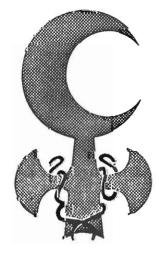
CASSANDRA

radical feminist nurses newsjournal

Vol. 3 No. 3

September 1985

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In Wilma's view, the principle of sisterhood enables us to acknowledge both our commitment to other women and the relativity of our own insights. It does not deny differences of interest and need among individual women or among groups, nor does it deny the legacy of centuries of classism, racism, and sexual privilege that continue to distort our perceptions and/or engender suspicion and hostility. Sisterhood calls us to honor diversity and correct our own myopia. The principle of sisterhood functions to enlarge the context within which a particular group's decision is to be made, to seek real understanding about what divides us, and to re-examine our own priorities to include or allow space for the priorities of other women.

- Eleanor Humes Haney, writing of Wilma Scott Heide

CASSANDRA: RADICAL PEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is published at the time of the full moon in September, January and May. There are no editors or review board members; the material for each issue is reviewed, selected, and the issue prepared by a local Web which assumes responsibility for three sequential issues. The name of the Web producing each issue and the names of women who contribute to the production of the issue are printed in the "Thrums" section.

The name CASSANDRA is a tribute to Florence Nightingale who wrote an essay titled <u>Cassandra</u> two years before her service in the Crimean War. In it she states: "Why have women passion, intellect, moral activity - these three - and a place in society where no one of the three can be exercised?" Like the mythical Cassandra, Nightingale possessed the gift of it so that it reaches us by the following dates: prophesy and despaired at not being heard. CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is dedicated to re-creating the Cassandra myth by providing a place where the passion, intellect and moral activity of women who are nurses can be voiced and heard. The newsjournal is a means for actively preserving and passing on written materials coming from a woman-defined perspective. Our hearing one another is critical to establishing a network among feminist nurses who need to be heard in nursing practice, education, research, administration and health care.

MAILING LIST

CASSANDRA's mailing list is confidential and will not be sold or given to any other group. Names and addresses of women who join CASSANDRA are provided to Contact Women in their geographic area; only the names and addresses of Contact Women and Coordinating Crones (women responsible for specific tasks) are published in the Newsjournal. Newsjournal is distributed to members and friends of CASSANDRA, and to institutions or groups that subscribe to the Newsjournal.

PHILOSOPHY

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL publishes original works coming from a feminist perspective and encourages exploration of issues that radically affect nurses and women. While opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CASSANDRA as a whole, we do accept responsibility for what we print. We will not intentionally print material that is harmful to women because of color, sexuality, religious or cultural background, physical disability or economic situation. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, with the intent of remaining true to the author's original material. Insofar as possible, edited material will be made available to the author prior to publication.

ADVERTISING

Display ads will be published for businesses offering products that are consistent with CASSANDRA'S philosophy and Write to CASSANDRA for rates, Judgments about the suitability of ads for the Newsjournal will be made by the Web responsible for producing the Newsjournal.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

We welcome the contribution of articles, information, and letters that are of interest to women who are feminist nurses. Our regular features include nursing history, feminist research, myths influencing women's lives, reviews of books and journal articles, resource information, and notes that promote net-

Articles should be original work that has not been previously published; preference is given to articles written by women who are members of CASSANDRA. The suggested length of articles, commentaries and reviews is 2-4 pages, typed double-spaced. Manuscripts of articles and book reviews are reviewed and selected by members of the Web that produces the Newsjournal. Manuscripts are evaluated in relation to consistency with CASSANDRA's purposes and philosophy, conciseness, readability, and strength of presentation of ideas and analyses of issues.

We welcome letters, notes and resource information from anyone interested in sharing information with members of CASSANDRA. Letters should be no longer than one page in length, typed doubled-spaced. Notes and resource information need to be very brief, approximately 12 double-spaced typed

All material must be accompanied by the author's name and address in order to be published. We prefer to publish names and addresses, but we will withhold your name and/or address if requested.

Please mail your contribution so that it reaches us by the following lifeline dates:

If you have something you wish to contribute, please mail

January issue: November 15 May issue: March 15 September issue: July 15

Our mailing address is: CASSANDRA P.O. Box 341 Williamsville, NY 14221

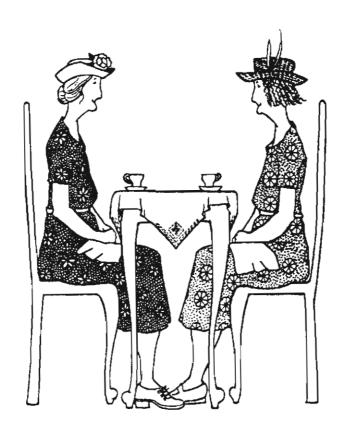
OUR PURPOSES. . .

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NETWORK is a gathering of women in nursing practice, education, research and administration. Our primary commitment is to end the oppression of women in all aspects of nursing and health care. We believe that oppression of women is fundamental to all oppressions and affects all women.

Our primary purposes are to:

- Develop and communicate radical feminist, woman-centered analyses of issues in nursing and health care.
- Nurture local, regional, and national networks of women in nursing who are committed to a radical-feminist perspective.
- Provide an environment for communication, support and safety among nurses regardless of race, class, creed, ability, or sexual preference.
- Share and pass on skills of leadership, analysis and com-
- Take strong public actions on nursing and health care issues.
- Preserve and publish past and present significant works of nurses.
- Publish writings on women's health that are rooted in feminist analysis.
- Support nursing research using a feminist approach.
- Develop feminist educational material for nursing programs.
- Establish a feminist nursing journal.

REPORT OF THE 1985 CASSANDRA CONTINENTAL GATHERING



Websters at the Gathering

Jackie Campbell - MI Peggy L. Chinn - NY Dolores Dawn - WI Sheila Bunting - IL DeAnn Wegwert - IL Sue Huether - UT Judith Carr - OH Mae Jacobs - UT Charlene Eldridge Wheeler - NY Alice Lind - WA Jeanne F. DeJoseph - CA Sue Dibble - CA Merrie Kaas - CA Kay Rousseau - CA Elizabeth Manley - NC Carol Ashton - UT Ann Voda - UT Ann Chase - MO Anne Montes - NY Patrice McCarthy - OH Kirste Carlson - OH Helen Ramirez - IL Elizabeth Washak - IL Delores Kukla - WI

August 3 - Saturday

Afternoon

Check-in of Websters and catching each other up on all the spinouts of the intervening years.

Setting the agenda for the Gathering

Sharing of the news of the death of Cassandran Wilma Scott Heide on May 8, 1985 of a heart attack. The current research fund which Cassandra has been setting aside from Webstership contributions was re-named The Wilma Scott Heide Research Fund in her honor.

Evening Spinning Bee

Overview of Feminist Process, convened by Peggy L. Chinn and Charlene Eldridge Wheeler. How feminist process differs from traditional patriarchal power processes. Review of guidelines for feminist process as presented in Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process (Margaretdaughters, Inc, 1984). The issue of Friends of Cassandra participating in Continental Gatherings emerged and the feminist process was used to resolve the issue. Joe Wegwert, a Friend of Cassandra, became a personal friend to many of us that night as he worked with us in confronting some difficult

issues. There was consensus that only Websters participate in the Continental Gatherings.

August 4 - Sunday

Morning and Afternoon

Discussion of the Bylaws of Cassandra as presented to the Attorney General California for incorporation (see Bylaws Issues) The purposes of public, non-profit incorporation and Articles of the Bylaws were analyzed and discussed until consensus was Gratitude and hugs were accorded to the San Francisco Web for their work on the Articles of Incorporation.

Identification and discussion of principles which unify Cassandra. The Principles of Unity proposed during this session were integrated, during the Monday afternoon session, into the Purposes of Cassandra as published in the Newsjournal.

Evening Spinning Bees

Update on Battering: Violence against Women, a discussion led by Jackie Campbell. She discussed some of the issues emerging in the recent funding debates surrounding battered women's shelters, shared the history of the development of shelters and the current need for feminist analyses in relation to research, theory and services.

Dilemmas in the Workplace, facilitated by Sue Dibble and Jeanne F. DeJoseph. Discussion and sharing by Cassandrans regarding experiences of discrimination; confronting our own homophobia; as well as risk and safety issues in expressing feminism, sexual preference and integrity in the workplace.

August 5 - Monday

Morning

Cassandra Finances - presentation of current status and issues needing to be considered (see Finance Issues and Budget Report). The herstory, financial status, and financial issues were reported and discussed. Appreciation was extended to the Utah Web for the development of financial planning and the management of Cassandra's finances.

Principles of Unity - a continuation of Sunday's discussion with a focus on the relationship between Websters, local Webs and the Coordinating Council including: the issue of growth and recruitment; the issue of Cassandra's image; and the value of self definition (see Principles of Unity).

Noon

Music and healing by Mindy from Earth Wisdom Music, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor MI 48104 (313/769-0969). An hour demonstration and discussion of music for healing, meditation, learning, and relaxation considering sound frequency, rhythm and beat, and tonal qualities.

Afternoon

The Illinois Web Issue: Harrassment of Kathleen Regester, Certified Nurse Midwife. A report from the Illinois Web regarding the harassment of a CNM by the Illinois Department of Registration and Education (see Feminist Analysis: Illinois Midwife Situation).

Principles of Unity - discussion continued using the Principles as presented in the Newsjournal under Statement of Purposes. Evolving from this session and the Tuesday session were behaviors or a "job description" for Cassandrans

Evening Spinning Bees

Feminist Ethics in Nursing - Alice Lind presented a framework for feminist analysis of ethical dilemmas, drawing upon the work of Starhawk and Carol Gilligan.

The Selling of Misogny - Charlene Eldridge Wheeler presented analysis and a slide series of advertisements from lay and professional journals which exploit and degrade women and perpetuate pornographic images of women and of nurses.

August 6 - Tuesday

Morning

Principles of Unity: continuation of the discussion from Monday Afternoon (see Principles of Unity).

Noon

A Model for Managing Internalized Oppression, presented by Elizabeth Manley. A description of internalized oppression - what it is, where it comes from, what it does - followed by a demonstration for managing internalized oppression within a dyad.

Afternoon

Principles of Unity: continuation from Tuesday Morning (see Principles of Unity).

Resolution of Illinois Web Issue

Evening

Site for the 1986 Gathering: the 1986 "mini-gathering" will be one day prior to the ANA Convention in Anaheim, CA. Cassandra will have a booth at ANA Convention if finances permit. Dates for the ANA Convention are June 13-19, dates for the booth would be June 14-16. The theme for the Convention is "Planning for Tomorrow: Securing Nursing's Future"

Site for the 1987 Gathering: the 1987 Continental Gathering will be in Salt Lake City for a duration of 4 days near the end of June. The Utah Web will coordinate planning.

Bylaws: a reaching of consensus regarding bylaws issues with selection of individuals for the Coordinating Council (see Bylaws Issues).

August 7 - Wednesday

Morning

Tribute to Wilma Scott Heide: a brief summary of Wilma Scott Heide's life-long efforts to emancipate women and nurses followed by a moment of silent meditation.

