

Job Fair Day

The Job Fair Program was designed to increase public awareness about city employment programs. Participants included both low income and professional women. The Job Fair will become a biennial event.

Commission Appointment Information Night

The Mayor's Council on Women sponsored an information session on Commissions and the appointment procedure. The evening was designed to generate interest and participation in city government. As a result 68 women applied for commission posts, more than ever before; 12 were actually appointed.

Endorsements and Sponsorships

In addition to its own projects, the Mayor's Council on Women supported other events; a film "Not A Love Story" sponsored by Women Against Pornography; a play by the Johnson State College Drama Club "Getting Out"; the Lesbian and Gay Pride March; a reading by feminist poet Judy Grahn; and the Conference "The Future of Feminism and Religion" sponsored by the UVM Campus Ministry.

Future Plans

Future plans include a conference on *Women and*

Disarmament, sponsorship of speaker Sonja Johnson, candidate for U.S. President. The Council is also seeking office space within City Hall to serve as an information and referral service for women.

The Mayor's Council on Women member organizations and officers are as follows:

Organizations

Champlain Valley Now
Everywoman's Place
YWCA
Women Helping Battered Women
Rape Crisis Center
League of Women Voters
Planned Parenthood
Commonwomin
Women's Health Center
Association of University Women
Greater Burlington Network
Burlington Business and Professional Women
Vermont Women's Political Caucus
Women Against Pornography
CVOEO

Officers

Sue Gillis - Convenor
Amy Demarest - Co-Convenor
Dana Gallagher - Secretary
Kate Baldwin - Treasurer

MAYOR'S YOUTH OFFICE

JANE DRISCOLL COORDINATOR

The Mayor's Youth Office was established in June, 1981 as a result of recommendations by Mayor Sanders' Task Force on Youth.

The theory which guides the Youth Office is simple. We believe that in these difficult times, young people need help in developing a sense of belonging and a sense of involvement in their community. It is our view that kids turn to drugs, alcohol and other self-destructive behavior only to fill a void in their lives which occurs when they are unable to express their energies in creative and fulfilling ways. We are attempting to provide our young people with affordable, accessible opportunities which develop competence, usefulness and a sense of commitment. We are working to prevent delinquency by building neighborhoods and involving residents of all ages with each other and in their community.

Some of the specific programs that we have initiated to achieve these goals are listed below.



Since the Youth Office opened, young people have been enthusiastic about dramatic productions. Through the **Performing Arts Program**, they've written scripts, composed music, choreographed dances, designed sets, and performed in their own plays. The involvement, camaraderie, sense of accomplishment, skill development and recognition that are part of this program make it a very successful afterschool activity. They are also essential components of any prevention project. After one production, a young person wrote, "I feel I enjoyed it much more because I helped to create it from the start. I helped produce it, and put it on, which is one heck of a lot of work, but the final product I was proud of because it was no one else's but ours..." Past productions include "Annie's Christmas Surprise," "Fame Fever," "Grease," and "Susan B!"

The Youth Office has also responded to interest in developing outlets for young musicians. For two years, we sponsored **Teenage Band Concerts** in Battery Park during the summer and a **Battle of the Bands** in Memorial Auditorium in the fall. This year, approximately 1000 people came and danced to the sound of The Boyz, M-80, Blue Rock, and the Dissidents. Some of these teen musicians have since played at other events in the area, such as school dances and the City's Halloween Party. This program produces more than rock music; it encourages the energies and talents of our young people and recognizes their accomplishments.

Other projects involving performing have also brought history to life for our students. Some have been participatory while others made use of art and theater as excellent vehicles for education. Projects included "**The Burlington Waterfront: Past, Present and Future**" in cooperation with the Fleming Museum and others, and "**First Lady**," "**Susan B!**" and "**The Amazing Einstein**" performed by the New York Performing Arts Repertory Theatre and aided by study and discussion guides.

B.U.S.Y., a program to Build Understanding between Seniors and Youth, is a chore service with an emphasis on companionship. Our most visible component of this program is **Operation Snowshovel**, which matches young people with their elderly or handicapped neighbors. The volunteers provide a much needed snowshoveling service while both parties benefit through the interaction.

The **Tree Planting Project** is a model of what people working together can do. Thanks to contributions from downtown businesses, the Youth Office was able to initiate a "reforesting" effort last spring which has already lined our streets with 700 trees. While the neighborhood planning assemblies decided where to plant the trees, many people sent in donations and the City pledged matching funds. The Parks Dept. determined which trees would be suited for the chosen locations and instructed the hundreds of volunteers who came out those rainy Saturdays to actually do the planting. This is only the beginning of a long-term effort to replace the thousands of trees lost to Dutch Elm disease.

Last August, the Youth Office and the Burlington Peace Coalition hosted Burlington's first **International Work Camp**, a program designed to foster an enduring peace through mutual understanding. We brought fourteen young people from nine different countries to live and work in our community for three weeks. During the day, they labored free of charge on such things as the bike path, a bus shelter for the elderly, a housing rehabilitation program, the College Street Park and the Burlington People's Circus. In the evening, they got to know many people in our community through shared meals, indepth discussions and recreational activities. The experience was so gratifying for both Burlington and the work campers that another camp and a teenage exchange program are being planned for next summer.

Last summer, we held our **Third Annual Burlington People's Circus** in the City Hall Park. A city-wide festival including face-painting, costuming, side-shows, midway games, jugglers, clowns, and magicians, the circus showcases new-found local talent. Week-long workshops in five neighborhoods yielded seventy new performers this year and the show was a memorable one. The best part, as

always, was the interaction between individuals, merchants and organizations in the planning process.

The **Old North End Baseball League** will be in its third year this spring. Neighborhood people, along with serving as coaches, umpires, scorekeepers and cheering fans, have built two dug-outs and a scoreboard for Roosevelt Park. Thanks to their dedication and the exuberance of about a hundred young baseball players, the park is filled with fun and laughter every spring day for either team practice or a game.

Our **Youth Employment Service** continues to place teenagers in various part-time or temporary jobs, both in city government and private enterprise. In addition, we have collaborated with the state in establishing the **Burlington Youth Employment Program**, a non-profit organization designed to address this issue more completely. So far, close to 100 teenagers have worked on agricultural, recycling and weatherization projects and we expect to begin some housing rehabilitation work soon.

The Youth Office is very pleased to announce that a new **Child Care Center**, to be run by another separate non-profit organization, will open this spring on the first floor of Memorial Auditorium. We believe that child care is a service for children and parents that strengthens, supports and complements the family, the schools and the community and that the availability of quality, affordable child care is a priority. **The Burlington Children's Place** will provide this care to sixty children, including many infants, children with special needs and those from families often unable to afford this service.

Along with other ventures, such as substance abuse workshops, guest speakers, holiday parties, sports programs, etc., the Youth Office serves several other basic functions. We advise the Mayor on youth related issues, work with other agencies on the coordination of resources and provide a referral service. The office also acts as an advocate in city government for youth. We are there to talk with young people and their families about their concerns or to guide them to appropriate resources in the community.

In the coming year, the Youth Office plans to explore the development of a teen center and to work on establishing a youth newspaper. We also hope to promote increased community involvement in the education system, giving this vital function the prominence it deserves.

In closing, we give our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who have made our programs a success and extend an invitation to all Burlingtonians to join us in future activities.

