

staff box

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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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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 Widowermaker. 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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