

GRAIRIE

STRINGS CAN BE CUT

VOLUME I

NUMBER 2



WOMAN

August 1977

A NEWSLETTER OF
SASKATOON WOMENS
LIBERATION

Editorial

Paramount within the struggle to control our own bodies is the freedom to express our own sexuality. The oppression of women who choose to love other women is mainly rooted in the threat of lesbians and gay men to the family institution. Thus persistence of government and state in denying human rights to homosexuals is synonymous with its vested interest in maintaining families as viable economic units as within a capitalist framework.

That human sexuality is controlled by the state which is in turn defended by societal values suggests the lack of personal freedom and human rights for people who do not fit the norms of economic effectiveness.


Capitalism is nurtured by its stringent control over individuals, as long as this exists, gay liberation, womens's liberation and class liberation will never be realized.

Newsletter Collective
August, 1977

Dear Sisters,
 Please send me a year's subscrip-
 tion. Congratulations on beginning
 publication again.
 How about some signed articles
 and list of personnell next time?
 I wish you every success.

In solidarity,
 Linda Stowell

SEND MAIL TO ^{PO.} BOX 4021 SASKATOON



Dear PRAIRIE WOMAN,
 I really enjoyed this edition---
 especially the well articulated com-
 mentary on socialism and feminism.
 Well done.

Cheers,
 Anne Boulton

Dear PRAIRIE WOMAN,
 Thanks for sending me the first
 newsletter. Here is a cheque to
 cover a subscription and a small
 donation. Glad to see you're in
 print again.

In sisterhood,
 Marj Woloshyn

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We are a self-supporting collective and depend on our subscribers in order to survive
 (please read 'plea' graphic)

If you wish to be on Saskatoon Women's Liberation phone list please indicate.



HAUGHN!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?



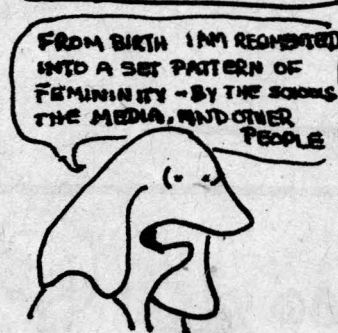
THE DISILLUSIONMENT OF IT ALL - THE WHOLE FOGGIN' SOCIETY

YEA, YOU'RE TELLING ME. EVERYBODY'S HOONK-UP. IF IT ISN'T SEX, IT'S DRUGS AND IF IT'S NOT THAT, IT'S SEX



BUT WHAT ABOUT ME? I CAN'T EVEN BE ME

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

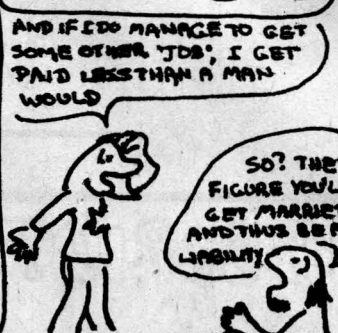


FROM BIRTH I AM REPROGRAMMED INTO A SET PATTERN OF FEMININITY - BY THE SCHOOLS, THE MEDIA, AND OTHER PEOPLE



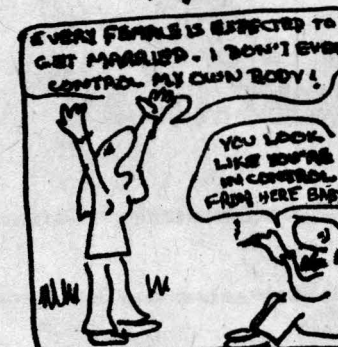
I AM PROMISED A GREAT FUTURE OF DEMOCRATIC EQUALITY, YET WHAT AWAITS ME? ... THE SAME OLD FEMALE JOBS - WAITRESS, TYPIST, OR WHORE

AND THE BIG TAXES



AND IF I DO MANAGE TO GET SOME OTHER 'JOB', I GET PAID LESS THAN A MAN WOULD

SO? THEY FIGURE YOU'LL GET MARRIED AND THUS BE A LIABILITY



EVERY FEMALE IS EXPECTED TO GET MARRIED. I DON'T EVEN CONTROL MY OWN BODY!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN CONTROL FROM HERE BABY!