Finances: a reaching of consensus regarding financial issues (see Finance Issues).

Afternoon

An affirmation of each Cassandran's unique contribution to the 1985 Gathering followed by singing. The farewell song was inspired by Holly Near's West Virginia Friend from her album Watch Out!, sung to the tune of the chorus and modified to the following:

We don't want to say goodbye to you
To think we may not ever meet again
Think of us someday when you're lonely
And know that you have everlasting
friends.

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

The principles of unity unite Cassandra in purpose and organizational structure. Principles are value statements and Principles guide what we do and help clarify the whole of what we are. They provide the basis for our operating Policies and Procedures and the framework from which the bylaws for incorporation have been derived for legal functioning within a patriarchal system. A two-part approach was used to process the Principles of Unity at the

Continental Gathering in Ann Arbor. First, there was a spontaneous brainstorming that led to the identification of a number of principles. As we started to discuss the principles, the group realized they were similar to the Purposes stated in the Newsjournal. asTherefore, we completed our discussion by considering the statements of Purpose as the Principles of Unity. Since we "changed boats in midstream", each of the principles was not fully discussed. Presented here are the principles with a summary of the discussion followed by the Principles of Unity as contained in the statements of Purpose.

- 1. We all value nursing.
- 2. Cassandra is a non-hierarchical group.
- Alternative graphic models were proposed as a way of depicting that power within Cassandra is equally distributed among all Websters. For example, local Webs select coordinators and the coordinators serve on the Continental Coordinating Council; local Webs can establish bank accounts with the Cassandra tax identification number; and local Websters share reports of activities with other Cassandrans through the Newsjournal.
 - 3. Cassandra functions as a whole.
- We do not have our power vested in an executive body.
 - 4. Cassandrans trust each other.
- We want to be free to be our genuine selves in the presence of other Cassandrans.
- 5. Cassandra's actions are a balanced response to the internal self-care needs of the group and external demands. Self-care may be the highest priority.
- Focusing on nurturing and networking may be more important than meeting external demands. However, some Webs started as a nurturing group with a significant emphasis on self care. Now they are changing their focus with a need to take strong public action, particularly in relation to changing laws which are oppressive to women and to nurses. The question was raised, how will our size effect what we are and do; and do we want to focus on growth in numbers?
- 6. We all value a radical feminist perspective and analyses.

- 7. Cassandra recognizes and values the diversity of nurses.
- The value of growth is related to our increased financial base and increased diversity. Do we want to have as much diversity as we can? Do we need to recruit to sustain our diversity? There is no particular value for "bigness". Some Webs have enlarged the size of their group but find that a small number of Websters are still doing all of the work. Most of the other Websters participate in Cassandra by supporting the Newsjournal. Reading the Newsjournal for some nurses may be the only link to Cassandra. especially for Websters who are geographically isolated from other Websters. The Newsjournal serves as an important means to reach out to people who aren't aware of Cassandra. It also, and perhaps more importantly, provides a means of communication of or about our actions among ourselves and to others both within and without the mainstream of nursing.
- 8. Cassandra is committed to ending the oppression of women in all aspects of nursing and health care.
- 9. Cassandra is committed to creating a safe space for Cassandrans to work and interact regardless of race, class, creed, ability, or sexual preference.
- Safety can be provided whenever two Cassandrans gather together. As a group, we need to clarify: our self-definition, our purposes, the issues central to our purposes, the personal values critical to creating a safe space within our group.
- How do we create a safe environment A focus for discussion for all Cassandrans? around safety was the perception by some that Cassandra is a lesbian organization. Websters at the Gathering shared this perception. To the extent that we are viewed as a lesbian group, Cassandra may be perceived as unsafe for some lesbians who fear being known as a lesbian, as well as for some non-lesbians. As a group we agreed that we do not necessarily want to encourage an image as a lesbian organization, but also we felt it is important to acknowledge the presence of lesbians in Cassandra, as everywhere else, and to examine the dynamics of oppression that lesbians experience - dynamics that effect all of us as women regardless of sexuality. We need internal self care around this issue with

recognition of the value of self definition as a Principle of Unity.

- 10. We share a commitment to discussion and exchange of ideas and information in our local Webs, at our Continental Gathering, and through exchanges in the Newsjournal.
- 11. We share a commitment to internalize feminist process and to utilize that process in other relationships with people and structures.
- 12. We are committed to providing every Webster an opportunity to be heard and to be taken seriously.
- 13. Each individual has a responsibility to communicate directly to other Cassandrans; to establish mutual accessability; and to nurture trust and confidence in one another by implementing the feminist process.

Cassandra's Purposes as Principles of Unity

We discussed Cassandra's purposes as principles of unity by attempting to develop statements of specific action priorities (or Webster responsibilities) that they imply. Not all the purposes were discussed in detail, but we made good progress in processing most of them.

- 1. Communicate radical feminist, womencentered analyses of issues in nursing and health care.
- Maintain the newsjournal by each Cassandran making a commitment to write material for sharing in the Newsjournal.
- Communicate with one another at gatherings (local, regional or continental) regarding feminist nursing issues.
- Take Cassandra pamphlets to other conferences we attend, and be known as Cassandrans when presenting at other conferences and conventions.
- Link with other feminist organizations, eg, NWSA, NWPC.
- Make the Newsjournal available in libraries. We specifically need to know how to get the Newsjournal indexed in library services.
- 2. Nurture local, regional, and national networks of women in nursing who are committed to a radical feminist perspective.

Local:

- Develop a packet of information containing material related to feminist process and feminist analysis of issues to promote Web development.

- Critique of one another's feminist wri-

tings.

- Collect and print in the Newsjournal names of people who are willing to read and critique other Cassandran's work.

- Encourage Webs to identify tasks they can do to nourish the organization. An important task we all need to participate in is pro-

viding material for the newsjournal.

- At the end of the gathering, Kirste Carlson volunteered to be our public relations coordinator, and her primary focus will be assisting with and encouraging the development of local webs.

Regional:

- Webs within accessible geographic areas could plan gatherings for discussion or sharing of skills, or simply to cross country ski together!
- Support and acknowledge one another's work through other organizations.
- Contact women could write a piece for the newsjournal about the work they are doing so we can all develop more awareness about the explicit role of the contact women.

Continental:

- Acknowledge in-kind work.
- We need to examine when we can begin paying women for work related to conducting Cassandra business.
- Our financial base and priorities will determine if continental Cassandra can help support local Web growth, and how local Webs can support continental Cassandra.
- Explore ways to provide financial support for travel to Cassandra gatherings for students and other websters who are financially disadvantaged.
- Outreach to other radical feminist nur-
- Establish a central location for educational materials.
- 3. Provide an environment for communication, support and safety among nurses regardless of race, class, creed, ability, or sexual preference.

- Consistent use of feminist process for support and confidentiality and for safety.
- Self education regarding internalized oppression.
- Deprogramming ourselves of partiarchial habits.
- Provide a gathering space that is safe and accessible for differently-abled women.
- A Webster is responsible to speak for herself. She must be careful not to speak for others.
- 4. Share and pass on skills of leadership, analysis, and communication.

- Use of feminist analysis.

- Peer review of feminist analysis of an issue.
- Publication of feminist analyses in the Newsjournal.
- Comment in the Newsjournal about published articles.
- Do feminist analyses of local issues in each web.

For those who are unsure about doing a feminist analysis, we may need to consider two approaches for writing for the newsjournal: 1) write something and send it in and have the newsjournal become an open forum for the exchange of ideas and suggestions; 2) send the written matter to someone who would help critique it and then publish it in the newsjournal.

- Share feminist process through use in other situations.
- Share in the newsjournal how Websters have attempted to use the guidelines for feminist process.
- Perhaps when someone joins, she should receive <u>Peace and Power</u> in addition to Nightingale's Cassandra.
- Look at the leadership skills we want to develop over the next year or so.
- Acknowledge that the feminist process helps develop leadership skills.
- If skills are needed to do something new, there could be options available for apprenticeships.
- Develop a directory of alternative skills; finding the powers within each other.
- Cherish diversity. We need to know what diversity there is among us. Maybe more disclosure at check-in, or possibly a "Know Your Cassandrans" colums where individuals could share who they are.

- 5. Take action on nursing and health care issues through education.
- There was much discussion about how we define "issue" and "strong public action". Peggy suggested that we use a framework of oppression as a basis for defining issues from a feminist perspective, and shared some questions to ask based on Friere's theory of oppression (Pedagogy of the oppressed, Seabury Press, tr. by Myra Bergman Ramos, 1970). The questions were: 1. How is divisiveness among women Where is the external source of occuring? divisiveness located and how is the divisiveness being reinforced internal to our group? What aspects of the oppressor's consciousness 3. How is tokenism have we internalized? How are women being functioning? treated/portrayed in this situation? How is women's behavior being controlled? Whose approval is being sought? 4. What would true freedom look/feel like and what fears are stopping us from seeking freedom?
- Use of an oppression framework provides a means to begin to identify fundamental issues and to name issues from a feminist perspective. Oppression of women is a criterion for our action on issues.
- An issue is something identified by a Cassandran related to the oppression of women. Strong public action is considered to be education based on feminist analysis and critique and consensus formation.
- It was suggested that individual Webs could make consensual decisions about whether they will address a particular issue for that Web to take action on; that the decision-making process by consensus was a significant action. It is important to keep consensual decision-making consistent with our philosophy.
- Does this mean that if a Web addresses an issue it can do so in the name of Cassandra? No; the group who participates in forming an analysis can only speak for itself. The group decided that the use of Cassandra's name, per se, is not what we are all about we are not focused on patriarchal politics, and we do not have or particularly seek "clout" in that arena. We also do not disagree with an approach that works within the patriarchal political scene, but do not see that as central for Cassandra.
- We are concerned and deal with issues not causes or events. We do not take up fighting causes; rather we take up the task of analysis to create new ways of responding.

- What we want to do as our central focus is to gather information regarding an event, analyze the event from a feminist perspective, identify and name the fundamental and basic issues involved, and educate ourselves and others regarding the issues. This education is "strong public action". The definition of an issue arrived at by a local, regional, or continental gathering evolves through a process of analysis and then consensus. While responding to an issue through feminist process is self care, taking public action is responding to the tug of external demands. There was consensus that strong public action is education and education is strong public action. We agreed that the term "education" as we use it is consistent with the IRS definition of education in relation our decisions about the By-Laws. question arose as to whether Cassandra should deal with issues serendipitously or through deliberate planning. Can we identify and address issues at continental gatherings? The response was "yes, we can" and "yes, we already have"; and that we can deal with issues both serendipitously and through planning.
- 6. Preserve and publish past and present significant works of nurses.
- 7. Publish writings on women's health that are rooted in feminist analysis.
- Because of time constraints, purposes 6 and 7 were considered to be similar to purpose 1, and we did not deal with them further here. We will need to consider the priority of these two purposes at another continental gathering.
- 8. Support nursing research using a feminist approach.
- We re-affirmed our commitment to this purpose, and decided to name the research fund the Wilma Scott Heide Memorial Fund. We are not ready to begin using the fund yet, but want to begin to plan for using at least a portion of it. Ann Voda will contact Violet Malinski (research fund coordinator) to explore ideas; these will be discussed at a future continental gathering and/or in the newsjournal.
- 9. Develop feminist educational material for nursing programs.
- Denise Connors and Margaret Crowley have volunteered to be our coordinators for educational material. We decided that the

term "nursing programs" is to be broadly interpreted. Suggestions were made regarding materials that we need for our own education, and preserving our own history within Cassandra.

