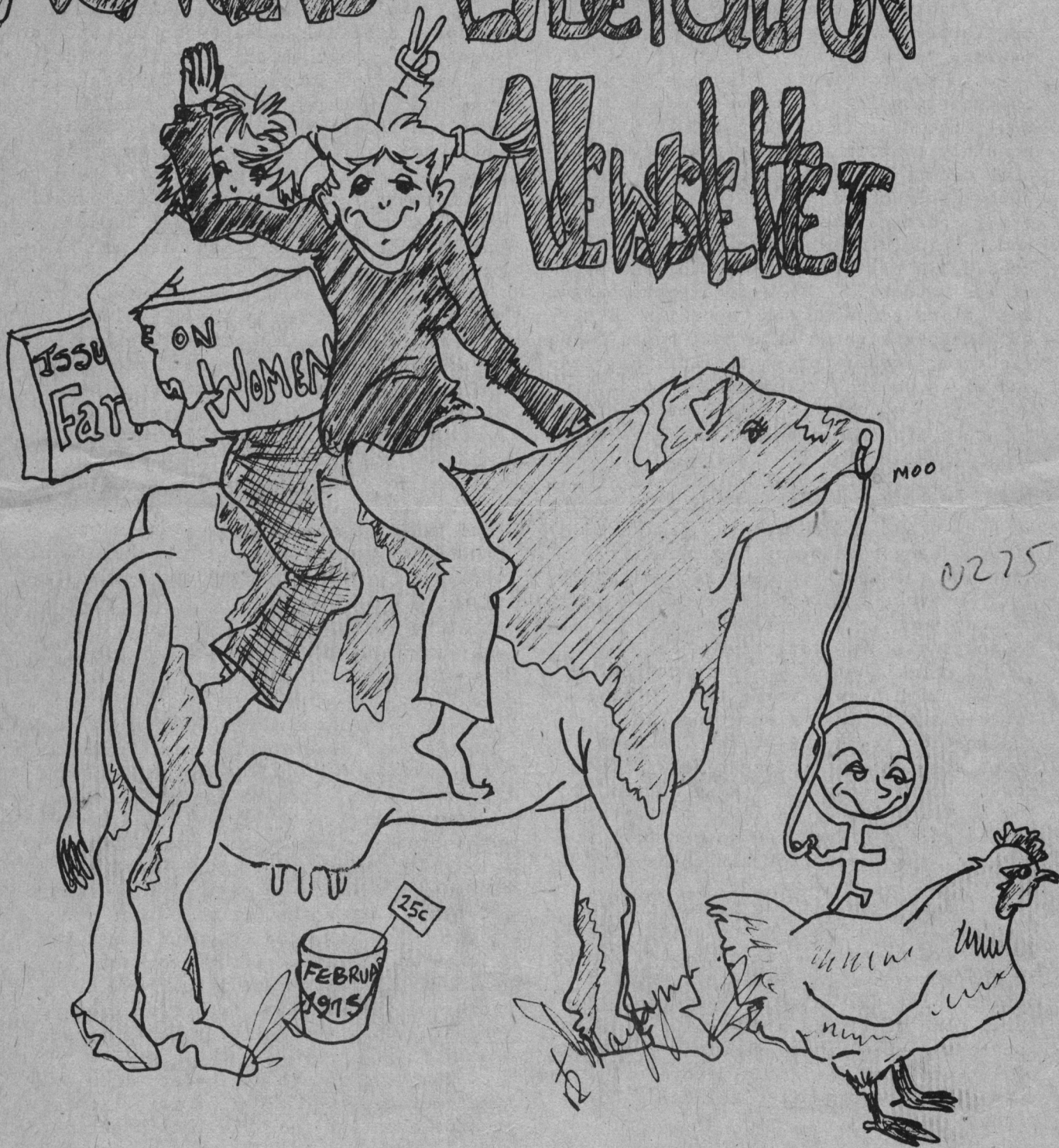


FOR REFERENCE ONLY SASKATOON

WOMEN'S Liberation

Newsletter



letters,,,letters,,,letters,,,,,



Hello!

Thanks for the copy of your Jan. 75 newsletter, tho how you got my name is a mystery to me.

In regards to fighting our restrictive abortion law (my major project right now), the Canadian Criminal Code might possibly contain a clause that may be of some use to us. I'm referring to Section 206: "When child becomes human being..." it, in part, states, "A child becomes a human being...when it has completely proceeded, in a living state, from the body of its mother..." This totals the League for Lifers argument that abortion is murder because a fetus is a full human being (to them, maybe; not to the Criminal Code) and gives us the perfect right to say: Since the law doesn't recognize a fetus in utero as a human being, why the hassle about liberalising the law?

ARCAL (in Toronto), Dr. Bette Stephenson (Can. Medical Assoc.) and Dr. Katie Cook have all called for the resignation of Otto Lang because of his inability to approach the abortion question impartially. No doubt the League for Lifers have already sent in a mountain of mail to the PM and their MPs protesting this.

I think that it's important that pro-abortion people write their MPs, to Trudeau and to Lang supporting Lang's resignation. Hopefully, the Saskatoon women are not as complacent as Winnipeg women when it comes to taking action on the abortion issue. A flood of letters to the editor of your newspaper will also help; the League for Lifers have probably also already done that.

