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Saskatoon

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WOMEN'S LIBERATION



NEWS Letter

January 1975

International Women's year!!!

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



To the editors,

I assume that one of the main objectives of the Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is to make women aware of fundamental issues in the women's movement. I also assume that it is to educate them in reference to current events affecting women in particular, to point out various activities going on in the Centre itself and create an interest which would involve more women in the Centre and spark more support for the movement itself. After receiving the Newsletter for over a year and particularly after reading the October 1974 issue, I have come to the conclusion that my assumptions are wrong.

I found the articles in the October issue (focusing on working women) to be so politically biased that their main effect was to represent the Centre and the movement to be a "radical-socialist" group who can only find self-expression in clenched fists and other "right on" actions and terminology. The cartoon (on pages 10 and 11) was a distinct turn off counselling abortion and "the fist" as the answer to women's problems.

After having worked at the Centre this summer, I feel the Women's Centre is not essentially what was represented by the last Newsletter. It contains and dispenses far too much valuable information and aid to have radical politics appear its main function and thus turn off so many people.

I suggest that the editors of the Newsletter take a look at themselves to ascertain the size of the group of women who are of the same political persuasion. I think they will find (without anyone having to point it out) that this group is relatively small and already involved in the women's movement. Perhaps they would then realize that they have not reached the remainder of their sisters and this is the reason why they have contributed so little. The Newsletter might find itself interesting a few previous non-supporters if it refrained from

biased reporting which misrepresents Women's Liberation as a whole (and quit trying to convert the already converted.)

In concern,
Beverley Bauer
Saskatoon

in reply

We appreciate your letter. It has led us to discuss and clarify our position and question our directions.

The Newsletter is an offspring of Women's Liberation, not the Women's Centre. As Women's Liberation has always followed a socialist philosophy, so do we of the Newsletter Collective reflect this view. At times, when the issue warrants, we are more outspoken in our denouncement of things we believe to be wrong. It is not our intent to offend but rather to inform. It is natural that the women who devote their time and energies to the Newsletter should determine and influence its direction.

The Women's Centre is but the physical focus of the Women's Movement. Its' role is to provide information and resources for all women, and the Centre works to increase and better these services. The Women's Centre is a place where groups involved in Women's Liberation may meet and work. This position denies the Centre the right to a philosophy that would alienate and exclude the women it tries to reach.

The Newsletter functions as an autonomous unit, only loosely linked to the Women's Centre. We transmit information for the Centre but do not pretend to represent it's views.

We hope this has clarified our position. There will be those who disagree but we ask that the Newsletter be valued for the "news" it provides and understood for the philosophy it must have.

Editorial

- 3 -

By the time you read this we will have tumbled into 1975 - International Women's Year. If every year is special, this one is even more so. It must be a time for women to work as they never have, to speak out louder than before, to make demands on society we so unequally share, and above all, to realize their common goals and unite to achieve them.

It is with ease that at the close of each year we brandish our idealism and plunge renewed into the struggle. All too soon our efforts become tangled and distorted, mired in frustration at the change that comes too slowly.

For these reasons it is perhaps as important to cast a glance backward at this time. To reflect on our small beginnings, collectively or personally. To see how far we have come before we look to what waits ahead.

If we view this re-assessment with some disappointment, we must be mindful to try harder, to avoid the pitfalls that have caught us before, and strive to dispel those things in us that drifted us from our perspective and shadowed our view of things.

As each year's end brings with it a re-definition and re-evaluation, so does the Newsletter Collective pause and question. We feel we have made great strides and are justified in taking some measure of pride in our diligent labours.

We do not claim to know anything and everything about Women's Liberation. The Newsletter is not the last word on Women's issues. We learn with each publication and hope to try to develop some perspective, to reflect areas of discussion within the Saskatoon Women's Community and stimulate interest in areas we feel have been neglected.

Over the past year we have been denounced as pornographic, lambasted for being too radical and dismissed as being wishy-washy. Some direction! (Which way is up?)

It seems the time is ripe then to est-

ablish a credo, to determine a philosophy for better or worse that is ours.

Some members of the Newsletter Collective see the wisdom of taking a political stand on what is so obviously a political issue. The liberation of women is at the core of a society that exploits people, a society that profits by others' loss, where the individual is but a tool to use until she is spent and then discarded. Liberation for women is a freedom of self, a freedom to be, a freedom from roles, expectations, and limitations. Liberation for women frees men from traditional roles and stereotypes. Society at present does not allow this freedom.

