

POLITICAL CAUCUS MOVES AHEAD

By Erin VanBronkhorst

The Washington State Women's Political Caucus has established itself officially, after struggling through more than four hours of rules and by-laws at a recent meeting in Seattle.

The all-day gathering at the Seattle Center was attended by 200 women from all parts of the state. There were several black women, a caucus of Chicanas, and a generous sprinkling of women over age 60. Young women and radical feminists were underrepresented, however.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish the caucus as an official organization. And, as caucus coordinator, Ernesta Barnes, suggested in opening the meeting, the women did not discuss specific issues or candidates.

A general platform modeled on the National Women's Political Caucus was adopted in the last 20 minutes of the meeting. The platform pledges to rally support for women candidates on all levels who promise to fight for women, reform party structures to give women equal representation, raise women's issues in every election, and draft and support legislation to meet women's needs.

The National Caucus' first priority for 1972 is securing equal representation for women in delegations to the national conventions of both major parties. Other 1972 goals include supporting adequate funding for child care for people of all income levels, supporting welfare programs which guarantee an annual income, and monitoring and publicizing legislators' voting records on women's issues. The delegates also voted to endorse both the Federal and the State Equal Rights Amendment.

The day's proceedings were keyed in a morning speech by Myrlie Evers, a black woman who is a member of the policy council of the National Women's Political Caucus. She urged women to organize in order to make the system respond to their needs.

"I feel this caucus will be able to be a force in this country, not only in this election year but in every year after, when women will no longer be taken lightly, when women will no longer be second

class citizens," she said.

"We have the power to have the people who are representing us, the system, if you will, respond to our needs, instead of us responding to them."

She urged the caucus to make its issues relevant to all segments of the population.

"This should not be just a caucus of one party; it has to be able to pull in people from all ethnic groups, racial groups, and ages, so as to represent all women," she said.

Evers said she has been challenged by those who believe a black woman's activities for women detract from the black movement.

"I have my priorities as a black woman, but I have one overwhelming priority and that is the survival of all of us, and it will take black and white women working together to accomplish that," she said.

"Let's not sleep on our rights, let's organize to go out, and continue to build," she concluded.

"It's the only way to let this country benefit from the knowledge and resources we have to offer."

Workshops included the topics of women and the law, education, and child care.

A brisk discussion took place at one workshop on the Equal Rights Amendment. Several women present op-

posed the Amendment, partly because they believe it would mean women would be drafted. (An analysis of the ERA's effect will be published in a later issue of PANDORA.)

A Bellevue Councilwoman, a Superior Court judge, a Bainbridge Island school board member, and several Socialist Workers' Party candidates were among the participants in a workshop on women candidates, and ideas flew thick and fast.

Nancy Rising, Bellevue city councilwoman, related her experiences as the only woman in the council. "It's like the closed Senate men's club, nobody took me seriously."

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Psychiatry: Cure or Crippler?

By Margaret Paul

"This lady must be a masochist. She married a man who thinks all she needs is a good kick in the ass." This statement was made by a psychiatrist as part of a discussion which followed a brief interview of a female patient just admitted to a mental institution on the East Coast.

As I look back on my experiences at this institution as a student in the summer of 1970, I view it as the most frustrating experience of my life. This article will be a brief account of some of the people and situations I encountered there

The hospital is an old brick building located well inside the city, and consists of three in-patient services, a day hospital, a children's service and an out-patient service (approximately 225-275 people in all). I worked in the day hospital.

At that time my knowledge of how women's liberation related to psychiatry was somewhat shaky as I had not read anything on that specific subject. However, I was willing to trust my own feelings where women were concerned.

The woman mentioned above was in her early 30's, married and the mother of two children. She was very well educated and articulate, and had been trying to live up to the expectations of her parents, husband and society of being a good wife and mother. She had not been able to achieve



this and had sought psychiatric help because she had been physically abusing her children.

The staff reacted to this by describing her not only as a masochist but as a person who had manipulated people into controlling her life.

During the discussion I just sat there feeling totally helpless. It was obvious to me that their perceptions were completely distorted -- but they were so confident!

I found that some of the psychiatrists seemed to get a lot of rewards from focusing on the sexual conflicts and problems of female patients. One woman had had a particularly bad sexual experience and often they referred to how she had gotten herself raped. She was strikingly beautiful and people related to her in terms of her ap-

pearance inside as well as outside the hospital. Her apparent seductiveness was mentioned frequently.

Another young woman came to the hospital because of an inability to structure her own life and make her own decisions about what she wanted to do. Her supposed inability to accept sexual feelings was constantly focused upon and issues of her independence were almost entirely neglected. I have often wondered what she was really like. I only saw her in a heavily drugged state, speech slurred, fidgeting, shuffling around with eyes half closed.

