

# secret storm

chicago women's liberation union 2748 n. lincoln 953-6808

August ?

## WOMEN PUT PARKER IN HIS PLACE

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 dissatisfactions 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 formerly 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 W. Wrightwood  
252-8547

Supv. Women's Activities  
Laurie Marches

Volleyball  
League starts Oct. 3

Thursday 8 p.m.

Entry Fee: Voted out  
Age: 17 & over  
Child care facilities: Yes

BRANDS PARK  
3259 W. Elston  
463-3759

Supv. Women's Activities  
Pat Garbast

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.

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# 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 boyfriend 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.

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.

### 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 money"; or if you're single, " it's just a matter

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, economic advisor 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 nonpaid 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.

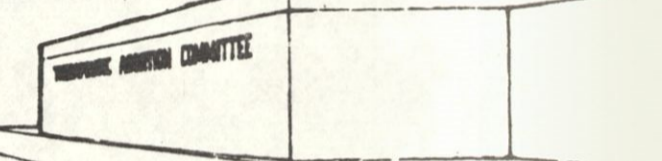
The institution of marriage will remain a prison for many women until their needs as women are met. Only then will they enjoy the relationship of a friend and lover with their husband and a teacher of their children.

# REALLY MEANS



OUR LADY OF PRIVILEGE MERCY HOSPITAL

I'M SORRY MISS DENNING, BUT YOU HAVE CLEARLY FAILED TO CONVINCe THIS BOARD THAT THE PROPER CONTINUANCE OF YOUR PREGNANCY WOULD IN ANY WAY IMPAIR YOUR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH... IN FACT, IT IS OUR FERVENT HOPE THAT THE MINOR HARDSHIP OF A FOURTH ILLEGITIMATE CHILD WILL GIVE YOU CAUSE TO BEHAVE IN A MORE RESPONSIBLE MANNER IN THE FUTURE....



Women's liberation means we must realize our needs as women, mentally and emotionally, as well as physically and demand our needs be taken seriously.

#### WITHIN THE LAWS ABORTION

In our struggle to help control our reproductive lives, we won the right to abortion. The women's movement is not anti-life; we want to protect life, the quality of our lives and of our children's. Women must be able to make free and informed decisions regarding their bodies. If the right of abortion was denied us, quality medical care would not be available, thus, women would continue to have illegal abortions which were dangerous and at times, resulted in death. A majority of American people feel that a decision for an abortion is a personal one. Women now have the right to make that decision with quality information and medical care available.

#### DIVORCE

Women seeking a divorce come up against more than just huge lawyers fees. They face possible loss of their children, usually no financial security, and their identity changes in the eyes of society. Having been unemployed for various reasons for a certain number of years and now in desperate need of a job, many women face discrimination in this area. Credit is difficult to obtain as well as decent childcare for your children. Alimony is usually insufficient.

People now involved in the women's movement are extending aid to women by instructing them in the different avenues of assistance available, information regarding places for childcare, and a legal clinic to help people obtain their own divorce without a lawyer and large fees.

Changing women's position in society is going to require changes in expectation, jobs, childcare, and education. We are struggling for changes in ourselves, other individuals, institutions and policies that set up our lives in sexist patterns.

We believe in democracy. By that we do not mean just voting in elections, but responsible participation of all the people affected by any decision. We also believe men and women should work together for these changes, building a new society in which all people will have the opportunity to develop their full potential.

# YOUNG WOMEN GETTING ORGANIZED!

Yup - this is it. September. Going back to school can be a real drag. Boring classes and teachers who treat students like children. But even though the main thing school teaches us is to be passive, there have always been and always will be resistance from students to bad 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.

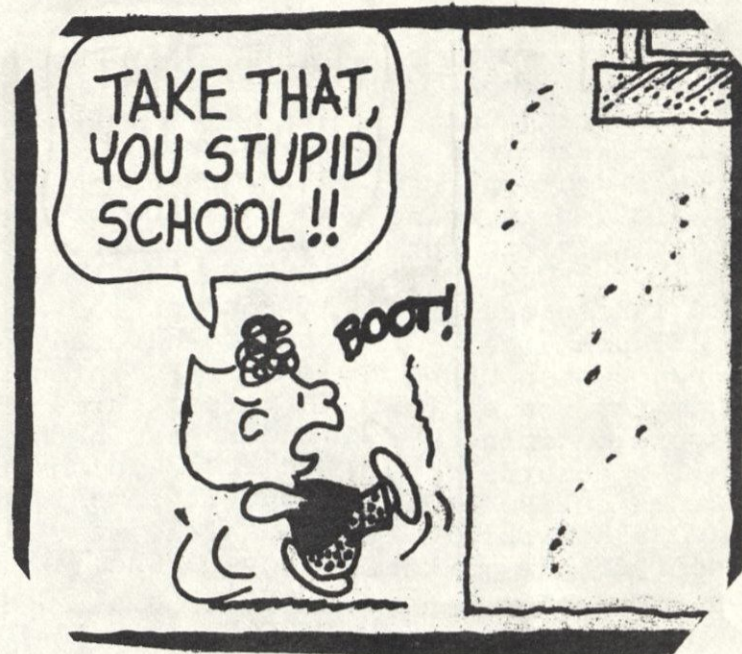
#### ALVERNIA HIGH SCHOOL

Alvernia is a Catholic girls' school located at Irving Park and Lawndale. Alvernia isn't your 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 the school had to start educating more people about women's liberation. After months of hard work, they finally got a Women's Resource Center together. The Resource Center is going to have lots of books, pamphlets, slides and posters about women's history (or "herstory"), job discrimination, health care, sexuality, etc.

