

Housewives wage campaign for compensation

by Robert Lothian

A campaign for wages for housework was launched in several U.S. cities on November 16.

Leaders of the campaign called for a one-day women's strike in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, New Haven and Tulsa.

In coordination with the strikes, a petition requested that governments include women's unpaid housework and agricultural labor in the gross national product of all nations.

"Our work is unproductive because it is not exchanged for money and is therefore excluded from GNP figures. Yet without our work, neither business nor government could function," states Margaret Prescod of Wages and International Black Women for

Wages for Housework.

The two groups are circulating their petition in the U.S., Europe and even Trinidad, said the local coordinator of the campaign, Sue Kaufman. On November 16, San Francisco women's groups held a wages for housework rally outside the U.N. Plaza, she said.

Filled out petitions, along with group endorsements, will be presented to the July, 1985 International Women's Year United Nations Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya, said Kaufman.

"The petition is really a way to get the campaign to places it hasn't been, she said. Local organizations such as the Feminist Health Center, the Crisis Line and Women's Inter-

national League for Peace and Freedom have endorsed the petition, and Kaufman said she is organizing a Portland delegation to the Nairobi conference.

According to the petitioning organizations, women do two-thirds of the world's work, receive only five percent of the world's income and they own less than one percent of the world's assets. Women also produce, often with the help of children, at least half of the world's food — work that is often unpaid, they say.

Kaufman noted that economists, including John Kenneth Galbraith, have found housework and other women's work to be a large and unrecognized component of the standard of living. The value of the un-

paid work of the average homemaker has been calculated at between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year by some economists.

Founder of the wages for housework campaign is Selma James, Brooklyn-born feminist who now resides in England, and author of *Race, Sex and Class*. She is the wife of West Indian scholar C.L.R. James, author of *The Black Jacobins, Facing Reality* and other books.

"I think we should get paid for housework because our work is so vital to every community," said James, in an interview with the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. "We produce the basic ingredient for all industry, all commerce and all profit — which is the workforce."

Senior center adopts Christmas canine



Home at last, Brandy receives a big hug from one of her newly adopted "parents" at a local nursing home.

I was beginning to think no one understood me when my friend's at the shelter found me a home. I should start at the beginning, my first home I loved, but I wanted so much to be with my master that when he would leave me alone I missed him so much that I cried and howled. I thought he would understand, but he thought I was being bad, so he taped my mouth shut. If he only knew how bad it hurt when he pulled the tape off at night to feed me. I cried out—the pain was so great—and what hurt more than ever was that he didn't understand. I tried so hard to please him and let him know I loved him, but he couldn't seem to love me back. Even though my mouth was bleeding from the tape, when the people from the shelter took me away from home I hated to leave. I wanted to say goodbye, but they didn't want me to be hurt anymore so I had to go live with the dogs who didn't have a family. They were friendly, but I really would rather be with people, so I howled until some would come see me.

One bright day, a nice man looked in my kennel and said, "I have a home for her," and sure enough I had a new home. I was so happy I was going to be with people. It was a long trip to my new home and when we arrived, I looked at my new home. I was ready to go in and check out all my new family and my new house,

but I was put in the back yard and left. All I could remember was being left at my first home. I wanted to be with people; I had to tell him. I howled until my new owner came out, but he was angry. Now what should I do? I don't want him to tape my mouth. I had better get out of here. I saw an opportunity to get out, so away I went.

I didn't know what to do. I didn't want to be alone, but I couldn't stand to have my mouth taped. I saw some children playing; maybe they would pay attention to me. I was right. They took me home, but their parents called the shelter and told them I was a stray. A few minutes later the truck was taking me back to the shelter. They really are my friends; they let me stay in the office with them. Sometimes they said things that would scare me, like, "We aren't allowed to keep her here. We must find her a home." Then it began to happen. There were some ladies from a nearby Nursing Home that came twice a week to get puppies for visiting the grandmas and grandpas at their facility.

They talked to my friends about having a dog come and live with them and before I knew what was happening, I went for a visit. I only stayed a couple of hours, but I sure got a lot of love while I was there and I think they liked me, too.

And then it happened. I was all approved and I went to my new home. I have so many people to love and I feel like I make them happy. They all pay attention to me and I never have to be alone, anymore. I really do miss my friends at the shelter, but they come and visit once in a while and I think they know how happy I am and that my new family needs me.

BRANDY

PCC campus closed for Christmas

Portland Community College announces that all college facilities will be closed for business from December 24, 1984, through January 1, 1985. The closure was approved by the PCC Board of Directors at a recent meeting.

"The goal in closing all PCC facilities is to save money and energy during this period of low student activity," said Dr. John H. Anthony, PCC president.

Open registration for winter term classes for both credit and noncredit is underway now at PCC's Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Road, the Cascade Campus at 705 N. Kinningsworth, and the Southeast Center, 2850 SE 82nd Ave.

Registration for noncredit classes at Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave., may be done in person now, or by mail or telephone following instructions in PCC's winter term class schedule. Students enrolling in classes for credit at Sylvania began registration on an appointment basis December 10. Appointment registration continues through December 21. Open registration at Sylvania begins January 4, 1985, and continues through January 11.

The Christmas closure affects PCC offices in outlying areas as well as campuses and centers. Community service area offices are located in Forest Grove, Newberg and St. Helens.

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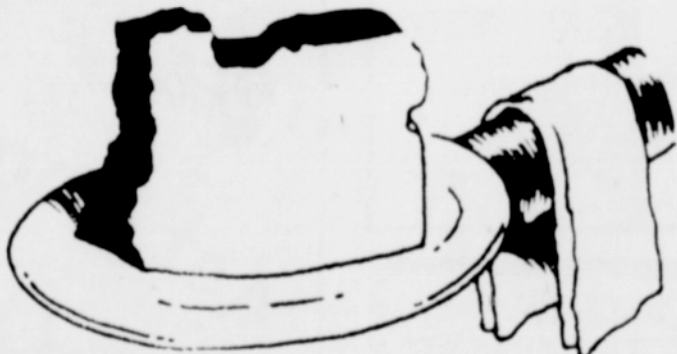
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