Very soon after starting work at the hospital I became aware of a "subtle" hierarchy of professionals, with psychiatrists having the most authority. That is, certain people

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"..We've been divided too long..."-Caucus

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Joan Thomas, an unsuccessful candidate for the City Council, said that a woman candidate's marital status was a campaign issue, whereas a man's is not.

"It's important to see what a woman candidate's stand is on the issues," said Anci Koppel of Seattle Women Act for Peace. Faith Enyeart, an attorney, indicated that she was interested in the practical problems of getting women elected, and that issues were not as important to her.

Pat Emerson, president of

the Seattle League of Women Voters, kept the peace by taking a middle ground.

"Nobody here would work for a woman candidate who doesn't in the main believe or subscribe to the goals of this organization," she said. She pointed out cases where women in office have taken no action for women's rights, and she said that was unacceptable.

Another woman began reading a list of what's needed to start one's own campaign, and seven or eight women started taking notes.

A brief visit to another workshop, this one on "Practical Politics," re-

vealed Kay Regan, city Women's Commission member, reading from a Republican party paper on women's rights. The paper said the party seated two suffragists at its 1870 convention. (Histories of the women's rights movement invariably point out the poor record of both parties on the issue.)

"I'm supposed to be talking for the Republicans, so I am," she said lightly.

"I know most of you are Democrat-oriented, but don't write us off."

The reassembled group later heard from Lee Kraft, an attorney, who explained how women pushed the state Equal Rights Amendment through the legislature.

"Women discovered the meaning of woman power; we discovered we could have true political clout," she said.

She urged the women to present a united front.

"We've been divided too long, sitting back in our ladylike way for men in chivalrous positions to hand us some rights," she said. "Power is not given, it is taken, and women are ready to take it now."

The afternoon business session took three hours, as women discussed by-laws and dues. Theresa Jimenez, a Chicana, asked the group to guarantee representation for all four ethnic groups. She and Lupe Anguiano, a National Policy Council

member, had said earlier that Chicanas would enter the Caucus later as a separately organized group.

"The time has long gone past to say our white sisters can represent the interests of Chicanas," she said. "If this group is going to succeed as a viable political group, minorities must be represented."

The group agreed to add four extra positions on the coordinating committee, to be elected by caucuses of the black, Chicana, American Indian, and Asian-American women.

Emerson, chairwoman for the day, ended the meeting by saying women had abdicated their struggle after the vote was won in 1920.

"Now we can rock the cradle with one foot, and rock the boat with both hands," she said.

Officers elected were Susan Van Ness, coordinator, Betty LeFebvre, Velma Lucero, Jackie Dewey, Jackie Ashurst, Jane Wharnton, and Lynn Lindsay.

The Chicana representative is Theresa Jimenez. Delegates from the other three groups will be chosen later.

Representatives elected from each Congressional district were Anita Jones, 1st; Pat Rooter, 2nd; Sandy Horn, 3rd; Lois Bowen, 4th; Sandra Nisbet, 6th; and Mattie Pruitt, 7th. A Spokane delegate will be chosen later.

Human Beings or Supermen? — Psychiatrists

Continued from page three

perceived themselves and were perceived as having superior knowledge and therefore more valid observations and methods of treatment.

This authority structure is already perceived either consciously or unconsciously by those outside the hospital and these perceptions are further reinforced for those who enter. Because of this orientation, a patient enters into an authoritarian relationship with the doctor which is detrimental to the patient's struggling with the problems he or she faces.

For a woman this is the equivalent of every other relationship she has had with a man. The male authority figure simply will not take her seriously as an adult human being. He is likely to view her primary responsibility as caring for husband and children or finding a husband and having children.

Her ambitions, feelings, desire for meaningful work or any kind of independence are suspect, secondary, not really necessary. I definitely believe these kinds of assumptions were operating where I worked.

After almost two years of thinking back on that summer, I have come to believe that one of the most insidious assumptions operating in psychiatry, and society in general, is that females are like children in almost all respects.

Phyllis Chesler in an article for the Radical Therapist (Aug-Sept, 1970) says, "For example, in a recent study by Broverman et al. on clinician's judge-

ments of what is 'normal adult behavior,' what is male behavior and what is female behavior, both male and female clinicians correlated masculine rather than feminine behavior with what they considered to be 'normal' and 'adult'.