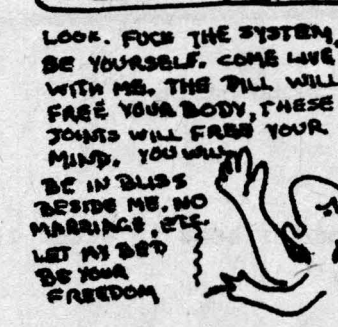


FREEDOM IS ONLY A WORD USED BY MALE WASPS FOR MALE WASPS

YEA! RIGHTON! HA HA



MY FUTURE IS DESTINED FOR ME. I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER FORTY YEARS OF SHADOW EXISTENCE BEHIND SOME MALE --- LEGALIZED CHATTEL



LOOK. FUCK THE SYSTEM. BE YOURSELF. COME LIVE WITH ME. THE PILL WILL FREE YOUR BODY, THESE JOINTS WILL FREE YOUR MIND. YOU WILL BE IN BLISS BESIDE ME. NO MARRIAGE, ETC. LET ME BE YOUR FREEDOM



HAUGHN!

BY ROGER BAKER

from NAUTZ CARTOONS

REPORT FROM EUROPE

Southampton and London
June 11 and June 14, 1977

Dear Sisters:

Here's the first report from abroad!

Six thousand women participated in the International Women's Conference held the 28, 29 and 30 of May, 1977 in Paris. Delegates were from Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Iran, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, France, Cameroon, Zaire, Mali, Ireland, Australia.

The conference was called (literally translated) Struggle of the Classes of the Women's Liberation Movement. It was prepared by several meetings of feminists in different countries. "We confronted our struggles against our multiple oppression and exploitation."

Workshops were held on the following themes: the feminist struggle in the work place; trade unions and women's groups; the right to employment and collective bargaining; housework; abortion; contraception; sexuality, heterosexuality and lesbianism; pregnancy; women with children; women's centres; rape, violence and "justice"; repression; nuclear energy; Marxism and feminism; the battle between feminism and the mass media; women and politics.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the conference is the commonality of our struggles and objectives, despite the different conditions under which we live. The participation of many union women from most of the European countries was taken as a sign of the enlargement of the women's movement and the active part of working women in it.

"The impact and capacity for action of the women's movement shown today renders international campaigns possible:

- against political and sexual repression
- against rape and other violence done to women
- for free and easily available contraception and abortion
- for the right to work and against super-exploitation on the job."

One of the first international campaigns will be for the freeing of all imprisoned women in February, 1978.

Another conference is being held in Paris on the 22 and 23 of October this year to continue the work that was begun.

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS (summary)

Four workshops were held covering women in trade unions, women's unemployment, and other aspects of working women. The problems are the same everywhere. Women have been the first to be hit by unemployment during this capitalist crisis. In all countries they are being press-

ured by the bourgeoisie to remain in the home. The mass media in France is going so far as to campaign for the necessity of breast-feeding! Many working women have become radicalized since the crisis began. More have become involved in the women's movement and their unionization is increasing fairly quickly.

Very aware of the fact that unions will not necessarily work to solve women's problems, the women in the workshop called for autonomous women's groups within the structures of the unions.

The common themes decided upon for next March 8 were the further penetration of the women's movement into the workers' movement--especially an attempt to reach the most exploited women workers.

WOMEN WITH CHILDREN(summary)

When 6,000 women arrived at an International Women's Conference, they found that no daycare had been provided! A workshop on the Responsibility for Children grew spontaneously out of that situation. Women who had children pointed out that they had again been expected to be solely and individually responsible for them and that this attitude severely hampers their active participation in the movement. They argued that even if some women chose not to have children, the group as a whole must take responsibility for them in women's centres, at conferences, in the community at large.

RAPE

The workshop began with a statement of the fact that rape is not a problem that can be solved by individuals, but only in a mass struggle with the system. Each delegation explained its laws on the crime and problems they were encountering.

Most of the discussion was centred on intervention and mobilization. Concentrating on the legal aspects and legal reform has its disadvantages:

- it rests partly on the myth of equal justice for all
- in having recourse to the law, one limits the definition of rape to the legal one. Other forms of violence against women may not be taken into account.