Others on the Collective realize the vital role the Newsletter plays as an information service, and fear that were we to take a more vocal stand on principles we would risk losing many women who look to our publication for news. The danger is very real of falling into the position of directing our efforts to those who are already aware. But the point then arises, what are these women doing with this awareness? We want to expand our readership, and expand their and our horizons. We are not so naive as to wish to churn our pages of political rhetoric each month, but neither do we want to be the voice of the Women's Centre. We are more, and more important than either of them. We know there are women who feel very strongly about the position of the Newsletter. Yet at the same time we flounder around month after month ferreting out and harrasing women to write for us. We never fail to ask for your submissions or suggestions. Our meetings are open each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 136 Ave. F. S. (the Community Aid Centre). We need your strong feelings here and now.

So, purged of a certain amount of bewilderment, minds and bodies flushed of the clog of lethargy, we tramp on into International Women's Year, full of bright lights and promise.

Happiness and serenity from the Newsletter Collective to you and yours for our year, 1975.

USSU WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Come to the Women's Centre monthly general meeting on January 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at 124A 2nd Avenue North. This meeting will consider priorities for the Centre's program for the next six months and also will discuss the allocation of the Secretary of State grant. Guest speaker on "Women in Politics" will be Ann Boulton, NDP candidate in Sutherland-University.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The weekly steering committee meetings are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Women's Centre. Any woman may attend - bring your supper and help make decisions for the Centre.

ABORTION LAW REPEAL

The next Abortion Law Repeal steering committee meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7 at the Women's Centre. All interested women may attend.

FILM

Peasant Women of Ryazan, a film about the Ukraine during the Revolution will be shown at the Main Library on January 11 at 7:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by One Sky and the Library.

WOMEN WANTED

Women who can do graphics, cartoons, drawings of any sort, to help work on an information kit for high school women. Status of Women project. Contact Connie Gerwing at the Women's Centre.

With exams and holidays over, the weekly general meetings of the USSU Women's Directorate will resume on Friday, January 10, at 12:30 in the Directorate office, Room 14 in the MUB tunnel.

The fate of a new series of Wednesday Happenings for the second term is uncertain as of now. A series of speakers is being planned to commemorate IWY, and it is still not known whether these will compliment or replace the Wednesday Happenings.

A seminar on RAPE is going to be held on March 1 in the upper MUB. By bringing together ex-sex offenders, medical and legal experts, social workers, and women who have been victims, it is hoped that the public may become educated on this issue. The Women's Directorate is co-sponsoring the one-day seminar and is concerned about emphasizing the political aspects of the problem. If you are **interest**

interested in becoming involved in the planning stages of the seminar, please contact Lesley Noton at 244-7485.

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.

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.
- drop-ins every Friday from 8 to 11 p.m.
- dances every Saturday from 9 to 2 a.m.

\$1.25 for members
2.25 for non-members

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are grateful to those of you who have been paying your subscriptions, and especially those who have been able to donate a little more. Each month we somehow manage to pay our bills.

For all who haven't paid for your newsletter subscription yet, we ask that you do so. And if you can afford a more substantial contribution, that will also be appreciated.

The newsletter is financially independent of the Women's Centre so the grant has no immediate effect on us.

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

DROP IN RAPS

New women are invited to come by the Women's Centre every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. to learn about what's happening with Women's Liberation in Saskatoon, and how they might become involved.

WOMEN TODAY

The Saskatoon Public Library is sponsoring a series of speakers for Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m., under the theme of Women Today : Planning for Creative Change. The sessions will cover such topics as awareness of personal roles, work for women, sex, and health, with a number of well-known speakers. The series will run from January 8 to March 12. Registration is necessary to attend, and may be arranged by contacting Anne Smart, Programme Co-ordinator of the Saskatoon Public Library at 652-7313.

OTTO LANG IS TWO 4-LETTER WORDS

Some buttons have mysteriously appeared in the past month with the striking slogan, "Otto Lang is two four-lettered words." Women, and other Otto detractors, which includes a lot of people, are proud to wear them. May we suggest that other Women's Centres borrow the slogan and get buttons or bumper stickers made up? The original source, as far as we know, is Eleanor Pelrine, the Abortion Law Repeal activist. (Buttons are available at the U.S.S.U. Women's Directorate and the Women's Centre.)

