

PRAIRIE WOMAN



JANUARY 1978 VOL II No 1

A NEWSLETTER OF SASKATOON WOMEN'S LIBERATION

LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS



Dear Prairie Woman,

In the last issue of Prairie Woman a letter appeared congratulating you on your excellent work and coming out in favour of an autonomous women's movement. We concur wholeheartedly. Then the writer went on to say he didn't "know of an organization that consistently doesn't shove women's issues into the category of lesser areas of work."

The Regina branch of the Revolutionary Workers League doesn't accept the notion that all left organizations can be lumped together. Unlike all other currents on the left, the RWL agrees with Prairie Woman on the need to build an autonomous women's movement which campaigns for abortion, child care rights, equal pay, work and education, and an end to sexist violence. We don't think a socialist revolution will automatically solve the oppression of women. Others say that when women organize autonomously to fight for our rights, not just as workers but as women, we are dividing the working class.

We say that men and women are already profoundly divided and that only with the elimination of class society will the basis for sexual oppression disappear. While we work to win feminists to this perspective and to our party, Trotskyists consistently defend the right of all women to organize autonomously, not just now, but after the revolution as well. (For a history of the revolutionary Marxist position on

women's liberation, see Feminism and the Marxist Movement by Mary-Alice Waters).

We are proud of our position on the liberation of women. It is because of this understanding that we are able to recruit feminists to the RWL who continue to work in the autonomous Women's movement.

In sisterhood
 Women's Liberation
 Fraction
 Regina Branch
 Revolutionary Workers
 League

Prairie Woman Replies

In response to the above letter I think it is interesting to note that, while the writers deny that the Revolutionary Workers League "shoves women's issues into the category of lesser areas of work," the letter is signed Women's Liberation Fraction of the Regina R.W.L. This, to me, indicates that while shoving may not be an accurate description, Women's Liberation issues have been relegated to some type of sub-committee within the R.W.L. organization. The work "Fraction" is onimous, though perhaps it is just an unfortunate choice of leftist rhetoric.

S.W.L. would certainly not debate the necessity of eliminating class society but we would, I think, find fault with the role women have been delegated in the left organizations which struggle to achieve this goal.

Sexism, rampant everywhere, is unfortunately not particularly less so in the left. The experience of women who have become disillusioned with such political groups after having an initial involvement with them are proof to this.

It is fallacious to assume, as the previous letter does, that the Women's Movement is only concerned with "women's issues." A more

Editorial

There was some debate by the Newsletter Collective as to whether we would attempt to produce a January issue. Our fears that it would be difficult to gather enough material with an early deadline looming have been confirmed. As well, we found that good humour is a scarce commodity within our small group. (This shouldn't be surprizing, after all people have made this claim about feminists for years) But one member went so far as to unjustifiably accuse us of being completely humourless, excusing herself, of course. It is the collective consensus, however, that any bad jokes which appear in this newsletter may be properly attributed to this individual.

In a last ditch effort to solve our dilimma, a bottle of Donini was presented as medicinal solution and while a good time was enjoyed by all, our socialist-feminist dictionary testifies to the final outcome of the evening. May we suggest that our readers also indulge in some type of liquid refreshment before they begin perusal of our definitions.

Although we have described this issue as a "A Light Look at Sexism", some of the articles are not intended to be viewed in a totally humourous fashion. They regrettably reflect the sexist attitudes which still pervade in society. By illustrating some examples of blatant sexism, we hope not only to amuse but also to hold up to ridicule and scorn, so that soon they will no longer be acceptable.

Happy New Year.

Prairie Woman Collective
January, 1978!

letters continued...

Careful reading of Prairie Woman and a closer examination of the intent of S.W.L. would indicate otherwise. The Women's Movement must be recognized as an equal partner with R.W.L. in the fight for a socialist non-sexist society before complete harmony between the two groups can be achieved. Over the years women have become suspicious of left organizations which claim that women's concerns are foremost and central to

the group's heart and sexism is non-existent. A thorough housecleaning is perhaps needed before such groups can offer any great degree of credibility to this assertion.

However, it is obvious that by cooperating, no matter how uneasily, those goals we do share will be achieved that much sooner.

Susan Woolway
for the Newsletter
Collective

FAA

FEMINIST Advertizing

Agencies

Advices

VASECTOMY

for better Birth Control and safer sex!!



