the Women's Movement is "nothing but a bunch of idle middle-class white females with a moderate complaint," tell him or her about the First New York Women's Trade Union Conference. In January, 600 women -- young and old, black and white, welders,

cabdrivers, teachers, union officials assembly-line workers, and secretaries -- met at the Martin Luther King Centre in New York City to share their experiences and learn what they can do to improve the lot of the 33 million American women who labor for a living. How can females gain power inside the trade union movement? Can the hundreds of thousands of unorganized women who staff the nation's steno-pools and factories be organized? How can existing affirmative action programs and collective bargaining methods improve women's working conditions and wages?

"There is no God-given law," declare Margie Albert, a staff organizer for District 65 of the Distributive Workers of America, "that says a secretary is making 'good money' when she earns \$180 a week while a sanitation worker in New York City is earning entry-level pay at considerably over that. The difference is clear. He's organized in a powerful union. We are hopelessly and helplessly divided in most offices. Women need unions!"

Virginia L. Morton, who makes light bulbs for General Electric in New Jersey and who is the vice-president of her International Union of Electrical Workers local felt that unions needed women. "The labour movement would look a lot different if we were in more positions of leadership," she said.

Addie Wyatt, Director of the Women's Division of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, summarized the feelings of conference participants: "For many years, I've wanted to see women in the labour movement get together

and deal with our own special concerns. We need equal pay, maternity benefits, child care, organizing campaigns in female-dominated fields, and more women in union leadership. This meeting proves it is beginning to happen now."

- Claudia Dreifus
(Ms. Magazine - June 1974 issue
"Gazette News", p.19)

TORONTO'S WOMEN'S YELLOW PAGES

At last! A Women's Yellow Pages for Toronto! Specifically for all you women who want to patronize establishments owned and operated by women or who need a dentist, lawyer, carpenter, etc., and want to hire a woman. It will be available this fall. What we need now are listings. If you are a woman who works independently or owns her own business and would like to list with us, or know someone who would, contact Toronto Women's Yellow Pages at 923-2154 for more information. We are particularly interested in women who work with their hands -- plumbers, mechanics, carpenters, etc. (we're having trouble finding you).

THE WOMEN'S POSTER COLLECTIVE AND PRINTING WORKSHOP

The Women's Poster Collective and Printing Workshop are teaching printing skills to women beginning in mid June and ending in late August. The workshops will include silkscreening and the production of 10 posters by women. They are also looking for graphics by women. There is a minimal workshop fee. For information and registration phone 962-3904.

TASK FORCE DAY CARE REPORT SETS PRECEDENT

The Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women in Toronto has produced a day care proposal for the City Living Room project. The report, titled PLAYROOM: A Day Care Addendum to the Living Room Project, is the first to come from any group recommending supporting services for the City's new low income family housing project.

The report calls for the construction of 20 day care centres with the capacity of 50 children each. Task Force member Susan Muckenfuss, who co-authored the report with Julie Mathien, said, "Using the City's guideline of 1,800 units reserved for family use, there is a potential of 1,351 children under the age of five who will be housed in Living Room units. Obviously the City has some responsibility to those children and to their parents who work out of necessity."

The first Living Room complex is anticipated to be built in the St. Lawrence development on Toronto's waterfront land which is currently being acquired by the City. The PLAYROOM report notes that many developers are building day care centres into their new buildings, and calls on the city to "... create a public precedent by setting day care provisions as a major criteria in Living Room projects."

Ward 3 Alderman Mike Goldrick, Chairman of the City's Housing Work Group which produced the Living Room report said, "I think PLAYROOM is a fine effort to set standards for the quality of life in City housing projects. It establishes basic figures which we'll need to work with in all our

future considerations for supplemental services in Living Room projects."

The PLAYROOM report goes before the City Urban Renewal, Housing, Fire & Legislation Committee on Thursday, June 13.

TASK FORCE MEMBER ASSISTS ON SCARBOROUGH PROJECT

Judy Falkner, a member of one of the Task Force Committees, is working on the Scarborough Community Women's Project, a YMCA sponsored summer project which will explore the needs of women in Scarborough. The ultimate aim is to organize a base of support for a permanent women's service and define the direction and type of service needed.