- 10. Establish a feminist nursing journal.
- Discussion regarding this purpose was deferred until the 1986 gathering in Anaheim.

BY-LAWS/ISSUES

Herstory

The decision for Cassandra to become incorporated as a non-profit organization was the 1983reached by consensus at Francisco Gathering. The major rationale underlying the consensus was the opportunity to exercise tax exemptions and deductions accorded by the IRS to non-profit corporations. The financial advantages of public, non-profit incorporation will assist us to fulfill the purposes of our organization. California was chosen as the state within which to incorporate because the requirements are relatively uncomplicated and not too costly. The process, however, has been arduous and long for the Bay area Web, and it has been a real challenge to try to remain consistent with our purposes and still meet the legal requirements of the state of California. There are areas where the wording of the By-laws is in considerable conflict with what we really want, or where what we really want is not clearly expressed. We will be depending on our "policies and procedures" to clarify most of these areas, and will plan to amend the bylaws in the future as needed.

The Bay Area Web brought another draft of the by-laws to the gathering that we all reviewed in some detail. These are not included in this issue of the newsjournal, as they were similar in most respects to the draft we published in the May Newsjournal. If anyone would like to see this draft, please send a self-addressed, stamped (39¢) envelope to Sue Dibble, 141 Leslie Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070. The Bay Area Web will be finalizing the exact wording of the by-laws consistent with our gathering discussion, and the final draft will be distributed to all Websters in a future newsjournal.

Most of the by-laws were reviewed by Article and Section; some specific wording changes and typographical errors were noted and changes made. Some of the changes needed still required legal consultation, and there was consensus that the San Francisco Web would exercise good judgment in making final decisions regarding the exact wording in several areas. The by-laws have been submitted to the California Attorney General in order to meet the time requirements for becoming incorporated by October 1, 1985. The by-laws as officially filed will be distributed in a future issue of the Newsjournal.

There were several details and three major issues which required resolution during the gathering. The major issues were:

- 1) Defining a procedure for conflict resolution. An earlier draft of the by-laws contained lengthy and complex voting procedures. These were deleted because we have made a commitment to resolve conflict through the process of consensus. However, the State does not believe in consensus and we still must describe how we will resolve conflict if consensus cannot be achieved. We agreed that if a conflict is not resolved by consensus within four months, a mediatro will be reained to achieve conflict resolution within a reasonable period of time.
- 2) Procedures for selecting the coordinating council. The major issue is how to select a coordinating council or board of trustees (some legally liable group), without having a hierarchical structure, and assuring that power is distributed among all Cassandrans. We agreed that the coordinating council will be selected from those who volunteer at each annual gathering.
- 3) Definitions of membership. We agreed that there shall be no members within the corporation. All Cassandrans will be Websters. Websters will be recognized and function as dexcribed in the bylaws with all information going to all Websters.

The details that were discussed included:

- 1) Our purpose "Nurture local, regional, and national networks of women in nursing who are committed to a radical feminist perspective", was inadvertantly omitted and will be included.
- 2) The objective "take action on nursing and health care issues through education" is worded differently than the statement of Purpose in the Newsjournal, which states "take strong public action on nursing and health care issues." If we are a non-profit, public benefit

corporation, there are limits on the type of action that we can take. After reading the IRS definition of "education" (see excerpt from the IRS code in this issue of the Newsjournal) we agreed that this definition is consistent with what we want to do.

- 3) There was discussion related to the meaning of phrases that appear in this draft of the by-laws that are required to demonstrate limits on our activities to qualify as a nonprofit group, specifically limitations against "influencing legislation" and "intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for a It was recognized that there are varying interpretations of this type of limitation, and that if we find them restrictive in the future we will need to specifically deal with the problems then. Meanwhile, the group was comfortable with going ahead with this limitation, since the type of action this implies we cannot do is not likely to be something we would be able or want to do - such as contributing financially to a particular candidate's campaign as Cassandra.
- 4) The word "quorum" is problematic given our process of decision-making; we may need to indicate a precise percentage of members as a quorum. Specific terminology was left to the judgement of the Bay Area Web in consultation with their legal advisor.
- 5) The word "officers" should be replaced with the word "coordinators" whenever possible.
- 6) Discussion also centered around the concepts of "trustees," and "board of trustees." These ideas are necessary to identify a legally liable group for Cassandra. However, the language defining the requirements of a legally responsible group also imply a decision-making hierarchy. We agreed that we still want and need the legal liability protection that incorporating provides for individuals who are doing our work, and the tax-deduction benefits for the group through non-profit status. There was considerable discussion about how approach the wording and/or "structure" of Cassandra in the by-laws to satisfy both our own desire to be nonheirarchical and meet the State's expectations in relation to legal liability and responsibility. There was concern about becoming the very institution that we seek to provide an alternative to.
 - 7) As a result of the discussions around

the concept of "trustees," we decided that the coordinating council will be the Board of Trustees. The requirement for a Board of Trustees, according to California law, is to have individuals specifically identified who assume legal liability for the corporation. The members of the Board will not be personally liable, but they represent the corporation as a separate entity.

- 8) We decided that the coordinating council will be selected at each annual gathering as women volunteer to take responsibility for the various tasks of Cassandra (which is what we have been doing already). All Websters will have the opportunity to become a member of the coordinating council by volunteering to be involved in this way. The following individuals volunteered to serve on the coordinating council for the 1985-86 fiscal year:
 - Convening Coordinator: Sheila Bunting
 - Archivist: Kay Rousseau
 - Finance: Maeona Jacobs
 - Webster Coordinator: Peggy Chinn
 - Publications: Charlene Eldridge Wheeler
 - Public Relations: Kirste Carlson
- Planning Coordinator: Jeanne DeJoseph Other Websters who have assumed or will assume responsibilities for Cassandra tasks will be part of the functioning coordinating council

if they so desire.

The word "administrative" appeared in the draft of the by-laws where "convening" coordinator should appear; that correction in terminology will be made.

- 9) There was discussion as to how frequently the Coordinating Council should be rotated and it was agreed that volunteers will be selected at Continental Gatherings. How long women will serve as coordinators will need to evolve as we experience the process of incorporation.
- 10) There was consensus that each coordinator will submit an annual report by November 15th for publication in the following January Newsjournal.

The Bay Area Web will continue to report progress toward incorporation in the Newsjournal and will advise us regarding any recommended changes that may require the implementation of a formal procedure as indicated in the by-laws.

Development of Policies and Procedures

Whereas the bylaws provide a legal description, the policies and procedures provide

an operational bridge between the bylaws and the principles of unity. During the coming year, the women on the coordinating council will work with associated Websters to develop policies and procedures which will then be discussed at the 1986 gathering in Anaheim.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Herstory

Prior to the 1984 Gathering in New Orleans, the Utah Web agreed to assume responsibility for the management Cassandra's finances. An accounting procedure was developed and the McBee System was implemented to document disbursement A budget was projected based on the purposes of Cassandra, past expenditures, and expenditures anticipated as projected Websters. The financial status has been reported in the Newsjournal and a report is contained in this issue. The fiscal year report will be included in the annual report of the Finance Coordinator following close of the fiscal year Sept. 30.

Budget issues

As the Utah Websters deliberated over the various budget categories, several issues arose and they were presented for discussion at the Continental Gathering. The issues included:

Paying women for work performed for Cassandra: The concerns related to this issue is that we believe women should be reimbursed and recognized for the work they do. Some expenses incurred by the contact women are now being paid out of pocket. There was consensus that expenses for local Web activities will be dealt with by local Webs, and that some expenses related to Continental activities will be reimbursed by Continental Cassandra to the extent that we can.

Costs of production of the Newsjournal: The current arrangement for producing the newsjournal was discussed and clarified. Margaretdaughters, Inc. is the newly formed publishing, education and communications company of Peggy Chinn and Charlene Eldridge Wheeler. All expenses formerly reimbursed to Peggy personally for these activities are now reimbursed to Margaretdaughters, since the equipment and resources now legally belong to

Margaretdaughters. A formal agreement between Margaretdaughters and Cassandra needs to be developed regarding the expenses we are reimbursing to Margaretdaughters. The Utah accountant has questioned the matter "conflict of interest" in this regard, and those who are concerned will pursue advice on this matter further. Meanwhile, Margaretdaughters will continue to provide membership services for Cassandra, with only expenses reimbursed. However, Peggy and Charlene are eager to pass along the responsibility for the newsjournal, and it was agreed that within the next year we will actively seek some other place for production of the newsjournal. An announcement seeking interested Websters to produce the newsjournal will begin to appear in each issue of the newsjournal.

Accountability for local fundraising: In order to meet the requirements for the IRS audit of our accounts, there will need to be documentation of local Web fundraising activities. This will require a brief report sent to the Finance Coordinator, Maeona Jacobs. Expenses will not need to be summarized, but the amount raised and the general use of the funds will need to be included in our overall budget.

Reimbursement of funds: Expenses will be reimbursed to Websters for work on behalf of Continental Cassandra. These expenses need to be summarized on a reimbursement form and returned to the Finance coordinator for action. Forms will be made available to all Websters who need them.

Utilization of the Wilma Scott Heide Fund: This issue was resolved during the discussion of Principles of Unity. Ann Voda will contact Violet Malinski, Coordinator of the Research Fund, to help begin work on a proposal for using this fund. A report will discussed at the 1986 Gathering.

Reimbursement for travel expenses: It was recognized that we have limited funds available for travel. There was consensus that we should establish a contribution fund for travel expenses. The money could be used to assist Websters with travel expenses to Continental Gatherings and other meetings where they will represent Cassandra. There was also consensus that money in the travel fund from this year

be applied toward covering the expense for the booth at the ANA next year. Further decisions regarding use of the travel fund will be discussed at the Gathering in Anaheim.

Should there be a change in the amount of contributions? At the present time, the annual contribution for students, unemployed, retired and differently abled nurses is \$15; for Friends of Cassandra \$25; and for Websters (women who are nurses and participate in decisionmaking) is \$35 - \$50. There was consensus that we need to identify specific additional funds to which interested individuals can make contributions, since our current contribution income is just meeting the expenses of membership, the newsjournal, Cassandra's Action Network, and partial Gathering expenses. There was consensus that the contributions for Websters have a range of \$35 to \$75.

There was some discussion about moving to subscription fee separate for Newsjournal. The details and ramifications of this proposal required more deliberation than there was time available at this Gathering. There was consensus that we do need to charge international Cassandrans an overseas postage fee for international mailing.

Payment of meeting room expense for this gathering: There was consensus that we pay for the meeting room expense (\$175) from the Continental Cassandra account. Cassandran attending the Gathering paid her own expenses to attend the gathering, and our time together was devoted to work that benefits the whole of Cassandra. This plan provides Cassandrans who attend cannot

Gathering one way in which they support, financially, the reality of a Continental Gathering.