DR. W. MELBY
WELL KNOWN
PHYSICIAN OF
MEN'S
DISEASES
STATES:

"VASECTOMY
IS THE SAFEST,
SUREST MEANS
OF BIRTH CONTROL
KNOWN, FURTHERMORE
IT MAKES MEN
FEEL HEALTHIER
LESS AWARE
AND ALSO
PROMOTES
LIBIDO!"



SEE HOW HAPPY THIS
MAN IS? YOU CAN
BE HAPPY TOO.
NO LONGER NEED HE FEEL
THE FEAR OF PREGNANCY!!

a modest proposal:

by Laura Jones

The following article is reprinted from the June 1975 issue of Saskatoon Womens Liberation Newsletter

These few remarks have been inspired by such unlikely candidates as Otto Lang, Morris Schumiachter, a priest in North Battleford and an unknown man with whom I argued at our Abortion Tribunal in Regina. Mr. Schumiachter was the most recent irritant. Just a few weeks ago I heard him extolling the glories and self-fulfillment of motherhood, that, instead of encouraging women's liberation and easier access to abortion, women should be educated to accept this role which is so uniquely theirs.

I resisted my first reaction which was to throw up, my second which was to throw something at the TV and said to myself, "Laura, where is your womanly understanding? Who are you to take issue with the illustrious Morris-- or Otto, for that matter? You have given birth to only five children, how can you tell them anything? (How indeed!) Can't you see they are suffering the pangs of frustrated motherhood?"

It was time for me to dig out my modest proposal and polish it up. And here it is--my modest proposal.

Let all the funds and personpower now devoted to the destruction of life by way of wars and the military be devoted to these two areas of research.

First, the development of a good safe method of contraception for both males and females so that responsibility for use does not rest with one sex alone.

Second, a method by which the aborted foetus could be safely transplanted to a willing womb. This will be relatively easier to do if the receiver is a woman. In the event that the receiver is a man a temporary womb will be necessary. This will be a real challenge but knowing the anxiety of so many men that all foetuses be brought to full term I'm sure that given the means the researchers can meet the need. Nature has kindly provided precedents as working models.

For example, in the sea horse the pelvic fins of the mature male are modified to form a broad pouch, and a male invites a female to mate with him by approaching her with his pouch wide open; he keeps it wide open until one is willing to deposit her eggs inside his pouch. There they are fertilised and the male keeps them there in the closed-up pouch until they hatch.

There is also the Marine-Gaff-Topsail Catfish which carries eggs, deposited by the female, and the newly hatched young eat during that time. (I would like to interject a personal thought here, it's mean but I can't help it. How good it would be for them and everybody else if some of those fat, loud-mouthed politicians had to keep their mouth shut for nine months. It would be a great opportunity for any man to really listen for a change.)



Before dismissing my proposal as frivolous just consider its ramifications. A pregnant woman who wants an abortion would go quickly to her doctor. In the interest of all parties involved—donor, foetus, receiver and medical personnel—the transplant should take place as quickly as possible. All medical boards would be unnecessary. No woman would be subjected to professional dipping into the secrets of her inner self. The frustrated desires of man for motherhood could be fulfilled. He would be able to philosophise about the right to life in terms of his own being. Even priests who are so concerned about the sanctity of life could bear children and still maintain their celibacy.

I would also like to think that

the whole philosophy of punitive child-bearing would disappear for lack of substance—the idea that if a woman indulges in sex she would be hailed as a benefactor. The pregnant single woman would really confound the gossips—the question of did she or didn't she? or I wonder who the father is—would be pretty hard to answer.

In conclusion may I make the proposition that as a result of all the fulfillment by way of the Willing Womb, with every child, then, being a wanted child, with men sharing in the nascent development of children, the impetus to war would no longer operate. Thus the money diverted from the military to the areas of research suggested here would be justified in a most creative way.

SEXIST QUOTES

So you believe all those ads the big glossy magazines tell us —"You've come a long way baby?" Well feast your eyes on these examples of blatant sexism. Perhaps one day we can view them as anthropological oddities. For now we must view them with outrage.

"It would be preposterously insane to suggest that a B.A. can be made as attractive to girls as a marriage license."
 Dr. Grayson Kirk
 (Former President, Columbia University)

The following business card was handed to a waitress in a small Ontario town.

I'M A CANADIAN I'M A SILENT MAN

Any chance to crawl in the sack with you tonight
 If so, keep this card
 If not, kindly return it, as they are expensive.

