

MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON WOMEN

The Mayor's Council on Women evolved out of an earlier formed Task Force which had explored a number of issues facing women in Burlington. Over the past year, the Council has held regular bi-weekly public meetings. Three sub-groups focus on the separate problems of health, safety, and economics.

The Council sponsored and ran three free health clinics at the Community Health Center, one of which served the elderly, another provided well-child care, and a third gave free exams for women.

Early in the year, the Council organized and sponsored a week-long "Women and Work" conference. Free movies concerning sexual harassment at the

workplace, labor organizing, and other topics were shown each day in City Hall during lunch hour, and were taken to a different neighborhood location each evening. During the week a photographic exhibit of working women was on display in City Hall. People attending the day-long conference on Saturday heard a key-note address from the labor-organizing group "9 to 5" and participated in workshops on such issues as the problems of working mothers, sexual harassment on the job, working women's economic status, and the workplace environment.

The Council also brought to Burlington the Rhode Island Feminist Theatre who performed their original show "One is Silver," exploring women's friendships.

Other Council-supported ventures which are still being formulated include a city-wide awareness program focusing on the use of whistles for the potential victims of violent attacks, predominantly women and the elderly, and involvement in the establishment of day-care in the City.

All women in Burlington are urged to attend the meetings which are advertised in the local media.

Mayor's Youth Office

Jane Driscoll Youth Coordinator

In 1981 when he campaigned for Mayor, Bernard Sanders talked about the need for the city to pay greater attention to the concerns and interests of youth. After he was elected, he established the Mayor's Youth Office and, in July of 1981 with the approval of the Board of Aldermen, the Youth Office moved into our present location on the third floor of City Hall.

Last fall, we began an after-school program in performing arts at Memorial Auditorium and it has blossomed in a variety of ways. We have established a kid's theater arts group, known as "Burlington Broadway," which has involved many volunteers and over 100 young (2½-18 years old) Burlington actors, actresses and stage hands in two very successful shows—"Annie's Christmas Surprise" at the City Hall Auditorium and "Fame Fever" at the Flynn. Presently, a small touring company is bringing selections from these shows to senior citizen centers and housing complexes, nursing homes and hospitals. Several new teenage bands and an all-girl a capella group have developed through this program and have performed in Battery Park, Memorial Auditorium, the Correctional Center and local restaurants.

We coordinate the CETA program for City Hall which has employed almost two dozen teenagers in the Street Department, the City Clerk's Office, the Public Health and Safety Department, the Planning Department and my office. We also began an extensive internship pro-

gram in City Hall. College students have worked in the Mayor's Office, the Treasurer's Office and the Personnel Office among others on a wide range of subjects including tax reform, the juvenile justice system, cable television franchises, volunteer coordination and city services.

We have developed the B.U.S.Y. program (Building Understanding Between Seniors and Youth), a skills and service exchange with an emphasis on companionship, in which young people interact with senior citizens in a variety of capacities.

Along with projects and activities, we do a lot of behind the scenes networking with public and private agencies on the coordination of resources and the expansion of services. One of the most exciting results of this has been a proposal for the establishment of a day care and community center in Memorial Auditorium which the City Council will be deciding on soon. We're also exploring delinquency prevention legislation, enrichment programs and alternative schooling. Other more visible cooperative ventures include youth ballet performances, guest speakers, holiday parties, professional stage shows, film series and some of the above programs.

During the first year, the youth office existed almost entirely on volunteer effort and some small grants from the city and private sources. This year we were recipients of a Community Development Block Grant as well as a grant from the State of Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services. This latter grant is enabling us to co-sponsor workshops for parents and youth group leaders that provide education and support around drug and alcohol abuse.

At this time, I would like to thank the many, many volunteers who have helped make our programs a success and to invite all Burlingtonians, parents and children, to join us in future activities.