I don't know if you heard, but the *Winnipeg Tribune* refused to print a fetus picture along with an anti-abortion ad by Joe Borowski; and because Borowski wouldn't let the ad go without the picture, none of it was ultimately printed. Apparently the *Tribune* received thousands of letters from the antis, protesting this. They're organized and ready to fight.

I don't know how much value you put in using Biblical passages to support various issues, but in the abortion issue, you might find Exodus 21:21-23 interesting, and something to use to counter an anti who passionately declares, "Thou shalt not kill." The gist of this passage is that the destruction of a fetus (from human intervention) doesn't constitute taking a human life; that happens only if the pregnant woman dies as a result of the miscarriage.

There is also an essay in the book, *Abortion in a Changing World*, Volume I, written by a Catholic priest, Father Joseph Donceel (who is also a geneticist) which argues that (1) there is no human person in the womb for the first three months of pregnancy and (2) since, historically (up till 1869) the R.C. Church allowed an early abortion, because of its belief that the early pregnancy had no soul and thus wasn't human; and since Donceel's genetic studies have born out the truth of this traditional stand of the R.C. Church on abortion, the Church should start allowing early abortions again. You might be able to whammy a few of the R.C. League for Lifers with that one.

It also comes in handy to know that Nazi Germany reserved the death penalty for abortion (which it regarded as "a heinous act... a crime against nature and the master race") and that their most notable victims, the Jews adhered to a religion that, for 800 years, has regarded a fetus as a part of the woman's body and, that since her life took precedence over its, the pregnant woman was allowed an abortion, for reasons of health or threat to her life from the pregnancy, at any time in her pregnancy, including upon the delivery table if necessary.

The Jews didn't degenerate into sub-human monsters because of this attitude towards abortion (nor did they practice

(CONT'D)

abortion much, either); I think that some one should inform Heather Morris (who is Jewish) of the former. While she acknowledges that Judaism does not regard abortion as murder, or a fetus as a human being, she is still full of that nonsense that legalizing abortion is going to lead to a new Nazi-style society. Somebody should fill her in on the social history of her own people during the past 800 years.

I think I should stop now, as I see that I am getting into my favourite past time: a discussion of the history of social and religious attitudes towards

abortion in Western civilization. Know these, one can knock out quite a few of the anti-abortionists' claims. I find this knowledge invaluable, especially if you're trying to win over someone who wants to support the liberalization of the abortion law but (a) can't support it on the contention that it is a woman's right, alone and (b) not knowing too much about the history of abortion attitudes in our civilization has been slightly taken in by the wild rhetoric of the L. for L.

Yours,
K. Taylor
Winnipeg



Luisa Matthiasdottir

"We have available to us in 1975 a number of effective methods for control of conception. Oral contraceptives, when treated with the respect merited by any drug are not only safe, they are, when properly prescribed and properly taken, 100% effective. We suffer, you see, not from the lack of effective weapons, but from a gross neglect of the nurture of intellectual, ethical, and emotional awareness of the need for responsible utilization and the development of effective methods of distribution."

Dr. Bette Stephenson, Pres.
Canadian Medical Assoc.

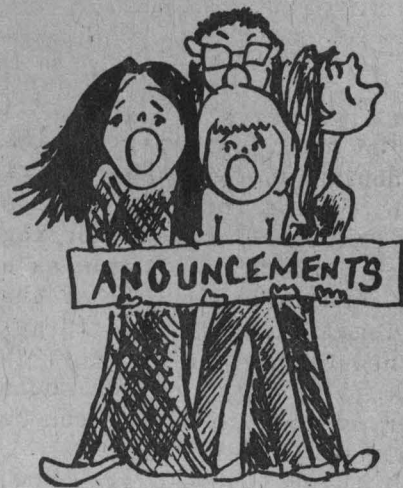
ORTHO-NOVUM (Oral Contraceptive)
Adverse Effects: The following adverse effects have been observed with varying incidence in patients receiving oral contraceptives: nausea, vomiting, other gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal cramps and bloating), break-through bleeding, spotting, change in menstrual flow, amenorrhea, edema, chloasma or melasma, breast changes (tenderness, enlargement, secretion), change in weight, changes in cervical erosions and cervical secretions, suppression lactation, migraine, cholestatic jaundice, rash, rise in blood pressure in susceptible individuals and mental depression.

Compendium of Pharmaceuticals
and Specialties, 1973

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 1, Women's Liberation well hold its monthly general business meeting at the Gay Community Centre at 124A - 2nd Ave. from 1 to 3 p.m. All interested women are invited to attend to find out what is happening with the Women's Movement. Speakers from the National Farmer's Union will be there to discuss farm women, so please make a special effort to attend.

Also, a delegate will be chosen to attend the Conference of Women's Centres on behalf of the Saskatoon Centre at the February General meeting. The conference will be held in Thunderbay on March 1 and 2, with expenses paid by the Secretary of State.



VOLUNTEERS

Women are needed to staff the Women's Centre weekday mornings and afternoons, and also on Saturday and Sunday. If you can give a few hours a week on a regular basis, please phone the Centre at 242-5830.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Women's Centre, at 124A - 2nd Ave. N., is busy with activities every night of the week. For further information on any of the following, phone the Centre at 242-5830. During the day, the staff members maintain the following hours:

- Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday-Thursday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Saturday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rap Groups

Halina Zaleska wants to lead rap groups Monday evening at 7:30 at the Women's Centre, with more stability than is possible with the Drop-In Raps. Women who are interested are asked to leave their names at the Women's Centre until a definite starting time may be arranged.