I am not as good as I once was.
 P.S. You don't have to say yes
 JUST SMILE

From Psychology Today—May 1977

LATIN AMERICAN GIRLS appreciate their men. Let us introduce you to a dark-eyed, unspoiled beauty. For complete application package and photo selection mail \$2.00 to.....

THE WILDEST, SEXIEST, ZANIEST, TURN-ON OF ALL!

BOOB TUBE

LEAVE THE KIDS AT HOME!

SPECIAL "X"

Starring
 JOHN ALDERMAN
 SHARON KELLY
 LYLLAH TORENA
 LOIS LAINE and
 PAXTON GUGLEY


SEXIST

The following excerpt is taken from and R.C.M.P. Manual-- Interrogation Techniques by Chief Inspector A.R. Roberts from the Calgary City Police. The manual is filled with such goodies as "The Oedipis and Electra Technique", "The Heaven and Hell Technique(Hot and Cold)", "The Lawyer Gimmick", "Flattery Technique", etc. We are only presenting here the paragraph dealing with "Interrogation of Females."

Care must be taken when interrogating females. If at all possible have a policewoman right outside the door who may listen to the actual conversation. The policewoman is placed there for the protection of the interrogator so at no time can the female subject say she was taken advantage of by the interrogator.

The interrogator first attempts to find out whether or not the female he is questioning has any children. If she has a child then we would talk about her child. Ask the age, ask the sex, ask what school it goes to, if she has any pictures. Praise the child, tell her how good looking the child is. Tell her it looks like her. Speak of her love for the child. Reiterate that her prime function in life is to reproduce. That is what god placed her on earth for. It makes no difference whether or not the woman we are speaking to is a prostitute or a ordinary thief employed by a bank. Women are emotional and an emotional approach is the best approach to use on women. We use the emotion of love, jealousy and fear. Love for her parents, love for her children.

Jealousy of the husband or the boyfriend. How he will be enjoying himself if she goes to jail. Fear of Jail. The cotton dresses that they wear in jail made out of jute cloth. The floppy shoes. She is no longer an individual but is classed as a unit. We then slip into the "Heaven and Hell" technique.



ROBILLS

AUTO

BODY FINDERS

Whether You Are A Back Yard Buff Or An Auto Body Shop
?If You Can't Find It?
"Waste no time I'll find it for you"

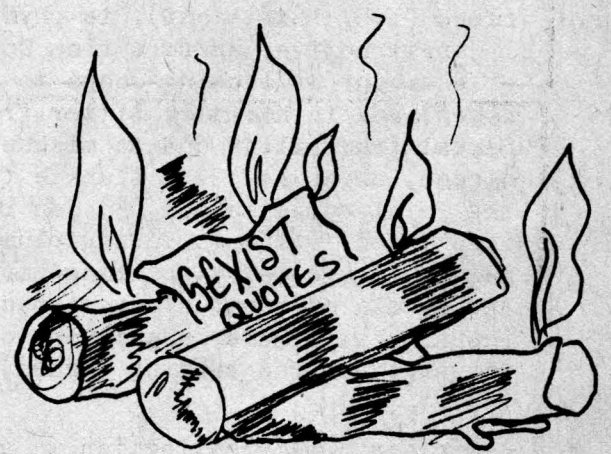
242-1490

"Man is defined as a human being and woman is defined as female. Whenever she tries to behave as a human being she is accused of trying to emulate the male."

Simone de Beavoir
 The Second Sex

"A man in general is better pleased when he has a good dinner than when his wife talks Greek."

Samuel Johnson



A DICTIONARY OF SOCIAL

The following definitions are designed to elevate the verbal acuity of individuals interested in furthering their future in left wing politics. Rhetoric is imperative when associating with others of the same disposition, the old adage that "the walls have ears" is the basic premise upon which this usage is based.

We who have racked our brains and compounded this valuable information may find ourselves vulnerable to attack, as a result we will remain anonymous although the policy of this newsletter is to credit authors of all articles.

analysis - see strategy

autonomy - the anatomy of cars.

Bourgeoisie-a good French wine

Capitalist-Any individual who resides in Regina, Edmonton, Ottawa, Halifax etc.

