



letters...letters...

Dear Sisters,

I am writing in the name of the Toronto Wages for Housework Committee. We are a collective of 15 women who are attempting to organize ourselves and other women around the wages for housework perspective. We have come from a number of different backgrounds. Some of us used to be part of the male-dominated left, others of us have always been part of the feminist and lesbian movement. Yet we all find that wages for housework is the only perspective that clarifies for us what the basic situation of women is.

By locating women's powerlessness in this society in our position as unwaged workers in the home, it helps us understand why we have not gained "equality" even though 40% of us are now in the paid labour force. Until we fight against the most basic role that *all* women (married or single in a paid job or not) are forced to assume--that of unpaid housewife--our struggles for daycare, abortion, equal pay, etc. can only be limited in their actual gains. We feel that by fighting for wages for our unpaid work, we begin the long battle to free ourselves from the sexual division of labour that this society forced on us in every situation. And that by winning wages for housework, we will be more able to make choices that have hitherto been denied us--to have children or not, to take a second job outside the home or not, to live with a man or not, etc.

Our collective is part of a network made up of Wages for Housework Collectives from many different countries. At a time when the paid and unpaid labour force is

HELP WANTED: FEMALE

99.6 hours a week; bed & bored;
must be good cook, careful shopper,
and loving babysitter; responsible for
providing pleasant atmosphere and
constant emotional support. No pay.



increasingly being organized on an international level (through immigration, population control, etc.) it becomes more and more important for women to also organize on an international level. We and our sisters in the wages for housework network are in the process of beginning an international campaign for wages for all women.

In sisterhood,
Frances Gregory

Toronto, Ontario



More information about Wages for Housework is available at the Women's Centre.

Editorial

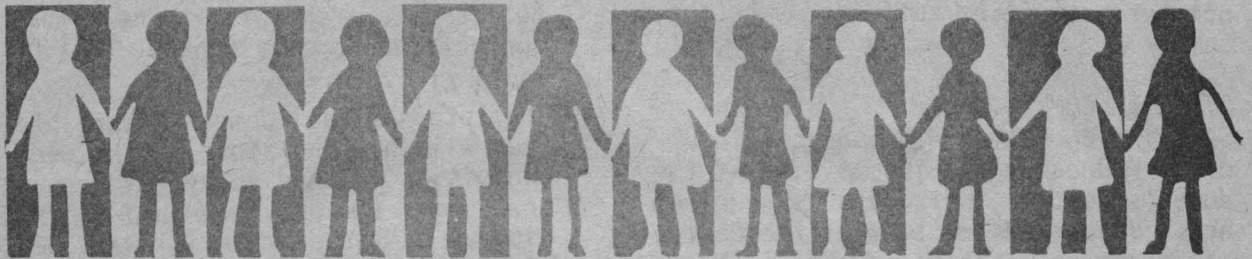
Suffering from an energy shortage again, this newsletter was put out with blood, sweat, and tears wrung from the discouraged few.

This month we focus on daycare. Every issue is only a compromise, a diluted version of what we really would like to do. So it is with this month's newsletter.

Daycare is a crucial condition for the liberation of women, and we have made it part of our struggle. This month we share the views of three women, all in-

involved with daycare, but who see it from their own perspective. But this should not be interpreted as being any sort of definitive statement.

For while most agree on the necessity of free universal, quality childcare, beyond this point, opinions vary. Debate continues between community vs. workplace daycare, government vs. industry financing, parent vs. worker control. We would have liked to present more of this discussion. Perhaps we can continue in future issues.



"Letters" continued

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Thirty-eight people in San Francisco were arrested on February 7, 1975 for demonstrating in support of Inez Garcia and other political prisoners. Inez still remains a political prisoner at the California Institute for Women. Neither her case has disappeared nor the ideals for which she and many women have struggled--that is, a defense for Inez that supports her and all women in their attempts to become self-determining.

Inez will not be forgotten. Her strength and righteous confidence have inspired thousands of women throughout the country.

Those arrested in San Francisco were charged with trespassing, a misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of six months in jail. Christa Donaldson, one of the thirty-eight defendants, was brutalized by the police in two separate incidents and subjected to a frame-up of two charges--resisting arrest and assaulting an officer. The charges originally were made as felonies and later reduced to misdemeanors, carrying a maximum penalty of two years. During one of our visits

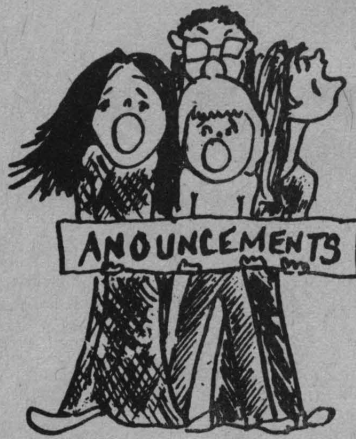
to the "Hall of Justice," another defendant Stacey Foiles, was assaulted by an officer and then falsely arrested by him for battery.

Both women are victims of the terrible injustices daily imposed on many people, especially Third World, gays, women, and other oppressed groups. Their arrests also are part of a deliberate effort by the police to make the consequences of this demonstration more serious.

