

Lettera mai
spedita per chi
dimenticava

FA, cartelle 3, 4

Padova 18.1.73

Dear Teri,

Concerning ~~the~~ my correspondence
of last months I read again your
letter of 29.8.73 where you say
that you never received the mate-
rial of. we sent. Please, if you
aren't yet received them, ~~let~~ let
us know, and we will send them
again as soon as possible.

Write, please again, ^{also} what
we already sent and that you
have already received because
we do not have the copy of
the letter we sent ^{to you} with first materials

Could you please send us two
copies of the book your ~~Italian~~
friend living in Stockholm has written?

Hoping to hear soon from

you

Mariarosa and the other
feminist women
of Padova

MARIAROSA DALLA COSTA. VIA B. CRISTOFORI 35. Padova
Tel. 653016

15.10.73

Dear Mariarosa,

I just want very shortly to thank you very much for all the interesting material you have send me. I have several questions to ask you in connection with the womens movement in Italy, but will do that on another occassion when I have a little more time, but I just thought you should know I got the papers.

I am sending you a few pages about the Danish womens movement - an American friend of mine who knows danish tranlated it from a Danish womens paper, and I hope it might give you just an idea about what is going on here.

A book, "Women in factories" which we (four women) made 2 years ago, where we interviewed twelve women working in factory is just know getting tranlated into English, and if you are interested in it I can send you a copy when it is finished.

As far as I am informed about other countries women from the movement wants and try - and somtetimes succeed in getting in contact with factory) women ,and I do think that kind of contact is very good between women, that the barriers between the different groups get a little lower, but on the other hand that shouldn't exclude that the mittleclasswomen work with ^{their specific} ~~her other~~ problems, if you understand what I mean. Anyhow - the reason that I write all that is that I am very interested in hearing about which kind of experience you have from work between women from different groups, students , housewives and women working in factories. I should imagine that you would have some interesting experiences specially in Northern Italy.

Looking forward to hearing from you sometime - when you have time

If you or any of your friends ever come to Denmark I do hope they will phone me or look me up. We have an extra room if that should be necessary .

tele phone :

(01) 42.10.59

Toni

The movement grew steadily. In January 1972 we held a seminar in Tåstrup, where we discussed future structuring of the women's movement. It had gradually become necessary to coordinate better, because the movement had become too numerous that the general meetings were too large and could not really function properly. So many new women came only once or twice and no more - - there were too many "in transit" in the movement. To be sure, there were introduction meetings for the new members, but the great number plus the anarchistic structure made it hard not to lose some by the wayside. Therefore, at the Tåstrup-seminar ~~and~~^{and} at following meetings, we decided to divide Copenhagen into regions which each should hold their own general meetings, introduction meetings and so on. The center would be the office in the Women's House. Unfortunately, the regions fell apart one after the other. Now there are only a few regions, such as Vesterbro, which function mostly as a cross group. In general, the movement today consists mostly of cross groups which handle various topics. Some of these groups meet in the Women's House, which has now become a gathering place for many. The redstocking magazine, published by different groups in turn, is also sent from here.

After the regions more or less fell apart, the need to gather the movement in Copenhagen has arisen again. Therefore, we have begun to hold monthly general meetings. Her^e, we have recently discussed the desirability of and the need for a tighter structure within the movement.

Work of the movement

The work of the movement so far has concentrated on starting a process of developing awareness. "Developing awareness" should be understood as more than changing one's way of thinking. It also means to develop oneself, to find strength and courage, and knowledge about how things are related, to find others in the same situation whom one can be supported by and fight together with. These are all the necessary prerequisites for being able to change one's situation. This "developing awareness" has happened on a personal level in the basis groups and cross groups, as well as at various actions, debates, meetings. It happens when groups visit schools, publish a paper, and so on, especially when each of us speak with our families and at our jobs.

Closely linked with developing awareness is creating alternatives. Therefore, we have emphasized that the structure of the movement in itself should be an alternative to society's usual way of functioning: anti-authoritarian, non-hierarchical, no "spokeswomen", based upon groups, and so on. The Femø camp and the Women's House are also alternatives, small islands in society where one is able to experience other ways of working together, talking together and living together.

Several groups have worked with more concrete, social projects ~~such as equal salary and abortion and protest to EEC.~~ This work aims at relevant situations, to influence the laws, support other fighting groups, so it is not just a link in the process of developing awareness.

Further, our work has dealt with the internal functions of the movement: taking care of the office, the book cafe, arranging general meetings, introducing new women and writing the newspaper. Unfortunately, it has been up and down with this work. In the beginning when we were not so numerous and everyone was in a basis group the basis groups took turns in carrying out these tasks. Now it is a matter of chance as to who does what and how much is done.

Especially in the ^{two} ~~last~~ last-named areas, we need to tighten the structure of the movement. Thus, we can have a better framework for these activities.

x x x

REDSTOCKING ACTIONS
IN COPENHAGEN

Dec. 1969

Several women happen to begin to talk about women's matters. They agree to do something new.