In any case, very few women ever appeal to the courts when they have been victims of rape. In Australia women struggled long and hard to have the law changed so that husbands could be charged with rape. But not one woman has ever taken such a case to court.

Self-defense and mass court actions (class action suits and women being present en masse during the proceedings) were also discussed. The debate remains open.

In sisterhood,
Shelly Gordon

National Gay Rights conference

-Pat MacMillan

Saskatoon was the site of the fifth annual conference of the National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) from June 29-July 3. The conference was an exhausting five days of workshops, socials, presentations and a rousing demonstration. The final culmination was a day-long plenary which proposed motions of positions and actions for the N.G.R.C. for the next year.

At the last general meeting, it was decided that since we support the aims of N.G.R.C. we would join the organization (see box) and send a voting delegate. This is considered with the work we have been involved with in close association with the Saskatoon Gay Community Centre which covers a wide range of support activities including gay rights demonstrations, lobbying for amendments to the human rights legislation and formulating an analysis of the oppression and struggle of gays.

At the conference we learned of N.G.R.C. policy which permits only gay organizations a full voting voice. We took the liberty therefore of naming a Lesbian Caucus of S.W.L. to allow our participation. The existence of such a caucus must still be ratified by the general membership and function and membership of the caucus are to be defined.

Of great significance at the conference was the participation of women. Apparently, at earlier conferences numbers of lesbians present had been minimal and there was discussion of an autonomous lesbian group. Although still greatly outnumbered by men, the presence of the women was reaffirmation to work within NG.R.C. However the structure and built-in sexism of N.G.R.C. was challenged when the lesbian autonomy workshop brought to the plenary a motion demanding that in future women control $\frac{1}{2}$ of the vote and power in N.G.R.C. This motion was passed by the conference. Despite the dissatisfaction that some expressed about the disorganization and disunity of the lesbian workshops, the motion brought forward must be seen as an important and positive step. The final plenary also passed a motion of support for the women's movement and its actions. These two motions together marked the increasing consciousness of lesbians in N.G.R.C. that their interests lay both with the women's and gay movement and work within both is essential.

The plenary also passed resolutions supporting custody rights for lesbian mothers, both in principle and action--co-sponsoring a demonstration around the issue in Toronto. A resolution dealing with abortion, calling for free abortion on demand, was held up on procedural grounds. A motion to table for a year was passed, disallowing further discussion until next year's conference.

An important debate around the issue of wages for housework was raised at the conference, a debate S.W.L. would be wise to take up. A workshop was conducted by Wages Due Lesbians. It was a cause which found with support among conference participants, and according to adherents, one which has also much international interest and has proved an invaluable organizational rallying theme. Certainly the impact and support of the demand was a surprise to S.W.L. which has tended to not take wages for housework seriously enough.

Other resolutions passed at the conference dealt with condemnation of Anita Bryant's campaign, support for John Damien and the job security issue and proposed changes in the criminal code which have been used to harass homosexuals.

The spiritual high of the conference was the gay rights march through the streets of Saskatoon on July 1, which ironically also happened to be Canada Day. A contingent of about 80 lesbians led the total parade of about 300 gays and supporters, as we chartered out chanted our demands.

Socially the five days were also a huge success with activities planned ranging from a get-acquainted dance, a lesbian coffeehouse, a huge dance with Mother Wit, the Regina women's band and a wine and cheese coffeehouse.

The presence of S.W.L. at the conference was important, not only as a learning experience for those of us who attended, but also because of the input we were able to have at the workshops and plenary. Our future role in N.G.R.C. will have to be reassessed, particularly since next year's conference will be held in Halifax. This should not affect our determination to continue to fight for the rights of lesbians and gays.

QUEBEC ABORTION

WE WILL BEAR THE CHILDREN WE CHOOSE TO BEAR. Manifesto for free abortion on demand.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL WOMEN OF QUEBEC WHO WISH TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY MAY DO SO FREELY AND WITHOUT COST, IN THEIR COMMUNITY, IN THEIR LANGUAGE UNDER GOOD MEDICAL CONDITIONS, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF CLASS, NATIONALITY, RACE OR AGE.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL QUEBECOIS WOMEN WHO WISH TO ABORT MAY DO SO FREELY:

...because the present law forbids us to have abortions except in exceptional cases and on the condition that we obtain permission from the 'Therapeutic Committees', those mini-tribunals whose role is to prevent us from making our own decisions about abortion.

