

SENIOR CLASS MEETING

WHEN: -THURSDAY FEB. 3/77
5:45 PM.

WHERE: - PANTHER LOUNGE

WHO: - ALL SENIORS

- AGENDA - CO-ED DANCE
- CARNIVAL BALL (CARNIVAL QUEEN CONTESTANTS)
- CONVOCATION SPEAKER
- SENIOR WEEK!!
- JACKETS + HATS

SUPPORT YOUR CLASS! BE THERE!

This week we are re-viewing three books on the subject of womens liberation, sent us by Pathfinder Press. We will begin with the one we thought the best, "Women's Evolution" by Evelyn Reed. The other two are "Problem of Women's Liberation" also by Evelyn Reed, and "Women In China" by Katie Curtin. Women's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family, Evelyn Reed Pathfinder Press 491 pp

In this well written and well-researched book, Evelyn Reed attempts to prove that the present patriarchal or father-family has only been in existence for a relatively short time, and was preceded by a general system of matriarchal kinship throughout the world. This contention is in direct opposition to the feelings of numerous anthropologists and most laymen, namely, that the father-family has always existed and that women's present subordinate position is natural and right.

It is her disagreement with this point that makes this book a figurative bible for feminists as well as an anthropological work of considerable merit. In showing that womens present position in society is not natural and right, in showing that women once occupied a position of total equality with man, she gives feminists and ideological base to help them in their quest for equality.

She begins with the development of the matriarchal clan through the the eras of savangery and barbarianism (these terms being used in the anthropological sense). Citing numerous sources, she proves that this sytem did indeed exist. In the course of this, she explodes many of the myths, misconceptions, and misunderstandings that have arisen from pervious refusals to accept the existance of the matriarchal system.

In the second section, she examines the fra-triarchal system, which existed alongside the matriarchal sytem. This concerns the powers, position, and duties of the mother's brother,

Women's Liberation or People's Liberation

the central male figure in primitive society. The father was merely an incidental, with very few rights; indeed, as the biological facts of reproduction were unknown, there was really no such thing as a father in our sense of the word. Rather, there was a mother's sleeping partner.

The final part of the book deals with the shift from a matriarchal to a patriarchal system, and its cause. The author blames this shift, and the subsequent downfall and degradation on the spread of private property ownership and the necessity of heirs to inherit that property.

Originally, fatherhood was a social process rather than a biological one; a man became a child's father by raising him. However, as the system developed, biological fatherhood became mandatory also, and chastity was enforced upon women as a result.

The book itself is extremely well researched. It tends towards pedantry, and is somewhat repetitive when making certain points, but I suppose the latter is necessary in view of the controversial nature of the subject. Although it could hardly be called light reading, and has to be digested a bit at a time, I would highly recommend it to everyone. Specifically, I would recommend it for anthropology students (and professors), and to feminists; to the former because it may correct possible errors

on the subject made by their texts and previous training, and to the latter because it gives them a ideological base and a belief in themselves as women.

Furthermore the time is a little more emotional and extremist. However, it makes some good points and contains interesting concepts and as such I recommend it to people interested in the women's lib movement. Women In China Katie Curtin Pathfinder Press 89 pp

This book deals with the history of womens struggle for liberation in China, their present status, and their problems. This is a very meritorious topic, but upon attempting to persue the author's treatment of it, I fell asleep and therefore, it is with regret that I inform you that no review will be forthcoming. Should anyone read this, book he or she is welcome to send his or her impressions in to the Cadre.

Albert & Wendy

Wise Words

It always strikes me, and it is very peculiar, that whenever we see the image of indescribable and unutterable desolation — of loneliness, poverty, and misery, the end and extreme of things — the thought of God comes into one's mind.

Vincent Van Gogh

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WHEN: FRIDAY JAN. 28, 1977 - 9:AM. - Xmas

WHERE: FEDERATION OF LABOUR HALL

WHO: ALL SENIORS + GUESTS

- MUSIC - DANCING - FUN

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