April 8, 1970

The Walking-Street Action. While the Royal Guard plays the Pippi Long-Stocking song at Kongens Nytorv, twelve young university women prepare themselves for their parade down the walking-street. Dressed according to the old image of women, carrying signs and chanting about sister solidarity, and freedom, they go up to the Town Hall Square. Here, they cast their wigs and red balloons in brassieres into a garbage bag.

Tuborg Brewery- Afterwards, they go out to Tuborg and distribute leaflets. These leaflets demonstrate how much less women earn than men and therefore demand equal pay. Afterwards, at a press meeting, they explain what they want and announce a public meeting at Charlottenborg for the following week.

ca. April 10, 1970

Resident Action on Lundetoftegade. The redstockings ride up on the elevator and invite all women down to the courtyard for coffee and to discuss what improvements should be made in the building and what demand should be made to KAB, (Copenhagen Housing Association) which had still not completed the building. The meeting goes well and we arrange another meeting for an evening when the rest of the residents can come.

April 14, 1970

Public meeting at Charlottenborg. Here we explain who we are, what we have done, and what we want. A movement is formed which consists of small discussion groups which will meet all together at a general meeting every fourteen days in the Project House. Women from the Women's Canon Club suggest that men leave. After a heated and violent discussion, most men leave and almost all groups are formed of exclusively women.

Later in April, 1970

After a general meeting, we spontaneously occupy a trolley car in the Town Hall Square and try to pay only 80 øre ^{instead} ~~the~~ ~~price~~. The police come after 10 minutes and we are ~~taken~~ ^{thrown} off.

May 1, 1970

Four redstockings take control of the microphone of union leader Thomas Nielsen at the Town Hall Square just before he is to speak. "We won't wait 100 years for equal pay- We demand equal pay right now --right now!" The redstockings are violently pulled down. Leaflets with the speech are passed out and the speech is held with a megaphone from the other end of the square. Direct transmission on TV.

Mother's Day- "Q" Day (Women's Day)

Demonstration to the Fælled Park and open-air meeting afterwards. Lene Bro and Ulla Dahlerup invited to speak. Sekstion of the Bull of the Year, who receives a pair of tiger-striped swim shorts. Arranged by the Individual and Society group, who had announced it at a general meeting. Afterwards, the famous Bus-Action, where redstockings refuse to pay more than 80 øre for their tickets. They are driven to the station. Here they are fined, but refuse to pay more than 80 øre of the fine. They are fined again, and so it continues for a while.

May -June, 1970

The male editors of the flip magazine MAK give the redstockings an issue, when they ~~as~~ themselves have run dry for inspiration. We make QAK, which is not published again.

Summer, 1970

Redstockings are ~~expected~~ ^{requested} to come to various meetings and tell about what we do. For the first time, many of us sit on panels, make introductions, hold speeches, and write articles and letters-to-the-editor.

August, 1970

Action at an art exhibition., where a man had illustrated himself surrounded by a mass of admiring women. We improved the exhibition by setting the women together in the center and putting him in the corner.

August, 1970

The Fiol Theatre presents "See Women." The redstockings are invited to partake in the debate following the performance. At a general meeting, we discuss occupying the Fiol Theatre while the play is performed, and making it a place where women could come if they wanted to leave home. This should only be for as long as the play ran. This is the first thought about a women's house.

Sept. 2, 1970

Matriculation Action. A beautiful young white-c/ ad coed jumps up to the podium in the assembly hall of the university, folds a bridal veil out from under her white student cap, and holds a speech: "Welcome to men's best marriage market." A leaflet with the speech is distributed. It notes proportion of the sexes in the various subjects, for both students and teachers. Outside the hall, among the statues, stand living female statues who illustrate all the functions into which women are forced if their husbands are to succeed at the university: Madam Blue, the cleaning ^{lady} who dusts the statues and the bicycles; the white-clad muse; the attentive secretary; the all-sacrificing mother to his children.

Sept. 1970

During the World Bank demonstrations, we perform street theatre. Dressed as women from the third world, we go around and beg and annoy the participants in the congress as best as we can. Tuesday in Tivoli, Thursday at Tuborg, where the ladies tour the factory, and Friday at the Town Hall Square.

December 1970

Equal Pay Action. When member of parliament Gunhild Due's bill for mandatory equal pay has been voted down in the Folketing (Parliament), we throw leaflets and wage packets (20% of them lacking) down onto the heads of the members of the Folketing. We unroll banners and chant, "This is not just a plea- We demand equal salary!" Two minutes later we are all hauled out and three of us are arrested. Later, many inform the police that they also participated in the action and demand to be arrested also. They are set free after several hours and charges are withdrawn.

December 1970

The initiative group for equal salary in Copenhagen begins to meet.

Jan. 1971

15 redstockings write a special issue of the magazine "Mental-hygiene" on the theme, "Being a Woman."

Feb. 1971

The redstockings put themselves at the disposal of the Initiative Group for Equal Salary. Distribute thousands of leaflets at all the large factories where women work in the Copenhagen area, announcing the meeting and demonstration.

Feb. 8, 1971

Meeting in the Folkets Hus (People's House) on Enghavevej, arranged by the Initiative Group. The Union of Women Workers (KA) at this meeting also support the planned demonstration, which they see as a support to their own arbitrators. The hall is jammed and there is a real fighting spirit. (A film of the meeting and the demonstration has been made).

