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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER, 1980

Vol. IV No. 5

FLIGHT OR FEET: Germaine Greer and Potential for Political Action

Response of C-U women to Germaine Greer's lecture "The Fiction of Reproductive Rights" seems to range from tearful admiration to defensive disdain. Such intense reaction is not surprising. Her message concerns what is surely one of the most emotional issues of the women's movement -- the role of contraceptives in our vision of sexual freedom. I tend to lean toward the admiring end of the spectrum, but it's an admiration laced with reservation.

If any aspect of Greer's effect on her audience can be seen as primary, it is her ability to jolt us from our normal pattern of lazy ethnocentricity. Not only are we shamefully slow to expand our sight beyond a simple white (i.e. racist) perspective, we rarely embrace the struggles of third world women. We must not forget that, whenever it's profitable, the same powers attempting to squash us on the homefront portray Western women as the "model of liberation" for underdeveloped nations. This is one of the reasons Germaine Greer urges us to question what we call our "reproductive rights".

In what Greer sees as our rush to make ourselves accessible to "intromission at all times" we seem to forget to think about the terrifying effects of contraceptives on women's health. Granted, she seems to overlook the role of cultural forces (such as media manipulation) in what has become the curious translation of feminism into the insatiable desire for insignificant sex and willing acceptance of objectification. (I speak of media such as the perfume commercial where the mannequin-like model with no pores sings "I bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan but still I'm a doll for the sake of my man." Or something like that.) Still, she has a point. In our demand for access to contraceptives, for whatever reason, many of us seem to overlook some basic questions. So what's in these pills? So how does this IUD work? Does this clumsy funnysmelling diaphragm really complement my sexual autonomy? And we ignore, or are unaware, that third world women are inserted with IUD's without removal cords and unwittingly pumped full of unsafe contraceptive chemicals such as De Provera, all in the name of progress.

"We demand the right to control our reproductive destiny, then we don't care how it works" she said. Well, Germaine Greer does care how it works and the picture she paints us is a vivid one. Blindly we swallow pills that alter our moods and dry out our vaginal areas. We have IUD's inserted, then imagine they are some sort of magic amulet, ignoring the fact that we have created a "toxic sink" causing excessive blood loss, sometimes to the point of anemia (a state that doubtless leads to severe health problems for third world women living on a less than subsistence diet.) We plug ourselves with diaphragms and spermicidal creams that smell bad, taste worse and threaten to slip out of place if we make any unconventional moves. And rarely, if ever, do we ask ourselves "Is this intercourse really worth it?" Now, if it's a question of fun, any lesbian can tell you that alternatives to intercourse are endless. But even if we decide it's worth the risk to our personal health, how often do we think about the risks to women, in the very plural sense of the word? Greer speaks of the responsibilities that come with rights -- responsibility to ourselves and responsibility to womankind. "You must show Third World women that yours is not the ideal destiny and that you will not have others tortured in your name."

Greer convinces us that the offerings of the contraceptive industry are unacceptable, but gives little clue as to what she thinks we should do about it. Here lies my criticism. To be sure it's a difficult question, but by neglecting to offer suggestions, the energy she tapped will doubtless dribble away.

So what do we do? Picket Planned Parenthood? Stop pushing for teenage access to contraceptives? Of course not. Current statistics show that near to 50% of black children today are born to teenage women. We cannot for a moment ignore the socio-economic implications of such facts. Her quip suggesting we approach the problem by endeavoring to "make condoms cool" (by portraying no less, "The Fonz" with rubbers hanging from his pockets)

is offensive in its non-humor. Not only are condoms an unreliable method of birth control, their use is dependent on male responsibility. Male Responsibility. It's an idea she seems smitten with, and it's quite a lovely fantasy, but let us not overlook a little detail called Male Power. That is, after all, the bottom line.

As we continue to demand drastic economic and attitudinal change we can't forget that the way to deal with present reality is to find tactics for survival. For black teenagers, for welfare mothers no longer eligible for medicaid abortion, for all low-status women in our society survival is the issue. Undergrounded dreams won't do a thing for the condition of their lives. The ability of individuals to touch the minds of many is admirable, but change needs more than respect for wit, scholarship and vision. My hope is that those of us who were moved will not let it rest at intellectual stimulation or even personal change. My hope is that we will find a way to translate her vision into action.

