

## The Book Corner

# Organizing for Change — A Workshop Primer

Stepping Out of Line: A Workbook on Lesbianism and Feminism by Nym Hughes, Yvonne Johnson and Yvette Perreault. Press Gang Publishers, 1984, \$12.95

This book is just what it's subtitle suggests: a guidebook for organizing and facilitating lesbian/feminist workshops. It also contains valuable information relevant to all women in that it deals with the situations and problems any independent, assertive, articulate woman encounters in day-to-day life. Therefore, Stepping Out of Line performs a dual function. It offers both practical instruction regarding the organization of workshops, and it provides straightforward advice to both lesbian and non-lesbian readers on how to do personal and political problem-solving and where to find additional sources.

The book is written by three women who are, as the back cover states, "friends, as well as co-authors" who "share interests in feminism, story telling, gardens, animals, and how lesbians survive." Their dedication and clarity as well as their friendship is apparent throughout the book. All three women are long-time lesbian activists in British Columbia and have developed and presented workshops on lesbianism and feminism to over 40 women's groups.

Stepping Out of Line is divided into two main parts. The first and briefer of the two deals with the feminist/lesbian workshop itself, with an actual workshop script to go by and the basic notes of advice to the facilitators of the workshop.

The second and more expansive part of the book concerns stories from the women in the workshops themselves. There are self-admitted limitations to this group of stories, as all were collected from young, white, urban lesbians and feminists living in the B.C. area who are connected to a strong feminist or lesbian community. But the introduction to Part II makes this quite clear.

The subtitle for Part II is "Organizing for Change," and its overall emphasis is to "encourage women to see their individual situations in political terms and to work with other women to find solutions" This is done mainly through the personal stories presented throughout the rest of the book. These stories are grouped into the categories which range from how to tell families and friends of your lesbianism to dealing with patriarchal laws, medical and legal system, and the media to a listing of lesbian and feminist resources in Canada, the U.S., and internationally.

Stepping Out of Line is a clear-cut and caring combination of factual and

emotional stimulation. It combines these two in a way that is symbolic of the woman all women should, must, strive to be -- one who is strong yet compassionate. Hughes, Johnson, and Perreault succeed in their attempt to present such a book as they surely must in their own lives.

-Kim Turnage



## A Way to Educate Uncle Sam

A group of concerned federal employees have formed an organization that seeks to end discrimination within the bureaucratic structure based on sexual orientation. Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) says their purpose is to assure equal access to job opportunities, assist government employees, and applicants who have suffered such discrimination because of their sexual preference, and to educate the public and policymakers about the concerns of homosexuals.

For more information, write:

FLAG  
584 Castro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114-2588  
or

496 La Guardia Place  
P.O. Box 217  
New York, NY 10012  
(212-264-7241)

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