WE DEMAND FREE ABORTION BECAUSE IT IS OUR RIGHT TO REFUSE UNWANTED PREGNANCIES. WE DENOUNCE THE EXISTENCE OF THESE COMMITTEES BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH:

...of having to line up at the doors of the rare hospitals that have 'therapeutic committees', begging for permission to abort legally; of having to prove that our health is in danger, that we are too weak, too sick, too crazy or too poor to have a child.

...of having to prove one by one, alone and isolated,

that we are an exception and that we merit the 'privilege' of a therapeutic abortion, when in fact we are among 10,000 to 25,000 who have abortions in Quebec each year.

...of having to struggle alone against the hospital bureaucracies, facing refusals, delays, sermons and inquiries; being treated like ignorant, irresponsible, selfish, easy women, as though we were criminals.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL QUEBECOIS WOMEN WHO WISH TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY MAY DO SO WITHOUT COST:

...because we have had enough of a situation where only those with money can get abortions easily.

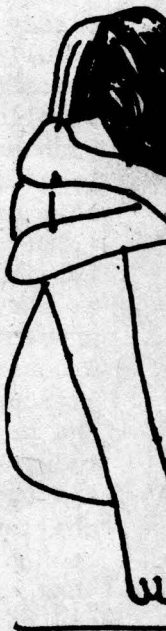
...because we have had enough of going into debt for an abortion even though we pay for medical insurance.

...because we have had enough of our money being pocketed under the table by agencies and charlatans who profit from the situation.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL QUEBECOIS WOMEN WHO WISH TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY MAY DO SO IN GOOD MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

...because we have had enough of risking hemorrhage, infection, incomplete abortions, sterility and even death because of the present law.

...because we refuse to accept that those among us whose lives are threatened



ION MANIFESTO

by an unwanted pregnancy may not get them because of partiality, inefficiency, or simply the absence of therapeutic committees.

...because we no longer want those among us who succeed in getting legal abortions being uselessly confined in hospitals. We reject this as long as the shortage of beds, personnel, and competent doctors is used as an excuse by hospital administrations for not performing abortions, or limiting their numbers. ...because we have had enough of being forced to abort at lucrative American agencies, with all the risks of negligence that this implies; enough of putting our lives in the hands of incompetent and unscrupulous charlatans, or reduced to aborting ourselves.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL QUEBECOIS WOMEN WHO WISH TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY MAY DO SO WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF CLASS, RACE OR AGE:

...because we reject that those among us with the least money, resources and access to information must have abortions at the risk of their lives and their sanity and must pay more dearly than others, or once again bring unwanted children into the world.

WE ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT ALL THOSE QUEBECOIS WOMEN WHO WISH TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY MAY DO SO WITHOUT NATIONAL DISCRIMINATION:

...because in 1973, for example, under the same federal law, there were fewer legal abortions performed (proportionate to the population) in Quebec, than in B.C. and Ontario. ...because in 1975, in the 14 hospitals in Quebec which perform abortions, only 6 were Francophone and performed only 239 abortions out of a total of 5,657.



from: a journal of liberation

AS A RESULT OF THIS SITUATION WE DEMAND THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT:

1. force the federal government to repeal the Canadian abortion law;
2. establish the necessary services so that all women can have access to abortion on demand, in all regions of Quebec;
3. immediately make abortion payable through the Quebec medical insurance plan.

For us the struggle of women for free abortion on demand is part of a larger struggle against all forms of oppression and exploitation which we experience daily. We are fighting not only against unwanted motherhood, but also for the right to bring all the children we wish into the world, without being forced to abort due to our condition of life or work.

WE DEMAND OF THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT THAT IT TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE:

1. the creation of easily accessible and community controlled clinics which dispense free information on sexuality, contraception, and abortion, all over Quebec;
2. information on sexuality, and birth control be distributed in all schools;
3. free contraception for the entire population.