SUPPORT GROUPS

Angela Stern and Kathy Christy are organizing a group to offer positive support for women going through a crisis. Women can meet with them on alternate Thursdays (January 9, 23, and February 6) at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Centre.

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.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Women's Centre is often asked by community groups and schools to provide a speaker on Women's Liberation, women's rights, women and health, rape, abortion, etc. If you would like to gain some experience in public speaking, contact Nadia Greschuk at the Women's Centre. We have a terrific clippings file to facilitate research on various topics. The Centre has a policy of sending speakers in pairs. Pick a topic of interest to you, and let's get ready for IWY!

General meeting minutes

The monthly Women's Liberation general meeting was held at the Zodiac Centre on Saturday, December 7. Twenty-six women attended the meeting.

The main item on the agenda was reaching a decision regarding the acceptance of the two government grants, L.I.P. and Secretary of State.

Women agreed to exclude any representatives of the media and to prepare a press release.

Molly McQuarrie briefly reviewed the herstory of the Saskatoon movement in order to place the grant money in perspective.

Saskatoon Women's Liberation began in 1969 as an offshoot of the Committee for a Socialist Movement. In the winter of 69-70 the discussion centred around whether men should be allowed to Women's Liberation meetings. It was decided that men would be allowed to attend only public meetings. That same winter, the Committee for a Socialist Movement folded but the women's caucus continued as Women's Liberation.

The Birth Control Information Centre began in the summer of 70. The phone number was 242-5830 and has remained the same ever since. At that time, it was against the law to give out birth control information.

The first national Women's Liberation Conference was held in the fall of 1970 in Saskatoon. The main issues discussed at the conference were abortion law repeal and the direction of the movement. These discussions continued throughout the winter. The headquarters of the local movement was in a house on Landsdowne Avenue.

Judy Coburn received a C.Y.C. grant in the summer of 71 to organize the Birth Control Information Centre. During this time meetings were held by candlelight in a small office in the Ross Block on Third Avenue as there often was no money to pay the light bill. The movement relied on donations from sympathetic women.

The tradition of Steering Committee Meetings began in the winter of 71-72.

In February, 1972, the movement organized a Florence Howe Day on campus. Out of this conference emerged the Women's

Directorate and courses on Women's Studies.

In February 1973, Robin Morgan visited Saskatoon. Her presence created an impetus for growth and renewed energy for the Movement. Also we began discussing applying for government funding. The Women's Program in the Secretary of State was established.

Eleanor Fraser became involved in the movement in the summer of 73 and became coordinator of the Saskatoon Women's Centre. She began working towards a grant application to the Secretary of State.

In the spring of 73, Molly collected a series of support letters for the grant application. These letters were finally sent to the government in Oct. 74.

The Centre at 147 2nd Avenue South housed two OFY projects, Self-help and the Herstory Calendar.

In January 74 the Centre moved to 124A 2nd Avenue North, our present location. The Centre continued to thrive on donations from supporters.

In March 74, we submitted our grant application to the Secretary of State.

During the summer of 74, three OFY projects, Women and Film, Self-help and the Resource Centre, worked out of the Women's Centre. The women working on the Herstory calendar became an independent collective with their own office.

In April 74, Saskatoon City Hospital introduced restrictive measures on applications accepted by the Therapeutic Abortion Committee.

We contacted Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State during the summer, but no answer was forthcoming.

On October 18, a *Globe and Mail* article described Otto Lang's interception of the Secretary of State grant.

On November 13, we were informed our application was accepted and we were issued a cheque dated April 23, 1974 for \$5,760. This indicated that our application had initially been approved early in April.

In early October, we applied for a L.I.P. grant to employ staff for the Centre and were successful to the tune of 4 full time staff (\$14,000) for 6 months.

The discussion now proceeded to the acceptance or refusal of the grants. Sheila Jones Steele, the chairperson, pointed out this money is different from the OFY grants granted to individuals who choose to assist the movement. In the present situation, both grants are the direct responsibility of the Women's Centre Society. She recalled that community groups have often found government funding harmful to them in the long run.

Some of the problems that could arise are conflicts between paid and voluntary staff, difficulties in raising donations, and dependance on government funding. In general, the movement may be co-opted by the government.

One way to combat this is honesty, suggested one woman. We must not change our policies in order to please the government and assure continued funding. If the government becomes displeased with our activities and politics, we should not regret loss of the grant.