Abortion Law Repeal

Saskatoon Women for Abortion Law Repeal will be meeting weekly at the Women's Centre on Tuesdays at 7:30. Any women interested in becoming involved in political action against the abortion laws are welcomed.

Steering Committee Meetings

Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m., the Steering Committee meets over supper at the Women's Centre. Any woman is welcome to come to help make the decisions for the Centre and give the staff some direction in their work. Bring your own supper.

Support Groups

Every second Thursday (Feb. 6 and 20 for next month). Angela Stern and Kathy Christie lead a support group. This is designed to help women in a crisis or through a particularly difficult time by discussion and mutual support. Phone the Centre for more information.

Feminist-Socialist Discussion Group

A newly organized activity, the discussion group was formed by a group of women who are especially interested in the political implications of Women's Liberation, especially as they relate to socialism. Although two meetings have already been held, new participants are invited. Meetings will be held every second Sunday (Feb. 9, & 23) at 2:30 at the Women's Centre. Phone Nadia at the Women's Centre for more information.

General Meeting

A general meeting of the Women's Liberation Caucus on campus is held every Friday at 12:30 in the Women's Directorate office at Room 14 in the MUB tunnel. All women on campus, students, staff, and faculty are welcomed.

Women and Law

Two representatives of the Women in Law Committee on campus come to the Directorate office every Monday at 12:30 to discuss questions from interested women on the law as it pertains to women, and women in the Law College. This is your opportunity to get this information.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SPEAKERS

A new seminar series, to replace the Wednesday Happenings, has been initiated on campus to commemorate IWY. Co-sponsored with Regina, this series presents first-quality speakers on five topics of interest to women. All sessions will be held on campus in Room 143 Arts on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. All people are welcomed.

*Women and Art - a panel, already held on January 21

*Women and Trade Unions - on Feb. 4 with Mary Parchewsky - head of Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, and Nadine Hunt - executive of Local 50, U. of S. Employee's Union

*Charnie Guettel - author of Marxism and Feminism on February 18

*Andrea Lebowitz from the Corrective Collective in Vancouver, publishers of Never Done and She Named It Canada on March 4

*Madeleine Parent - a dynamic labour organizer in Ontario

Vancouver Conference

Want to express your views at a Child Welfare League of America Conference in Vancouver, June 8 - 11? Topics will include child development, health, law, education. Travel expenses will be covered and honorariums offered. Contact the Centre for more information.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Women's Centre needs contributions of clippings, magazines, newspapers, and books on topics of interest to women. Lawana Kosedy would like to work with women who can spare some time to keep the files up to date. Phone her at the Centre if you can help in any way.

AT THE LIBRARY

Canadian woman writer, Audrey Thomas, author of Songs My Mother Taught Me will read from her work, and discuss her writing, at the Saskatoon Public Library, Friday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 2.

"Women in New World Literature" is the topic of a talk by Professor Bob Robertson in the Saskatoon Public Library on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. His thesis is that women writing in English outside Britain have been stronger, more popular and more influential than British women writers.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Status of Women holds a monthly meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month (February 27th) at 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the downtown Public Library. These meetings are open to all interested women.

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE LAW

The Canadian Conference on Women and the Law will be held in Winnipeg, January 31-February 2. The theme is Women and Labour. Highlights will include an appearance by Madeleine Parent, sessions on women in the labour force, and workshops on abortion and rape. Delegate expenses are funded by the federal government. To put your name on the waiting list in case of cancellations or for further information, phone Shelly Gavigan at 374-7886.

General meeting minutes

The January Women's Centre general meeting approved a special celebration of March 8th, International Women's Day. A committee (Mary Conway, Sarah Wilson, Cathy Christy, Linda Charleton, and Jan Pendelton) was formed to plan the extravaganza.

Another committee (Lynda Holland, Marjorie Clelland, Connie Gerwing, and a representative from Abortion Law Repeal) is entrusted with the task of preparing a new proposal for budget allocations for the Secretary of State grant.

The Secretary of State agenda item resulted in some discussion of the objectives of Women's Liberation. The contradictions between a movement espousing a place for all women and specific goals and aims which "push out" women was not resolved.

Lucie De Blois reported on recent charges made by two members of the City Hospital therapeutic abortion committee that "abortion on demand" was being performed. Lucie suggested that Otto Lang may be using Saskatoon as a test case for courts to define "health" as it applies to abortion in the Criminal Code.

To publicize the Women's Centre's position, Lucie proposed the following press release:

From the recent publicity that City Hospital has received concerning the meetings between the Board of Governors and the Therapeutic Abortion Committee, we understand that City Hospital must have decided on a pol-

icy for the interpretation of the present abortion law.

City Hospital is a public institution and we feel that it is their duty to make public the entire text of the minutes of the meetings dealing with the charges against City Hospital performing abortion on demand. Also because City Hospital is responsible to City Council, therefore, to the Saskatoon people, we believe that they should inform the public of their decision regarding their policy on abortion and how City Hospital defines health.