Finally that they take measures to improve the condition under which we decide to have children:

1. paid maternity leaves for at least 20 weeks without loss of seniority or benefits;
2. free childcare, controlled by the users, in the neighborhoods and at the workplace;
3. equal pay for work of equal value.



WOMEN'S CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

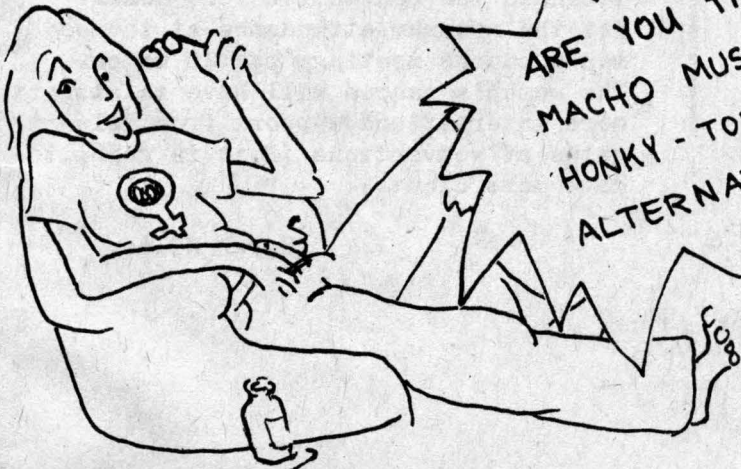
1. Saskatoon Women's Liberation general business meeting-August 28th 7:00 p.m.- 713-11th St. E.
2. Anyone interested in working with the Prairie Woman Collective, please contact 242-5542 for meeting dates.
3. Gay Community Centre:
 - 2 open dances are planned for August 5 and August 19-everyone welcome
 - Gay Alliance of Youth are organizing a discussion meeting on sexuality for all interested people under the age of 20. For information call the Centre at 652-0972.
4. Magpie Food Co-Operative
 - monthly meeting for all members-7:00 August 14 at the Store front-603 Ave D. N.
 - Fantasy Meeting-August 7-7:00 at the store front. Open to all Magpie members to discuss philosophies, goals and future events. Possibilities include educational trips, a credit union and a restaurant. Refreshments available.

A workshop on women and culture was held during the NGRC Conference. It was felt by those attending that a network facilitating the exchange of songs, poetry, art and music should be set up to promote women's culture. For further information, discussion, ideas please contact Sandy D'aoust Box 326, Balgonie Sask.

N.G.R.C. box

At the last general meeting of Saskatoon Women's Liberation; a motion to join the National Gay Rights Coalition was passed. Due to lack of space in this issue we will reprint the programme for change of the N.G.R.C. in our next newsletter.

ARE YOU TIRED OF THE SAME HUM-DRUM MACHO MUSIC, DRIPPY DISCO AND HOT HONKY-TONK WOMEN? THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE . . .



WOMEN'S
ISSUES

NOT A

PRIORITY

The federal New Democratic Party held its ninth biennial convention June 30th through July 3 in Winnipeg.

Professional daycare was provided free for children of delegates. The Winnipeg West End Co-op Daycare Centre set up facilities for babies, toddlers and older children and the convention covered the cost. Thus parents were able to bring their children along at no extra expense and leave them in professional hands while they attended meetings.

The convention was a policy convention, the first one since 1969. Included in delegates' kits was a booklet entitled "National Priorities". This booklet contained a series of working papers on energy, taxation, mineral resources, housing, agriculture, etc. No women's issues were mentioned. Issues of special importance to women played a very minor role at the convention. Only two resolutions concerning women made it to the convention floor.

One of these resolutions dealt with rape, and specifically, the rape victim's testimony in court. The resolution asked that a rape victim's past sexual conduct not be admissible as evidence in court. The convention passed this resolution. However, this resolution is virtually in effect already as included in amendments to the Criminal Code on Rape which became law in June 1976 was a stipulation that the rape victim's past sexual conduct was not admissible as evidence in court unless it was relevant to the case.