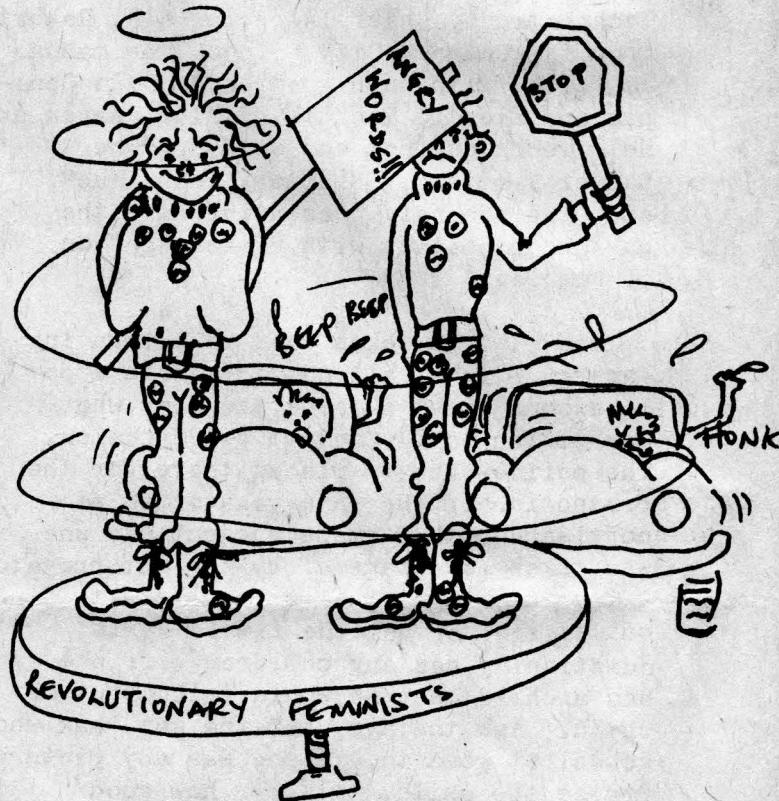
Capitalism- The attitude of superiority of those individuals residing in the above

Communists-200 people seated around a wooden table eating out of a single bowl

Feminist-(1)a person of the female gender who has been socially ostracized (i.e. 'Left' out), is physically unattractive, suffers from Cooper's droop*(or lacking coops to droop) and is normally bitter from sexual frustration due to misuse, disuse, or abuse (2) a flunkie from the Total Woman school (3) Can be identified by the following plumage: placard-carrying, flag-waving, and decals of various descriptions (usually with reference to one of several hundred burning issues)

Feminists (pl) Predilection to gather in large flocks attired in previously

described plumage. Flight pattern tends to ignore local traffic regulations by occupying the centre of the road. For illustrations, see R.C.M.P. files.



Oppression- repression of thought, suppression of action, depression of spirit and compression of space lead to the obvious impression of oppression.

Prairie Woman- species identified by tanned face, strong arms, work boots, etc. (See Vol. 1, No. 1 for prime illustration)

Women's Movement (1)A traditional female folk dance. The steps are as follows-from the sink to the cupboard, to the stove, to the table, to the sink, ad nauseum (2)a laxative for capitalist constipation

IST-FEMINIST RHETORIC

Sisterhood-(1) a bunch of feminist thugs (2) a habit nun would wear

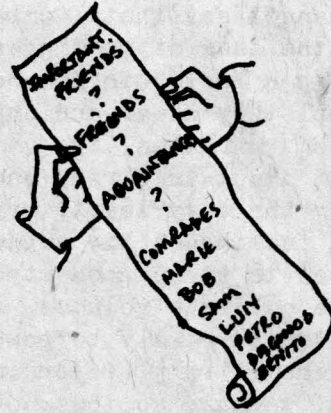
Proletariat-A cousin to Secretariat,

Socialist (pronounced social-list)
(1) a handy dandy directory of acquaintances normally called upon for festive occasions. (adj) a term commonly used to describe those patrons of the Ritz who emerge leaning slightly to the left