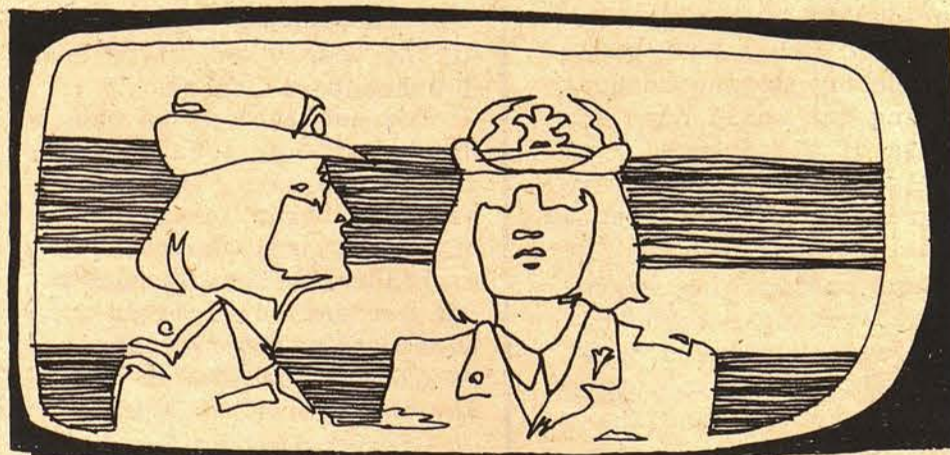
"Specifically, women were viewed as more emotional, more concerned about their appearance, less objective, less independent, less adventurous, more easily influenced, less aggressive, less competitive, more excitable in minor crises - than were men. And these traits were not considered 'normal' and 'adult'.

Obviously, the ethic of mental health is a masculine one in our society."

Mental health institutions are male institutions and what is worse are medical institutions. John Werry writes in the Radical Therapist, (Oct-Nov 1970) "The medical schools, like all other educational institutions in our society... are purveyors of current mythologies which act to conserve the nature of society as it is.

"In the medical school the mythology is that of the physician as arbiter of life and death or the Ben Casey myth. Every medical student is taught in all kinds of subtle ways that he is some kind of superman, intellectually morally and economically until it becomes an integral part of his unconscious."

What the woman seeking psychiatric help is coming up against in most cases is not only a male authority figure but a superman authority figure, who is essentially unable to help her.



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"Just as long as newspapers and magazines are controlled by men, every woman upon them must write articles which are reflections of men's ideas. As long as that continues, women's ideas and deepest convictions will never get before the public."

—Susan B. Anthony

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Managing Editor:

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Regular Calendar: Robin Macgregor

Art Calendar: Sandra Heft

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Letter From Robin

Welcome to the September issue. As we enter the fall season Pandora will begin its eighth year of production (we're even older than Ms.) In celebration of our continuing success with the number of new subscribers now surpassing those who allow their subscriptions to lapse, we invite you to a birthday party on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. Though we are unable to throw a bash in the likes of the *Seattle Sun*, we hope you'll come see us. More details in the October issue.

Through the summer we have misplaced some of our writers—and with such beautiful weather I can't really blame them—BUT a great deal is happening within the Washington women's movement, and we NEED WRITERS to cover it for us. If you are interested in contributing from your viewpoint—whether or not you have specific skills—WE NEED YOU. Come to the October 12 party at the Pandora office and get acquainted. If you can't come in person, write or give me a call at 283-1130. In the aftermath of Ellensburg, let's hear from other parts of the state—let Pandora unite us all for our mutual education.

For those of you who stopped to say hello at the August 27 Women's Rally and expressed an interest in the Pandora T-shirts, they are now available to our subscribers. An order form is on page 3 and the accompanying picture of your truly gives you a look at the design. From experience, they are comfortable, don't shrink and are machine washable and dryable.

I would also like to give my and the staff's thanks to Cassie Fleisher who has ventured forth to seek more lucrative and gainful employment. Cassie helped hold everything together as writer and copy editor and late night mistake finder. Getting this paper out the last five months would have been extremely difficult without her. Good luck to you, Cassie! Welcome to Geraldine Hanson who arrived in the nick of time to assume Cassie's job on this and future issues.

"Ellensburg-Victory or Defeat for Feminism?"

by Robin Macgregor

On August 23 a public forum was sponsored by the Feminist Coordinating Council, Mujer, and the Women Studies Program at the University of Washington.

The purpose of the forum was to discuss whether or not feminists had successfully combated the generally unexpected arrival of conservative women at the Washington State IWY Conference, and to explore possible actions in the continuing battle to achieve human equality.

Here are the speakers:

Jeanette Williams, Friends of Equal Rights, Seattle City Council: "We can't fight amongst ourselves. If we have a cause, we have to work arm in arm or we lose it all."

"Friends pulled it together because we pulled every woman orientation we could find to work as a team. Friends will succeed in the future because we can provide the political arm of the women's movement."

Clare Bright, Instructor, Philosophy of Feminism, University of Washington Women Studies Program: "The backlash is well organized, well funded, and very serious about sabotaging feminist concerns. We need new models; we need collective models for our organizations."

We have to put together some new structures which are as strong and effective as the ones we're fighting.

"While we're in the process we must not forget our goals. Our movement must recognize the concerns for all women, not just a few."