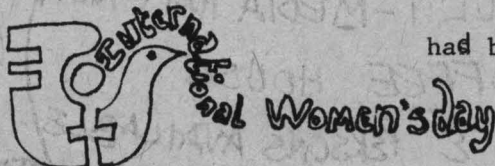
We have in recent weeks noticed a sharp increase in the number of women turned down by the Therapeutic Abortion Committee at City Hospital. The Community Clinic informed us that in the last week of December, of seven women who applied for a therapeutic abortion, six were turned down. Obviously, City Hospital has made some policy change as such a large number of women have never been turned down at once.

Also in the last month, women have phoned us requesting information on illegal abortions. Looking back on our records, this has never happened before.

It was suggested that women seeking abortions be asked to commit themselves politically on the abortion issue.

About twenty-five women attended the January general meeting.

Ann Boulton was not available as had been expected.



In recognition of International Women's day, Saskatoon Women's Liberation is hosting a women's festival at St. Thomas Wesley United Church, Avenue H and 20th Street, on Saturday, March 8th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The day of celebration will include educational displays, art and photo displays, a multi-media happening, and resource people available for discussion, all centred on the theme, Women - In

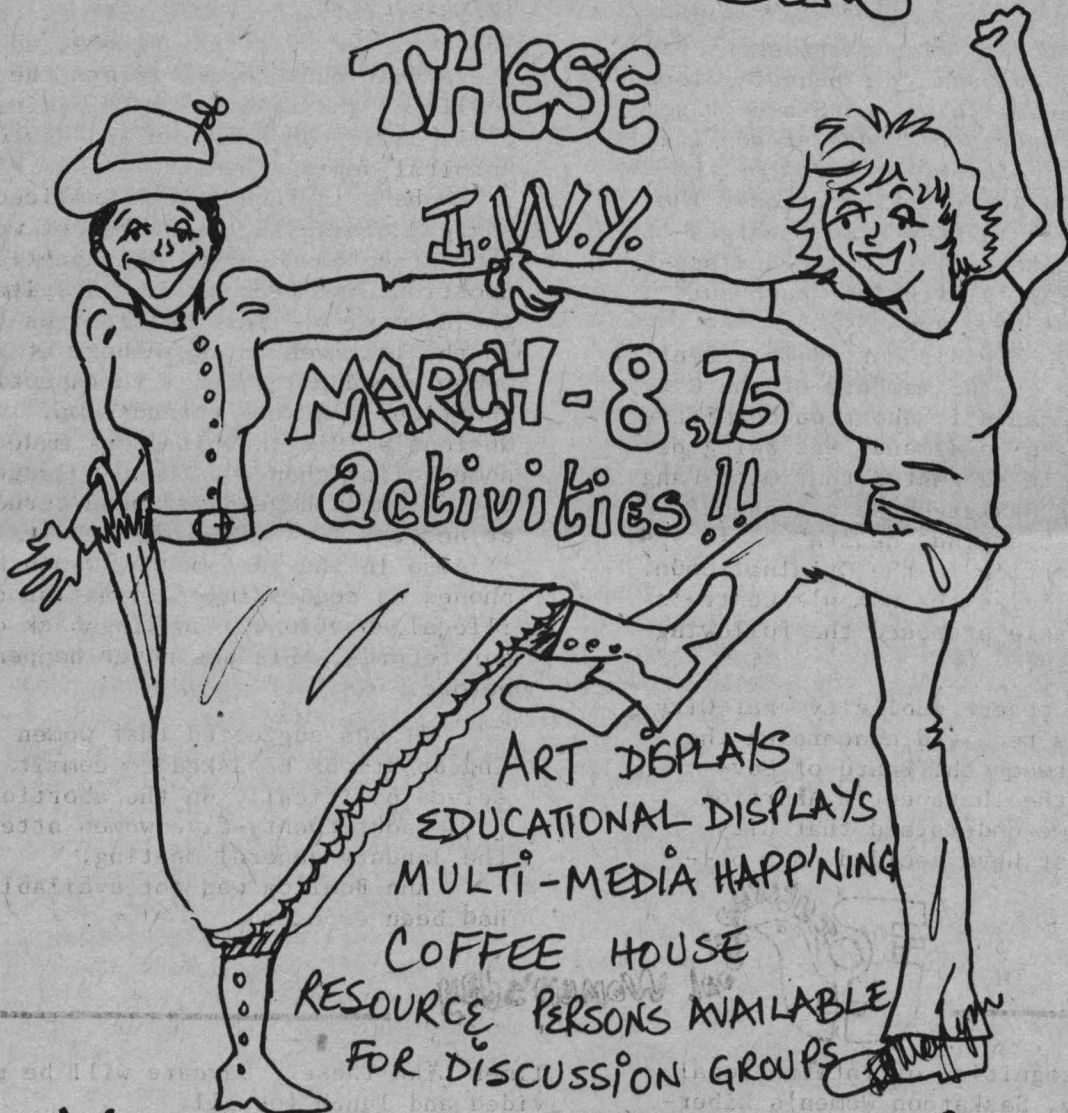
Times Like These. Daycare will be provided and lunch for all.

If anyone is interested in organizing a display or has suggestions re: resource people and films, phone the Saskatoon Women's Centre - 242-5830 - or come to our weekly International Women's Day organizational meetings on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Centre - 124A 2nd Avenue N. (in the McGowan Block).

IN TIMES LIKE

THESE

I.W.Y.



MARCH - 8, 75
Activities!!

