

Political involvement of women stressed by Betty Freidan

By SUE ROBINSON
Of the Emerald

Women are being forced into politics by the needs of their lives, said Betty Freidan Saturday to an overflowing crowd of about 500 at the Lane County Courthouse.

Members and guests of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus listened as the author of "The Feminine Mystique" stressed the need for women to become involved in politics, to "confront the issues really, without the rules, the time-wasting things, and to tune into the needs of all underrepresented women."

Ms. Freidan believes in the new "human politics," which means that she believes every group of people should be represented in the government in ratio to its population proportion. Since women constitute 51 per cent of the nation's population, this is a radical belief.

The women in this country are involved in a non-violent revolution, said Ms. Freidan. The first stage is awareness. Women are past the first stage, and many are past the second stage, which is a commitment to action. The success of these phases are evidenced by the large turnouts to hear her speak that Ms. Freidan has found in all the states she has visited, and by the increasing willingness of many young couples to share household tasks.

Women are now at the third stage, which is an assumption with men of political power. "We have to become political in order to make any institutional changes," Ms. Freidan said. She gave President Richard Nixon's veto of government-funded child care centers as an example, and called it a "war against women and a war against children both—it's an outrage, and we won't stand for it."

Ms. Freidan does not blame men for woman's secondary citizenship. "Man is as much a victim as woman," she said. Ms. Freidan blames a racist society for imposing roles upon men and women. As soon as women take their political share of responsibility and as soon as men stop feeling the need to be all-powerful then, Ms. Freidan said, "we can seize the reality of the moment—do what we have to do—and move on to human liberation."

Ms. Freidan said that dedicated women "are perfectly prepared to unite outside of the political parties."

"We can demand more than a token representation of women," she said, and added, "there is a serious possibility" of having a woman president in 1976.

Ms. Freidan said, "I don't idealize women but I don't idealize men either." There is nothing that the men in power are accomplishing that women couldn't do, she stated. "Women have the power, and only women can help themselves."



Betty Freidan

Environmental lawyer urges pollution fight

"Come on OSPIRG, you look like the U.S. Cavalry coming over the hill—don't stumble on the way down," urged and warned Marvin Durning, Seattle environmental lawyer, at Friday night's general assembly of OSPIRG's three-day workshop.

Durning, named 1966 Conservationist of the Year by President Lyndon Johnson, told the 40 to 50 OSPIRG delegates present that Americans have a national image, the cowboy, and that the United States economy is a "cowboy economy" based on the assumption that more is better.

"Well, cowboys, there's 280 million of us—it's getting a little crowded out on our prairie," he said. We're accustomed to "taking what you want (and then) throwing it away," he continued, but now "your away is my here."

The attorney likened OSPIRG with the cavalry and with spacemen, and said, "the fight's for real" against pollution and "cowboy economists."

Even communists tend toward the "more is better" idea, Durning said, only by different means. But, "There people called ecologists—they are really subversive—J. Edgar hasn't found them yet."

In the battle between economics and ecology, "the tools of debate and analysis are not even there yet." It is a "values fight" not an "economic analysis fight," the environmentalist declared.

Durning cited several atrocities in Washington politics about pollution. One example was the proposal by Seattle's "Cowboy economists" for filling a large canyon with the city's garbage. He said those economists said the canyon had little value because it was too steep for homes, etc.

The canyon was situated up-stream from a million dollar park, reported the lawyer. He said, "Value is what it would take the Corps of Engineers to build another one like it."

The speaker presented his own brief history of water in the U.S. He said the 1899 Refuse Act states that U.S. Attorneys will "vigorously prosecute" anyone who pollutes navigable waterways.

Durning pointed out, however, "The Corps of Engineers never got around, from 1899 to 1971, to get a program to administer Refuse Act permits."

The lawyer presented cases to the U.S. Attorney in Seattle against two companies who were obviously violating the 1899 law and was told that "consensus is" no prosecutions should be made.

With his wife, Durning tried to privately sue both companies, but was again unsuccessful. He said other people across the country are getting the same results when they try to sue.

"John Mitchell, Attorney General of the United States, is aiding and abetting water pollution" in this country, the lawyer stated.

He concluded with more encouragement for OSPIRG and other groups like it and received a standing ovation from the audience.

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Gutierrez says Chicanos denied 'their Mexicaness'

By KYLE JOHNSON
Of the Emerald

Jose Gutierrez, founder of La Raza Unida party, said Friday in a speech before more than 75 persons that "Chicanos have been left out of the mainstream of America."