Yolanda Alaniz, Hispanic Caucus, Radical Women, United Workers Union Independent, Seattle Women's Commission: "The role of the right wing is to attack civil rights on all fronts. Big business and insurance companies are bank rolling the anti-ERA campaign. The Mormon church is big business."

"The chance for real political debate on survival issues for women came when the ethnic racial policy was moved up on the agenda. The role of the Chicanas and other minority women was to defend both of the policy statements which covered a wide spectrum of issues..."

"Radical Women went to Ellensburg to confront the church ladies on the issues and to seek feminist unity through the creation of an open and democratic united front based on mutual support of each other's demands."

Janie Perez, Hispanic Caucus, Mujer,

Radio Cadena: "Some of the issues that we can stand behind are bilingual education and bilingual service organizations."

"We're striving for 24 hour childcare; many women in the working class work factory night shifts."

"I feel the Ethnic Women of Color policy statement really made the climax of the Conference."

In October the Supreme Court is going to rule whether or not affirmative action is going to be moved back ten years. We're looking for the Supreme Court to overturn the Bakke decision.

"In Los Angeles there were 200 cases of Chicana women being forced to sign papers; it's a forced sterilization thing. That's cultural genocide on top of everything else."

Jean Marie Brough, National Organization of Women: "The potential growth of the women's movement in Washington is already being realized as an outgrowth of Ellensburg."

"We have, for the first time, a communications link between all women in this state who are actively involved with one issue or another; an opportunity for a forum where we can meet each other with understanding and positive communication."

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Letters to the Editor

Dear PANDORA staff:

We enjoy reading your magazine and having it available for our people who drop in at the center.

Since our income is very limited at this time we would like to request a free subscription.

Sincerely,
Barbara Cruickshank
Bellevue, WASH

Dear Friends,

I've just found out that I won't be in the Seattle area for as long as I had planned. Therefore, rather than pay \$6 for a year's subscription I'd like to pay \$2 for two issues. Thanks for your help...and for publishing a feminist newspaper.

In Sisterhood,
Kathleen Warren

Dear Sisters:

I was unable to attend the IWY Conference in Ellensburg. However, your outstanding coverage (and commentary) of the event gave me new insights in what really happened there. Thank you for a truly fine issue of Pandora.

Nancy Stanton
Tacoma

Dear Sisters:

Please find enclosed \$3 for a subscription. I can't afford \$6, and though I'm decidedly low-income, I think you need what support I can afford. I'm in the process of investigating the possibilities and opportunities in the Northwest for making a feminist living; your publication (in the Career Planning Office of the Evergreen State College) has already been a help, as well as an inspiration.

Thank you,
Nanette Westerman

To the Editor:

Let me tell you about the Israeli woman. She doesn't like war; take my word for it. She doesn't like politicians: they sell husbands to the Widomaker. And she doesn't like tanks, either, because they burn, they burn.

You know what she likes? Probably the same things you like: peace and quiet.

But when the Israeli woman finally has to send her men to fight, she does so with a vengeance. And after what happened in October 1973—the next time we're forced to send our men to fight, we're going to send them to win.

With a vengeance!

Nancy Elkin
Jerusalem, Israel

To the Editor:

What Really Happened at Ellensburg: Victory or Defeat for Feminism?

When I was invited to speak at the Feminist Coordinating Council public forum on August 23, I assumed that the representatives of the feminist organizations had been invited to present a whole range of feminist viewpoints about what happened at the Ellensburg IWY Conference and what the women's movement might do about it. Apparently this was not the planned agenda! Instead, there was an unwritten agenda, and it soon became apparent the agenda was to mock feminists who had viewpoints other than that of the FCC and Radical Women. The National Organization for Women, Friends of Equal Rights, the Black Caucus, the Socialist Workers Party, the Ellensburg Conference Planners, and almost anyone else who was active or in a leadership role in Ellensburg—all came in for a round of trashing.

For example, the accusation was made that NOW and Friends manipulated the ethnic women into presenting their policy statement before time ran out at the Sunday plenary session. The supposed intent of this move, according to the FCC and Radical Women, was to protect the ERA and, according to them, we goofed: They say we hadn't realized that the ethnic women's statement reaffirmed support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

That accusation is false! How demeaning to imply that ethnic women are open to anybody's manipulation. How divisive and insulting to assume that we would "sacrifice" our ethnic sisters to protect ourselves. How patronizing to imply that the ethnic women were forced to include the ERA in their policy statement. And finally, to assume that members of NOW or Friends have no concern, respect or empathy for ethnic women insults all.

It would help if Radical Women and the FCC would get their facts straight. We never attempted to deliberately stall proceedings except in the gay workshops where it was felt necessary by the participants in the workshops to do so. Certainly there were no orders from "on high" to do so. There was no "on high" much less "obedient troops." The reality of Ellensburg was cooperation!