Many women are trying to move out of stereotyped roles, and the suburban boroughs do not offer the resources which are available to women living in inner-city communities. The project has already identified 3 areas of concern; dealing with career motivation and existing attitudes which discourage women from upgrading their skills, the restrictions on family benefits which discourage women from improving their economic situations, and mental health counselling, which encourages them to assume traditional roles.

The findings of the project will be discussed at a conference for Scarborough women to be held September 13th and 14th. Information on the project and the conference can be obtained by phoning 266-7797.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE AIDS
IMMIGRANTS, SINGLE WOMEN

The newly formed Education Committee of the Task Force has taken on two projects which will serve many women in the Toronto area. Initial research indicated a need among immigrant women for orientation classes designed to acquaint them with life in Canada, and more specifically with the problems they encounter in day-to-day urban living. Courses of this nature are relatively available to male immigrants, but problems of day care, accessibility and language preclude the attendance of women at existing classes. Recent reports on Toronto's Greek community confirmed the alienation experienced by women as a result of language barriers, attitudes, and the presence of pre-school age children in the home. The education committee hopes to institute daytime orientation classes within the community, conducted in the language of origin and involving daycare facilities for pre-schoolers.

A second group within the committee is researching the availability of Women's Courses in household repair, auto mechanics, carpentry, etc. The YWCA is presently conducting such classes, but their facilities necessitate traveling across the city to attend, which is not possible for many women.

The Education Committee will recommend the inclusion of such classes in the Toronto Board of Education night school courses. Increased accessibility of these courses is expected to be especially popular among women who live alone, or as heads of single parent families.

REDLIGHT THEATRE

For their final production of the season, Redlight Theatre presents TRIPLETS - two one-act plays written by Meagan Terry. It has been directed by Marcella Lustig and features Paul Brown, Carol Howe, Elizabeth Murphy and Francine Volker. The playwright is well known for her earlier work - VIET ROCK and she has worked with Joseph Charkin's Open Theatre.

The first play, EX-MISS COPPER QUEEN ON A SET OF PILLS, provides a vista on a sidewalk in New York City at 5:30 am. A one-time beauty queen from the West is prospected by two women who deal in "salable items".

THE GLOAMING OH MY DARLING is a day in the life of two women and their "husband" awaiting death in an old age home. Relief from the tedium of the daily routine is found in playful reminiscence not to mention a memorable visit from their families.

TRIPLETS will open on Wednesday June 5, at 8:30 pm. Performances will be Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 8:30 pm until June 22. Admission is \$1.00.

TASK FORCE DAY CARE COMMITTEE
NEEDS HELP!

The Day Care Committee would appreciate any information you have on Day Care in Toronto. This would include newspaper clippings, articles, speeches, etc. We also welcome calls from people who have suggestions for future projects for our committee. Please call Shirley French at 421-0394.

TASK FORCE CONFERENCE REPORT

Plans for the Task Force sponsored women's conference are beginning to take shape. The main focus will be the establishment of a women's coalition to serve as an organizing body and means of communication between women and women's organizations.

The conference is scheduled for Friday evening, September 20th and all day Saturday, September 21, and we plan to use City Hall facilities, including the council chamber and committee rooms. Daycare facilities will be provided for the Saturday sessions. Friday night will consist of an open house, providing an opportunity for women's groups to display their material and get to know one another.

The structure of the proposed coalition will be worked out between now and conference time by representatives of existing women's organizations at a series of meetings beginning on June 26th.

Arrangements and contacting for the conference involves a lot of work, and the Public Relations Committee, who are responsible for organizing the conference, can use help. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact the Task Force Office.

JEWISH WOMEN
WANT TO ALTER TEXTBOOKS

The National Council of Jewish Women is launching a program stopping the indoctrination of prejudice through school textbooks. The council asks mothers to call for deletion of statements in school textbooks which are prejudicial and to encourage their children to read with critical eyes. They also hope to see a federal commission on human rights established.

The following submitted by Pamela Harris, Womens Financial Planner, The Great West Life Co.

"Baby - you've come a long way" has been accepted as fact in today's society. Women in 1974 are more liberated, independent, self-assured and progressive in their thinking than any other time in history. However, let's think about "Baby - you've got a long way to go".