Feb. 11, 1971

Demonstration from the Town Hall Square to the Institution of Mediation, demonstration arranged by the Initiative Group. In all, 5,000 women of all ages participate. We demand equal pay. We feel fantastically strong, but, as is known they robbed us anyway. Several days later, Edith Olsen, (chairman of the Union of Women Workers) ~~passed~~ the table. They made an entry in the records but no equal salary.

(pounded)

March 24, 1971

Occupation of EVA (fashion magazine) after Palle Fogdal had censored an article on the movement, written by a group of redstockings working with an EVA journalist.

Spring, 1971

Four articles on various aspects of the women's movement and the position of women written for Ekstra-Bladet (daily newspaper) by various redstocking groups and a female journalist.

Spring, 1971

"With Sisterly Greetings" written by 15 redstockings for Høst & Søn, publishers.

May 1971

Redstockings help ^{to} form the "Housing Front" because we want a women's house.

July 3 - Aug. 7, 1971

Women's Camp on Femø - 500 women participate in the first camp (held on a small Danish island) which lasts for 5 weeks. The participants, of all ages and backgrounds, come from all over Denmark. Many children.

August- September 1971

Meetings about occupying a women's house.

Sept. 15, 1971

The Women's House, Åbenrå 26, is occupied.

Sept. 18, 1971

Leftwing political party VS holds seminar on women i Sultsgade 4. Women decide to take the microphone from the Vietnam committee at the Town Hall Square because they will not allow women speakers in the large anti-EBC demonstration. We take it.

Nov. 1971

The Redstocking Journal is published in off-set print.

December 1971

Christmas action. 200 redstockings demonstrate on the walking street against the commercial exploitation of Christmas. They carry a 3 meter-long doll, the Christmas sacrifice.

January 1972

3-day seminar in Tåstrup with participation of all the women's groups in Denmark. The women's general meetings in Copenhagen are abolished. Greater Copenhagen is divided up into regions.

March 1972

The Lesbian magazine group publishes "Women-Women."

May 1, 1972

Anti-EEC demonstration. From the Women's House to the Palled Park. 1,000 participants. The foul EEC dragon, 4 meters long and with 6 ugly heads, is led by the fat capitalists in business suits. Song and music.

May 1 - 7, 1972

Abortion week at the Women's House. Tapes of women's abortion accounts played daily in the café in the afternoon and evening. Discussion follows.

May 3, 1972

Public hearing on abortion in the People's House on Romersgade, where women explain the problem from their point of view.

May 6, 1972

Demonstration for free abortion from the Women's House across the Town Hall Square to Christiansborg (parliament). We sing the abortion song and the Pill song.

May 1972

The Sullerot report (about Women's position in EEC) translated and published by redstockings in Aarhus.

Oct. 9, 1972

The Monday meetings begin in the Women's House, many people come.

Nov. 23, 1972

Public hearing in the Landsting (the Danish Senate) hall at the parliament on the new abortion bill, arranged by the abortion group at the Women's House in cooperation with experts in all subjects. We demand: free and better contraception, free abortion, and the right to give birth under decent conditions. The booklet "What happens with an Abortion?" was distributed.

Nov. 1972

Women's Solidarity committee formed to collect money for the strike fine which the women at Danfoss must pay. All of the money goes to pay a little of that fine to which the women were sentenced for striking. Giro 215028, Kvindesolidaritet, Mette Hansen, Kvindehuset, Åbenrå 26, 1124 Copenhagen K.

Dec. 1, 1972

Equal Pay meeting at the People's House on Enghavevej, arranged by the Initiative group. They publish a booklet on equal pay.

January 1973

Equal Pay meeting in the Peoples' House, Enghavevej, arranged by

- the Initiative Group. The Solidarity Group for Equal Pay is formed.

Feb. 2, 1973

Society of Danish Women (Dansk Kvindesamfund), the Redstockings, and others hold joint demonstration for free abortion from Gråbrødretorv over the TOWN Hall Square to the parliament..

April 2, 1973

General meeting for Copenhagen again at Sulmsgade 4. The Coordination group is established to make an internal newspaper and an up-to-date card file.

May 1973, Mothers' Day

Baby-carriage ramp built in 14 minutes by 60 redstockings at Nørreport Station. Price: 250 crowns. The transportation authorities block it off, calling it "dangerous." They remove it after several days.

June 16 - August

Women's Camp on Femø

The above information deals directly with the movement.

That have not been mentioned are: the books which have been written (the EVA book, The Women's Book, Women in Factories, Women at Home, Women and History, Sisterhood); many booklets and compendiums; papers written at the universities; articles in newspapers; film, radio, and TV coverage. Many redstockings have been to schools and associations to tell about the movement. We have a songbook, and some women are about to make form a music group.

Much, much more has happened. This list deals only with the actions.

Note: for the Women's Solidarity committee:

Kvindesolidaritet, Kvindehuset
Åbenrå 26
1124 Copenhagen K, Denmark

giro 215028