Our victory in Ellensburg happened because women from diverse viewpoints worked together. We felt proud that we managed to unite in the face of opposition and not be divided over our many issues and concerns. We came up with action plans for economic security for rural women, social security change both for older women and the displaced homemaker. We worked on improving family life, upgrading the legal status of homemakers, achieving equal job opportunities, expanding women's influence in

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Dear Editors,

At the forum on August 23, "What Really Happened at Ellensburg," several references were made to the role of the Socialist Workers Party. As members of that organization, we would like to respond through Pandora.

First of all, a serious question is raised as to methods and tactics within the women's movement. The SWP was not invited to have a panelist, literature table or participate in any other formal way (floor discussion began at around 10 p.m., after the majority of the audience and panelists had left). Yet the politics of the party were misrepresented by some panelists and participants—notably members of Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. This method of name-calling and petty backstabbing sets a tone which is destructive to the movement as a whole. It should be avoided at all costs.

The SWP also has criticisms of the tactics used against the Blue and White Caucus at Ellensburg. The events at that Conference were frustrating and disorienting for most of us who attended looking for debate and discussion by supporters of women's rights. The women's movement, in our opinion, suffered a serious set back.

The question is, what should we do about it?

FSP and RW have issued a call for a united women's movement to fight the right wing assaults. Their program refers to a "multi-issue" movement, the need for a "working class analysis, program and perspective."

The problem with this type of approach is that it confuses the mass feminist movement with a political party. RW and FSP demand that women adopt a class conscious analysis as to the roots of their oppression and a socialist program to fight that oppression. This completely bypasses the majority of women in this country who do not consider themselves feminists, let alone class conscious socialists. But these women are willing to fight for issues directly related to their needs. When socialists ignore this fundamental fact, we turn our backs on the masses of women.

Further, the demands raised by the women's liberation movement are objectively in the interest of the working class. It is working women and women of the oppressed nationalities who are most affected by the denial of their rights. Women can win victories through mobilizing mass support around clearly stated democratic demands. A victory for women's rights can provide the impetus for further actions and struggle.

The SWP agrees that the women's movement should unify and fight for our rights. We must unify around those demands which can potentially involve

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Ti-Grace on Feminism/ Ellensburg

by Debra Dragovich

No definition of the ideology and tactics of radical feminism would be complete without citing its principal founder, Ti-Grace Atkinson.

Amazon Odyssey, a collection of Atkinson's essays and speeches between 1967-1972, was published in 1974. It could be called the original textbook of radical theory on women as an oppressed class.

Atkinson has been in the Northwest the past year teaching women studies at Fairhaven College in Bellingham and the University of Washington, where she will resume teaching this fall.

In a recent interview she gave her opinions on the Ellensburg conference, East and West Coast feminism, and the current challenges to the women's movement.

The mention of Ellensburg brought an immediate, almost emotional, reaction from Atkinson. Of the happenings at the Ellensburg conference this past July she said, "It taught me an awful lot about the West Coast."

To Atkinson it is apparent that the East and West Coasts are "coming from different places." East Coast feminists, she said, are more experienced in confrontation, or action, politics. The strength of West Coast feminists, it seems to Atkinson, is in women's cultural expression, especially art and music; which are two of Atkinson's main personal interests.

However, at Ellensburg, even though there may have been foreknowledge of a Mormon invasion, Washington women seemed ill-equipped to deal with the emergency. "The Mormons," she said, "should teach a class here. They were organized."

Atkinson saw the problem at Ellensburg not only as inexperience in action politics, but number one, as a lack of communication among feminists in this state. Women simply do not know each other. "Now, we may know each other in New York, and often hate each other, but if there's an emergency we can spot each other and caucus fast . . . The only people who knew each other in Ellensburg were the Mormons."

Atkinson questioned the tactics used against the Mormon force. She suggested that feminist strength should have been used in the lesbian and abortion caucuses rather than for the ERA. "That's what they (Mormons) want. They want the sexual issues. Because that's how they hang on to the women. Through the sex. If I had been doing strategy for that I would have let the ERA go."

Though she realizes that the issues of abortion and lesbianism make the more conservative women in the movement itch, Atkinson believes it is by confronting these controversial issues, and not avoiding reality, that ERA or any movement goals will be won.

But how are the different interest groups to be unified? "You get down and you bargain. But you face that your loving sister may sell you out on an issue that makes her nervous . . . and that until in her gut she realizes that all of these things are inseparable, then you've got to say, 'My first priority, if this is the case, is lesbianism . . . unless I have some guarantees of clarification that you are going to do what is primary to me.' But we've got to trade."

The desire for communication and plain honest talk among feminists kept coming up in Atkinson's conversation. She would like to set up a network of regional cultural exchanges to be routed through the women studies departments of universities nationwide. This, she hopes, will help to facilitate better communication and support.