ART DISPLAYS
EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
MULTI-MEDIA HAPP'NING
COFFEE HOUSE
RESOURCE PERSONS AVAILABLE
FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS

We need volunteers to HELP!!

if you can spare some time please contact
Women's Centre ♀

Equality In Farm

by Halina Zaleska

After years of research, after receiving briefs and holding public hearings, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women produced a book containing 176 recommendations to improve the condition of women in Canada. It contained only one recommendation on farm women. (#116 Farm Wife)

Buried among the mountains of literature available at the Women's Centre, we have four newspaper clippings and one short statement from the Waffle on farm women.

The University Library has three books mentioning present-day farm women - in England, Ireland, and Egypt.

Yet farm women certainly do not deserve to be ignored. Farm women won the vote in the prairie provinces. It was no accident that Manitoba and Saskatchewan were the first provinces to give women the vote. Farm women helped to organize the C.C.F. Farm women have always been a driving force in farm unions. Through our history there march women such as Nellie McClung, Violet McNaughton (President of the Women Grain Growers Assoc.), Dorise Nielson (left-wing M.P.), Louise Lucas ("Mother of the C.C.F."), and many others - all of them farm women.

And the farm women today - they're out there all right - ignored, isolated, and angry.

A farm woman is expected to fill a fairly clearly defined role. She does the housework. This means growing a garden, canning and freezing and pickling food for the winter, and baking bread, as well as looking after the kids, cooking, sewing, etc. These are all jobs that a man will almost never do, except in an emergency. Besides all this, the farm woman is usually the number one hand. I think it is very important to note the distinction between being a "farmer" and being a "farm hand". The difference is as great as that between "employer" and "employee". As the num-

ber one hand, the farm woman usually looks after the "frills" of the farming operation (eg. looking after the chickens, milking the cows) and occasionally helps with the major work of the farm (eg. driving the tractor, hauling grain).

There are many obvious areas of discrimination against farm women. She may be the number one hand, but if she were paid wages, they could not be deducted from the farm income tax. Wages paid to any other "hired man" or even wages paid to children can be deducted. Then, of course, there is also the problem of putting her husband in a higher income tax bracket if the wife earns too much. These problems are easily circumvented on most farms by not paying the woman anything at all. This prevents the woman from being able to take advantage of such things as the Canada Pension Plan. It enables Manpower to refuse allowances or to give lower allowances for farm women attending farm-related training courses.

So what does the farm woman get for her efforts, other than emotional fulfilment? Nothing! The Saskatchewan courts have decided in the Rathwell case that a farm woman has no interest in the farm, and that on separation or divorce she is only entitled to the normal maintenance allowance. Attorney-General Roy Romanow (Artful Dodger '74) has offered to deal with this problem simply by giving the judges more discretion in dealing with cases of this type, instead of changing the legislation which gave rise to the problem.

Another problem faced by farm women is isolation and lack of services. In the rural areas, there are no birth control and abortion information centres, no daycare, etc. In addition, when farm women are forced to take jobs in towns or cities to supplement the farm income, they face all the familiar problems of discrimination in employment.

By far the most serious problem

Farming

faced by farm women (and men) is the threatened extinction of the family farm. It is the policy of the federal Liberal government to phase out small family farms and replace them by larger "more economical" farms. The plans include a great reduction in the farm population. Thus the first priority among farmers is to prevent large corporate farms from replacing the family farm.

There is the cost-price squeeze: farm costs generally rise much faster than the prices for farm products. For example, the price a farmer gets for a pig today is 52-53¢ a pound, which is almost identical to the price at this time last year. Yet inflation has raised the costs of farm supplies by 10-30% over the year.

And there is the perennial enemy - "agri-biz". Agri-biz refers to the big corporations involved in agriculture. There are the farm machinery suppliers. And there are the vertically-integrated corporations that own land and retail stores and all the stages in-between. They don't need to make a profit on farming because they can get that profit out of wholesaling or retailing the produce. It's not easy for a farmer to compete with that sort of corporation.

If you want a general idea of how farmers are doing, look at the paint on the buildings when you go out of town. When a farm has money to spare, almost the first thing it's spent on is new paint. Lots of freshly-painted buildings indicate that the farms in the area aren't doing too badly. Buildings that have very old paint or no paint indicate that there is no money to spare.

One alternative that would allow families to continue farming is the formation of cooperative farms. This has worked very well for many people. There were about 100 new coop farms formed last year. But while forming a coop can improve the economic problems of farming, it doesn't necessarily deal with the specific problems of farm women,

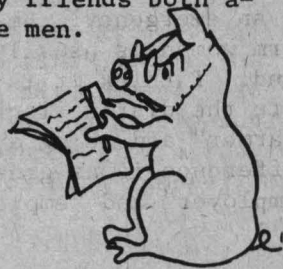
One of the oldest coop farms in the province, Matador, was formed just after World War 2. But only the men are members. There is no room in the coop for the women. At one time the members formed a coop vegetable garden which was a good idea; but the women couldn't work in it because they were not members of the coop. They ended up pretty well confined to their houses. When they couldn't stand it any more, the coop garden was ended, and each woman got her own individual little garden that she could work in. That kind of coop leaves something to be desired.

I am a member of the Self-Reliance and Hard Struggle Co-op Farm. After talking with some of the members (men and women) of the Matador Co-op Farm, we decided to make men and women completely equal. (We were all supporters of Women's Liberation anyway.) It's worked very well for us. It sometimes surprises the neighbours, though, to see men and women working as equals.