THE ILLINOIS ISSUE

Cassandrans from the Illinois Web, Helen Ramirez and Elizabeth Washak, described a situation of harassment regarding Kathleen Regester, a certified nurse midwife. (See the article in this issue of the Newsjournal). There was much discussion as to how to support Kathleen and her colleagues in overcoming the oprressive acts that she has been subjected to, as well as how we can most effectively respond as Cassandra to other similar incidents. Much of the outcome of this discussion is reflected in the Webster responsibilities and Principles of Unity discussion. Montes met with Helen and Elizabeth to begin working on a feminist analysis of this issue that can be published in the Newsjournal. In addition, Websters present shared many specific suggestions regarding resources and actions that might be taken on behalf of Kathleen Regester.

Helen and Elizabeth had initially asked for the group to agree to the use of Cassandra's name in relation to the work they and other Cassandra's were doing on Kathleen's behalf. There was consensus among all present that Cassandra's name in this and other similar situations was not necessarily a constructive or useful approach, since we do not have nor do we anticipate having a great deal of political clout. We agreed that our approach of discussion and analysis of similar situations will open avenues for new kinds of actions and support.

The following information is quoted directly from section 501(c)(3) of the Federal tax code, and was helpful in resolving issues around incorporation:

An organization may be educational even though it advocates a particular position or viewpoint so long as it presents a sufficiently full and fair exposition of the pertinent facts as to permit an individual or the public to form an independent opinion or conclusion. On the other hand, an organization is not educational if its principal function is the mere presentation of unsupported opinion.

(ii) Examples of educational organizations. The following are examples of organizations which, if they otherwise meet the requirements of this section, are educational:

Example (1). An organization, such as a primary or secondary school, a college, or a professional or trade school

Example (2). An organization whose activities consist of presenting public discussion groups, forums,

panels, lectures, or other similar programs. Such programs may be on radio or television. $\underline{\text{Example (3)}}$. An organization which presents a course of instruction by means of correspondence or through the utilization of television or radio.

Example (4). Museums, zoos, planetariums, symphony orchestras, and other similar organizations.

⁽³⁾ Educational defined -- (i) In general. The term "educational", as used in section 501(c)(3), relates to--(a) The instruction or training of the individual for the purpose of improving or developing his [sic] capacities; or

⁽b) The instruction of the public on subjects useful to the individual and beneficial to the community.

FEMINIST ANALYSIS: ILLINOIS NURSE MIDWIFE SITUATION by Helen Ramirez and Elizabeth Washak

Cassandra's primary commitment is to end the oppression of women in all aspects of nursing and health care. To understand our oppression it is helpful to use the process of examine the issues feminist analysis to This was affecting us. done at the Continental Gathering in Ann Arbor in August 1985 when Illinois Websters presented the issue of the Illinois nurse midwife whose situation was described in the January 1985 Newsjournal.

Kathy Regester is a certified nurse midwife in a state which has a newly amended Nurse Practice Act recognizing nursing specialties. She has helped hundreds of women give birth to healthy infants. None of the women have filed any complaints against her. But it was discovered that her name was on some birth certificates rather than a physician's name and she was accused of practicing without a license. The Illinois Department of Registration and Education held hearings last April resulting in the Board of Nurse Examiners recommending that the allegations against Kathy be dismissed. However, the head of the Department of Registration and Education refused to drop the case and so far has refused to recognize her professional practice as legal.

In applying feminist analysis to this nurse's situation, the patriarchal state as represented by the Department of Registration is viewed as an agent of the oppressor. The nurse midwife is victimized by the rules under which the patriarchy works and the manipulation of those rules.

In Regester's case the state has decided to use its power to protect women from nurse midwives. Under the guise of protectionism, the state legitimized all the actions that they have taken against her, including a raid on her office, an indictment, refusing to dismiss charges, or cease harassment, and refusing to recognize her practice as legal under the state's own laws.

In the raid on her office client records, equipment, supplies, and personal belongings were seized. Yet Kathy's office was permitted to remain open while the Department of Registration and Education continued its investigation. The state declared that it was acting to protect society, when in fact its actions belie that intent. Not only was Kathy violated by this act but the care of her clients was jeopardized when all of their records suddenly disappeared. The outcome of such action

was to warn women not to use Regester's professional service and to make an example of her to other nurses lest they attempt to open their own businesses. Bullying tactics are frequently used to keep women in their place.

Patriarchal need to control all aspects of women's reproduction is also a major factor here. Women have been viewed as breeders and men have determined that the manner in which women give birth is to be controlled by the state. Home births do not provide men with sufficient control over the birth process nor with the same economic rewards as institutional birth: therefore. homebirths discouraged as much as possible. Kathy was singled out for harrassment because her economic success was threatening. Regester also exhibited "undesirable" female traits intelligence, initiative and independence. She encouraged birthing women to share these traits and to choose whomever they wanted to help them in the birth process in a place where they were comfortable and in control. their own home. This is the antithesis of the birth process in a hospital.

In dealing with Regester the Department of Registration and Education chose to ignore the recommendations of the Board of Nurse Examiners that charges against her be dismissed. The director of the Department of Registration and Education decided he knew what was best for the nursing profession and for pregnant women. Male oppressors customarily regard what women say as trivial.

In attempting to resolve the case the state mandated that Regester adhere to rigid rules of practice which were spelled out in detail. However, she was already operating according to similar standards established American College of Nurse Midwives. state mandate called for her to do what she had been doing all along, but gave the impression that she had been remiss in this. spelling out rigid rules the demonstrated its control over every aspect of nurse midwives practice. In the predominently male profession of medicine, such rigid guidelines are not spelled out. In its determination to control women who dare to be independent. the state demonstrates a double standard for monitoring professional practice.

Finally, by refusing to declare that Regester's nursing practice is legal under the Illinois Nurse Practice Act, the state demonstrated its ability to use the legal system against women. One Illinois county will not allow Regester to practice there at all unless her practice is declared legal. The amended Nurse Practice Act was intended to address the expanded role of nurses. It is not enough to pass laws designed to end discrimination against women if these laws are not applied to the situations for which they are intended.

The problems of this nurse midwife practice have been imposed externally by the state. However, it is characteristic of oppressed groups to develop a false internal perception of what the problems are all about. Part of the false internal oppression is that a nurse must have done something wrong if she is being harassed or punished. The concept that she is receiving this treatment even though she has practiced within the guidelines of the College of Nurse Midwives is frightening. this could happen to her it could happen to the rest of us. This is a concept we would rather deny than confront. At the same time, none of us are perfect in practicing our profession. Minor disagreements over professional practice may be incorrectly viewed as the central issue and may prevent us from openly supporting a colleague.

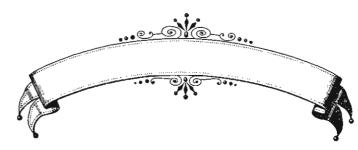
Not all nurses agree that homebirths are appropriate for women. This is not the central issue although false internal perceptions of external oppression have given some nurses the impression that it is. This issue has been used to divide nurses when the real issue is to have the practice of nurse midwifery recognized as legal under Illinois law.

Fear of freedom is another factor operating in oppression. Fear affects all nurses who dream of opening an independent practice. Kathy's situation and that of other nurses in similar situations show that we are all vulnerable when we take risks. If we practice what we believe is right, we may be punished and set apart from other nurses by the patriarchy as an example of an undesirable nurse who does not conduct herself properly.

Although some Illinois nurses have felt that professional nurse organizations should be more aggressive, our main concern is that divisiveness is harmful and should be viewed in the context of the oppression model. The state nursing association and other professional nursing organizations are also victims of an oppressive system. In this case the amended Nurse Practice Act was passed with sustained effort and political activity by the Illinois

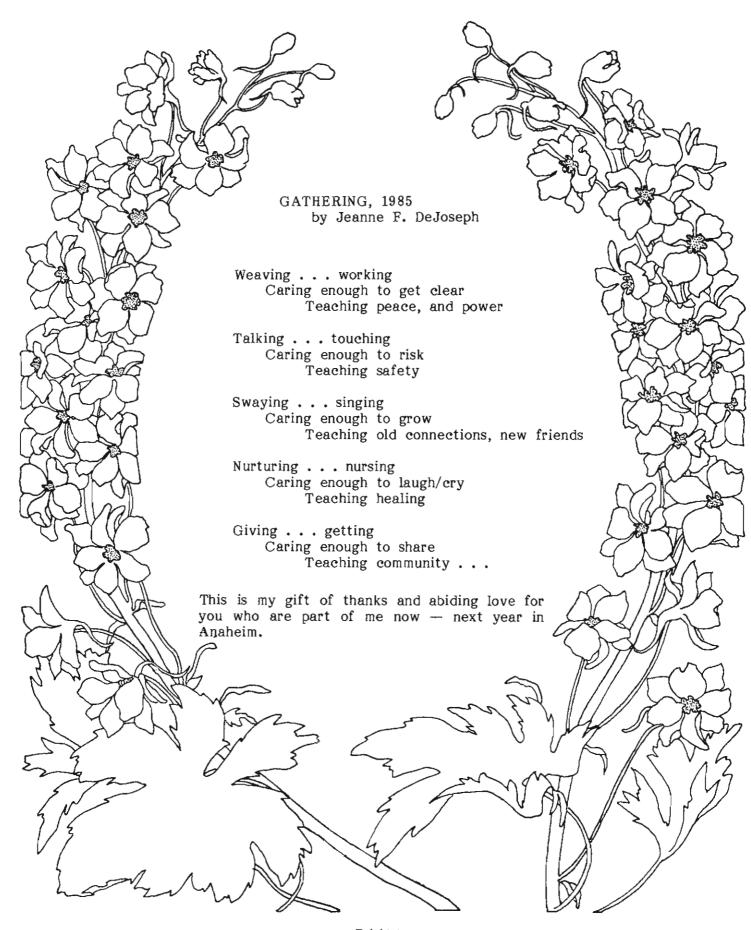
Nurses Assocation. The INA selected the members of the Board of Nurse Examiners which heard Kathy's case. However, the nursing board has no authority except to make recommendations.

In understanding oppression we must not blame the victims, but gain knowledge of how oppression creates victims to maintain power. Feminist support, expecially from nurses, is empowering in overcoming oppression. may wish to send Kathy Regester a letter of support at West Suburban Women's Health care, 1159 Westgate, Oak Park, IL 60301. grateful to those who have sent contributions before. Her legal fees are close to \$20,000. All Websters with any knowledge in dealing with situations like Regester's are urged to share your strategies with us. And all Websters are urged to send letters to the Newsjournal in response to this commentary.



Want to share something with us? Have a response or idea about something in this issue? Original illustration? Send your letter, news, views, and articles for the next issue!

LIFELINE DATE FOR JANUARY NEWSJOURNAL November 15, 1985



Delphinium

BOOK REVIEW by Kirste L. Carlson

Nursing Care of Victims of Domestic Violence by Jacquelyn Campbell and Janice Humphreys. Reston Publishing Co., Reston, VA. 1984. ISBN 0-8359-5042-5 hardcover 0-8359-5041-7 paperback.