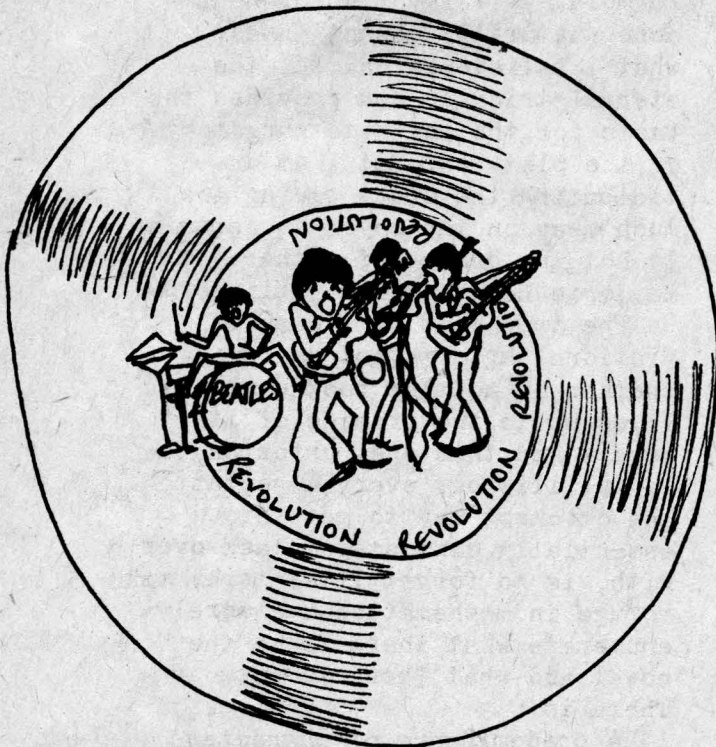
Socialisp-the unique dialect commonly use by those patrons of the Ritz who emerge leaning slightly to the left.

Revolution-(1) going round and round in circles, a common affliction of socialists (2) a word popularized by the Beatles in song (3) a household term (& we thought it would never happen) applied to mix-masters, blenders, and record players.

LEFT ← → RIGHT



rhetoric, arrangement of words, abbreviation, or hand signals designed to intimidate, alienate or confuse.



TONGUE-TIED LEFT
RHETORICIAN....

strategy - see analysis

working class - the unemployed

HARLEQUIN HORROR

a book review

-Leah Watson

I cannot say that I embarked upon the task of reading and reviewing a Harlequin Romance with a completely clear and unprejudiced mind. Alas, the very way I went about acquiring one shows, to say the very least, my rather mixed feeling on the subject. I refused to spend good money on one of these little volumes, and as I couldn't really borrow one from the library (intending, as I did, to make copious notes about metaphor, social comment and universal significance in the margins.) I was forced to borrow one from a friend. This last course of action, in itself, was a rather hazardous undertaking, for there are few friends of whom one can ask, "Do you have a copy of Her Heart Aflame or Godfrey's New Love", and still hope to retain the semblance of credibility as a thinking person in their eyes. Still, as I had to have one, I finally screwed myself up to meet the challenge, and with an embarrassed little laugh, inquired of the friend if I might borrow the copy of Town-Nurse-Country-Nurse by Marjorie Lewty, Harlequin Romance No. 1489, which I knew for a fact had been languishing in her bathroom, unread (hopefully) for the last year and a half. A rather dog-eared specimen of the genre it turned out to be. In fact, quite frankly, it looked as though someone had read the horrible thing before. Idly, I began to work out how many visits to the can (of shorter or longer duration) it would take to plough through the 190 or so pages of unmitigated codswollop contained between its two distinctly untempting covers. Have you noticed, by the way, that

there is always 3 figures on the cover, usually 2 women and 1 man. What's more, their heads are always arranged in the shape of an isosceles triangle, with his head (either dark and craggy or blond and serious-eyed) at the apex and the 2 female ones balanced on the bottom, in ghastly geometrical precision. If one woman is blonde, then the other is dark, or gloriously red-headed, or dramatically brunette, but never, never, mousy, or even worse, ginger. From this, I infer that two women with the same-coloured hair, rarely, if ever, fall in love with the same man. The colour combinations vary, but what remains fixed is the expression of extreme vacuity on all 3 faces. This algebraic formula, $2W + 1M = H$ (H for heart-ache, naturally) constitutes, what I believe is called, the eternal triangle and provides the basis for the infinite purgatory of the plot. Ah, but I am anticipating the story giving too much away on the cover is certainly not the design of either Marjorie Lewty or her publishers.