In fighting all of these charges, we intend to make this case help win justice for Inez; however, to continue our struggle in the courts, we need contributions to our defense fund. Please demonstrate your solidarity and send money to:

Free Inez Garcia Demonstrators Defense Fund
c/o Free Inez Garcia Committee
PO Box 40237
San Francisco, Calif. 941440

In struggle,
Lisa Gram, Louise Merrill,
Merly Schubert
San Francisco, USA



GENERAL MEETING

The general business meeting will be held Saturday, July 5, at the Gay Community Centre at 1:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to find out what's happening with Women's Liberation and contribute to decision-making. Please do not let activities suffer through the summer.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Meetings continue every Wednesday evening at 6:00 at the Women's Centre. Bring your supper and help guide the direction of the Centre. You do not have to be an officially appointed member of the Steering Committee to attend.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Nadine Scott and Reggie Cantrill are the new women staffing the Women's Centre. Funded by a Secretary of State Student grant, they started on June 9. High school students Dawn Jones and Diane Fraser will soon be joining them. Drop by the Centre and welcome our new staffers.

The LIP grant has expired and we say good-bye and thanks to Nancy Allan, Lucie de Blois, Glenda Brown, and Annette Kouri, who were working at the Centre.

FOLK FESTIVAL

The big Winnipeg Folk Festival is happening July 18 - 20. This is an occasion to hear fine music from many talented musicians. The Winnipeg Women's Place has offered to billet any women wishing to attend with Winnipeg women. Contact the Women's Centre if you are interested.

NEWSLETTER CRISIS

Do you appreciate your newsletter? Sometimes it is hard for us from our perspective to even know if anybody is reading our newsletter.

While we realize summer is a busy time, the work required to put out a newsletter does not decrease. We have fewer people working on the newsletter, and the workload is more than can be managed.

We need women who are willing to write, help organize, type, draw, help with layout, and do addressing. Our Qualification standards are not high, and we are willing to teach anybody who wants to learn new skills.

Unless we get more support this month for the next newsletter, we will be unable to publish the newsletter for at least the duration of the summer.

If you do appreciate what the newsletter is doing, and wish to help out, please contact the Women's Centre.

BOOTH AT EXHIBITION

The International Women's Year information tour will hit Saskatoon on the week of the Exhibition. The display has been touring throughout the province in a van. This display of visual material will be set up in a booth in the Jubilee Centre the first three days of the fair, July 7, 8, and 9.

The Women's Centre will be taking over the booth with their displays on July 10, 11, and 12 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)

All women are encouraged to visit these displays and say hello. Also both groups would appreciate the volunteer services of women who would be able to help staff the booths for a few hours. Please contact the Women's Centre.

LOUIS RIEL RELAY

We did it folks! We managed to get together a team to enter in the Louis Riel Relay. Those brave and adventurous people who will be competing with the best of them, are Connie Gerwing, Colleen Gerwing, Vicky Gerwing, Sue Smee, Kitty Cooper, Glenda Johnston and Harry Van Dyck. The courageous gentleman must be especially commended.

The race takes place on the river and along the riverbank, on Sunday afternoon, July 6. Everyone is invited to come out and cheer and witness the fine performance the team is sure to give.

GAYS GATHER IN EDMONTON

In our struggles for liberation, the Women's Movement has always had ties with the Gay Liberation Movement. This is partly because many women in searching themselves for their source of oppression, have realized their lesbianism and have come out. The two movements are also related however in that many issues we fight for and institutions we fight against are the same.

It is therefore important for us to know as women what is happening with the gay movement.

by Nadine Scott

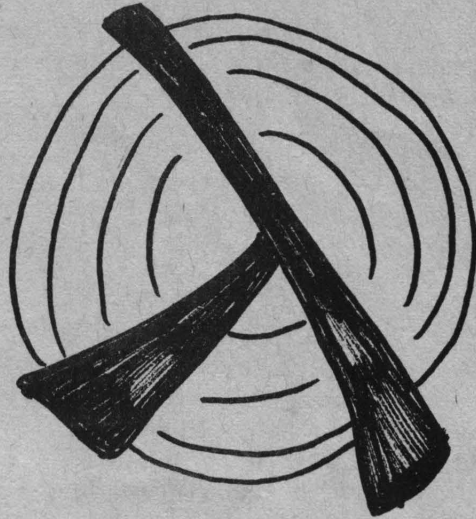
On May 16-17, 1975, the Second Annual Prairie Regional Gay Liberation Conference was held in Edmonton. Approximately forty members attended representing various prairie groups. A large number from Edmonton's Gay Alliance Toward Equality (G.A.T.E.) attended, as well as representatives from Flashback, an Edmonton Social club. One member was present from Victoria, two from Winnipeg's Gays for Equality, and two from Brandon. Eight members of Saskatoon's Gay community Centre were present.

Work began on Saturday morning to gain some background on each group's previous activities and to decide on the conference format and content.

It was decided that there would be two time slots on Saturday and Sunday in which two workshops would be held simultaneously.