Twenty-two women voted in favour of accepting the Secretary of State grant, two were opposed and two abstained. Twenty-three women agreed to accept the

L.I.P. grant, one was opposed and two women abstained.

The group decided a buffer was needed between the paid staff and the government. This buffer would be a hiring committee of women trusted by the movement and who had no direct interest in the paid positions. The committee would be responsible for interviews and hiring, specific job descriptions, and any problems arising from having paid staff.

It was decided that the paid staff will be required to attend steering committee meetings because they are part of the movement and to facilitate reports to the movement.

Sheila Jones Steele, Halina Zaleski, Muriel Dickson, Maylynn Woo, Marjorie Clelland and Sally Ann Williams were elected by acclamation to the hiring committee.

It was decided the Steering Committee will be responsible for all press releases in the future.

The meeting ended in an uproar when the subject of the Calendar Collective was brought up. The meeting was adjourned.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Most of you doubtless recognized last month's cover as the cover of *Herstory 1975, A Canadian Women's Calendar*. The Newsletter Collective neglected to credit the artist who did the graphic and the women of the Calendar Collective who worked so hard to put *Herstory 1975* together. Our thanks to Beth Foster, Gwen Morrison-Gray, Colleen Pollreis, Erin Showmaker, and Muriel Wiens, the Women's Calendar Collective, and to Colette French who did the front cover graphic. *Herstory 1975, A Canadian Women's Calendar*, is published by the Women's Press, Ste. 305, 280 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario.

The article, "Education for What?", in last month's issue was not credited at the request of the woman who wrote it. Having lost her teaching position due to the views and beliefs expressed in

the article, she did not wish to jeopardize her chances of being re-hired. We apologize for neglecting to state this at the time.

NO, YOU DIDN'T MISS A NEWSLETTER

Our last published newsletter was dated November 1974. This has seemed reasonable to the Newsletter staff, to work on the November issue during November and ~~am~~ mail it at the end of the month. This has meant that often a month's issue was not received by the readers until the beginning of the next month. So, to start out the New Year, we are updating our date on the Newsletter. This is the January issue, which we worked on during December. There will be no December 1974 issue; it will be called instead the January 1975 issue.

Saskatoon Abortion Seige

by Lucie De Blois

I don't know if I should laugh or cry when I hear those doctors stating that City Hospital is doing Abortion on Demand. We, who are involved in the Women's Movement, must stay on our guard and be prepared to rally around the Abortion issue as I feel that Otto Lang will be using Saskatoon as a test case for prosecution.

The *Star Phoenix* carried a very unusual article in their December 17th issue, entitled: "Hospital gives abortion on demand: Doctors". It is very catchy and enough to make anybody's head turn a little, Pro-Lifers and Pro-Choice alike.

It comes as a shock, almost as a joke for those who are aware of the abortion situation in Saskatoon. We are all well aware of the difficulties involved in getting an abortion in this city... and yet a couple of doctors state that City Hospital is offering abortion on demand?!?!?

Drs. Ernie Schmidt and O'Keefe, both members of the therapeutic Abortion Committee, have apparently collected evidence that the medical profession is breaking the law by offering abortion on demand. Drs. Schmidt and O'Keefe have sent their information to Otto Lang, Health Minister Walter Smishek and Attorney-General Roy Romanow.

It seems from the *Star Phoenix* article that Dr. Schmidt is a little confused as to exactly what he is trying to get across. On the one hand he says the issue is that the law is unclear and should be defined; on the other hand he says that doctors are breaking this law (which is unclear). One thing is clear of Drs. Schmidt and O'Keefe's actions, they want the present abortion law redefined in a more restrictive manner.

It is well known that Dr. O'Keefe is a Pro-Lifer. He often speaks at Pro-Life Rallies. This might give a little light as to his motives.

Also both doctors stated that they would agree to an abortion only when the mother's life was threatened. Aren't Drs. Schmidt and O'Keefe in fact breaking the law in refusing to consider the woman's

health?

They also said in the article that the law is worded to loosely. Do they question the ability and integrity of the House of Commons regarding this law? It is evident that the law was worded in such a way as to give individual abortion committees responsibility for the application of this law. One would think that this is to our advantage, but not so. It is not requested of any hospital to have a therapeutic Abortion Committee which means that in some areas of the country it is virtually impossible to have an abortion. Also a little bit of pressure from the right place can make the law very restrictive as demonstrated in the North West Territories where Otto Lang has direct jurisdiction, and now in Saskatchewan.