After waiting patiently for Nursing Care of Victims of Domestic Violence to appear in my bookstore, I finally special ordered it. If I had known what I was missing I would have done so much sooner! Serendipitously the book arrived the day before I had to go to juvenile court to testify on behalf of a young sex abuse survivor. I took the book to court knowing I could have a four hour wait in store Unbelievably I was sustained, for me. enlightened, heartened and reaffirmed by a nursing textbook during what became a day-

long ordeal with the patriarchy!

Campbell and Humphreys have done a tremendous job of compiling and distilling in one volume much of the thought and information currently available on domestic violence. They have developed an extensive bibliography of nursing, sociology, anthropology and legal publications. In addition they have enlisted Ann Burgess, contributors. including lawyers, and two police officers, to lend their many years of experience and expertise to the project. Nursing Care of Victims of Domestic Violence discusses physical, sexual and psychological abuse of women, children and the elderly in theory and in practice. The legal system is thoroughly demystified.

This book provides a sharp contrast to other nursing texts that cover theories and knowledge generated largely by other fields. Many such books present the material in simplified form, "dumbed down" if you will, as if nurses could not understand it otherwise. These books often fail to identify how true nursing theory can be developed around the concepts presented preferring to borrow verbatim from other disciplines' theory base. This is definitely not the case with Nursing Care of Victims of Domestic Violence.

Humphreys and Campbell are explicit in their respect for nurses' intelligence. Their stated expectation is that nurse generalists can and should "initiate, coordinate, and evaluate



multidisciplinery care of violent families as well as deliver care that emphasizes strengths and health potentials." Theories are discussed in detail and criticized rigorously. Particular attention is paid to the underlying assumptions and to whether they have borne up under empirical research. I was personally overjoyed to see "Limitations of the Psychoanalytic Perspective" so concisely expressed Campbell.

Nursing Care of Victims of Domestic Violence stresses the need for research on family violence using nursing theory as a basis and suggests avenues for accomplishing this. Nursing care plans and interventions are presented as starting points for further exploration of the nursing perspective on the problem.

One must read between the lines to discover the unmistakably feminist consciousness of Nursing Care of Victims of D omestic Violence. The title belies the authors' respect for the strength of abuse survivors and a belief that people are much more than any label can suggest. Patriarchal power structures, laws, and attitudes are relentlessly cited as impediments to the health of all. Machismo and its surrounding mythology are seen as the link between the patriarchy and violent indi-Sexist theories about women are refuted brilliantly and then dismissed. The victim is never blamed. Finally, the survivors speak first on each topic through their poems which head the chapters.

I was surprised to learn that a woman is more likely to experience a beating than gestational diabetes during her pregnancy. Of course this phenomenon is rarely discussed in maternity nursing classes. As Campbell and Humphreys point out nurses must be aware of domestic violence to intervene around it. Now that this book has been written, awareness will be much easier to develop and discussions that were formerly unheard of will be heard. Read it and start one!

BOOK REVIEW by Barbara Schutt

Feminism for the Health of It by Wilma Scott Heide. Margaretdaughters, Inc., Buffalo, NY, 1985.

This book has at least two major audiences — those who enjoy having their feminist convictions reinforced, and those who haven't yet taken seriously the awesome implications of an emerging feminist society. Then there are all those others in between.

In these lively 159 pages, Dr. Heide takes to task the leaders of today's society for their failure to bring humanistic solutions to most of our major social problems. Educators, researchers, health care providers, legislators, economists, broadcasters, historians — whoever — are socially illiterate about women. They must learn to think as feminists, Heide is convinced, if they are to deal effectively with society's ills.

She speaks with authority from a rich and varied perspective as a nurse, a human rights activist, an educator, a scholar and a president of the National Organization for Women during its formative years. Having been involved in most of the significant national and international feminist activities of the past 20 years, she is able to draw on these experiences to diagnose the real problems and prescribe solutions.

Dr. Heide reminds us "...that people find feminist perspectives variously exciting, provocative, visionary, dynamic, educational, prophetic, or threatening. Seldom, if ever, is a feminist perspective found to be dull, or unrelated to the human interest." Certainly hers is She brings to her writing all of the not. above, plus wit, humor, and warmth, sometimes outrageousness, always great imagination, and large and unfettered thinking. She also brings a refreshing compulsion to affect her philosophical criticisms with concrete suggestions for what to do about it all. Would that all other philosophers were such activists!

A constant activist theme of Heide's is to change or correct the language, for, "Language is a tool of thought, a powerful method to create or exclude images." She asserts that the usage of male-only referents in our laws violates civil rights laws, and she creates

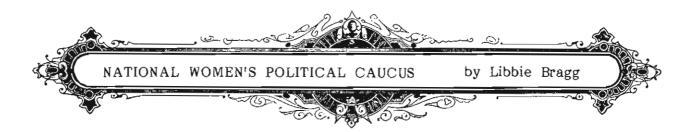


words when there are none to say what she means. Modifying our male-oriented language is as appropriate for Congressmen as it is for women. Both need consciousness raising groups, she believes. She obviously enjoys turns of phrase as much as new words, however, repeating several times the kernel of her philosophy — to adopt feminist thinking universally "so that the power of love [feminism] ... can exceed the love of power to control others [masculinism]."

It is unfortunate that this book is being published posthumously, for Dr. Heide died suddenly this past May, just as the book had gone to press. This means we are being deprived of more of this kind of refreshing and revolutionary thinking and acting during a time when we are all too cautious about what we say or do. She, too, has been deprived of that feedback — whether harsh or generous — which she always relished, and which always sent her on other rounds of thought. However, this book alone will help us in our (and her) "quest for humanity."

Barbara Schutt is a former editor of the American Journal of Nursing. During the early 1970's she worked with Wilma to influence the American Nurses Association in taking a stand of support for the Equal Rights Amendment. For more information about Wilma's visions for nursing, see her chapter titled "Feminist activism in nursing and health care" in Socialization, Sexism, and Stereotyping edited by Janet Muff (C.V. Mosby, 1982).





The trip to Atlanta in June to attend the National Women's Political Caucus was my first experience with the caucus. I did not officially become a member of the NWPC until I went to Atlanta.

I had become interested in politics last spring when I was doing volunteer work for a Nurse delegate from Kanawha County, WV (Barbara Hatfield, RN). I was amazed at the number of health care related bills that were introduced and sometimes passed into law. Bills that affected health care and nurses were introduced not only in the Health and Welfare Committee, but also in the Judiciary committee, the Education committee, and the Constitutional Revision committee.

I was alarmed at the lack of help that the State's delegates have aide them to understanding the bills introduced. impossible for a delegate to be aware of the impact or even the content of all the bills when they come up for a vote. I believe nurses need to be aware of proposed legislation and aggressively educate elected officials understanding the impact health related bills have on people.

Because of my work with Bobbie Hatfield, and since her first campaign manager was moving out of the state, Bobbie asked me to be her campaign manager when she runs for re-election to the State's Legislature. I knew Bobbie had done an outstanding job as a Freshman delegate, not only for the people in her district but for nurses in the entire state, and I wanted to help her win re-election. I agreed to be her campaign manager and she and her former manager, Sheila Truby (another Cassandra Webster), set up a mini-course for me on how to be a campaign manager. Included in the course preparation was the suggestion that I attend the NWPC. I did.

After waking up at 4:00 a.m. to catch my plane, I arrived in Atlanta at 9:10. As the plane was coming to a stop at the airport, I heard two women four rows ahead of me talking about going to a meeting and commenting that there were probably other women on the plane going to the same meeting. I interrupted their conversation and asked them, if by chance, they were going to the NWPC.

They said they were and that we needed to get together. I said "Sure," thinking maybe we'd run into each other at the hotel.

Because I had carried my luggage onto the plane, I was almost the last person getting off. When I stepped off, the two women were waiting for me to go with them to the hotel, plus three other women. They had waited until the entire plane unloaded so we could share rides and conversation on the way to the hotel. Their kindness set the mood for the entire four-day conference.

I arrived one day prior to the official opening of the NWPC to attend an advanced political seminar. I had agreed to be campaign manager so therefore, I - a novice - attended this advanced seminar designed especially for women with political experience. workshop was led by a Republican and a Democrat and covered topics such as research on women candidates, observations by women officials, campaign strategies, the women's vote, the male opponent, and how to get your candidate known. The workshop leaders advised the group attending to take advantage of the men feel in campaigns against uneasiness women.

The official opening of the NWPC was the next morning. The main speakers were: Astronaut Sally Ride, former Vice-President candidate Geraldine Ferraro, Mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young, Civil Rights Activist Coretta Scott King, Olympian Volley Ball Champion Flo Hyman, and Atlanta Businesswoman Betty Smulian. They each focused their talks on personal experiences that dealt with making choices.

The remaining first day was divided into many workshops that covered politics, lobbying, getting appointed to public office, developing a campaign image and message, maximizing money, dealing with caucuses and issues, pay equity, politics and religion, the politics of health and aging, environmental protection and hazardous waste, and child care and reproduction.

I found many of the workshops geared toward areas that affect health and therefore are the concerns of nurses. Policy makers, whether elected or appointed, often are unaware of the effects their laws have on people's everyday life. Nurses need to run for office, work for elected or appointed officials, or help other nurses run for office.

The second day's program was similar to the first. A Dialogue on Feminism was presented by Gloria Steinem, Editor of Ms. magazine and Jean Young, Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Public Education. Before reading Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I A Woman", Jean Young pointed out to the crowd of over 2000 women that yesterday's Atlanta newspapers had run two pictures of the NWPC, both pictures of men. Of all the dynamic women attending the conference, the papers chose to run pictures of two of the handful of men attending. The next day's paper did print a picture of Gloria Steinem and Jean Young.

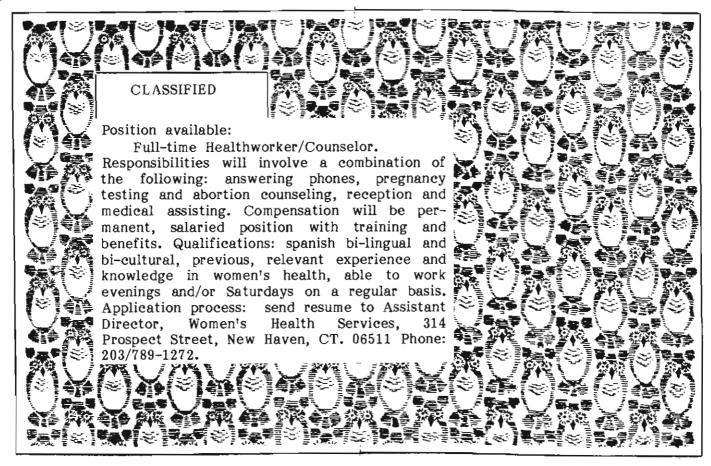
One highlight of the caucus for me was the showing of the film "One Fine Day." This film with only a musical accompaniment depicted a series of pictures of women who had begun the movement for equality or who were now carrying on the movement. The film started out with pictures of women marching for the right to vote, women pulling up long skirts in the ocean so that their dresses didn't get wet, women astronauts, women runners,

women elected to offices, nationally known women and — women!