I remember an incident when we were picking up irrigation pipe on a neighbour's farm. I waded into the deep mud in the ditch to pick up a length of pipe (I had my rubber boots on) while Larry (in runners) stood back on dry ground. This greatly upset one of the farmers working with us. He got all red in the face and yelled at Larry, "Well, help the little lady!" Later on that same day, another of the farmers told me that the irrigation pipes were much too heavy for me to lift, although I'd been lifting them most of the day.

The farmers soon get over their surprise at the way we do things, however, and we have many friends both among the women and the men.

OINK! OINK!



SPANISH WOMEN IMPRISONED

This is a personal report from a sister who was in Spain for the International Women's Conference in Barcelona which was cancelled due to the arrest of Lidia Falcón and Eva Forest in the round-up and torture of Spanish intellectuals last fall.

*The Thursday/Friday Feminists
5213 S. Blackstone
Chicago, Illinois 60615*

Maybe you've heard this story before, but it's good to hear it again and repeat it, and broadcast it, and publish it. The Barcelona Women's Conference was being organized by several women who met clandestinely. Most of them were used to doing political work in Spain which means that they plan, plot and organize with others whom they may not even see. Security is a necessity to accomplish anything and security was such in these women's groups that most of the women don't know the names of their sisters.

The conference planners used one group to get government permission to hold the conference and to rent a hall and meeting space. All was fine--except for one big tactical blunder. And that was that the women planning the conference relied heavily on Lidia Falcón's leadership. She not only knew all the necessary coordinating details of how the whole thing was supposed to come off (she was liason between groups of women, I think), but she, being an attorney, was supposed to know the intricacies of the Spanish legal labyrinth and rescue the conference women in case the expected legal difficulties arose. So Lidia was key to the conference's happening.

On Sept. 13 a café where the police hung out in Madrid was bombed. People were killed and injured--one pig was of-fed. The bombing was blamed on the leftist Basque group ETA; ETA denied it. Evidence points to the possibility that the right-wing did the bombing; apparently police were warned ahead of time not to frequent Café Rolando that day, etc.

Three days after the bombing, Sept. 16, a group of 11 intellectuals were rounded up from all over Spain and carted off to Madrid. Lidia Falcón, her husband Eliseo Bayo, her daughter (age 20) Regina Bonas Falcón, Eva Forest (feminist and political activist) were among those arrested. Regina was later released unharmed. The bombing was, at first, used as an excuse for this round-up. Later the group of 11 were charged with being political terrorists--of having "hiding places" in their homes where they "planned to hold political prisoners they had kidnapped." All bullshit. "Refugios," apparently, were found in some of their apartments. These were places to hide from the police--yes. In a fascist state that is one way to avoid hassle.

After Lidia and Eva were arrested, the various groups of women who had planned the conference met all together. At that meeting led by Regina, Lidia's daughter, they decided that it wasn't possible to hold the conference. Regina, whom I have met and talked with, resolutely says that the conference will take place next year.

These women are now participating in various activities to win support for the group of 11 prisoners, especially Lidia and Eva. Money to support Regina and her brother is being solicited; petitions circulated. What is needed especially is international pressure in Spain--bad press about Spain's overflowing prisons, about its hundreds of political prisoners, about its use of torture (both Lidia and Eva have been hospitalized because of injuries suffered while under interrogation. They were tortured.) about the despicable state of its prisons, about the total lack of civil rights here for Spanish citizens, about women's non-existent rights, etc.

It's really hard to imagine how tightly everyone's hands are tied, how hard it is to accomplish anything, how careful one must be in organizing...

Now Lidia Falcón is in jail in Madrid. So is Eva Forest. Their trial is

supposed to be in January. They'll be tried by military court. Eva is expected to get the death sentence; Lidia, several decades of prison. Regina is allowed to see her mother for 1/2 hour per week. Of course they can't be alone; they talk to each other through bars. Last Sunday Regina returned from Madrid to report that her mother is in fine spirits, that her reputation as a feminist lawyer (she's a lawyer specializing in women's issues) has spread through

the prison and now she is constantly besieged by other women inmates asking her about their legal rights, about the women's movement. She says she has no time to write--Lidia is also a well-known author in Spain.

All Lidia Falc3n and Eva Forest and the other political prisoners in Spain can hope for now is international pressure that might lighten their sentences or for the overthrow of fascism in Spain before they are interned or executed...

by Frances Mundy

Back home again, it is amazing to read this account of Lidia Falcon and Eva Forest. In September as I left for Europe, it was high priority that I make it to the International Women's Conference in Barcelona. I knew that such meetings were illegal in Spain, however I didn't pay much heed, naively not believing that the threatened arrests and raids could actually occur. In the London Women's Centre news of the conference was indeed vague. Suddenly, a bulletin; conference cancelled, arrests made, nothing more.

a dangerous if not foolish endeavour. She knew the Spanish government did not stop at verbally crushing anti-government movements and that the left-right struggles were violent.

In Barcelona I met fellow Saskatoonian, Nancy Allen. We discussed the situation, and as I left, she said she would try to contact, discreetly, some other women in the Barcelona Women's Movement. Hopefully there will be more news from her in the near future.

Unlike me, a Spanish woman at the London Women's Centre was not surprised; she knew the reality of Spain. She felt that such a conference at this time was

Though communication with Spanish women is difficult, perhaps this year, International Women's Year, will provide some opportunity to express solidarity with the Spanish women's dangerous and important struggle.

abortion:
a woman's
right
to
choose!