--Barrie Borich

The Women's Community Newsletter welcomes short essays on subjects relating to feminism and the fight for women's rights.

WOMEN'S CAREER EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, November 12 and Thursday, November 14 the Women's Career Employment Conference will be held in the Illini Union. This Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for women students to learn about career possibilities in various employment areas. The purpose of this conference is to educate women, regardless of class standing, in job qualifications before their search for jobs during their senior year actually begins.

This year the program will be for two days; the Career Conference Wednesday, all day and night, and the Formal Interviewing on Thursday. The Formal Interviewing can be arranged during the Career Conference on Wednesday (day and night). All events in Illini Rooms A, B, and C in the Illini Union.

Senior women and graduate students should submit a Resume/Registration Sheet. The Sheets are available from Room 2, Student Services Building. It will be to your advantage to register for the Conference, as each employer will receive a copy of the Resume Book we are preparing.

Sponsored by: Career Development and Placement Center Panhellenic Council, American Marketing Association, Humanities Advisory Board, Retailing, Textiles and Apparel Club, MBA Graduate Association, Society of Women Engineers, and Women in Communications.

EVENINGS WITH SYDNEY BROWN AND LEOTA DOUGLAS

The University YWCA and McKinley Foundation will co-sponsor "An Evening with Sydney Brown" on Friday, November 14 at 8:30 p.m. and "An Evening with Leota Douglas" on Saturday, November 15 at 8:30 at THE CORNER, McKinley's Coffeehouse.

Sydney Brown is the Co-Director of Alternative Work Project in Palo Alto, California and will be speaking at noon November 14 at the YMCA & YWCA Friday Forum on "The Politics of Work: Empowerment in the Work Place." Sydney was born in Kuling, China and returned for a visit last spring. We hope to learn more about that experience over coffee and ice cream.

Leota Douglas was the featured speaker at the Womenjoined Conference, March, 1980. While she is back in C-U for a visit, there will be an opportunity for further conversations with her about women, social change, caring, about being "Douglas" instead of "Didier," etc. at THE CORNER, Fifth and Daniel.

For more information call Betty Gabe-hart, 344-0721.

CONSUMER HEALTH CARE HOTLINE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer advocates are needed to help run a Consumer Health Care Hotline. Help consumers voice their complaints, formulate action, and gain information on problems they may have with the local health care system. Training sessions will be held November 8th & 15th. For more information call: Champaign County Health Care Consumers, 813 N. Lincoln, U. 384-4070, between 8:30-5:00 weekdays.

NON-TRADITIONAL CAREERS FOR WOMEN

"Non-Traditional Careers for Women" is a three-week workshop offered by Parkland College Women's Program. The workshop will survey non-traditional job opportunities, assess individual capabilities and interest. Sessions begin Monday, November 17 from 1-4 p.m. or Tuesday, November 18 from 6:30-9:30. Fee: \$10. For more information call Lee Nettnin, Women's Program coordinator, 351-2429.

PARKLAND CAREER CENTER

Thinking about changing your occupation? Returning to work? Leaving the Champaign area and looking for information on other jobs or educational opportunities? The Parkland Career Center has occupational information, including a table of information for women. Call 351-2259.

JOAN CLARK TO SPEAK

Joan Clark, Director of the Ecumenical Women's Center, Chicago, will be in C-U on Friday, Nov. 7. She will speak in the afternoon at 3 p.m. on "Homophobia and Its Effects on Interpersonal Relationships in Institutions". In the evening she will give a talk "The Role of Lesbians and Other Women in the Institutional Church." Both events will take place in the West Lounge of the Wesley Foundation. Child-care will be provided for the evening presentation. These events are sponsored as part of the forum series offered by the Lavender Prairie Collective and the Ministry with Women Program of the Wesley Foundation. Co-sponsors include: The University YWCA and Office of Women's Resources and Services. For further information contact Lee Coppernoll, 344-1120.

GREATER CHAMPAIGN NOW

On Tuesday, November 18, the NOW program meeting will address the issue of Lesbian Rights. The program will be followed by a business meeting. Place: McKinley Foundation, 809 S. Fifth, Champaign. Time: 7:30 p.m. For further information call Ellen Kordik, 384-6866.