Atkinson believes the main difficulty in communication between feminists on the two coasts is mainly stylistic—in language and political behavior—not in any deep ideological differences. It is difficult for feminists on either side of the country to get stories and facts straight, as if something is lost in the translation with different language and political behavior modes.

Overall, Atkinson is "fascinated" by this part of the country, and is looking forward to another year of learning about the West Coast. She feels a strong sense of individualism among West Coast feminists, which is contrary to the East Coast's style of working collectively.

Though Atkinson was one of the founders of cadre-oriented feminism (collectives) she feels that in New York it is often a "need" and feminists should not "clutch so fast to group together."

She often finds that collectives break down because women who rush to work collectively tend to lose themselves in the group; and seeing themselves as "micro-organisms" they fail to take equal responsibility in the group's work.

Any changes in Atkinson's thinking since **Amazon Odyssey** seems mainly dependent on the realization that those were different, more energized days for the movement. Today, she says, we are "retreating to non-action." It's a dangerous place. "We're going to get out of shape."

"It's a fight. We must recognize that," and we must "refine ideas and try to understand each other better," which is why she is excited about the idea of regional exchanges.

Since the early days of the movement, when Atkinson describes herself as "terribly driven to seize the time," emotional changes have preceded any changes in thought. "Life was much more simple in **Amazon Odyssey**."

Today, she says, she is "definitely reflective" about the movement. "Sometimes I feel like we're in the process of the long march. We have a tactical retreat, and we must regroup."

Next month: Ti-Grace Atkinson discusses her ideas on the importance of lesbianism in the women's movement.

VICTORY/DEFEAT cont. from page 2

"What happened at Ellensburg that was a defeat: the opposition is feeling its strength—we see it on abortion, busing and gay rights. But they are not yet coming forth with a positive platform for social change.

"What might come out of the Houston conference, hopefully, will be an incredibly good strong feminist platform. What happens to that platform remains to be seen. It could be filed on a shelf somewhere in Washington, D.C., or it could be a perfectly good strong propaganda weapon for feminism."

"As for Ellensburg, we do not yet know whether we had a victory or a defeat."

Mimi Keiffer, Lesbian Caucus, Director of the Gay Community Center: "The Lesbian Caucus did get two openly gay women on the delegate slate. We were not able to get the rest of the delegates to agree that they would be pro-gay rights, but we did manage to get a modified resolution passed that these people would not be anti-gay.

"The issue of lesbianism is rarely brought to the attention of conferences. People usually say they don't want to bring it up as an issue because it is divisive, not politically expedient, it creates a political backlash, or it will split the movement. I think that is really hogwash! The opposition sees us all as lesbians so we might as well be united.

"One good thing that came out of Ellensburg was that this was the first time some of these women (the Mormons) had gotten together with a large group of women and heard the issues. Whether they agreed with them or not, something may have gotten through.

"We need to find out what the bottom line for each woman is, never mind that her church doesn't support gay rights or that she fears being ostracized by her family and friends if she comes out for gay rights.

"For mutual education, we need to go to honest dialogue and from there to unified action with each other."

Dolores Sibonga, Asian & Pacific Women's Caucus, Deputy Director of State Human Rights Commission: "Many people think that Asian and Pacific women have no problems; but we're concerned about equal opportunity in employment, child-care, in all areas as are other women.

"We will continue the momentum that formed at Ellensburg to work with other women on the issues that concern us all."

Betty Barone, M.D., Seattle Women's Commission: "The Mormons are women, too. Their thinking is of 20 years ago. We have had the opportunity to change and they haven't. Three defectors in one conference is a big thing for us, and we should look upon it as a very beginning.

"We are living examples of the ERA in this state, and we have shown that the dignity of the person is respected and privacy is maintained. I think that is something that came across to these people.

"It is important to get women into elective offices. We need them in appointed positions and in the federal government to decide where money for women is going. I think only women can make these decisions."

Lila Aguilar, Hispanic Caucus, IWY Coordinating Committee for Ellensburg Conference: "If the Conference did nothing else than unite Washington women, we've started something. But how do we capitalize on that?

"We can respect each other as human beings and not create enemies just because we don't agree on certain things. To try to conform individuals to your particular values or morals is wrong.

"We need to educate ourselves of our own diversities, to work together on those issues that affect all of us, and learn to support each other on those needs that may not affect each and every one of us."

All speakers agreed on one general principal: All women must work together to attain their common goals. But few concrete and concise proposals for direct action were heard.

What was heard, from speakers and floor participants alike, was an inordinate amount of name-calling, and criticism on picyune details—the very behavior characteristics feminists are supposedly trying to eliminate.

Few of the speakers addressed themselves directly to the subject of the forum and as a consequence, little was accomplished.