General Meeting
Saskatoon Women for
Abortion Law Repeal
at

Saskatoon Public Library
Wednesday, Feb. 5
8:00 p.m.

8:00 Film: "It Happens To Us"
8:30 Speaker: Shelley Gavigan
on Therapeutic Abortion Committees
Discussion To Follow

ALL WOMEN WELCOME



ODDS AND ENDS

A woman called the Centre with a story for us. Her husband is a full-time artist, but due to the increased cost of materials, he felt that a part-time job would help financially.

He saw an ad for a chamber maid, male or female, at a large hotel in Saskatoon and went to apply. He threw the whole staff into a commotion. How do you deal with a man who wants to be a part-time chamber maid?

They shuffled him from one person to another. The woman who was doing the hiring said, "We want a woman, of course. We only put male/female because we had to."

He finally filled out an application and left it at that.

"BARBARA FRUM IN OTTAWA"

CBC has pleasantly surprised us with a program both relevant and exciting. Barbara Frum - of CBC radio's "As It Happens" - now hosts her own program - "Barbara Frum in Ottawa". She has recently talked to Otto Lang in a scorching session on the Abortion Issue. A skillful interviewer, Ms. Frum followed Otto through one dodge after another as he evaded question after question. When asked why only a handful of Hospitals in Canada has Therapeutic Abortion Committees, Mr. Lang failed to give an adequate reply, saying only that in that case there must be no need.(!) In a subsequent program Ms. Frum interviewed Adrian Lang, Ruth McDonald, Isabelle Danson, and Yvonne Pelletier. Their role as woman is seemingly superceded by their role as Cabinet Ministers wives, and they provided some interesting insights into life in politics for women who, for the most part, hover in the background.

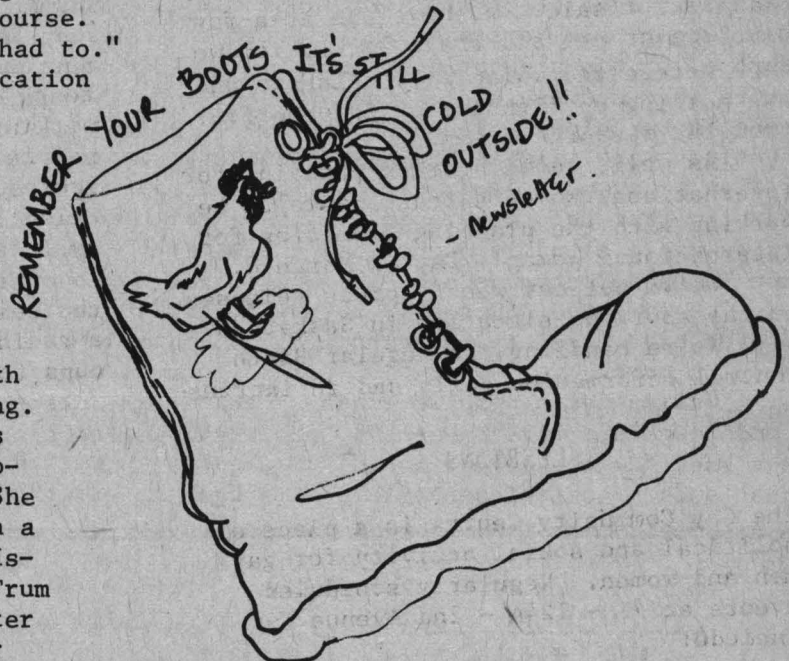
"Barbara Frum in Ottawa" is seen Monday evening at 11:30 p.m. on CBC.

SASKATOON WOMEN FOR ABORTION LAW REPEAL

All women are welcome to attend a general meeting on Wednesday, February 5 at 8 p.m. in the Saskatoon Main Branch Public Library.

Shelley Gavigan, guest speaker, will talk about "Therapeutic Abortion Committees--Who Controls Them?"

A film, "It Happens to Us" will be shown.



NEWSLETTER

The newsletter committee meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 at the Community Aid Centre (136 Avenue F). We always welcome new women who are interested in any phase of the newsletter production from writing to typing to layout. Submissions of articles, poetry, photography or ideas are welcomed. Different meetings of the month are devoted to talking about the issue and tossing around ideas, and the production phase. Drop by the Aid Centre on Wednesday or phone Lynda at 652-7802 for more information.

STAFF REPORT

by Connie Gerwing

The Women's Centre has been staffed by four people under an L.I.P. grant since Dec. 15, 1974. The Centre is open from 9-5 and 7-9 weekdays and 2-5 on Saturdays.

The first few weeks were spent planning our activities for the project and reorganizing the Centre. We cleaned, moved the books and periodicals so they are more accessible and organized working space for ourselves. We have some books from Women's Press and some periodicals for sale. We have one area for displays of art and craft work which we hope interested women will bring in and are setting up displays of information from the resource files.

As well, we've started planning for International Women's Year and we'll be working with the planning committee for International Women's Day on March 8.

We've put out weekly press releases on the abortion situation in Saskatoon.

We're handling the regular Birth Control Information calls and an increas-

ed volume of calls for abortion information. We have some volunteers to help us with this.

The resource library is being expanded and the filing system improved. Money limits how many new books and periodicals we can get.