ABORTION RIGHTS COALITION

"Why Do Unplanned Pregnancies Occur" is the title of the Abortion Rights Coalition program to be held on Thursday, November 6, 7:30 p.m. The program will be followed by a business meeting. Place: Room 263, Illini Union. Contact: Esther Patt, 344-8394.

COUPLE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Family Service of Champaign County, in cooperation with the U of I Office of Family Housing Programs, is organizing a group workshop called "Couple Communication." It's for people who are perking along, but with a few wires crossed in their communication skills. There will be four 3-hour evening sessions, from 7-10, beginning Tuesday, November 11 and ending Tuesday, December 2nd. The object is enrichment of conversation with a healthy helping of fun. Anyone and a partner is welcome. Meeting place will be either Orchard Downs Community Center or Student/Staff Lounge, depending on the location of most applicants. Fee is \$12.00 for the twelve hours. For more information call Irene Metzger at Family Service, 384-1911.

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

The Champaign County Health Care Consumers is beginning a task force on Women's Health issues. Bringing a midwife into C-U will be the initial issue the group will address. Other concerns depend on needs identified by the women involved. If you are concerned with the state of women's health, please share your ideas. The issues we organize around will depend on the input received. The perspective of low-income and minority women is especially needed. For information on meeting times, or to identify issues you'd like to see addressed, call Barrie Borich at the CCHCC Office, 384-4070.

Nov. 5 is the date for the Task Force Meeting. Call CCHCC for location and information.

U OF I SPRING '81 WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

Before you advance enroll look at the Women's Studies course listings offered. Over thirty courses in many different disciplines will be offered. Remember that these courses can meet general education requirements as well as fulfill a cognate in Women's Studies. If you would like a description of the course listings call 333-2990 or send a note through campus mail. Women's Studies, 411 Greg Hall, Urbana. WIRE 344-7323 also has a listing,

WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION

NOVEMBER 16 & 17, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Women from throughout the northeast have joined together to sponsor two days of opposition to the military violence of the Pentagon and the sexual and economic violence in the every day lives of all women. "We women are gathering because life on the precipice is intolerable," explains the organizers.

On Sunday, November 16, women will gather in Washington, D.C. to meet and share political concerns, resources, and experiences. A candle light vigil will bring the gathering to the women of Washington, including those in institutions who cannot join us.

The first all-women protest at the Pentagon in 12 years has been set for Monday, November 17. For more information contact Women's Pentagon Action, 29 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10010 (212)242-3270

NOVEMBER 21 COFFEEHOUSE: WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MEETING

As part of our Coffeehouse series, we have sponsored women's community discussions at least once a year for the past several years. These have given us an opportunity to share our perceptions both of our women's community and of our individual relationships to the larger group. This year's Community Discussion will begin, as the first one did, with about an hour of discussion in small groups. Issues and insights identified within the small groups as being important will then be shared with the group as a whole. Refreshments and child care provided. The Coffeehouse is co-sponsored by the Lavender Prairie Collective and the Ministry with Women program as a part of its ministry of dialogue.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Professor Evelyn Accad of the French Department will be speaking on "Feminist Consciousness Among Arab Women Novelists" on November 13th in the Parr Lounge, University YWCA, at 12:00 noon. This event is jointly sponsored by the University YWCA and Women's Studies. All are invited to attend.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Champaign County League of Women Voters will have a general meeting on Fiscal Policy in the State of Illinois. Time: Nov. 20 at 9 a.m. Place: Champaign Public Library, 505 S. Randolph, C. Babysitting: Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect, Ch. at \$1 per child.

BOOK REVIEW

"Take Back the Night, Women on Pornography", edited by Laura Lederer, William Morrow, and Company, Inc., New York, 1980.

Take Back the Night is a readable, thought-provoking collection of articles, interviews, research, and rousing calls to action by women who are leaders in the struggle to stop violence against women.

Pornography is a 4 billion dollar industry in the United States, and its influence has been growing. Its themes, images, and vocabulary have invaded art, advertising, and the media. Pornography is not about sex any longer, if it ever was. It is about violence and subjugation. Take Back the Night is a must for women who are concerned with pornography as an issue that concerns us all.