The Women's Centre feels the statement made by both doctors is clearly an exaggeration. Drs. Schmidt and O'Keefe seem to forget that a woman as first to have her case accepted by a GP, a gynecologist and a psychiatrist before it is brought to the board.

If City Hospital was offering abortion on demand, there would not be a geographical limit placed neither a time period within which a woman can receive an abortion.

If City Hospital was offering abortion on demand, Saskatoon women would not be seeking abortions in other parts of Canada or the United States.

The position of the Women's Centre regarding abortion is that all references to abortion be removed from the criminal code leaving the matter up to the woman and her doctor.

I have lived in many cities across Canada, and from my experience Saskatoon is the most restrictive city in regards to abortion. Eg: In most other cities, Abortions are performed on an out-patient basis.

The Board of Governors of City Hospital will be meeting regularly in the next month to discuss the situation, how about writing to them?

Romanow Wins Artful Dodger Award

The Newsletter Committee is proud to announce that Roy Romanow, Attorney General of Saskatchewan submitted the winning entry to the Artful Dodger Contest.

Below is a reprint of Mr. Romanow's winning entry. Students of the art of evasive correspondence (double speak) take note!



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Regina, Saskatchewan,
S4S 0B3,
November 18, 1974.

Ms. Molly McQuarie,
Saskatoon Women's Centre,
124A - 2nd Avenue North,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

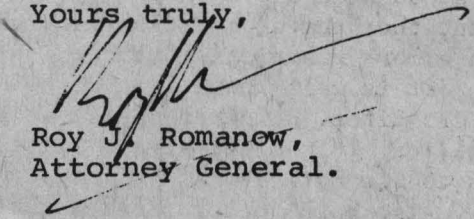
Dear Ms. McQuarie:

This is to confirm our conversation of Wednesday, November 13, 1974, respecting the matters that you have raised with me.

I am in the process of obtaining reports and I shall be in further contact with you in the next little while. You may hear directly from the official who is most concerned in the problem rather than myself. However, I will have had an opportunity to examine this.

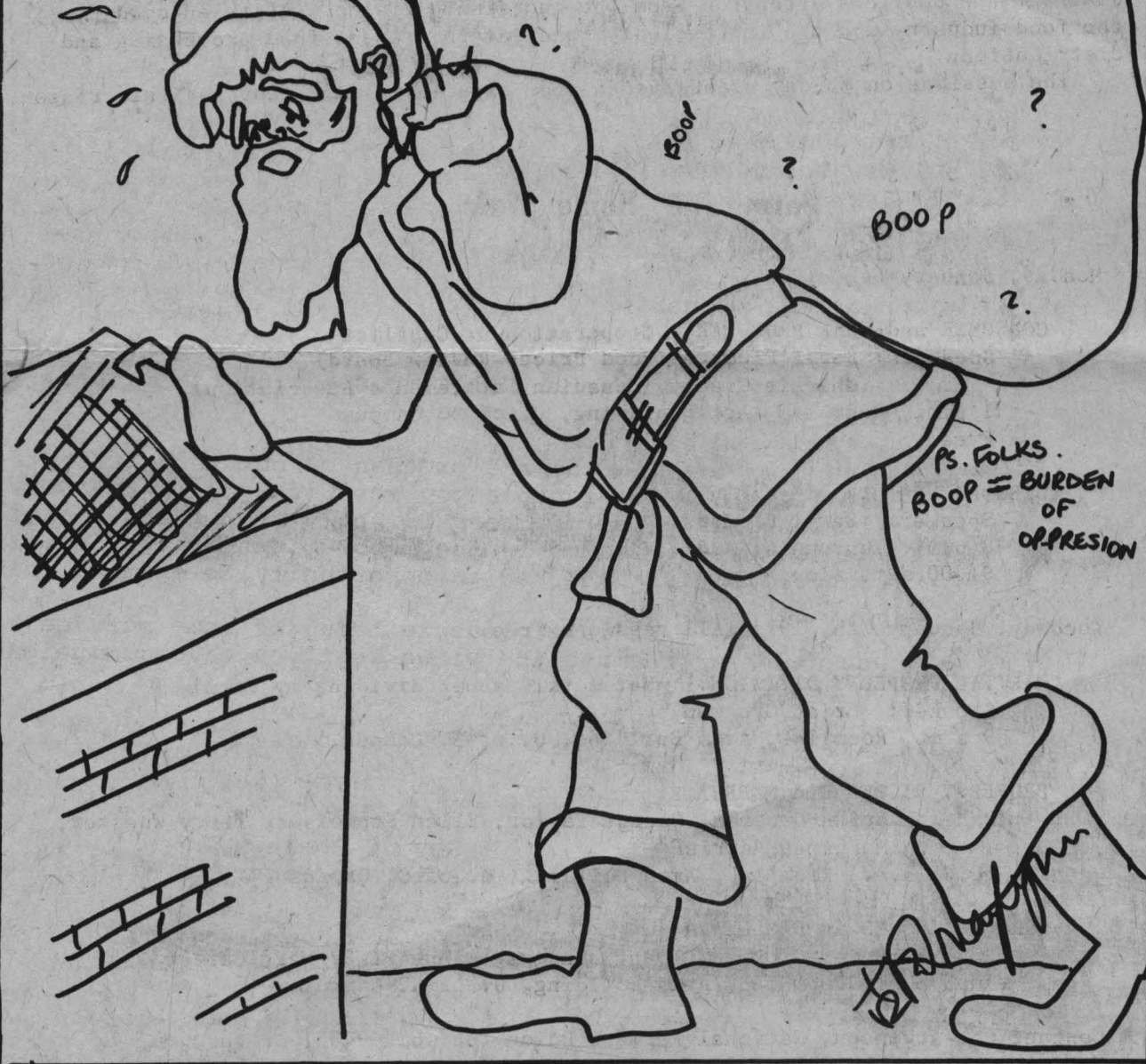
It is a pleasure being of some service to you and I appreciate the views that you have communicated to me.

