On August 7th, four of the women's softball teams from Horner Park met with John Parker, the part supervisor, in the field house. Present at this meeting were members of the Why-Not Inn Team, Stewart-Warner Team and the Ms. Lounge team.

We thought that the meeting was important to get out our dissatisfaction with how the softball season went this year and to settle right now the changes we want to see for next year. Women from the various teams took a vote concerning the regulations that Jim O'Malley had made at the beginning of the season. These rules were made without the knowledge or permission of John Parker.

Mr. Parker entered the meeting and expressed his opinion that women's softball should have different rules than men's softball because many of the regulations are "too confusing for most women," Parker did agree to beginning the games at 6:30, no minimum age requirement, and for a separate meeting from the men's teams. Ms. Lounge then questioned the protest which was filed on June 24, 1974. This legal complaint was never formally answered by the Park District.

When asked about the protest, Mr. Parker replied that he needed to remain neutral about the affair and left the decision up to Jim O'Malley and two others.

Mr. Parker admitted that there was a shortage of decent playing diamonds but if more women applied for teams he would try to adjust the better fields available for play. He noted that next year there would be u.p.a. umpires who have set rules for games and are firm in their decisions.

Mr. Parker appeared threatened when confronted by two women from the Stewart Warner team who asked for an explanation concerning a scheduled league game where their team was shoved into a grassy field so that the men's teams could play a make-up game in the nice diamond. Parker said he had decided to put the women on the grass because they were not able to hit as far as the men. He replied "don't try to win in my office what you can't win on the field. The total game has to be considered, not simply one rule." Various women at the meeting seemed disturbed by the explanation but Parker said his decisions were of limited value because the city park administration in the downtown office curtailed his control. It was suggested that all the teams be provided with exact information concerning expenditures for umpires awards, bases and new softballs which come from the sponsor fees from each team.

Park Schedules

KELVYN PARK
4438 N. Wrightwood
252-8547
Supv. Women's Activities
Laurie Marches
Volleyball
League starts Oct. 3
Thursday 8 p.m.
Entry Fee: Voted out
Age: 16 & over
Child care facilities: Yes
BRANDS PARK
3259 W. Elston
463-3759
Supv. Women's Activities
Pat Garbost
Volleyball
League starts: Nov. 1
Friday 7 p.m.
Entry Fee: Undetermined
Age: 14 & over
Possibility:
Volleyball afternoon with pre-school scheduled at the same time to enable mothers with children ages 3-5 to participate.
WHAT WOMEN'S

During the past few years, there's been plenty of talk about Women's Liberation. Although many people know and agree with the ideas of Women's Liberation, there still seems to be some distorted impressions of what it's all about. One of which is that all women should hate men. Actually, many women in our organization are married with children. Others enjoy meaningful relationships with men and choose not to live the married lifestyle. Nevertheless, we all struggle with men over their ideas that women's abilities should be limited. Some men feel threatened by women's liberation because it represents opposition to the traditional training they have undergone throughout their lives. Another distorted impression is that women's liberation would mean an end to their relationship with their boyfriends or for the married woman, divorce. The truth is that women's liberation is basically a "woman awareness program" educating women about themselves. Though this learning process, women begin to set aside their doubts and place higher value on themselves, their thoughts and emotions.

IN FAMILY ROLES

"A Woman's Place Is In The Home" Idealistic thoughts of what the wife and/or mother role should be help us imagine our marriage being "different from everyone else." A fantasy starring Pollyanna and Prince Charming. Although no woman is forced to take on the responsibilities of family life, no woman needs to be exploited. We have been trained since childhood that every woman must marry and bear a child to fulfill her "purpose" as a woman. women's liberation means you decide what will fulfill your life as a woman.

LIBERATION

Education means realization which is sometimes a painful experience. For many, this would inevitably mean a process of changes. Any basically good relationship will survive these changes and be strengthened by them - not destroyed. Becoming more aware of yourself is the first step to understanding yourself. Understanding enables you to deal with yourself and others more effectively which means living a happier more fulfilled life.