One of the staff attended the Women's Press conference on Dec. 27-28 in Saskatoon which was sponsored by the Canadian University Press.

The volunteer training program is now underway. There are some new volunteers as well as others who have been working at the Centre for some time. New people are needed to help with the resource library, the Birth Control Information line and also for the celebration on International Women's Day.

We still need money, especially for the resource centre. We would also like a radio, a large table and some coffee cups for the Centre.

LESBIANS

The Gay Community Centre is a place of political and social activity for gay men and women. Regularly scheduled events at #1 - 124A - 2nd Avenue N. include:

- Saskatoon Gay Action Meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- discussion group every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.
- starting February 14 the Gay Community Centre will be having regular Friday night open dances and coffee houses. Admission \$1.00 per person
- dances every Saturday from 9 to 2 a.m.

\$1.25 for members
2.25 for non-members



feminist news exchange proposed

by Lynda Holland

The Women's Press Conference began Friday, December 27 at the Holiday House Hotel with registration and a plenary session. Women were in attendance from Victoria, the West Kootenays, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Kitchener/Waterloo, representing their various publications.

Introductions were made and those present offered information about their group and outlined expectations of the conference. Ann Harvey spoke about the work she and Rita Moir had done for the conference and the information gleaned from their extensive travels to meet with women's publications.

The conference resumed Saturday morning and the establishment of a feminist news exchange was the focus of discussion. It was agreed that Ann Harvey explore the financial realities of allying ourselves with CUP. A woman from Kitchener/Waterloo, Kati Middleton agreed to act as a contact person for information re: the progress of the news service and the distribution of news to women's groups across Canada.

The afternoon was occupied with panel discussions on the food industry in Canada, Canadian sports (big business and male domination), Northern Canada, and Canadian publishing.

A late afternoon meeting re-opened the discussion of a Feminist News Exchange during which the Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter staff presented their views on the subject. They stated their awareness of the need for better communication between women's groups in Canada but felt the exchange of newsletters to be a viable solution to this problem. The staff felt that there was seldom a

need for immediacy in the distribution of information and should it be important to transmit news quickly, a press release could be prepared and sent out directly rather than being first sent through a central clearing house. They saw little value in receiving large amounts of information on a regular basis as time did not permit sorting through it and the women felt hard-pressed to turn out a newsletter each month let alone devoting time and energy to preparation of material to send to the news service. It was also deemed financially unfeasible to join such a coalition. The Newsletter Collective saw value in such a liaison, but suggested that the Women's Centre may be better able to participate in such a venture. They went on to re-affirm their interest in meeting again in Thunder Bay in March should that planned conference materialize.

The evening was occupied with a discussion of Women and Health Care - a working paper for this session is available in the Newsletter files at the Women's Centre.

Practical sessions were the format for Sunday morning with workshops offered on layout and paste-up, graphics, and writing.

Afternoon discussion turned towards specifics of women's publications and information sharing with respect to funding, philosophies, and directions.

The Conference was a worthwhile experience and a valuable beginning for the strengthening of Women's Press groups in Canada. We were left with perhaps some measure of disappointment that more areas were not explored and more concrete philosophies founded, but felt the worth of the women met and ideas generated.

Books

for

sale

Marxism and Feminism
 by Charnie Guettel
 1974 Canadian Women's Press, Toronto
 62p.
 A critical examination of feminist thought from a Marxist perspective;
 \$1.50

Abortion in Canada by Eleanor Wright Pelrine
 1972, New Press, Toronto, 153 p.
 This book answers basic questions. How is it performed? When is it safe? How much does it cost? When is it legal?
 \$1.00

Prose by Olive Schreener from the book Dreams
 A British feminist who lived a good part of her life in Africa and died in 1920.
 \$0.25

Cuban Women Now: Interviews with Cuban Women by Margaret Randall
 1974, Canadian Women's Educational Press, Toronto, 375 p.
 Cuban women's insights into the changes in their lives raises many questions concerning women's role, and potential role, in society. For Cuban women, the roots of liberation did not lie in equal

rights or protective labour or paid housework legislation, but in overcoming the social and economic conditions surrounding their families, homes and work.
Afterword 1974 resume government policies and social facets which have given rise to many discussions of women's roles.
 \$0.25

Our Bodies Ourselves: A book by and for Women by Boston Women's Health Collective 1973 276 p.
 Topics: Anatomy, Physiology, Sexuality, Lesbians, Nutrition, Rape, Venereal Disease, Birth Control, Abortion \$2.00

Poster silk screen - "Women Alive" by Mary Lou Jones \$1.50

Mail orders: COD charges are expensive--to save money, send a cheque or money order--made out to Saskatoon Women's Centre.
 Add 25¢ for postage.

The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is published monthly. Next month's issue will focus on Women in Law. The deadline for all material is February 20th. Submissions are welcomed.

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THIS PUBLICATION IS ON FILE AT THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ARCHIVE:
2325 Oak St., Berkeley, California.
94708

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The grant for the Women's Center has in no way affected the Newsletter which is financially independent. So please, we would appreciate a subscription if you can afford it or a donation if you can manage it. please make cheques payable to Saskatoon Women's Liberation.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$3.00/yr. individuals
\$4.00/yr. USA
\$6.00/yr. institutions
\$12.00 for photo-copies of 15 back issues - Sept. '70 to June '74
\$1.00 per issue for photo-copies after June '74

25¢ for single current issue

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Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter
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