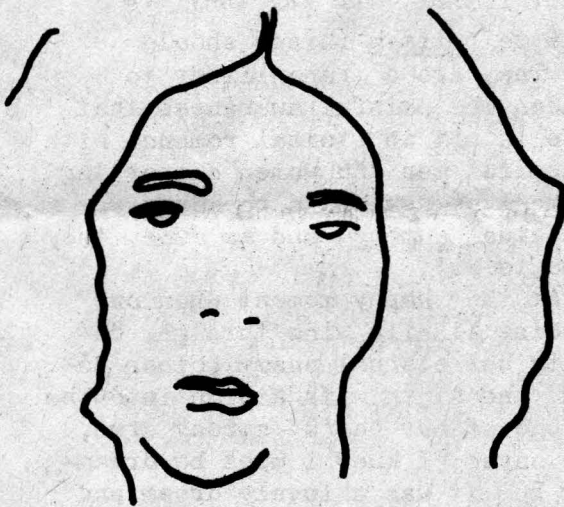
The true test of a work of fictional art is, of course, whether or not the book within lives up to the promise of its cover. And this one, unfortunately fulfills our every expectation. The quickest way to get this essentially distasteful task over with, is to forget literature, take refuge in mathematics and merely enumerate what there is in the novel and what there is not.

There is:

- 1) a predominance of characters with names like Hugo, Benjamin,

Lady Benton, Mr. Hartington, Mrs. Caruthers, Louis, Katherine Moorcroft, Chloe and Celia.

- 2) a relative scarcity of characters called Fred, Rosie, Mr. Pin, Bob, Ted. These latter are all members of the working class and have nothing to do with the plot. The story, needless to say, deals only with the fortunes of Group 1.
- 3) a lot of sports cars-- not owned by anyone in Group 2.
- 4) two dentists and one doctor, who occasionally provide medical services to those in Group 2, but spend the larger part of the time chasing the female section of Group 1. It goes without saying that dentists and doctors are all of the masculine variety.



- 5) no one to collect the garbage. But then, Group 1 eats out all the time, and Group 2 doesn't seem to eat at all.
- 6) a few cows in calf, and two expectant mothers. How any of these females got to be in this happy condition is never even hinted at.
- 7) a lot of "poppets", "little darlings" and "chubby imps." The terms here are all the heroines, not mine, and might be classified under the general heading of children.

8) The occasional flood of tears, always shed by the female characters never by the male. Well, obviously the plot would grind to a halt if a male character were to step outside the rigid demarcation lines of sexual difference.

9) to make up for the complete absence of sexual intercourse suggested in section 6, frequent mention of the clothes worn by the hero and heroine. These consist chiefly of "thin" blouses and shirts sometimes made of silk, sometimes of the "flimsiest cotton". Presumably, they wear nothing on the lower part of their bodies, for no one ever mentions trousers or skirts, or maybe its just that no one ever mentions lower bodies.

10) a lot of tea drunk. There is also a tot or two of alcohol, but this is only consumed by the villain of the piece, who is, needless to state, always intent on getting the heroine drunk, for what purpose we can only guess at. On the other had there is not:

- 1) any "gutter" language (this means cursing uttered in the presence of, or by, the heroine.
- 2) anything even vaguely resembling the cadence or content of natural speech. To a man, the male characters speak in "gruff tones", when they speak at all that is. Most of them, especially the hero, are "men of few words" (mercifully). They express themselves, instead in a series of rough but kindly gestures, which can indicate any level of emotion, from undying love to the pain of a broken leg. The women, rather unfortunately, do most of the talking. As a general rule though, "good women" never utter an angry or vindictive word, while "bad women" never utter anything else.

- 3) any female doctors or dentists.
- 4) any suggestion of anything remotely like humour. The whole thing is carried on in an atmosphere of profound seriousness, which is somewhat undermined I may add, by the complete fatuousness of the plot.

The only levity in the thing is "the roar of masculine laughter" which emanates from the hero (immediately echoed by the soprano tinkling of the heroine) at the very end, when she cracks a funny. e.g. "Well, I'm a woman too, you know and I have a temper just like her's." Why this pronouncement should give rise to such abandoned hilarity is, I'm afraid, beyond my ability as a reviewer to explain.

5) any room for even the slightest manoeuvre within the strictly defined sex roles. Women may not run, except when called on to rescue a two-year old child from any raging torrent it happens to fall in. Nor may they think about anything except what they're going to wear tomorrow or saving their virtue; these two occupy roughly the same level of importance on the high ladder of the female intellect. On the other hand, men are allowed to run and to think, but they seldom do either, presumably because the heroine couldn't keep up with them.

6) any evidence of sexual desire on the part of either the heroine or hero. There is, instead, an open invitation to construe any action of the hero's in terms of his prowess as a lover. For example, our hero in this particular story is a dentist. Thus we are told:

"I watched him do the injection and very impressive it was to. And the way he handled the high-speed drill was a masterpiece of delicacy and precision. I couldn't help thinking that, with a technique like his, he would rise to the top." The reader is morally bound here to mentally substitute "penis" for high speed drill, otherwise the whole plot falls to pieces.