Now is the time for definitive plans of action to be formulated before the "opposition" (whomever they may be) gain in strength and organization. Hopefully, superficiality can be set aside. We must be less concerned about each other's techniques, but applaud each other's accomplishments.

Fall Classes

Upcoming fall classes are now scheduled at the following institutions:

The Writing Shop, Seattle, professional writing school. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 27 with day and evening classes. Fee. For more information, call 365-2779.

Centralia College Women's Studies Program. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 20, evening classes. In Olympia and Centralia. Fee. More information, call 736-9391 (753-3433 toll free from Olympia).

Seattle-King County YWCA. Begins Monday, Sept. 19 with day and evening classes. Fee. For more information, call the Program Office, 447-4865.

World for Women in Edmonds. Ongoing with day and evening classes. Fee. For more information, call 774-9843.

ARC Seminars (Awareness, Responsibility and Communication). Ongoing seminars and events beginning Friday, Sept. 9, day and evenings. Fee. Call 783-6695 for information.

The Individual Development Center, Seattle. Begins Thursday, Sept. 15 with evening or weekend sessions. Fee. Call

329-0600 for information.

Seattle Movement Therapy Center. Evening classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 13. Fee. Call 367-0500 for information.

Women's Institute of the Northwest, Seattle. Begins October 1 with evening or weekend sessions. Fee. Call 522-7039 for information.

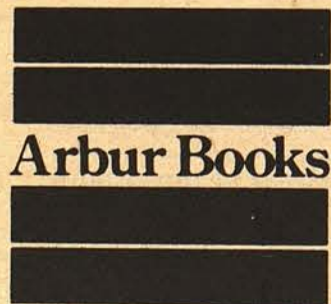
Toastmistress Club of the Pacific Northwest Region. "Leadership Improvement" begins Thursday, Sept. 15, evening sessions. Free. Call 722-2298 for information.

The Black Experience, telecourse for University credit. Enrollment begins Thursday, Sept. 15 with afternoon or Saturday television viewings. Fee. Call Western Washington State College, in Bellingham, 532-3320; University of Washington, 543-2350 or Seattle Pacific College, 281-2124 for information.

The Factory of Visual Art, Seattle. Classes begin Monday, Sept. 26 with day and evening classes. Fee. Call 632-8177 for information.

Second Growth Holistic Health Institute, Seattle, presenting "Alternatives to the Nuclear Family, Myth and Reality." Two-day symposium Oct. 8 and 9. Fee. Call 226-8420 for information.

Shoreline Community College, Seattle. "Upward Mobility of Women: How, When and Where?" Begins Saturday, Oct. 1 for five weeks. Credit available. Call 546-4596 or 546-4540 for information.



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Preparing for Houston

by Janet Wilson

With the International Women's Year (IWY) Conference in Houston only two weeks away, Washington delegates are hastily preparing for what may be the most important forum on women's issues for years to come.

The 24 delegates met for the last time this weekend to discuss key issues, choose liaisons to other state delegations and to learn about parliamentary procedure.

Many delegates who represent special interest caucuses raised issues they want addressed at Houston. Although most delegates agreed on the issues raised, Kay Regan (Seattle), the sole conservative member, voiced strong opposition.

Regan opposes many of the prominent issues that will be addressed at Houston such as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and lesbian rights. Conservative women, she said, seek community or state remedies to women's problems and not federal legislation.

But Thelma Jackson (Olympia), spokesperson for the Black Women's Caucus and Lilly Aguilar (Yakima), of the Hispanic Caucus protested Regan's "band-aid" remedies. They explained that relief for minorities and women has historically come from increased federal intervention, not local government.

Several delegates expressed a desire to seek common ground among conservative and liberal people and not dwell on the differences. However, it is predicted that conflicts between the two political bases will probably be aired at Houston.

Jackson said a national Black Women's Hook-up has been formed so black women will be united on concerns like increased child care and step ups in affirmative action. A resolution to overturn the Bakke decision, which upholds the concept of reverse discrimination in affirmative action, will be proposed by the Black Hook-up.

Those same issues raised by the Black Caucus are identified as paramount by the Hispanic and Asian-Pacific Women's Caucuses. Both caucuses will also focus on a resolution to implement bilingual and bicultural emphasis in education and social services like child care, April West (Ollala), of the Asian Caucus said.

Lesbian issues were addressed by Kathy Boyle (Seattle), co-director of the Lesbian Resource Center at the University YWCA. She said the Lesbian Caucus is concerned

about lesbians' inaccurate media portrayal. The caucus also wants wide ranging laws prohibiting discrimination against gay people in education and employment.

Elsie Schrader spoke to concerns of union women, with the ERA and adequate child care being primary. Maternity benefits and a national health care plan are also targets of ERA and adequate child care being primary. She said the concept of equal pay for "equal worth" as developed in the Willis Comparable Worth study should be addressed.