ON THE JOB

Most men in this country are paid just enough to survive, and most women are paid less; simply because they are women. Forty-two percent of all women are employed and that percentage is steadily increasing. Employees still seem to think a woman seeking employment needs a little extra encouragement; or if you're single, that it's just a matter of time before you get married and leave. For those already married, no employee wants to hire a "soon to be pregnant woman." Employees use that type of reasoning to justify the low pay for the majority of people they employ - women. The more proverbial second rate (women) they hire, the more profits they pocket. The women's liberation movement says women should be given equal job opportunities and equal pay for equal work.

Those of us who choose the family lifestyle can still live a full life if the responsibilities are shared by our husbands. Due to the numerous duties of a marriage, such as: maid, cook, waitress, seamstress, carpenter, painter, plumber, economist, and for those unemployed, providing twenty four hour child care, are usually considered "women's work." Many women give up outside activity and friends for these unpaid aspects to marriage. In essence, these women are being denied a full life by becoming involved in what they have always believed would give them a full life - the institution of marriage. The institution of marriage will create a prison for many women until their needs as women are met. Only then will they enjoy the relationship of a friend and lover with their husband and a there of their children.

REALLY MEANS
YOUNG WOMEN GETTING ORGANIZED!

Yup - this is it. September.
Going back to school can be a shock. Boring classes and teachers who treat students like children. But even though the main thing school teaches us is to be passive, we have always been and always will be resistant from students and ideas. This year there are a bunch of very exciting and progressive things going on at different schools and Secret Storm wanted to give extra support to these new programs by printing some information about them.

ALVERNIA HIGH SCHOOL

Alvernia is a Catholic girls' high school located at Irving Park and Lawndale. Alvernia is a typical high school in a number of ways. For one thing there is a special program there, called the Wonder Program, open to juniors and seniors who want to join. Last year everyone in Wonder decided that the school had to start educating more people about women's liberation. After months of hard work, they finally got a Wonder Women's Resource Center together. The Resource Center is going to have lots of books, pamphlets, slides and posters about women's history, feminism, radical feminist bookstores, job discrimination, health care, sexuality, etc.

There is still a lot of work to do to really whip the Resource Center into shape, but it's going to be great and everyone is invited to stop by for coffee and to look around.

WRIGHT JR. COLLEGE

For the past few years students at Wright have been politically active in many ways. People at Wright were especially active in the anti-war struggle and women's liberation. This year women's studies got together and talked about their ideas for the best way to begin dealing with women's needs at Wright. They decided to organize two women's liberation clubs (they have to call themselves "clubs", otherwise the school would give them more trouble) - one of the clubs would be for women who were just getting interested in women's liberation and would talk about sexuality, health care, read some well known articles, discuss and participate in organizing different events around the school such as films, speakers, etc. The second club is specifically for older women with children, because many women who go back to school after raising children for 10 years have special problems, such as hassles from husbands, feeling guilty or just feeling "older".

This second club will concentrate most of its energy in fighting for child-care provisions at Wright. There will also be time for discussion, to just talk and test new ideas, too.

Both clubs will meet twice a month, every other Tuesday, and of course they're free.

Each month Secret Storm will print more articles on what's going on at different schools. Please contact us if you know something about any school that would be important to print, or if you need help in organizing women (or men) in your school. We think it's important to get high school and junior college students together and there are lots of ways we can help (legal aid, advice, films, speakers, leaflets, etc.) with struggles or projects in your school.

For more information call
CMU - 953-6808
Thanx to Marilyn Schriner
NEW BIRTH DANGERS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE ONE

This is a hard question to answer. The Dalkon shield poses a problem in the face of pregnancy (unlike other IUD's) and the problem is a big one. If your period is late and you have any symptoms of an infection (temperature, or swelling in the pelvis area) do something about it immediately. This shield must be removed. Once a septic abortion starts, the prognosis is very poor (24-48 hrs). We cannot emphasize too much having it removed if you suspect you are pregnant and you have either a temperature or pelvic tenderness.

DALKON SHIELD

If you have a Dalkon shield now there are positives and negatives to having it removed.