In the interest of literary criticism, I read the whole thing from its shaky beginnings to its boringly predictable end. I recognized that the resolution was at hand when our hero said "Tell me, I've been a stupid fool—I know darned well I have—but tell me I've got hope. Tell me you don't really want that smooth fellow with the vulgar great car." (Remember now, for car, read "penis"). Sure enough, the end came and not

a moment too soon: "He held out his hand to me and like a couple of children, we ran back across the fields towards our new home."

The only possible conclusion that one may draw from this rather simple-minded ending is, that "falling in love" in some way renders adults less than morally culpable, for our happy couple seem to have regained the innocence of childhood. In the bubble of "togetherness" they supposedly can remain unthreatened and romantically oblivious to the horrors of life outside. Ideal love conquers all!

In fact, it is probably for this kind of infantile ending that so many sad people avidly read this particularly insidious form of propaganda. Harlequin Romances are written by displaced women for other displaced women to perpetuate the myth of the way things should be. or rather, the way they are made to believe things should be. They are a tranquilizer to deaden the painful awareness that life is not an eternal romance with beautiful men and women disporting themselves against a backdrop of perpetual summer—and as such, they have to go!

At the happy moment when our heroine finally wins through, defeats her eternal enemy (other women) and sinks with a sigh into the refuge of our hero's strong arms, she says: "I knew I must be dreaming but it was a lovely dream and I wanted it to go on forever." And so she collapses against his manly chest, held fast by his over developed biceps. But—I ask, would it still be a "lovely dream" if he'd had both arms amputated at the shoulder and had to hoist her up with some sort of mechanical contraption. I think not. The refuge from reality would not then be quite so perfect, or so watertight.

I'd like to say that this literary masterpiece was eminently forgettable. Unfortunately, I suspect it's going to blight my memory for quite some time to come. Anyway, it's going back immediately to the thrice-cursed bathroom in which I found it.

feminist disappointment at NDP convention

Gail Osachoff

Several weeks after the 42nd annual provincial NDP convention, I had the opportunity to talk to three feminists who had attended that convention as delegates. These women,--Ann Smart, Sue Smee and Nadia Greschuk--were disheartened by the failure of "feminist" and other "radical" resolutions to get passed.

Ann was involved in the mass media panel and saw the possibility of the collapse of co-op cable TV as important to women since it could involve women more than traditional media outlets.

While the convention supported the government buying potash mines, only 35% of the delegates voted for a slowdown in uranium mining. The majority wanted to postpone any decision concerning uranium until the Bayda inquiry is finished.

Of interest to women was the resolution that added sexual orientation, marital status, age, and political affiliation to the existing list of human rights. These four rights were discussed and passed individually in panel. Family court and married women's property laws were not dealt with because the government had just announced positive action in these areas. However, the resolution which suggested affirmative action in favour of women in the civil service was defeated.

On the question of childcare the mood of the convention could be summed up as "back-to-the-family", a slogan which never seems to mean increased participation of the father in the raising of his children but always maintains that anything less than 24-hour a day, 7 day a week "mothering" will scar a child for life. Nadia is worried that Herman Rolfes, the Minister of Social Services, now has the justification to move even more slowly on daycare because members

of the NDP fail to recognize the need for organized childcare. He has the support to do as little as possible in this area. The battle that we thought was won has barely started. However, Ann reminded me that for the first time a resolution on daycare did get to plenary and the vote was close.

Nadia claims that a strong and vocal minority in the party prefers that women stay at home with their children. Those people who would relegate women to the world of diapers and dishpans are often hypocritical and contradictory. Take one delegate, for example, who maintained that daycare weakens the family. Since she has managed very well without daycare, so could all other women. She is a social worker who is a single parent and a right-to-lifer; she thinks that all the problems of society would be solved if only women stayed at home. It is obvious that her words and her actions conflict--she herself is not a full-time mother, yet she is in the position to counsel other women to live the kind of life she advocates.

The three women I talked to had several complaints about the convention--both general and specific. Starting the serious discussions on resolutions in panels on Friday before delegates are finished work means that some resolutions don't have a mover and a seconder and, thus, never get discussed. This happened to an important resolution in the Health and Social Services panel. Because of time allotment, some resolutions with significant implications don't get to the floor of the convention even if they get discussed in panel. In addition, the whole process of speaking to a resolution, especially in plenary, is designed to intimidate one.