The Willis study, which points out discrepancies between men's and women's pay for the same "physical or mental stress", will be presented in a conference workshop by Helen Remick, director of the Office of Affirmative Action for Women at the University of Washington.

Marian Ballantine (Spokane), representing older women, asked that the delegates bring attention to the deplorable conditions under which all people, but particularly women, live in nursing homes.

Women are hit harder by inadequate nursing home care than men because women outlive them. Usually, Ballantine said, older women are poorer than their counterparts because they receive minimum social security benefits since they were on the bottom of the economic ladder as workers.

Jacqueline Delahunt (Tumwater) explained the perspective of Native American women. She said many of the concerns raised by feminists seem "like only so much frosting on the cake." Indian women are fighting for their very survival, not luxuries, she said.

Their concerns center on maintaining treaty rights and implementing good programs in education and health, she remarked. Delahunt said Indian women have not felt a part of the women's movement because they consider themselves part of a sovereign nation.

Once in Houston, the delegates plan to caucus among themselves and with other states to assure good communication and unification.

IWY resolutions will be sent to Congress as recommendations on how to improve the status of women.

In addition to the 24 elected delegates from the state of Washington, five additional women have been chosen by the National IWY Commission as delegates at large. They are: Nancy Hawkins of Lynnwood, Anne Hecker from Seattle, Armita Harness of Richland, Jill Ruckelhaus of Bellevue and Paula Gibson from Spokane.



IWY Statistics

The voices and faces of American women delegates to the National Women's Conference will reflect the diversity of this country's female population. Self-descriptions of the delegates indicate a myriad of women's roles and occupations. There are single and married women, mothers, daughters, and grandmothers. Delegates include a number of nuns, secretaries, teachers, nurses, lawyers, ministers, factory workers, handicapped women, technicians, and women from urban, rural, farm and ranch areas of this country.

The Houston conference, to be held November 18-21, at the Albert Thomas Convention Center, will consist of 1,442 elected delegates as well as at-large delegates, special guests and thousands of observers.

Available data on the delegates selected at this summer's state women's meetings indicate they are concentrated in the 26-55 age-range and in middle-income brackets.

Larger states with delegations of fifty or more, such as New York, Pennsylvania, California and Texas, made special affirmative efforts to reach out and elect delegates who represent low-income women, members of diverse racial, ethnic and religious groups, and women of all ages. As a result, a comparatively high percentage of minority and ethnic women will be delegates at the conference.

Though complete information is not available on every delegate, present data show (from information on 1349 delegates) 795 or 64.5% are Caucasian; 214 or 17.4% are Black; 102 or 8.3% are Hispanic; 33 or 2.7% are Asian American; 42 or 3.4% are American Indian; 7 are Hawaiian and 4 are Alaskan Native. (Thirty-five listed themselves as "all other"; while 117 did not report the information.)

Historically, there has never been a conference of this nature with this diversity of representation. It is the first women's conference to be held since the Women's Rights Convention met in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. But unlike the 1848 convention, this one is being held by Congressional mandate and is federally funded. It was preceded by State Women's Meetings which drew more than 130,000 women—many of whom had never attended any kind of women's meeting.

At the National Women's Conference, the delegates will vote on recommendations in a National Plan of Action to be presented to the President and Congress for the elimination of barriers that still prevent women's equal participation in all aspects of American life.

Throughout the meetings leading to the National Women's Conference, the IWY

Statistics cont. page 6

Counter-Convention

by Colleen Patrick

Right-wing women and men will be holding at least one counter-convention in Houston, Saturday, November 19, while nearby the National International Women's Year will be conducting their formal conference, November 18-21.

According to the *American*, "official organ of the American Party," the rally is expected to draw thousands of people from throughout the United States who call themselves "pro-family." They have drawn up their own resolutions to be voted on at the gatherings and are now circulating them throughout the country to collect signatures from sympathizers. The resolutions will be sent to Houston, where following the rally they will be sent on a special plane to Washington, D.C. for presentation to President Carter.

In addition to the resolutions, the right-wing groups are circulating a "Blue Sheet" which purports to outline the "problems" with the IWY conference and those who are working for the goals of women's liberation. For a copy of both the resolutions and the Blue Sheet, write the Association of the W's (Women who want to be Women), PO Box 2324, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.

The purpose of these resolutions is presumably to counteract any progressive measures pertaining to women's issues passed by the National IWY convention, since the right-wing resolutions will possibly gain the attention of President Carter and Congress before the results of the formal conference are decided.

The counter-convention is designed to attract media attention away from the IWY conference. If, in fact, there are more right-wingers than pro-ERA representatives in Houston, the right-wing groups will claim that their anti-ERA and anti-humanist resolutions are the "real" desires of American women.



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