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Teri Bach, member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 77 and the sole journeywoman line worker and cable splicer at City Light, stated that, within the last eight years, Local 77 "has established a pattern of backing down from the issues of safety, job security, and even decent wages and benefits because officials see affirmative action and equal opportunity as bigger threats than management's anti-worker policies." Thus, she said, discrimination victims have been forced to go outside the union to develop coalitions with other unions and community organizations committed to fighting for the things that her own union won't touch.

Principles, persistence, and support

The three panelists who discussed "The Challenges and Pitfalls of Fighting a Discrimination Case" agreed that it takes principles, persistence, and support to survive the long-distance run for fair play.

Valerie Blehm, member of Operating Engineers Local 609, described her successful sexual harassment suit against the Seattle School District for its failure to discipline an openly vicious supervisor. She attributed her victory to the support of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and her own determination to "keep on fighting" in spite of adversity.

Doris Harris, a black woman who in 1981 won a racial and sexual harassment complaint while employed as a gardener at Seattle City Light, said that being part of the Employee Committee for Equal Rights at City Light (CERCL), a group "that handles the civil rights of all people," and becoming a shop steward in her new union, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 17, helped to prevent discouragement.

Ruth Palmer, now a bus driver and member of the Amalgamated Transit Union, was fired on Christmas eve 1975 from the Department of Social and Health Services because of the ethical stand she took against turning over personal information on welfare recipients for filing in a centralized computer at the Department headquarters. Palmer went to court, and in October of this year, won on the grounds that management violated a union contract provision which protected her ethical beliefs. She said that her principles and the support of fellow unionists in her old union, Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) Local 948, have kept her in the fight for nine long years.

Resolutions and solutions

Following the speeches and workshops, conference participants reconvened to discuss solutions to the problems of discrimination on the job and in the unions.

A resolution was passed to add protection from sexual orientation and political ideology discrimination to Washington State's anti-discrimination law and in union contracts where it doesn't exist. Another called on the State of

Washington to settle the comparable worth case with full compensation. And still another called for Washington State Labor Council to sponsor a discussion on the formation of a labor party.

Other resolutions were passed in support of the campaign to strengthen Seattle's anti-discrimination ordinances; the striking Yale University clerks and for Alison Thorne, a lesbian activist unjustly fired from her teaching job in Melbourne, Australia.

The conference also went on record denouncing the U.S. war drive against Nicaragua and excoriated Initiative 456, an initiative passed by Washington voters on November 6 that threatens Native American fishing rights.

The Labor Advisory Committee that helped plan and direct the conference agreed to assist with the work mandated by the conference including setting up a network of women facing discrimination. They invited other committed activists to join them.

The more than 60 unions, community organizations, and individuals who endorsed the conference included: AFSCME 2083 (Seattle City Librarians) AFSCME 2083-c (Seattle Library Classified Employees), Aerospace Machinists Industrial District Lodge 751, Classified Staff Association, District 925, IWW, Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Local 8, International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers Local 17, Multnomah County Library Union, 9-5-Seattle Association of Working Women, Seattle American Postal Workers Union, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1001, Washington Federation of State Employees Local 435, the Asian Pacific Women's Caucus, National Lawyers Guild, Seattle Office for Women's Rights, and the Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

For more information, contact Radical Women, 3815-5th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 632-1815.

STAR TALK

CAPRICORN The Mountain Goat
December 21 - January 19
The Sign of the ORGANIZER
A Transpersonal, Cardinal Earth Sign
Earth Image — The Mountain
"I organize"

by Douglas Bloch

Capricorn, the tenth sign of the Zodiac, completes and perfects the earth principle. Associated with Saturn, the planet of form and discipline, the goat combines the practical qualities of earth with the cardinal mode's

pioneering instinct. Through this synthesis, Capricorn actively imposes order and structure upon the outside world.

The Capricorn native derives many of its traits from its symbol, the mountain goat. Like the goat, it is slow, cautious and sure footed in its climb up the mountain. The following illustrates the nature of this ascent.

Note that while the goat must periodically descend before progressing higher, the overall movement is upward. True, this method of climbing brings inevitable delays. But, through organization, hard work, and persistence, it eventually scales the peak to find societal recognition awaiting it at the top. (A heavy Capricorn emphasis occurs in the charts of many famous individuals.)

Though the Capricorn certainly deserves its hard earned success, it must avoid using its ambition for the sole purpose of personal gain (witness the fate of Richard Nixon [Jan. 9]). Being a transpersonal sign, the goat's highest calling is to work for the public good, with no ego to please, no competitors to surpass and no insecurity to alleviate, its mind is fixed upon one goal only — to bring a more humane order into the world. To attain this end, it may organize a labor union, administer a non-profit health organization, or run for political office. If its motivation is pure, success is inevitable and lasting.

Saturn governs the process of maturation over time. Consequently, many children of Capricorn are late bloomers. During the first half of life, they struggle to overcome limitations and self doubt that were developed during childhood. Yet, the tree that ripens slowly produces the sweetest fruit. Once Capricorn has worked through its initial difficulties, it experiences a tranquility and mellowing of the later decades. Aging gracefully, it is usually well advanced in years when its life on earth has concluded.

Our discussion of Capricorn would be incomplete without an appreciation of the

symbolism of the mountain. Historically, mountains have represented the meeting ground of the spiritual and the mundane. Many advanced religious orders have established their dwellings in the mountains of Tibet, India, Peru and Central America. Moses ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. Christ was transfigured upon a mountain.

Otherside in good hands

To the Editor and the People of Portland,

Right now "The Otherside of Midnight" is one of only three bars for women in Portland. It would be our loss and a dirty shame if we didn't support it. True, the owner is a mere man, but he's a nice guy who deserves a chance.

Principle aside, there's another reason for visiting "The Otherside." Currently there's a show running there every Friday night. This is not a drag show. It's a musical [live] - variety show. The MC is Fairie Tyler-Moore. He's extremely talented. He puts the show together and does a helluva good job. He's a combination of Phil Donahue, Johnny Carson, Dinah Shore, and perhaps even Barbara Walters.

He starts the show off with a song, then introduces his weekly musical guest. Next he brings out his special guest with information about our community. He has games to get everyone in the audience involved. They're always fun, with prizes to help.

In closing, I would like to say, for a good time, come down to "The Otherside" on a Friday night between 9:30 and 10:30. Sit back, relax and enjoy. You won't be disappointed.

— Vicki Sullivan



248-0199

HELD OVER JANUARY THROUGH



Opening November 23: **SOPH — A VISIT WITH THE LAST OF THE RED HOT MAMAS**, an original one-woman musical tribute to the late great Miss Sophie Tucker. SOPH stars Wendy Westerwelle, directed by Ric Young with musical direction by Ron Snyder.

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