The list of nationally-known people attending this conference was prestigious. More impressive, however, were the people whose names I don't know — — a woman who had run for local office on a budget of less than \$500.00 who was told there was no way she could possibly win, but won anyway...

- a Black woman who was elected to City Council in a town with a male, Black Mayor who thought she would always vote with him and was surprised to learn that this woman voted her own mind...
- two women who came very close to winning seats in the Senate. The women attending the caucus all had experiences that they were willing to share to aide other women in their own campaigns. I was promised articles from two of the presenters after they returned to their offices in Washington; both articles were sent to me at my home.

The National Women's Political Caucus was formed in 1971 to help women win an increased share of political representation as elected or appointed officials. The national conference is held bi-annually, and I plan to be there in 1987!



Dear CASSANDRA:

I do not know if you have policies concerning contributions by men, but I think the attached essay raises some issues that require an organized response, for they are symptomatic of the backlash against feminism both within nursing and without. Further, it points to a realm of action open to men who are supportive of feminism and wish to express that support without reproducing patriarchal relations by speaking for women (as do the men who describe themselves as "feminists").

Whether you print it or not (I would strongly support a decision to keep the pages of Cassandra as separatist space), I would be interested in your reactions if you have a moment to jot them down.

Sincerely,

David Allen, Friend of Cassandra

A recent letter to Ann Landers from a male nursing student raises some issues that should concern all feminist nurses and men (including male nurses) who support them. Like the male nurse who sued a hospital for preventing him from practicing in OB/GYN units (see American Nurse 1982), this student claimed he was being discriminated against because he allowed to obstetrical wasn't work with patients. Ann Landers accepted this as an instance of discrimination and said as long as a nurse was competent, the gender of her provider was unimportant to her.

This view of discrimination is politically reactionary and as nurses we must be prepared to speak against it. The issue, it seems to me, is not competence. To banish male nurses on the grounds of competence would be difficult to defend. To reduce the problem to confidence, however, removes the gender of the nurse from the sexist social relationships that constitute our daily lives, including our working lives. As long as nursing is practiced in a society in which men rape women, abuse wives and limit women's choices, then men nurses will represent those same relations of domination to their women patients. Since sexuality is politicized in the culture, it cannot but be politicized in nursing.

We cannot allow these relationships to be reduced to a problem of individuals. As an

individual male nurse, I may support feminism, treat women with respect and not be physically violent. But whether I exercise it or not, I still carry male privilege with me; if only in being free of fear of rape or sexual harrassment or in knowing the options open to me that are closed to women. Certainly some women (apparently Ann Landers, for example) may not be bothered by the male power I represent when I nurse them. Others may object in some circumstances (mastectomy) but not others (appendectomy).

An often employed - and bogus - counter argument is that we don't give men patients the choice not to have women nurses after urologic surgery. This is a false symmetry. The argument would hold only if men were subjected to the same abuse by women outside the hospital that women are by men. Since power relations are not symmetrical outside, they cannot be inside. While it would be nice to provide that choice, the lack of it does not raise issues of the same magnitude.

We must support the principle of choice for those who are least powerful in any system - including patients in the health care system. If a hospital can guarantee choice, then male nurses should be allowed to practice in socially-politicized areas such as OB/GYN units. If that choice cannot be granted, women patients should not be unwillingly subjected to care by the gender that oppresses them outside the hospital. (Incidentally, there is growing evidence that when women do have a choice, they select female gynecologists or female nurse practitioners).

We can be sorry that these relations of domination may limit the choices of some men. But men need to be sensitive to why these limitations are historically necessary and keep in perspective the number of limitations women live with daily that men do not. The responsible action is not to force ourselves into more positions of domination, but to work to change those conditions that create the problem in the first place: the domination of women by men in our society.

* David is an RN and Friend of Cassandra.

Buffalo Web in cooperation with EMMA: WNY WOMEN'S RESOURCE AND CULTURAL CENTER is once again offering an exciting mail-order opportunity. We are especially pleased to be featuring works by and about Cassandrans: Susan E. Browne and Wilma Scott Heide. We have selected a group of wall calendars and engagement calendars that all celebrate women. Any of these selections would make wonderful, thoughtful, and thought provoking gifts for yourself and/or loved ones.

All of the books listed here are paperback. A brief description of each item listed on the order form is provided to assist you in making your selection(s). We are also including a list of selections from the previous issues that are still available; there is space on the order form to fill in any of these titles that you wish to order.

CASSANDRA T-SHIRTS

We have a supply of Cassandra t-shirts from the Gathering in Ann Arbor; if you wish to order one use the EMMA order form. The shirts are 50% polyester/cotton blend. At the end of the gathering, there were small sizes in navy blue only; medium, large and x-large in gray, navy blue and red. Let us know what you prefer; if we cannot provide what you want we will refund your money.

ABOUT THE BOOKS ...

With The Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology. Edited by Susan Browne, Debra Connors, and Nanci Stern, Cleis Press, 1985. 354 pp. \$ 9.95 One of the most powerful books to be published this year, and the first book to comprehensively document the lives of disabled women. With the publication of this book, Cleis Press continues their tradition of publishing the writings of women speaking of their own realities in their own voices. All of the contributions in this volume speak clearly in challenging the cultural norm of "able-ism"; reading it creates an acute awareness for the non-disabled woman, and bridges the gulf that seperates disabled women from one another. With The Power of Each Breath is a collection of writings from over fifty disabled women and represents a range of disabilities, age, race, class, sexual preference and personal background.

Feminism for the Health of It. Wilma Scott Heide. Foreword by Jessie Bernard,

Margaretdaughters, Inc., 1985. 176 pp. \$ 8.95. Weaving together her unique humor, word creations, and astute analysis, Heide offers tantalizing visions for a future that is not only thinkable, but possible. With sharp realism and passion, Heide challenges the reader with feminism as a values transformation that will revolutionize language, higher education, research and activism, health care, economics, the media, and international policy. She says: "This task is not for sunshine matriots, careerists, fairweather faddists or ladylike leeches ... Passion if necessary to empower courage, prophetic vision, intellectual originality, psychic energy and commitment to create and sustain change movements." This is an essential book for the 80's and beyond - it is a vision of possibilities for a future of health, peace and justice.

A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company. Eleanor Humes Haney. Foreword bv Elizabeth Duncan Koontz. Margaretdaughters, Inc. 1985. 198 pp. \$ 12.95. An intriguing account of the life and work of Wilma Scott Heide, incorporating a history of the National Organization for Women prior to and during Wilma's presidency in the 70's, and an exploration of feminist ethics as reflected in Wilma's life and actions. The stories of Wilma's life and NOW are traced from extensive interviews, letters, and published and unpublished papers. Wilma's ethic of freedom, personal humaneness, and and excellence is told in context with the ordinary events of her life. Haney's unique approach of "ethics as story" creates an intimate portrait of this impassioned and eloquent leader of the feminist movement - a visionary and activist who "lived her values."

The Nutrition Detective: A Woman's Guide to Treating Your Health Problems Through The Foods You Eat. Nan Kathryn Fuchs, Tarcher, Inc., 1985. 183 pp. \$ 9.95. One of the most refreshing nutrition books that we have seen this is not just another diet book. basic philosophy is "You are not what you eat, what you eat is how you feel." Her approach is direct and practical, presenting a collection of knowledge from various fields to better enable the reader to make an informed decision about what foods may or may not be healthful. Including a health assessment questionnaire, she guides the reader in interpreting

questionnaire and suggests ways in which the reader actually becomes the "detective" in selecting foods for various health related concerns. Whether you are concerned about food allergies, fatigue, headaches, bulimia, candida, menopause, menstural cramps, osteoporosis, social drinking or smoking you will find interesting and usable information in The Nutrition Detective.

ABOUT THE CALENDARS ...

Wall calendars:

The Woman's Health Calendar. \$7.00, the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts. An $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" format, this calendar features black and white photographs of women, circa late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This year's photos focus primarily on black, white and American Indian women as researchers, nurses, physicians, and midwives. Each page is marked by the inspirational words and deeds of some of America's most remarkable women.

The Lunar Calendar. \$10.00, Luna Press. The 10th annual edition of this women's favorite depicts the 13 lunations of the year and contains graphics, prose and poetry by various artists. The Lunar calendar includes phases of the moon, the moon rise and set times, astronomical and astrological data and complete instruction on how to use all this wonderful information.

Ever'Woman's Calendar. \$4.00, Morning Glory Collective. A Full-color 11" x 17" poster, useable for a full year, beginning in any month. Includes a special place for a woman to record menstrual cycles and body rythms, menstrual and lunar symbols, herbal remedies and menstrual lore. Includes complete instructions.

Engagement calendars:

Eastern Her Story Engagement Calendar. \$8.95, Planned Parenthood of Northwest New Jersey, Inc. Featuring the lives and accomplishments of women from the Northeast, each "week at a glance" facing page highlights the biography of a different historical or contemporary woman from New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or New Jersey. There are 53 women in all, some well-known,

some yet to become known. Each $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " weekly page includes a "month at a glance", holidays, solstices and equinoxes.

The Women Writers Desk Calendar. \$7.95, Crossing Press. Spiral bound, each week's engagements are available at a glance. Each month has a photograph of a writer plus two pages of prose and/or poetry. Writers for this year include Ursula LeGuin, Joanna Russ, Maya Angelou, Margaret Laurance, Emma Goldman, Annie Dillard, Jean Rhys, Audre Lorde and Gabriela Mistral.

TITLES PREVIOUSLY LISTED AND STILL AVAILABLE

Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process, \$4.95

The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory, \$7.95

Look Me In the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism, \$5.95

A New View of Woman's Body, \$9.50

Shadow on a Tight Rope: Writings by Women on Fat Oppression, \$8.95.

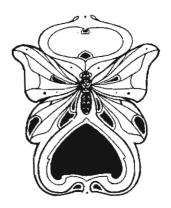
The Single Mother's Survival Manual, \$12.95

No Fairy Godmothers, No Magic Wands: The Healing Process after Rape, \$8.95

Voices in the Night: Women Speaking about Incest, \$7.95

Lesbian Sex, \$9.95

Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex and Politics, \$8.95





Hypatia was launched in 1983 as a "journal within a journal," published as special issues of Women's Studies International Forum and has set a standard for publication of research at the intersection of philosophy and women's In 1986, Hypatia will emerge as an studies. independent, autonomous journal. The first issue will contain articles on a range of topics in feminist philosophy. The second will be a special issue on Motherhood and Sexuality. Hypatia is named in honor of Hypatia, an Egyptian woman philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer who lived in Alexandria from her birth in about 370 A.D. until her death in 415, and whose works were presumably lost in the destruction of the library at Alexandria in 640. Hypatia was created by members of the Society for Women in Philosophy as a forum for dialogue within the women's movement on such issues as: What are the distinctively feminist methodologies, ethics. aesthetics. theories? What are feminist analyses of anger, racism, spirituality, friendship, sociobology, reproduction?

Estimated subscription rates: \$20/year for individuals and \$40/year for institutions. For full subscription information write to Margaret A. Simons, Editor, Hypatia, Department of Philosophical Studies, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL. 62026-1001.