The "Human Life Value" in my profession is defined as "an individual's ability to trade his or her knowledge or skill for income. For example, a woman who works for \$10,000 a year in 25 years will make one quarter of one million -- a tremendous amount of cash. Three things can happen to this sum of money:

1. there will be a failure to save or produce an income for future needs;
2. one will save some money on property for future needs but it will not meet a normal standard of living;
3. one will plan and accumulate enough property to remain financially independant for the rest of her life.

Financial Planning is not a difficult thing to do. It does mean, however, that all women no matter what their income, must face 3 real and unpleasant aspects of life

1. That we might live too long;
2. We could become disabled for the rest of our lives;
3. We could die tomorrow and leave responsibilities and families in dire straits.

Financial Planning can solve all of these problems. "Baby-you've got a long way to go" is an understatement. We are liberated financially now but will we be in the future?

MOUNTAIN MOVING THEATRE

Mountain Moving Theatre, sponsored by Opportunities for Youth this summer, is a feminist theatre group offering plays which portray non-sexist role models and provide information about women in Canadian history.

We have been performing, under the name of Women's Theatre Collective, for the past 6 months to women's groups and conferences in and around Toronto. We now wish to expand into the community and our aim is to reach a varied audience of women, children and men who will be attracted to the informal nature of our presentations.

Because of our governmental funding, we will be performing this summer free of charge.

Our programme includes:

- short plays and workshops for women
- short plays and creative drama for children
- historical representations of the contribution of women to the growth of Canada as a nation
- feminist drama for general audiences

We are now accepting bookings for performances in July and August.
Contact: Mountain Moving Theatre
c/o 137 George Street
Toronto

Phone: 363-8021 (afternoons) or
921-9091

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST TRIPLES!

With the addition of 1,258 female municipal employees, the size of our mailing list has expanded to 2,000. This represents a major accomplishment of the Public Relations Committee, who hoped to improve internal communications among those interested in the Task Force.

We feel that most of the problems that occur when a small staff sends out a large mailing have been worked out, and are confident that future mailings will be more prompt and correct.

WANTED - ROOM & BOARD
IN A HOME ATMOSPHERE

Will you offer Room and Board for a recovered psychiatric patient? You will be paid

\$180 a month for 1 patient
\$360 a month for 2 patients
\$540 a month for 3 patients
\$790 a month for 4 patients

Support of professional staff will be provided. Call Queen Street Mental Health Centre.
D. Condlin 533-8501 ext.272

WOMEN'S BOOK STORE

Women's Book Store at 12 Kensington Avenue is desperate for office furniture of all types as they are sharing their space with two other women's groups.

If you have or know of anything, please call Adrienne Potts at 862-0414.

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June 15, 1974

The Telephone Tree is a tool which has been most effective in dealing with companies and their advertising agencies whose material is offensive to women. It has been used with great success on the Toronto Globe and Mail and on Benson and Hedges regarding their late but not lamented "Legs" billboards.

The Tree operates much like a chain-letter. Five women constitute Level One. When they see a particularly sexist piece of advertising, they call the company involved to complain, and then call five women each. The 25 women thus contacted constitute Level Two. They all call the company and then call five women each. The 125 women thus contacted constitute Level Three. Level Four contains over 600 women, Level Five over 3,000 women. To have the tree operate fully and at peak efficiency, we urgently require more women to participate.

One reason for our success to date is that companies have to respond to widespread and numerous complaints. Thus, they cannot cheerfully state that any woman audacious enough to call represents some kind of lunatic fringe. Many of us are more than tired of being characterized as lunatics who are in no way representative of that larger group of women who, advertisers claim, do not object to being degraded. The Tree communicates that we are not such a small group after all. Also, the Tree encourages many more women to call who may otherwise not have the courage to do so just because of the put-downs they have received in the past.

We need the help of as many women as possible. If you would like to participate, please call Helen La Fontaine, 789-5230 or Judy Merino, 487-3964 after 8 p.m. Or write to:

Helen LaFontaine
50 Caribou Road
Toronto, Ontario
M5N 2A5