Yours truly,


Roy J. Romanow,
Attorney General.

(We still haven't figured out what it's all about).

WHEW! "IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS
WHICH MAKE ME
REALISE THAT WOMEN
HAVE TO
BEAR THIS BURDEN
365 DAYS OF THE
YEAR!"



P.S. FOLKS.
BOOP = BURDEN
OF
OPPRESSION

[Handwritten signature]

Farm and City Women Face Common Issues

Due to deadline difficulties and the Christmas holidays, the intended focus on farm women has been postponed until the next issue, February.

In the meantime, we recommend attendance at Farm and Home Week sessions.

The food processing and retail industry and their sympathizers in government foster an unjustified antagonism between food producers, labour, and consumers to distract the public's attention from the inordinate rising profits enjoyed by the food industry and the inefficiency inherent in present food processing and distribution.

The sessions on Monday, January 6th are especially important for this reason.

Farm and Home Week

Monday, January 6th, 1975

CONSUMER and BEEF PRODUCER: Cooperation or Conflict

Speakers: Beryl Plumtre (Food Prices Review Board)

Charlie Gracey (Canadian Cattlemen's Association)

1 p.m., Room 143, Arts Building, U. of S. Campus

Free

OPEN FORUM

Speaker: Beryl Plumtre

8 p.m., Centennial Auditorium

\$1.00 admission

Tuesday, January 7th, 1975 (All sessions free.)

MARITAL PROPERTY DIVISION: What's this about dividing my farm?

Speaker: Brian Grosman

9 a.m., Room 143, Arts Building, U. of S. Campus

PROPERTY RIGHTS and MARRIAGE

Panel: Brian Grosman, George Taylor, Ellen Schmeiser, Terry Wuester,
Margaret Harris

10:45 a.m., Room 143, Arts Building, U. of S. Campus

CURRENT ISSUES in FAMILY LAW

Panel: Brian Grosman, Iwan Saunders, Diane Pask, Mary Carter

1:30 p.m., Room 143, Arts Building, U. of S. Campus

Contact Pat Atkinson, National Farmers Union (ph. 652-9465) or the Women's Centre (ph. 242-5830) for more information.

Society Meeting: A Tangled Web

The annual general meeting of the Saskatoon Women's Centre Society was held at the Women's Centre on December 18.

The Board of Directors for 1975 are Sarah Wilson, Glenda Brown, Lynda Holland, Eleanor Fraser, and Audrey Hall.

Because the definition of "member" in the Society's constitution is so vague and difficult to interpret, an ammendment was passed.

"Any woman who is seriously committed to the basic precepts of Women's Liberation may become a member of the Society upon application for membership and upon recommendation from the Steering Committee and approval of the application by the Directors."