POSITIVES:
- leaving it in is a big risk to your health. This risk should not be underestimated.
- one of the main advantages to the Dalkon shield is women not having to worry too much if your period is late with the Dalkon shield you have to worry

NEGATIVES:
- if you are very fertile you run a higher risk of pregnancy and a higher risk of the same complications.
- having a Dalkon shield removed is rather traumatic on your body as you can tell from the picture of it being removed. It requires your cervix which normally has a small opening to be opened (dilated) pretty much.
- dilating the cervix is fairly painful. If you ever have a dilation, dilating the cervix is the painful part.

Secondly, if you have a Dalkon shield removed, you are again faced with the problem of what to do about birth control. You now have a different model IUD put in. But it would be wise to wait a couple of months and give your uterus a rest.

So what do we recommend? We recommend thinking it through! Compare all the positives and negatives, decide how much you're willing to worry about and how much of a risk you think it's worth.

One last thing... if you are offered a Dalkon shield, say no! There is no reason for any of us to have one put in! And call the Women's Union and report the incident to us.

GOASK ALICE

Dear Alice:
My boyfriend wants to see me all the time. It's not that I don't like him, but sometimes I just want to see my girlfriends or be alone. When I say no he gets very sulky and angry and makes me feel guilty. This makes it such a hassle. What do you do? What can I do?

Smothered

Dear Smothered:
Lots of times guys think of us as their possessions and their property. He thinks of you as "my girl" and expects you to be around all the time, while he's working on his car or shooting pool with the guys, whether you're enjoying it or not. Often men are afraid to make an issue out of this because the guy lets on that if we don't like it he'll just find another girlfriend. That is less likely than we imagine, guys get just as dependent on us as we do on them— they just aren't good enough to say so. Try to let him know how you feel. He may be threatened if you don't want to spend every minute with him—he may think that you don't dig him. Reassure him, but stick to your guns.

Dear Alice:
My wife wants me to look after the kids while she goes out to play basketball once a week. I wouldn't mind if she would get them to bed first, but I come home from work tired and I don't want to have to give them their baths and put them to bed. Why don't you have your games later?

Tired worker

Dear Tired:
Remember your wife works hard all day too. Kids mess up a lot as soon as it's clean, and her day doesn't end at 4:30 either. When she's cleaning the dishes and laundry and ironing, change diapers, fix meals and shop, take kids where they have to go and make sure that nobody asks her any out of trouble. Most of the time she's only the grown up who can talk to — and that drive you a little batty.

I know you're tired too, but can't you take over one night a week? You'll discover a whole new part of your kids and probably enjoy putting them to bed.

HORNER PARK
4930 California
267-2444
Supw. Women's Activities
Lynn Pitts
Volleyball ( )
League Starts: ?
Tuesday ( )
7 p.m.
Entry Fee: $100
Age: 17 & over
INDEPENDENCE PARK
1800 W. Byron
IR-8-1039
Supw. Women's Activities
Pauline Dunn
Volleyball
League starts: Oct. 16
Wednesdays 8 p.m.
Entry Fee: Undetermined
Age: 18 & over
Open practice Wednesdays 8 p.m., until Oct. 16
Mixed Volleyball also offered

The information provided above we received from the supervisors of each park. On Oct. 10, John Parker, supervisor of Horner Park, told women from Secret that there are still 76 women in the softball league that Horner would have a women's volleyball league on Tuesday nights. He issued rosters and scheduled two practices at that time. All the teams have since completed the rosters and obtained their sponsors' checks. 76 women are ready to play volleyball. Parker, however, has since decided not to have the league. C.W.U. is now taking steps to hold Parker to his commitment.

Women do not realize their strength to overturn undesirable rules and regulations set by the park. For example, the teams playing at Kelwyn Park voted not to have trophies, thereby eliminating the entrance fee. Each team in a league consists of at least 12 women - six teams gives a minimum of 72 women in a league. Teh women who make up the league should decide what they want - not go along with what the park decides.

Should any seemingly insoluble problem develop at any park you are interested in participating in sports at, contact the C.W.U. at 4930 California. Secret United. Women are powerful!