POETRY FOR PEACE

A REMINDER that the McKinley Foundation "Poetry for Peace" competition deadline is NOVEMBER 14. World peace is an issue, an issue that concerns all of us. EXPRESS YOURSELF! Then come join us on December 6 when entrants will be invited to The Corner, McKinley Foundation's Coffeehouse, to read, discuss, share. Entry blanks are available at McKinley, 5th & Daniel, the University YWCA, and at both the Champaign and Urbana main libraries. For more information, contact Connie Corzilius, 344-0721 or 328-1893 after 5 p.m.

DEMONSTRATE WOMANPOWER "AFTER 4 ON THE 4th"

In this year that marks the sixtieth anniversary of women's suffrage, it is vital that women's political concerns be kept in the forefront of public debate. Much work has been done in this direction; women's issues were prominent in the coverage of the national conventions. To keep up this momentum through election day, Illinois N.O.W. has endorsed a proposal, originated by B'nai Brith and adopted by many women's organizations, that women demonstrate their numbers and importance by showing up at the polls after four o'clock.

This is an action that can unite women of all political opinions. Its point is not to promote any single issue or candidate, but simply to demonstrate that women are a political force that must be reckoned with. A flood of women turning up to vote at the same time will draw media attention and insure that women's concerns are highlighted.

Encourage all the women you know to celebrate sixty years of suffrage by an effective display of power. Vote "after 4 on the 4th" whoever you vote for.

Liz Huck, N.O.W.

Newsletter, Oct. 1980

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Women's Community Newsletter is now nearing a subscription total of 900. We are delighted that we are reaching such a large number of people in the C-U area, and such far away places as New Haven, Ct. We hope to offer more feature articles in the future and welcome any suggestions for topics. At this point the WCN editorial staff consists of Lee Coppernoll, Director of Ministry With Women; Suzanne Worner, WIRE's BSW intern; and Barrie Borich, writer.

In order to continue bringing you the monthly Women's Community Newsletter we need your financial support to help pay for paper, printing costs and postage. All donations are gratefully welcomed. We also need people who are willing to volunteer 2-3 hours per month to collate the final copies and prepare them for mailing. If you are interested, please call Suzanne Worner, 344-7323 or Lee Coppernoll, 344-1120.

Again, we need your assistance through donations of money and effort. Thanks!

LESBIAN RIGHTS: THE FOCUS OF CONTINUED ATTACK

On May 15, the U.S. Navy began investigating the crew of the Norton Sound, one of seven ships in the "Women at Sea" program started in November 1978. In what appears to be an attempt to eliminate women from this program, Naval investigators were seeking to discharge women for "exhibiting homosexual tendencies."

Sixty one of the 375 person crew on the Norton Sound are female. Although several of the male members are openly gay, only women were investigated. Crew members were asked to indicate which of the female crew they thought might be lesbians. Twenty-four women were then selected for harassment (including all eight female crew who were black). After "psychological" exams for "mental illness" were conducted, some women were cleared and eight were left to stand charges. The Navy has dropped its charges against four of the women, two were exonerated, and Alicia Harris and Wendi Williams were found "guilty". Harris and Williams will appeal.

Since the first person contacted by the eight accused women was California NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force Coordinator, NOW was immediately activated. The women were referred to ACLU for legal assistance and national NOW involvement was organized, including demonstrations and a National NOW statement of support. The Norton Sound case is a sad reminder that despite small gains, lesbians, all women, and blacks still face constant harassment in our attempts toward full participation in all aspects of American life.

from NOW Newsletter
October, 1980

The Women's Community Newsletter is published monthly by W.I.R.E. and Ministry with Women, programs of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois. Volunteers interested in working on the Newsletter are needed, and if interested please contact Lee Coppernoll, 344-1120, or WIRE, 344-7323. Comments, suggestions and contributions should be addressed to W.I.R.E., 1203 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801.

PENNY SEVERNS RUNS FOR CONGRESS

Penny Severns, Democratic candidate for the 21st Congressional District is running because she feels the people in this district deserve better representation. Being a woman, she'll be trying to maintain and hopefully expand the four percent representation women now have in the House. As upsetting as that statistic is, voters understandably need to know her positions on the issues as well before voting for her on November 4th.

Although Severns has never held an elective office, she was the youngest delegate to the National Nominating Convention, served as a Democratic National Committee Member, was the Director of the Inheritance Tax Division for Illinois, and was Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Agency for International Development at the State Department.