"We are accused of being foreigners. This is a gross distortion. We were here before the first white man set foot on this land," said Gutierrez who was in Oregon to help organize La Raza Unida party here.

He said these distortions have been put into textbooks. Gutierrez said textbooks say Jamestown, Va. was the first settlement in the United States but St. Augustine, Fla. was.

Gutierrez, who frequently spoke Spanish during his talk, said these distortions have often caused Chicanos to deny "their Mexicaness." He said chewing gum had been invented by a Chicano and the LEM, the Lunar Excursion Module, had been designed by Chicanos.

He said Chicanos had been caught in "a cultural genocide." Chicanos have been put in "roundups" twice, after both World Wars, and sent back to Mexico. "Any Mexican called a bandit was one of our heroes" said Gutierrez.

He said these roundups had caused "gaps of leadership" in the Chicano movement.

"For the last 30 or 40 years we have voted and gotten nothing. Before they export racism and totalitarianism they practice it here" said Gutierrez of America.

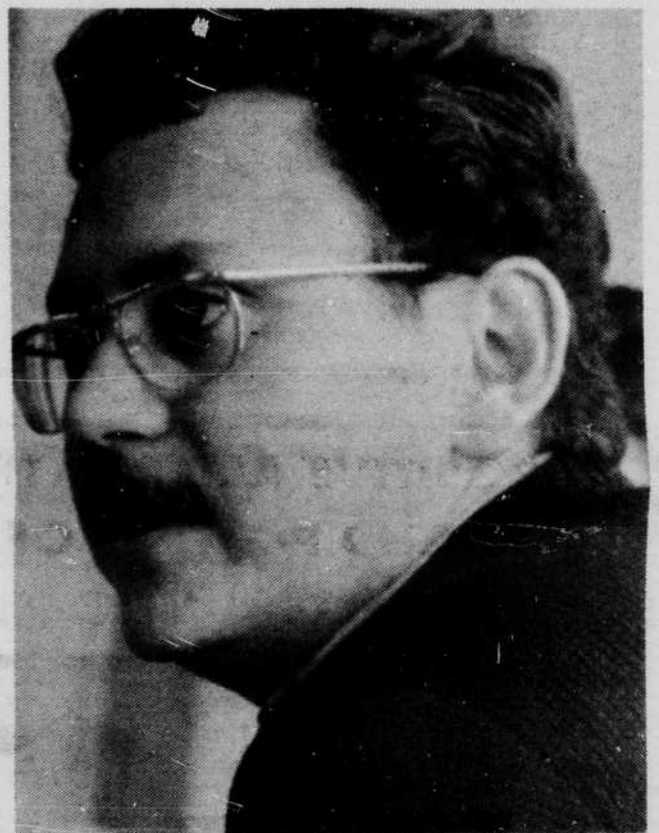
He said the only way a group can get things accomplished in American government is on the "installment plan." It would take six years to end the "elite rule" of those in the United States Senate.

"That's why we looked for an alternative" said Gutierrez. "We wanted a say in what streets are paved, where money goes to education, and where medical services are located."

He said he had chosen "ballots over bullets." He said La Raza Unida had first formed because of a Homecoming Queen contest that had only six Chicanos involved.

Gutierrez said 1,700 pickets had protested the decision. When some of the pickets lost their jobs, selective boycotting of businesses was the next step La Raza Unida had used in trying to get the contest stopped.

He said registration of voters was the next step they had used and this had been very successful.



Jose Gutierrez

Gutierrez said at the next election he and two other Chicanos had been elected to the seven-member school board. He said four Chicanos now hold seats on the school board.

He said the school board had "changed the education system" in Crystal City. He said kids who had previously dropped out of school had reenrolled and are now "jumping grades like crazy."

He also said a Chicano county commissioner had recently been elected by write-in votes in Texas.

Gutierrez also said a new Chicano police chief had been appointed in Crystal City, and had reduced the number of arrests in one year from 526 to 26. "We haven't stopped crime. We don't think getting drunk is a crime. We don't think fighting is a crime."

Paul McCloskey to speak

California Congressman Paul McCloskey, the maverick Republican out to defeat Richard Nixon for the party presidential nomination, is scheduled to speak today at 12:30 at the EMU Ballroom. The speech is presented by the ASUO Cultural Forum and is part of their lecture series by presidential contenders.

McCloskey, 44, has previously announced his intention to be a candidate in Oregon's May 23 primary election. He has also made commitments to enter the primaries in California and New Hampshire.

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