

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

Continued from page three

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 sever 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 Wharton, 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'.

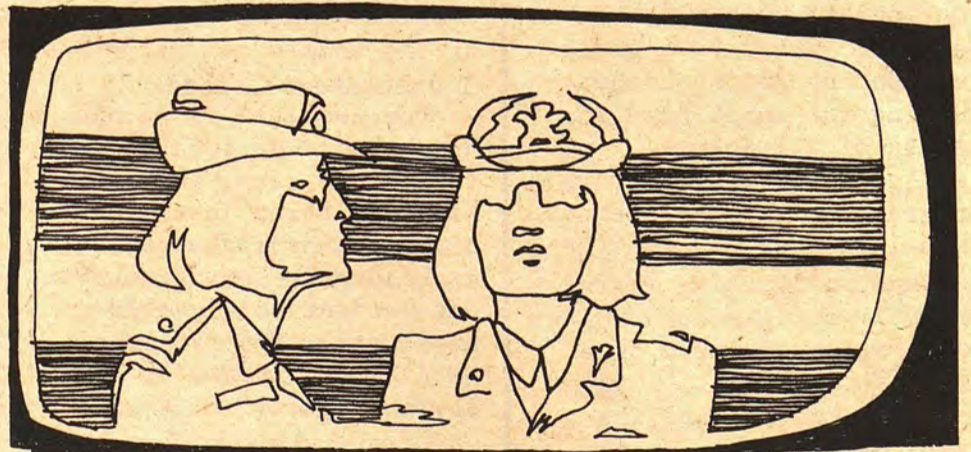
"Specifically, women were viewed as more emotional, more concerned about their appearance, less objective, less independent, less adventurous, more easily influenced, less aggressive, less competitive, more excitable in minor crises - than were men. And these traits were not considered 'normal' and 'adult'.

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.



**ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS !!**  
SEA-VAC Women's Affairs Unit is ready to help you! Know—and receive—veteran benefits you have earned.

★ Employment      ★ Education  
★ Health      ★ Legal Services  
We can help. Call 583-6595

Seattle Veterans Action Center  
Women's Affairs Unit  
1300 Madison, Seattle

(PAID ADVERTISEMENT)