Back to her thoughts on the issues: Severns would like to help the economy by expanding exports and increasing productivity with agriculture in specific, she would like an end to the grain embargo, provide long term, low interest loans to encourage young farmers to enter agriculture. Severns opposes registration and the draft at this time. She opposes the \$102 billion M-X missile which Madigan, her opponent voted for. With military recruiting, wage and benefit incentives must be provided to attract and retain quality personnel. One of her strongest energy plans is a national commitment to conservation, resulting in thirty to forty percent less energy use. Plus, alternative sources must be explored while protecting the environment. Madigan voted to end most restrictions on auto emission standards to postpone the enactment of the Clean Air Act. On Women's Rights, Severns is in full support of the ERA and the extension. Madigan opposes the extension. Being pro-choice, she opposes the Hyde Amendment which would outlaw all abortions.

You can see how important it is that you vote for Penny Severns on November 4. Your vote could make the difference.

--Nancy Laurence

Volunteer for Severn's Campaign



IF WE COULD JUST FIND OUT WHOSE FAITH MOVED THE MOUNTAIN AND PUT HER/HIM TO WORK ON MOVING LEGISLATORS TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT...



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 3, Monday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. WPCD-FM (88.7) Monday Morning with Women presents "Importance of Voting".
- 4, Tuesday 4 p.m. Demonstrate Woman Power Vote "after 4 on the 4th".
- 7 p.m. Womyn Confronting Pornographic Media meets in the YWCA Lounge, 1001 S. Wright.
- 7:30 p.m. C-U Coalition Against Apartheid meets in Room 284 of the Illini Union.
- 5, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. N.O.W. Task Force meeting. McKinley Foundation
- 8 p.m. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meets at the Friends Meeting House, 714 W. Green, U.
- 6, Thursday 7:30 p.m. "Why Do Unplanned Pregnancies Occur", presented by Abortion Rights Coalition. It will be followed by a business meeting. Room 263 Illini Union.
- 7:30 p.m. "Children's Friendships" is the topic presented by Women at Home. Parkland College.
- 7, Friday 3 p.m. "Homophobia and its Effects on Interpersonal Relationships in Institutions", speaker Joan Clark, Director of the Ecumenical Women's Center, Chicago. West Lounge, Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green, Urbana. For more information call Lee Coppernoll, 344-1120. Co-sponsored by Lavender Prairie Collective and Ministry with Women.
- 7 p.m. "The Role of Lesbians and Other Women in the Institutional Church", speaker Joan Clark. West Lounge, Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green, Urbana. Co-sponsored by Lavender Prairie Collective and Ministry with Women.
- 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Food Co-op operates at the Illinois Disciples Foundation. Corner of Wright and Springfield.
- 8, Saturday Training Session for volunteer advocates on the Consumer Health Care Hotline. Call Champaign County Health Consumers, 384-4070.
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Food Co-op operates at the Illinois Disciples Foundation. Corner of Wright and Springfield.
- 10, Monday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. WPCD-FM (88.7) Monday Morning with Women presents "Domestic Violence".
- 11, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. C-U Coalition Against Apartheid meets in Room 284 of the Illini Union.
- 12, Wednesday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. "Women's Career Employment Conference" sponsored by the Career Development and Placement Center. Informal, Informational Career Conference, Rooms A, B, and C, Illini Union.
- 7 p.m. "Domestic Violence" by Laura Wetzel from A Woman's Place. Room X117 at Parkland College.

