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Boston women set spring activities

By CHRIS HILDEBRAND

BOSTON—On Feb. 6, more than 200 women met at Boston University to map out spring activities for the women's liberation movement in the New England area. The meeting was organized by the New England Women's Coalition, a newly formed group which grew out of the coalition that organized the Aug. 26 Women's Strike.

The coalition is at present composed of about 15 organizations, including Radcliffe Women to Keep Mind and Body Together, the Northshore Feminists, National Organization for Women, Female Liberation, Lexington Women's Liberation No. 1, Northeastern University Female Liberation, the Young Socialist Alliance, Young Women Committed to Action (a caucus in the YWCA), Boston University Female Liberation, Boston Women United, Socialist Workers Party, High School Women's Liberation, Black and Third World Women's Alliance, Daughters of Billie, Women Towards Awareness, and several unnamed collectives.

The Feb. 6 meeting passed a series of action proposals for the spring. The first is that there be a massive demonstration of women from all over New England on Sat., April 17, called Women's Liberation Day. The demands of the demonstration will be:

1) we demand complete control over our own bodies—free abortion on demand, repeal all abortion laws, no forced sterilization, free birth control
2) we demand full control over our lives—including free, 24-hour, community-controlled child-care centers, equal employment opportunity, equal access to education and job training, and repeal of all laws regulating sexual behavior.

Another activity being planned is a New England-wide "Congress to Unite Women" to be held the weekend of March 19-21. This three-day conference will include educational workshops and panels as well as workshops to help plan and carry out the demonstration on April 17 and other actions. The Congress was seen as a way of bringing together all the women's liberation groups in New England. Plans will also be discussed for how to broaden the March 19 action through bringing in new women.

It was also decided to build mass picket lines and actions during the week of March 23. These will coincide with hearings held by the state legislature on bills to repeal the Massachusetts abortion law.

In addition, a committee was set up to work on child care and to investigate the possibility of placing a referendum on the ballot in a city like Cambridge in the 1971 elections, on the issue of free, 24-hour, community-controlled child care.

The meeting, which was widely covered by the Boston mass media and underground press, voted to send telegrams of solidarity to Angela Davis and Ericka Huggins.

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