The Feminist Writers Guild is a national non-profit organization founded in 1977, and is dedicated to furthering writing and networking by women who identify themselves as feminists. Members receive national newsletters, a yearly Directory of Members, and the Guild sponsors a number of literary and political projects. For more information and membership rates, write to: The Feminist Writers Guild, P.O. Box 14055, Chicago, IL. 60614.

The Animals' Agenda, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT. 06881. Recently we received a complimentary issue of The Animals' Agenda at the Cassandra post office box. This journal has been around for awhile, since the issue we most recently received was Vol. V, #5. Containing a good balance of articles, reviews, analysis and criticism, and suggestions for activism, the journal reflects a consistent philosophy and ethic.

From the copyright page: "THE ANIMALS' AGENDA is published by Animal Rights Network, Inc., as one of its efforts to promote communication and cooperation within the animal welfare/rights/liberation movement. We offer a broad range of materials and information about animal and environmental issues and provide a forum for the discussion of issues, problems and ideas. We try to reach people at all levels of consciousness and commitment to inspire a deep regard for, and a greater activism on behalf of, animals and nature."

Subscriptions are \$15 per year in the U.S., Canada and Mexico; \$25 per year in all other countries. The Animals' Agenda is published monthly (expect for combined issues in January/February and July/August.

HOT WIRE: A Journal of Women's Music and Culture, reports on women's music festivals, interviews with women performers and distributors of women's music, reviews of new releases, and a variety of informative and inspiring articles.

Published three time per year (March, July and November). Subscriptions: \$14/year U.S., \$17/ year Canada, \$19/year institutions. HOT WIRE, 1321 Rosedale, Chicage, IL 60660.

NEED CASSANDRA BROCHURES??

We have them available for all Websters who need them. Kay Rousseau is the woman to contact — see the Coordinating Crones column in this and every newsjournal for information.



A COMMENT ON OUR FINANCES

by Maeona Jacobs

Yes, we do have to be concerned about How can we generate more income? Do we even want to? Can we realistically plan for beginning a feminist nursing journal? When might we begin to pay women for their What kind of investments could we consider for the Wilma Scott Heide Research These are just a few of the questions the Utah Web has considered over the past Many issues related to finances were year. considered in Ann Arbor and a summary of that discussion can be found in the gathering report in this Newsjournal. The comment here is meant to provide Cassandrans with a general picture of our financial status.

Our income is generated almost exclusively from membership contributions. Only 4% comes from other sources such as Newsjournal and advertising sales and interest on our bank accounts. To date, membership income is evenly distributed between new Websters and renewals.

Currently we have 9 expense accounts: check charges, membership, newsjournal, Cassandra's Action Network, gatherings, public relations, finance, archives, and coordination. Within each of these categories we are accounting for the following expenses: supplies, postage, printing/xeroxing, equipment, personnel, travel, phone and space.

Our major expenses are for the Newsjournal (53%) and membership (27%). The remaining 20% of our expenses are pretty evenly distributed over the remaining budget categories. For all budget categories, the expense to date is for equipment (approximately \$3200), namely the use of a word processor for production of the newsjournal and membership tasks. We have also spent around \$1500 for postage and about the same amount for printing/xeroxing. We have also had some expenditures for personnel (legal fees), travel (mileage reimbursement), phone, and space (gatherings).

Our draft account has had a balance between \$2200 and \$3500 over the past year, and we seem to be able to adequately support our current expenses. Currently we are reimbursing women for some out of pocket expenses

incurred on behalf of continental Cassandra but not for expenses incurred by webs for local activities. We have agreed Margaretdaughters, Inc. \$10.00/hour for equipment usage related to production of the newsjournal and membership tasks with a ceiling of \$2400/year. This fee covers only a fraction of equipment costs to Margaretdaughters. Other expenses being reimbursed to individual Websters are for travel (mileage) at 23¢/mile, phone calls, supplies, and printing. We are paying for such things as legal services related to our incorporation and we will have some expenses related to our presence at the ANA convention in June 1986. Currently we are not paying Cassandran's for their work.

With the incorporation of Cassandra pending we need to begin some new formalities to insure that our records are in order for tax purposes. If you need to be reimbursed for expesse it will be necessary to fill out a form and provide receipts for certain items. If you need forms and instructions for reimbursement, please write to me (see address in Coordinating Crones column). We also need to have an accounting of rund raising activities by local This accounting is simple and involves only: 1) a statement of what the activity was: 2) a listing of income and expenses; and 3) a notation of what the money will be or was used for.

In the next few months we will be busy with several tasks related to finances. In September, budget projections for the 85-86 fiscal year need to be done. This means that we will be in touch with each of the coordinators and working with them to plan a budget for the coming year. We will also be considering finance "policies and procedures" consistent with our principles of unity and our by-laws.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and input. Let us hear from you.

BUDGET REPORT: April 1 - August 1, 1985

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ASSETS:					
	(available for	operations)			
Balance fo	rwarded		\$3225.33		
Income:	in (anous)	\$2077 00			
	ip (gross) : WSH Fund	\$3877.00 -509.11			
	embership	3367.89			
Met II	ember sirry	2201.02			
News jour	nal reprints	16.78			
	nal sales	24.50			
Donation	S	-0-			
Check In		69.07			
	tal income	3478.24	3478.24		
To	tal usable asse	ts:	6703.57		
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EXPENSES:					
Supplies		617.11			
Postage		614.70	*		
Printing/Xerox		831.91			
Equipment rent	al	775.50		E W.	
Personnel		75.00		1.1	
Travel		6.50			
Phone		83.46			
Space	tal expenses:	50.00 3054.18	2054 10		
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The New Haven Area Web is beginning to take off. We have had four meetings through the spring and summer. We floundered a bit at first, but our purpose is becoming clearer. Besides providing support to each other we have been reading and discussing Mary Daly's Gyn/Ecology and plan to read/discuss other feminist and feminist nursing material.

We have also identified a few projects to work on. As the enclosed letter indicates, we are working on The Defense Committee for Gladys Faulk and hope this letter can be published as soon as possible either in the Newsjournal or Action Network.

One other project which we have a lot of interest in, is in compiling an annotated bibliography of writings from or about a feminist perspective within nursing literature. If others in Cassandra have thought about or have begun doing something like this we would like to know so we can work together. Any suggestions about this from other Cassandrans are most welcome. We will be discussing it more at our future meetings.

Also, we are working to remove homophobic and other offensive language from the health form for prospective employees at Yale-New Haven Hospital. If other Cassandrans have had experience with this sort of thing we would love to hear from them.

Now that we are meeting on a regular basis, we will try to keep you informed of our activities.

In Peace, Annie Teitelman

Dear Cassandrans,

On May 18, 1985, Gladys Faulk, an LPN at Yale-New Haven Hospital, was arrested for the murder of Jackson Smith. Ms. Faulk had been sexually harassed and physically assaulted over a three year period by Mr. Smith after she tried to break off a relationship with him. The police were called on numerous ocassions, but they never arrested him, and often they did not come at all.

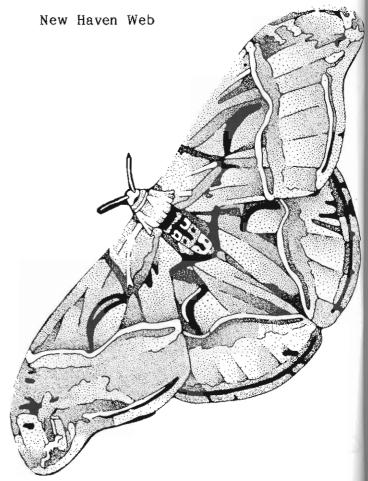
On May 18, Mr. Smith had forced entry into Ms. Faulk's apartment while she was gone and began to harass and attack her when she arrived home. During the fight that ensued, Mr. Smith reached for his knife and verbally threatened Ms. Faulk and her children. To protect herself, Ms. Faulk picked up a kitchen knife and attempted to call the police. In the

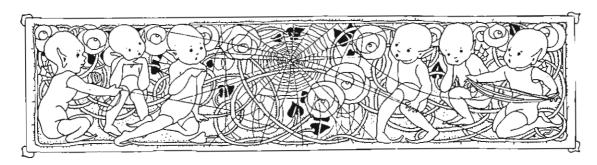
struggle that followed, Mr. Smith was fatally wounded.

Although Ms. Faulk has been charged with murder, we think the issues in this case have to do with a woman's right to defend herself and her children against battering and abusive behavior.

The New Haven Web has decided to join many hospital workers and community members in their efforts to support her. Members of our group are working with the Defense Committee for Gladys Faulk to raise money for her legal defense and to generate support and publicity for her case within the New Haven community and beyond. The Defense Committee is working with the media to develop a community education program, helping with research in preparation for the case, and publicizing this issue in the national media. We are writing this letter in the hope that other Cassandra Webs can help to generate support and community awareness, as well as raise contributions for this important issue.

To make contributions, write to the Defense Committee for Gladys Faulk, C/O Health Workers Group, P.O.Box 856, New Haven, CT. 06504, or telephone 203/562-1471.





COORDINATING CRONES

If you want to get INVOLVED - this is the information you need! This column contains the names and addresses of women who are coordinating our major tasks, and they need support, assistance and participation.

Convening Coordinator: Sheila Bunting from Illinois. This is a new area of responsibility, the details of which will emerge as we go. Watch for more information in future newsjournals. Sheila can be contacted through the Williamsville P.O. Box.

ANA 1986: P.K. Scheerle, 3012 19th Street, Metairie, LA 70002; and Sheila Bunting (see Convening Coordinator). This is a large task, and P.K. and Sheila would appreciate hearing from you if you are willing to contribute some time and energy to making our presence known at Anaheim.

Brochure: Kay Rousseau, 1506 10th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. If you need a supply of brochures for any purpose, write to Kay. They are available now and they look wonderful.

Public Relations: Kirste L. Carlson, 3085 E. Overlook Rd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118. This is a new responsibility formed at the 1985 Gathering. Kirste will be focusing on working with women who want to form an active web—sharing ideas, resources, and encouragement! Contact her if you are interested.

Planning Coordinator: Jeanne F. DeJoseph from the Bay Area. This is a new role also; contact Jeanne through the Williamsville P.O. Box if you have ideas related to planning!

Cassandra's Action Network: Penny Bresnick and Muffy Eastman, 53 Middle St., Orono, ME 04473. Send material for the next issue directly to Penny and Muffy.

Feminist Educational Materials: Denise Connors and Margaret Crowley, 101-A Stark Ave., Dover, NH 03820.

Finance: Maeona Jacobs, 9855 South 3100 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84092.

Archivist: Kay Rousseau, 1506 10th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. If you take an action based on any of the items included in the Newsjournal or Cassandra's Action Network, please send a copy of your letter or an account of your action for our archives. If you have media coverage of your Web in your local area or any other information that would be valuable for our archives, send it to Kay.