Annual membership fees were set at \$1.00. The calendar year is January 1 to December 31.

The Women's Centre became a Society in February 1974. The formal structure

is necessary to protect individual women from legal liability.

Weekly steering committee meetings and monthly general meetings will continue to be open to all women. All decisions on policy and activities of the Centre will continue to be made in our past tradition.

In the event of a legal procedure or dispute (heaven forbid!) such as contracts with the government and rental leases, the provincial Societies Act only recognizes registered members.

If you decide to be a member, you can pay the dollar to the Women's Centre and a receipt will be issued to you.

Membership lists will be available at the Women's Centre.

If all this still sounds absurd, contact any of the members of the Board of Directors for a more complete explanation.

Centre Employs 4 Women

The Saskatoon Women's Centre has received a Local Initiatives Grant for \$14,248.00 to employ four people at the Centre for six months. Here's a breakdown of the money.

Salaries \$11,960.00

\$115.00 per week for 104 person-weeks.

Other Costs \$2,288.00

\$1,137.00 for U.I.C. premiums and C.P.P. and Holiday pay.

\$660.00 for rent. (The lease is being negotiated so this may increase.)

\$240.00 for the telephone.

\$150.00 for utilities.

\$101.00 remaining (approximately \$17 per month)

One of our priorities is to expand the resources of the Centre, books, periodicals, another filing cabinet, bulletin

boards, tables, and letterhead paper. We also have plans to set up public meetings and educational, get self-help health classes going and increase member participation. For this we need lots more money and lots more people.

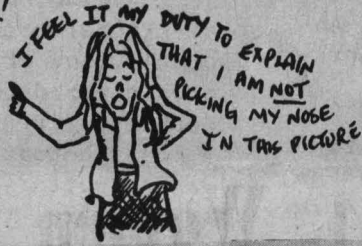
The four Centre workers are Lucie De Blois, Connie Gerwing, Lawana Kosedy, and Nadia Greschuk.

\$14,248.00 may seem like a queenly sum, but you can see by the budget statement that we still need your financial support.

The L.I.P. grant provides money for the administration of the Women's Centre. We still have to come up with \$150.00 a month for the Newsletter. We still need women to volunteer their time, ideas, and energies.

Don't let this apparent wealth preempt our efforts. Keep us growing!

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR!!!!



PSST!!
 YOU SHOULDN'T
 BE, IT WOULDN'T
 HAVE DUN YOU
 ANY JUSTICE
 ANYWAY!
 I MEAN, LOOK
 AT THE REST
 OF 'EM!!



LEFT: ROSEMARIE RUPPS; NADIA GRES-
 CHUK; MAYLYNN WOO; LYNDA HOLLAND.

PLEASE FIT THESE
 NAMES TO THE CORRESPONDING
 LIKENESSES IN THE ABOVE
 ALSO.

OTHERS INCLUDE:
 LUCIE DEBLOIS; MARY CONWAY;
 JAN SCHMITZ.

FROM: THE NEWSLETTER ♀♀♀

INTERNATIONAL ♀ PICS UNCORPORATED X.

feminist writings and the emergence of new directions

This is the last installment in an article written last summer for a Women's Resource Centre Educational.

by Lynda Holland

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is an exceptional book. It was written in the 1890's and reprinted by the Feminist Press in 1973. It is the story of a woman's descent into madness, written at a time when Charlotte Gilman was herself submerged in depression and despair. She was crushed by the confines of marriage, trapped and victimized by convention. In her personal notebooks and journals she says of her marriage that "something was going wrong from the first.... A sort of gray fog drifted across my mind, a cloud that grew and darkened." (p. 45, 46)

Her heroine is a well-to-do woman, married to a physician whom she describes as "practical in the extreme". (p. 9) He demands of her self-control and obedience.

The wall-paper of the story covers the walls of the bedroom where the heroine, an invalid, spends most of her time. It becomes the mirror of her discontent, a constant expression of her unhappy situation. It is described variously as confusing, irritating, with "lame uncertain curves" and "outrageous angles". The color is revolting, faded, sickly and yet she grows fond, then obsessed with it. She finds "things" in the pattern, the same pattern becoming bars by moonlight, trapping the woman behind them. The paper stains everything it touches and a "yellow smell" "creeps all over the house".