There is still a lot of work left 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 students 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 them "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 by feminists 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 women to just talk and test new ideas, too.

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

Each month Secret Storm will print more articles about 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  
CWLU - 953-6808

Thanx to Marilyn Schriener

## ARE YOU HAPPY

### YOU'RE HAVING MY BABY ?

You may not relate the above words with anything right off the bat, but if your radio is on, or the jukebox at your favorite restaurant, the song is sure to be played.

The music is so catchy that many people end up humming the song after a few hours! But, the lyrics are another thing!

It's that awful, male chauvinistic song, sung only as Paul Anka could sing it, titled, "HAVING MY BABY!" The radio stations play it continually, but maybe that's only so Paul can make his \$1,000,000 before too long. (As soon as he makes his million dollar mark, he does not work for the rest of the year!).

Probably you have caught the words to the song and realize how ridiculous a position he places a pregnant woman in. First, she's having his baby, not

hers. Never does he mention that it's OUR baby.

Then he sings, rather easily, that she could have "swept it from her life," just as easy as pie, huh, Paul?

Amazing, but, then again, Paul Anka has never been pregnant and hopefully never will!

Even if you haven't had an abortion or have already had one, or never become pregnant yet, any woman knows that you just don't sweep a baby from your life. The memory is always there. The decision is up to each female and what she does is of her own concern and free will. To sing a song about a woman who, during this pregnancy intends to keep her baby, is one thing, but to specifically point out that it's the better choice so that you can say, "You're having my baby," is pure trash!!

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# NEW BIRTH CONTROL DANGERS

A few years ago a new IUD, the Dalkon shield, especially for women without children, was put on the market. As with most birth control it was heralded as being the answer to birth control. Also, as usual, it had been inadequately tested and now after millions of women have worn them for years, the hazards are becoming known. The hazards have turned out so bad that the Dalkon shield was taken off the market.

The medical profession has always pleaded ignorance as to how any IUD works. Some of the different theories are

- by its presence in the uterus the IUD prevents any fertilized egg from implanting (the implication is that it doesn't prevent fertilization so you actually get pregnant and then have a spontaneous abortion)
- it causes an infection in the uterus and because of the infection you are infertile (the uterus is designed to be sterile completely)

Now evidence is showing a large number of the Dalkon shield wearers to be having what are called septic abortions. A septic abortion is one where the fetus aborts itself but not completely and the woman gets a severe infection in her uterus. Many women have died from the resulting infections.

## 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 (a temperature, or tenderness in the pelvic area) do something about it immediately. The shield must be removed. Once a septic abortion starts, the process is very short (24-48 hrs.). We cannot emphasize too much having the IUD 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 underplayed.
- one of the main advantages to the IUD has been not having to worry too much if your period is late. With the Dalkon shield you have to worry

- if you are very fertile you run a higher risk of pregnancy and a higher risk of these complications.

### NEGATIVES:

- having a Dalkon shield removed is rather traumatic on your body as you can tell from the picture of its shape. It requires your cervix which normally has a small opening to be opened (dilated) pretty much.
- dilating the cervix is fairly painful. If you have ever had an abortion, dilating the cervix is the painful part.
- secondly, if you have your Dalkon Shield removed, you are again faced with the problem of what to do about birth control. You can 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 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.

HORNER PARK  
4200 N. California  
267-2444

Supv. Women's Activities  
Lynn Pitts

Volleyball (?)  
League Starts: ?

Tuesday (?) ? p.m.

Entry Fee: \$100  
Age: 17 & over

INDEPENDENCE PARK  
3800 W. Byron  
IR-8-1039

Supv. Women's Activities  
Pauline Dunn

Volleyball  
League starts: Oct. 16

Wednesday 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 August 10, John Parker, supervisor of Horner Park, told women from Secret Storm and three teams 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. 75 women are ready to play volleyball. Parker, however, has since decided not to have the league. C.W.L.U. is now taking steps to hold Parker to his commitment.

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

Should any seemingly unresolvable problem develop at the park you are interested in participating in sports at, contact the C.W.L.U. at 953-6808 and ask for Secret Storm. United women are powerful!

## GO ASK 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 sulky or angry and makes me feel guilty. This makes it such a hassle that I do what he wants. What can I do?

Smothered

Dear Smothered:

Lots of times guys think of us as their possessions, 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 women 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 suppose 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 your games later?

Tired worker

Dear Tired:

Remember your wife works hard all day too. Kids mess up a place as soon as it's clean, and her day doesn't end at 4:30 either. She has to do the dishes and laundry and ironing, change diapers, fix meals and shop, take kids where they have to go and make sure that they stay out of trouble. Most of the time she's the only grown up she can talk to -- and that can 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 (kids

tell their secrets at bedtime).

Women's liberation doesn't mean saddling you with your wives work, but it does mean sharing it more. We hope you can work this out.