The second resolution concerned a change in the New Democratic Party Constitution. It asked that one of the three people nominated by each provincial caucus to attend federal policy meetings be a woman with women's issues as her priority. This resolution required a two-thirds majority to get

through, and it also was passed by the convention.

The most interesting story from the convention was federal president Joyce Nash's decision not to stand for re-election. Nash agreed at the convention that if the slate committee did not choose her to be on "the slate" she would not run at all. "The slate" is a semi-official slate of candidates for the federal executive and federal council positions. The slate committee is composed of senior officials from labour and provincial caucuses. The candidates picked by the slate committee win. The slate committee informed Nash that their choice for president was Alvin Hewitt, president of Saskatchewan NDP for the past six years. Nash did not stand and Hewitt was elected president.

The federal women's caucus prepared a slate of 10 candidates for the 20 positions open on federal council. Federal council is the governing body of the party between conventions. Five women were elected from the women's slate but only because they were also on "the slate". Margaret Fern from Saskatoon was elected to Federal Council.

Women's issues were not a priority at the convention. However, approximately 300 of the 850 delegates who attended the convention were women. Yet the maximum attendance at the women's caucus meetings was 40 women. The women's caucus will have to attract more interest and support from delegates at conventions if it is going to have more clout.

Sarah Wilson

MEETING MINUTES

The Newsletter Collective distributed copies of the first issue of 'Prairie Woman' and reported that over 200 copies had been mailed. Comments regarding the first issue of the newsletter will be discussed at the next general meeting.

Sue Smee from the political positions committee presented the paper on abortion. After some discussion, the position paper was ratified by the group and a summary of it will be included in the next newsletter. A draft of the position paper on 'Women in the Labour Force' is being typed and duplicated for discussion at the next meeting.

Additional members are needed for both the Steering Committee and the Committee on Political Positions. Members are asked to consider making this kind of commitment to the group.

The demonstration at University Hospital and the meeting with hospital representatives was discussed. Several steps regarding further action will be followed up.

It was decided that Saskatoon Women's Liberation would join the National Gay Rights Coalition and Maylyn Woo was nominated as official SWL delegate to the National Gay Rights Conference.

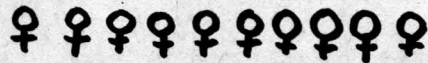
The Steering Committee reported that the Women's Party had run at a small deficit but was an otherwise successful event. Planning is continuing for a Newsletter Benefit Dance to be held this summer at the

Indian-Metis Friendship Centre.

The treasurer asked the members to make contributions to help fulfill our pledge to the National Gay Rights Conference. The group was notified that Marilyn Leocard will be the acting treasurer for the duration of the summer.

A phone list is to be typed and distributed to all members to aid intra-group communication.

NEXT MEETING - 7:00 p.m. July 24th
at 514-24th ST.E.



University Hospital

-Audrey Hall and Nanc

-Audrey Hall and Nancy Allen

On June 16th Saskatoon

Women's Liberation organized a noon demonstration outside University Hospital. Approximately 30 people attended. We were protesting the lack of abortion services to the women of Saskatchewan at University Hospital, this lack has resulted in women having to travel to the U.S.A. in order to obtain abortions. This effectively denies abortion to poor women and renders the procedure more hazardous for those women able to afford it, particularly when a long car journey is involved.

Half an hour after the demonstration, had begun the administrator of the hospital, Earl Dick and his assistant, Tony Dagnone came out and demanded that we move the demonstration outside the University Hospital gates. They said that they "never allow demon-

strations outside the hospital." Numerous security officers, complete with walky talkies, were standing by. After some negotiation a meeting was arranged for Friday, June 24th between representatives between SWL and the administration of University Hospital and a member of obstetrics and gynaecology.

The following Friday, four women met with Earl Dick, Tony Dagnone and Dr. Tom MacLachlan. The representatives of University Hospital were very upset that we had accused the Hospital of "denying women abortions." They were at great pains to emphasize that the Hospital provides excellent facilities for abortion to the women of Saskatchewan. Five gynaecological beds are reserved for abortion patients, in-service seminars have been held for nursing staff attending this patients and at one time two R.N.s were hired specifically to care for abortion patients. Despite these near perfect facilities, since January 1977 only two abortions have been performed at University Hospital. (The number of abortions done has fallen off drastically since the retirement of one physician who did the majority of the second trimester abortions. Why should the task of providing a needed health service fall to one person alone?)