Jewelry: Sue Dibble, 3998 Duncan Pl., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

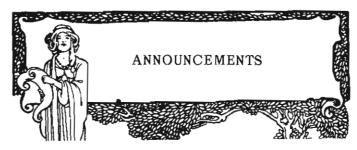
Publications Coordinator: Charlene Eldridge Wheeler, c/o P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Webster coordinator: Peggy L. Chinn, c/o P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Newsjournal: Charlene Eldridge Wheeler, c/o CASSANDRA, P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221. Remember the lifeline date for contributions to the September issue is July 15, 1985.

Research Fund: Violet Malinski, 3382 Colwyn Rd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120. Watch for more details next issue.

Are you reading this newsjournal? The women who produce it often feel like nobody is. We need some response, even if simply a postcard saying you read this note!



The Division of Nursing and the Division of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst are pleased to inform you of our First Annual National Nursing Conference on Violence Against Women.

The Conference will be held on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst from Friday, November 1 through Sunday, November 3, 1985. Ann Burgess, D.N.Sc., van Ameringen Professor of Psychiatry, Mental Health Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the keynote address. Our proposal Committee has chosen an outstanding group of presenters from a field of 85 applicants.

For further information, those interested in attending should contact Judy Wardlaw or Robbie Ken at the Division of Continuing Education, Health Sciences Program, Tower Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01002 (413/545-0312).

The National Women's Studies Association Eighth Annual Convention will be June 11-15, 1986 at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The theme for this gathering will be: Women Working for Change: Health, Cultures and Societies. Proposals are being accepted for presentations, discussions, papers, performances and workshops.

For a complete descriptive flyer and proposal form, write to National Women's Studies Association, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742.

An International Tribunal of Medical and Scientific Crimes Against Women will take place in 1987, according to plans made by women from 16 countries who met at the Women's Emergency Conference on the New Reproductive Technologies in Vallinge, Sweden, July 3-8, 1985.

The crimes to be exposed will be in the area of reproductive and biogenetic engineering. They will include abuses of women involved in such new technologies as in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer, embryo flushing, sex predetermination, prenatal diagnosis and the rental of so-called "surrogate mothers". Furthermore, women will expose the

environmental, workplace, household, and radiation causes of infertility.

Personal testimonies of women who have been abused in relation to abortion, contraception, sterilization, obstetrical practices, and medically-managed clitoridectomies will also be presented.

The Tribunal will be held in either Ireland or in Costa Rica.

Evidence presented at the conference on the abuse of women through reproductive technology made it clear to the 74 participants that a forum for the public exposure of these abuses was essential as a step in their eradication. Women reported:

- Sterilization camps in Bangladesh.
- Experimentation and egg snatching under the guise of fertility research in the developing countries.
- Lack of access to contraception and abortion for women in Ireland.

The Emergency Conference in Sweden has been called by the Feminist International Network on the New Reproductive Technologies (FINNRET), a network formed in April 1984 at the Second International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in Groningen. Netherlands. In Sweden, conference participants voted to change FINNET's name to: Feminist International Network of Resistance Reproductive and Genetic Engineering (FINRRAGE), a name that acknowledges the interrelationship of reproductive and genetic technologies.

At the conference, participants passed resolutions of resistance to reproductive and genetic engineering. FINRRAGE will send these resolutions to the European Parliament, to the United Nations Conference on Women in Nairobi, to the legislative bodies of a number of countries, and to the international press.

Sixteen women participating the Emergency Conference agreed to act as contacts for an international network. They come from the following countries: Australia. Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel. Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and West Germany. Each of these contacts will coordinate a national resistance group in her own country. The international coordinator is Renate Duelli Klein, a Swiss neurobiologist living in London.

For further information and/or for press interviews, please contact one of the following FINRRAGE members:

Rita Arditti, 617/491-4038. Biologist, coeditor of <u>Test Tube Women</u> (Pandora Press, 1984 and <u>Science and Liberation</u> (South End Press, 1980). Faculty member of Union Graduate School.

Gena Corea, 617/729-1433. Author of The Mother Machine:Reproductive Technologies from Artificial Insemination to Artificial Wombs (Harper and Row, 1985) and The Hidden Malpractice: How American Medicine Mistreats Women (Harper and Row, 1985).

Shelley Minden, 617/776-5836. Co-editor of Test Tube Women (Pandora Press, 1984). Member of Women and Reproductive Technology group. Adjunct faculty member of the Adult Degree Option Program at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusets.

Janice Raymond, 413/367-2287. Professor of women's studies and medical ethics in the women's studies program at the University of Massachusetts. Widely published in the field of medical ethics and the new reproductive technologies. Author of The Transsexual Empire: The Making of the She-Male (Beacon Press, 1979).

NEEDED: WOMEN TO PRODUCE THE NEWSJOURNAL

Charlene, Peggy and the Buffalo Web are eager to pass along the responsibility of producing the Newsjournal. At the Gathering, we agreed to accomplish this within the next year.

If you are interested in exploring producing the Newsjournal, or even in participating in a portion of the work, please let us know. We don't want to discourage you, but here is an overview of the tasks that need to be done:

- review and selection of all materials sent for possible publication. (So far this has not been a remarkable task, but this is likely to change because women at the gathering made verbal commitments to help write and encourage others to write.)
 - editing of articles to be published.
- composing material from the mail that comes to Cassandra for columns such as announcements, resources, etc.

- typing or entering the material on a word processor.
- proof-reading early drafts of the news-journal copy.
- correcting the copy and preparing final copy for lay-out.
 - planning and doing the lay-out.
- arranging for printing, delivering and picking up from the printer.
- packaging and mailing the newsjournal. The webster coordinator (still Peggy Chinn) will provide a complete set of mailing labels for each mailing. All expenses related to production are reimbursed, but the time invested There are far has been volunteered. several components of production that we have not hired out that can be (such as typing or entering the word processor on typesetter).

The primary consideration in relation to doing the Newsjournal is the time involved (it takes about 80 to 100 womanhours to prepare and mail each newsjournal). Also consider the resources you have for producing a good quality of work, and the costs that would be involved for you.

From our experience, we recommend that at least two women need to have a primary commitment to seeing that the work gets done, even if it means you do it all or most of it yourself upon occasion. In addition, a support group of about 4 women are needed who can help with any portion of the work, but especially with review of material contributed, proofreading, typing, and mailing.

On the more encouraging side, this is a marvelous opportunity to learn some extremely useful skills (we will share as much as we possibly can in the transfer process), and it is interesting, challenging, and often even fun!

If you want to explore this exciting possibility further, let us know ideas you have for sharing the work-load among websters, what talents and resources you have available, how you imagine arranging for each of the tasks involved, and what costs you project would be involved for you.

If you have questions, write to any of the women who have been involved (Charlene and Peggy in Buffalo, Maeona in Utah for finance concerns). If you are ready to offer a proposal, write to Sheila Bunting, our convening coordinator, at P.O. Box 341, Wiliamsville, NY 14221. Sheila will distribute your ideas among the coordinating crones and others who want to help us all figure this out!

CONTACT WOMEN

Names and addresses of all Cassandran's are forwarded to their nearest contact woman; otherwise our mailing list is not distributed. This list is organized by zip code, so find the zip code nearest you for the nearest contact woman! If you would like to be a contact woman for your area, please let us know. If you are a contact woman and you are not listed, or if the information given here is incorrect, please notify us. Write Cassandra, P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Canada:			
MARGARET NIXON	1645 Broadmead Ave.	Victoria	V8P2V5
Massachusetts:			
KATHRYN J. FOLEY	13 Skehan St.	Somerville	02143
DIANE PINGETON	22 Brook St.	Somerville	02145
New <u>Hampshire</u> :	,		
JÄNNETTE HOFSTEDE	38 South Main St.	Concord	03310
DENISE D. CONNORS	101-A Stark Ave.	Dover	03820
(See also Maine)			
Maine:			
PENNY BRESNICK	RD 2Box 4570	Canaan	04924
Connecticut:	10.0		04107
BEV YAEGER	48 Ravenwood Rd.	W. Hartford	06107
ANNE TEITELMAN	26 Whittlesey Ave.	New Haven	06511
New Jersey	70 Withinsham Diana	145 a \$ 0 a a a a a	07050
DOROTHY VERNA	70 Wittingham Place	West Orange	07052
New York: ADRIENNE ROY	P.O. Box 341	Williamovillo	14221
Delaware:	P.U. BOX 341	Williamsville	14221
SHELIA A. MCMAHON	9 Timber Creek Lane	Newark	19711
Maryland	3 ITHOUSE CLECK Lane	MEMATK	19/11
ELIZABETH CALDERON	19561 Transhire Rd.	Gaithersburg	20879
West Virginia:	17501 Hanshille No.	darenersburg	20077
M.G. NAGAI-JACOBSON	Rt. 9, Box 246	Beaver	25813
JINI MILLER	103 Ellen Lane	Morgantown	26505
South Carolina:	209 E210// Ed/10	r DI garroomr	20000
PAMELA CLARKE	Rt. 1, Box 93	Irmo	29063
SHEILA REIHING TRUBY	ll Ashwicke	Greenville	29615
Georgia:			
ESTHER E. WYNNE	1837 Wrightsboro Rd. #4	Augusta	30904
Kentucky:			
NATALIE C. GRAY	Rt.4, Slaters Landing	Harrodsburg	40330
Ohio:		_	
JUDITH A. CARR	P.O. Box 5874	Pleasantville	
KIRSTE L. CARLSON	2062 East 115 St.	Cleveland	44106
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THRUMS

(Any loose end, fringe, or tuft of thread; the fringe of warp threads left on a loom after the cloth has been cut off).

This Newsjournal was produced by:

The Buffalo Web. The women who were responsible for production of this issue were Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy Chinn. Anne Montes and Adrienne Roy assisted with proof-reading.

Appreciation to:

- A special appreciation to the Cassandrans who recorded the processes of the 1985 Gathering. Your descriptions will be preserved as original documents in the files of the Archivist.

Elizabeth Manley - North Carolina Alice Lind - Seattle Merrie Kaas - Bay Area Peggy L. Chinn - Buffalo Jeanne De Joseph - Bay Area

- A special appreciation to Sue Huether from Utah who worked with all of the handwritten minutes to compose the report of the Gathering contained in this issue.
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Unless otherwise specified, the illustrations are from the following Dover publications:

Women: A Pictorial Archive from Nineteenth-Century Sources, New York, Dover Publications, 1978; Treasury of Flower Designs (1981 by Susan Gaber); Banners, Ribbons and Scrolls (1983 ed. by Carol Belanger Grafton); Treasury of Art Nouveau Design and Ornament (1980 by Carol Belanger Grafton); and Art



Nouveau (1969 by E.V. Gillon).

The illustration for the Report of the Gathering is from a napkin contributed by MJD.

Quote:

Eleanor Humes Haney's quote on the front cover of this Newsjournal is from A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company, Margaretdaughters, Inc., P.O. Box 70, Buffalo, NY 14222, 1985, p. 167. This book appears on the EMMA order form in this issue of the Newsjournal, or ask your local bookstore.

WANTED: WOMEN TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSJOURNAL

This is the most important way that you can contribute to Cassandra's health and well-being. If you are shy about writing, drawing, or sending material for the Newsjournal, let us know and we will help find a way! There are several women who are willing to help polish ideas for publication, and we provide editing assistance. So don't delay — we want to hear from you.