- 13, Thursday 9 a.m. "Women's Career Employment Conference" sponsored by the Career Development and Placement Center. Formal Interviews, arranged during previous day. Rooms A, B, and C in the Illini Union.
- 12 noon Women's Forum "Feminist Consciousness Among Arab Women Novelists" presented by Professor Evelyne Accad of the French Department. Parr Lounge, University YWCA, 1001 S. Wright, C.
- 3:30 p.m. Conversation with Sydney Brown on changes in work and the workplace. YWCA Lounge, 1001 S. Wright, C.
- 14, Friday The "Poetry for Peace" competition deadline is today. McKinley Church and Foundation.
- 8:30 p.m. "An Evening with Sydney Brown", at The Corner, McKinley's Coffeehouse, 5th & Daniels, Champaign.
- 5:15 p.m. International Women's Dialogue Dinner, McKinley Foundation. All are welcome. 5th & Daniels, Champaign.
- 15, Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Community Bazaar at Market Place Mall, Champaign.
- 8:30 p.m. "An Evening with Leota Douglas" at The Corner, McKinley's Coffeehouse, 5th & Daniels, Champaign.
- 16, Sunday The Women's Pentagon Action candlelight vigil and gathering in Washington, D.C.
- 17, Monday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. WPCD-FM (88.7) Monday Morning with Women presents "Employment Trends".
- Demonstration at the Pentagon Sponsored by Women's Pentagon Action. Washington, D.C.. For more information call (212)242-3270.
- 1-4 p.m. Non-Traditional Careers for Women. This is a three-week workshop. Parkland College.
- 18, Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Non-Traditional Careers for Women, a three-week workshop. Parkland College.
- 7 p.m. H.O.M.E. (Home Oriented Maternity Experience) meeting at 605 W. Columbia, Champaign.
- 7:30 p.m. National Organization of Women (N.O.W.) "Lesbian Rights" speaker is Barb Schoolenberg. Followed by program meeting. McKinley Foundation.
- 19, Wednesday 8:00 p.m. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meet at the Friends Meeting House, 714 W. Green, Urbana.
- 20, Thursday 9 a.m. League of Women Voters "Fiscal Policy in the State of Illinois" Place: Champaign Public Library, 505 S. Randolph, C. Babysitting: Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect, Champaign.
- 21, Friday 8 p.m. Annual Women's Community Meeting/Coffeehouse, West Lounge, Wesley Foundation. Co-sponsored by Lavender Prairie Collective and Ministry with Women.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4th!

DON'T LET SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S WORK BE IN VAIN!

And when you do vote . . .

Here are some thoughts to share about some of the races. The WIRE mailing list could make the difference on some votes that will affect the rights of women and other oppressed groups. We have mentioned which candidate we feel might better serve the needs of women; where there is no name, we had no particularly strong feelings.

FOR PRESIDENT: Reagan is the worst of the candidates and we can expect many regressive policies to emerge from his administration. Carter is the only candidate who can defeat Reagan. On the other hand, Barry Commoner and LaDonna Harris of the Citizen's Party offer the best stand on women. Take these factors into account, and decide which means more to you.

U.S. SENATE: Dixon is pro-Hyde amendment, has waffled on extension of the ERA, and seems to have hawkish foreign policies. O'Neal is "pro-life" and supports the Women's Death ("Human Life") Amendment. Sidney Lens is on Citizen's Party and offers the strongest support for women.

C-U MERGER: We urge a NO vote. Urbana's committee system is much more democratic, and Urbana tenant ordinances far superior. Merger would eventually absorb the responsive government of Urbana into one less so.

STATE HOUSE CUT: A resounding NO vote. This scheme has been buoyed along by conservative factions, who stand to gain heavily by a cut. Such a cut would effectively eliminate the feminist legislators (like Catania) now in the House. Besides, the money saved in representatives would be spent on staff.

FOR AUDITOR: Laurel Prussing, incumbent, has shaken out the dust and brought some new life into the office. She's the only democrat in county office. She's a feminist. Stokvis, her opponent, appears irresponsible.

U OF I BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Citizen's Party ticket has received the endorsement of the Independent Voters of Illinois, which is significant. We support their bid and their progressive positions toward tuition, minority students, divestiture, etc. They are: John Rossen, Andy Korsage-Norman, and Denise Rose.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: A young feminist fireball is running against the long-time conservative republican, Edward Madigan. We urge your support for Penny Severns; she's pro-ERA, pro-choice, and interested in labor issues, in marked contrast to Madigan's positions. She COULD win.

FOR COUNTY BOARD in the 9th District: We support Stillinger and Kummerow, two feminist women. Kummerow is an incumbent.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT: We favor Dixon over Mallow, the incumbent.

If the Citizen's Party receives 5% of the vote in Illinois, it will occupy a permanent place on the ballot, and qualify for future federal election matching funds. They are on the ballot in most states now.

Hang in there, and remember, being political is every day. This is just one day, and one act. We will be together through many more.

In the struggle,

Kristin Lems, Esther Patt, and Terry Cosgrove

Women's Community Newsletter
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