The representatives of University Hospital were unable to explain why doctors are not using the facilities for their women patients who require this

service. The statistics on abortion done at University Hospital in recent years are given in Table I. We are publishing these figures because we had great difficulty obtaining them. Neither the department of obstetrics and gynaecology nor the administration of University Hospital would respond to the telephone inquiry regarding these statistics. The Provincial Inquiry Center responded that "abortion is a hot issue" when asked for figures. These figures were given to us by Dr. MacLachlan at the meeting. It seems that sometimes the only way to obtain information which should be readily available to the public, is by taking actions which embarrass the organizations concerned.

Dr. MacLachlan agreed that the journey to the U.S. for a second trimester abortion certainly increases the hazards to the woman's health. But he stated that he could not see what more University Hospital could do and suggested that we "beat the bushes" at St. Paul's Hospital as they receive public funding and perform no abortions. Our point was that University Hospital receives public funding and has performed only two abortions this year.

It is interesting to note that while some physicians have privileges at both University and City Hospitals and perform surgery at both, these same physicians perform abortions

only at City Hospital.

We came away from this meeting with no hopes for an improvement in the situation. While the people with whom we met were upset about our demonstration, they did not appear to be concerned with doing anything concrete to relieve the hardship women suffer as a result of the unwillingness of the health care institutions to insure provision of this service.

TABLE 1

Year	University Hospital Total No. Abortions	# 2nd Trimester abortions
1969	6	
1970	83	
1971	312	
1972	274	104
1973	166	106
1974	212	147
1975	299	170
1976	64	36
1977	2	

RASPBERRIES FOR ROLFES

-Sheila Crampton

Herman Rolfes, Saskatchewan Minister of Social Services, was honored by his supporters at a Strawberry Social held in a private Saskatoon home the evening of June 15. However, 30 members of Saskatoon Women's Liberation were also in attendance to show our non-support with the slogan "Raspberries for Rolfes" considered more appropriate. The home was picketed for 1½ hours, with chants for Rolfes to appear and explain his stand on abortion and daycare--he chose to stay out of sight with no acknowledgement of our presence.

Rolfes has, on several occasions, publicly stated his view that abortion is "immoral" and that "the killing of an unborn child...is the taking away of the right to life of an innocent human being." He stated that he will "oppose this procedure and will continue to do so in whatever capacity I will have in the future."

As regards the gross underspending of the daycare budget, Rolfes determines that working parents are not using the facilities provided. There are now a mere 1,480 spaces for 13,000 pre-school children of working parents. Many centres are closing because their workers cannot subsist on the minimum wage forced on them through lack of subsidization. Rolfes maintains that many of the daycare workers are not

worth more than minimum wage. His alternative to government subsidized centres is daycare in private homes where women work for the enjoyment of caring for children, not because they need the job.

Rolfes obviously considers it more desirable for women to care for their children at home and collect welfare, rather than take a place in the working society. He believes that abortion is morally wrong and therefore the law should not be applied.

Saskatoon Women's Liberation considers this public stand to be clearly negligent of the duties of a Minister of Social Services. We have called for his resignation, as well as that of Wes Robbins, Minister of Health, who share Rolfes' opinions. Their interests clearly do not lie with the people, but with their own moralistic view of a "proper" society. We will continue to oppose these ministers and others like them, until they are replaced by those who will understand the needs of the people and refrain from imposing their morals on society.



PRAIRIE WOMAN is a newsletter of Saskatoon Women's Liberation. Contributions in the form of articles, news items, poetry, graphics, cartoons, and photographs are welcomed from women. Interested men are invited to contribute letters or funds. Because the newsletter is put out by voluntary labour, financial donations are encouraged.

PRAIRIE WOMAN is run as a collective. Writers have had their efforts acknowledged with their articles. Others working on the paper as an editorial collective are:

Vicki Barclay
Linda Charlton
Sheila Crampton
Maggie Dykes
Colleen Odegard
Gail Osachoff
Maylynn Woo
Susan Woolway
Rosemarie Rupps

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