Unable to tear down her own revolting, faded and sickly relationship, she begins to rip the paper from the walls, the pattern now grown into "strangled heads and bulbous eyes and waddling fungus growths". (p. 34) The prison destroyed, the woman set free, she begins to creep around the room, telling her

horrified husband that she has "go out at last" (p. 36) and finds her freedom in madness.

We are not on the threshold of madness, we are not starving for a cause, nor do all of us feel strongly oppressed or experience the full force of discrimination. And yet, these books, these sharings of experiences and angers, link us together in a commonality of goals and understanding.

It is not only in literature where women gain strength of expression. The Women's Photography Co-operative of Toronto has published a book through Coach House Press called *Image Nation* full of photographs taken by women.

The pottery of Jo Shepherd and Marlene Zora, the etchings of Marie Elyse St. George, the woodcuts of Betty Warnock, only to name a few, are well-known. They are all Saskatoon women. Judith Eglington of Regina has published a book of photographs called *Earth Visions*, an expression of "the great euphorias and terrible agonies" that make up our lives.

In my more lucid moments, I feel that we must bring women to the awareness of their oppression and "by opposing end it" but we know of our secondary place in society. It is not our illumination that must be achieved, but rather the confidence in our strength. Like groups that suffer discrimination, the problem is not ours, but rather the fault of the society that perpetuates it.

As Linda Nochlin says in her essay entitled, *Why There Are No Great Women Artists*, "The fault lies not in our stars, our hormones, our menstrual cycles, or our empty internal spaces, but in our insti-

tutions and our education..." (p. 483)

Thus, the question of women's equality - in art as in any other realm - devolves not upon the relative benevolence or ill-will of individual men, or the self-confidence or abjectness of individual women, but rather on the very nature of our institutional structures themselves and the view of reality that they impose on the human beings who are part of them.

As John Stuart Mill pointed out more than a century ago: "Everything which is usual appears natural. The subjection of women to men being a universal custom, any departure from it quite naturally appears unnatural." Most men,

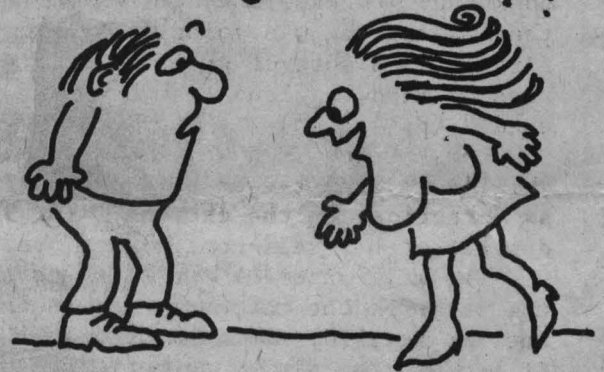
despite lip service to equality, are reluctant to give up this natural order of things in which their advantages so far outweigh their disadvantages. For women the case is further complicated by the fact that, as Mill astutely pointed out, theirs is the only oppressed group or caste whose masters demand not only submission, but unqualified affection as well; thus, women are often weakened by the internalized demands of the male-dominated society itself, as well as by a plethora of material goods and comforts: the middle-class woman has a great deal more to lose than her chains." (p. 487, 488)

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SEX OBJECTS

PRINCE ALBERT WOMEN'S LIBERATION

A group of interested women in Prince Albert have finally gotten together to organize a Women's Liberation group. The next meeting is to be held some time in January, the date of which will be announced later. For more information, contact Angie Nunweiler at the Community Switchboard in Prince Albert.

*Bigamy is having one husband too many.
Monogamy is the same.*

HELP WANTED

The Newsletter staff would like to invite you to participate in our Newsletter. We welcome not only written articles, either on the suggested topic or some other of interest to you, but also graphics, or any suggestions you may have. We appreciate women who could type, and are willing to learn how to do so. In short, if you have an interest in any phase of our production, please contact Newsletter meetings at 136 Avenue F South (C) in the offices of the

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

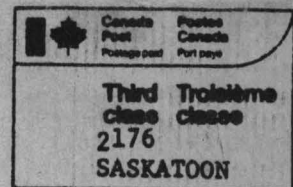
The Editorial Committee for this issue:

Nadia Greschuk
Lynda Holland
Rosemarie Rupps
Lucie DeBlois
Jan Schmitz
Graphics by Maylynn Woo

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Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter
124A - 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Phone: 242-5830



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