Nadia pointed out that David Ahenakew, the banquet speaker, said that women and young people would understand the position of Indians because they themselves were treated as inferiors--then he killed his speech by saying that he doesn't believe in women's liberation. Sue was especially disappointed in Ed Broadbent's defence of the RCMP--it seems to be politically expedient to ignore the crimes of the police at this time. Although Margaret Fern was elected vice-president, for a second term, her election should not necessarily be viewed as a victory for women since she does not publicly support women's issues.

The NDP seems to have no overall policy--anyone can belong. The mood

at the convention was one of caution and conservatism. Members don't want the NDP government defeated as was the NDP government in Manitoba recently. The NDP seems to be appealing to its right wing and to uncommitted voters, Sue believes.

Ann said that she was encouraged to see how many women spoke at the convention. She was not disappointed in the convention because she sees the struggle of women for their rights as a long one. The gains will not be large or sudden ones--just to get childcare discussed in plenary was an achievement, she thought. For Sue the convention had no bright spots, but she won't quit the party. It's either hope or inertia that keeps her a member, and she thinks it's hope.

NOW ON SALE THRU MAIL ORDER

PRAIRIE WOMAN T-SHIRTS

HAVE TO BE BOUGHT TO BE BELIEVED

BLUE..RED..ORANGE..GREEN..BLUE..R

ALL SIZES

\$5.50 only

Make cheques payable to Saskatoon Women's Liberation
Box 4021 Saskatoon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next general meeting of Saskatoon Women's Liberation will be held Sunday, January 8th, at 233-22nd St. E. Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Family Planning Birth Control Clinic is held every Thursday, 7-9 p.m. at City Hall in the Public Health Dept. No appointments are necessary and counsellors and a doctor will be on hand. For further information call 244-7989.

- The next meeting of U.S.S.U. Women's Directorate will be held on the first Monday after classes start in January. Time-5:00 p.m. in Room 14-Lower Mub.
- The Gay Community Center will be sponsoring a Christmas Dance, December 23, and a New Year's Eve Dance December 31. For further information phone: 652-0972.

MEETING REPORT

→S.W.L. General Meetings Nov. 27 and Dec. 11←

The Conference Planning Committee outlined their progress with regards to the Conference agenda, workshop speakers and an estimated budget. The general membership accepted the proposed agenda with the amendment that a plenary session be held on Friday night and the main speaker be scheduled for Saturday night. On the recommendation of the committee the membership voted to change the date of the Conference to February 17 - 19 and to plan a fund - raising dance with Walpurgis Nite in March. It was also decided that Conference registration should range from \$5.00 to \$15.00 on a voluntary basis. Nancy Allan and Delia Burdeyney volunteered to prepare and mail the initial advertising, and the pre-conference kits are being prepared by Glenda Brown, Vicki Barclay and Rosemarie Rupps.

Maureen Graham reported on the success of the Saskatoon Women's Liberation booth at the Sundog Fair, both in terms of the interest shown by the public and the number of T-shirts sold.

The Steering Committee presented an outline of the proposed structure of Saskatoon Women's Liberation. The membership was in general agreement with the direction being taken so the Steering Committee will

finalize the proposal for discussion in January.

Cindy Devine was nominated to fill the position on the Political Positions Committee created by Sue Smee's resignation.

Lynn MacLeod reported on the founding meeting of the Saskatchewan Gay Rights Coalition, Dec. 2-3. Discussion regarding the involvement of Saskatoon Women's Liberation in the Coalition was tabled pending additional information.

It was decided that a letter on behalf of Saskatoon Women's Liberation should be sent to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour regarding a motion passed at their recent convention. A motion was passed in favour of holding a Working Woman's Conference in the spring of 1978 open only to trade union women despite the recommendation of the women's committee that the conference be open to all working women. Gail Osachoff and Rosemarie Rupps volunteered to draft the letter.

The last meeting was adjourned on the cheery thought that a Women's Liberation party will be held Dec. 16th at 415-3rd Street East.

The next general meeting is scheduled for January 7th, 7:00 pm at 233- 22nd St East.

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:

Susan Woolway

Vicki Barclay
Linda Charlton
Colleen MacMillan
Gail Osachoff
Rosemarie Rupp

Original graphics and headlines by Maylynn Woo

PRAIRIE WOMAN is published monthly. The deadline for all material is the 20th of each month. Submissions are welcome, but are subject to editing.

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