On Saturday, these were:

- 1:00 - 3:00 i) Building the Gay Community
-discussing the needs of rural, high school, and older gay people
ii) Sexuality
-the roles of sex and sexuality in the gay community
- 3:00 - 5:00 i) Counselling
-support groups and consciousness raising
ii) Civil Rights



On Sunday, the Workshops were:

- 11:00 - 12:30 i) Regional Consciousness
-identity and purpose of prairie gay organizations and ways we can work together
ii) Fantasy Workshop
-how we see ourselves now and what each of us would like to have as an environment for ourselves
- 1:30 - 3:00 i) Political Awakening
-focussing on the feeling of people new to therapy liberation movement or newly come out
ii) Fantasy Workshop

On Sunday at 5:00 a final plenary was held in which it was suggested that we try to get Gay West, a gay newsletter, going again, establish action groups in other cities such as Calgary and work towards uniting the activist and social groups. Although there was much discussion to these issues, no definite decisions were made.

An evening of local entertainment at Club 70 was the final event of what was a highly informative and enjoyable conference. A National Conference has been planned for the long weekend in June, in Ottawa.

General meeting

The general business meeting for June was held on Saturday, May 31, 1975 at 1:30 p.m. at the Gay Community Centre.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grant came through for students to work over the summer. Four students were hired--Regine Cantrill and Nadine Scott to work for 12 weeks beginning June 9 and Diane Fraser and Don Jones to work for 6 weeks during July and August.

-A call was received on Network Nellie re sexist Participaction commercials on CBC radio. The message originated in St. John Newfoundland. They asked us to write letters of complaint to various officials. None of the staff had heard any of these commercials but Linda Charlton said she had heard one offensive commercial.

-An invitation from the YWCA has been received for two representatives to attend a conference on the world food situation and the changing role of women, July 30. The steering committee will find people to go.

-The people at the Gay Centre got their OFY grant. We should be prepared to give them public support if there is bad publicity around their getting this grant.

-The Status of Women conference starts June 6. Registration forms and applications for bursaries are available at the Centre.

-The IWY Secretariat will have a table at the exhibition which they are willing to share with the Women's Centre for part of the week.

-Sue Smee reported that City Council will be voting Monday night on whether to set up an inquiry into hiring practices by City Hall. They will also be discussing other ways to recognize IWY.

BUSINESS

-A letter requesting Women's Liberation to endorse the campaign of Ann Boulton has been received. Annette read the letter and reported that the Steering Committee recommended that we endorse the campaign. Several spoke in favour and against the endorsement. Note was made

of the cost of sending people to Ottawa.

It was decided that the staff should send out feeler letters to the western Women's Centre to see how they feel about this and that we should let Toronto know what we are doing.

STAFF REPORT

-Annette talked about what the staff have been organizing--the May 10 demonstration, and the May 21 political meeting. Lucie talked about her trip to Ottawa and said that Christiane Richards was at a Francophone Feminist Conference in Quebec. We talked about the new staff changes and decided to make resource women available over the summer to help deal with any emergency problems which might come up. Lucie will be available till the end of June, after that Annette, Glend and Nancy will be available.

-Problems with people for steering committee were again discussed. Halina Zaleska, Sue Smee, and Linda Charlton are interested in attending.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Newsletter is in bad shape. They owe money for facilities to the *Saskatoonian* and to Craft Litho on the last newsletter. Postdated Cheques from some women who haven't given them in the past would be appreciated.

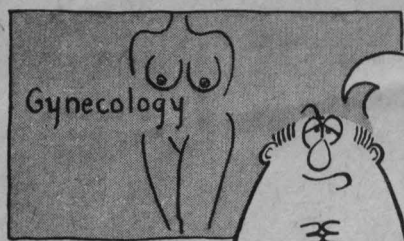
-Secretary of State Grant

	5760
money spent	1215
	4545

FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE

-Maylynn Woo talked about FNS and that they will need money to set up a Western Office in Saskatoon.. They are going to make a pile of tee shirts with the silk screen and they need money to start on this. Sue Smee moved that we donate \$250 and loan \$250 to produce the shirts as a money making proposition.

Next general meeting July 5, 1:30 at the Gay Community Centre, at 124A-2nd Ave., across from the Women's Centre.



GOD GOOFED
WHEN HE
CREATED WOMEN



ALL THOSE
FLOPPING BREASTS,
DRIPPING OVARIES,
AND PREGNANT BELLIES!



TOO BAD WOMEN
AREN'T LIKE US!

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Feminist Books for Sale

The Women's Centre has a number of books for sale. These are often not available at commercial bookstores. The Women's Centre also offers them at a lower price than is charged at businesses. So please support the Centre.

Our Bodies Ourselves: A book by and for Women by Boston Women's Health Collective \$2.00

Marxism and Feminism by Charnie Guettel \$1.50

Prose by Olive Schreener \$2.25

Abortion in Canada by Eleanor Wright Pelrine \$1.00

Cuban Women Now: Interviews with Cuban Women by Margaret Randall \$5.50

Afterword 1974 \$0.25

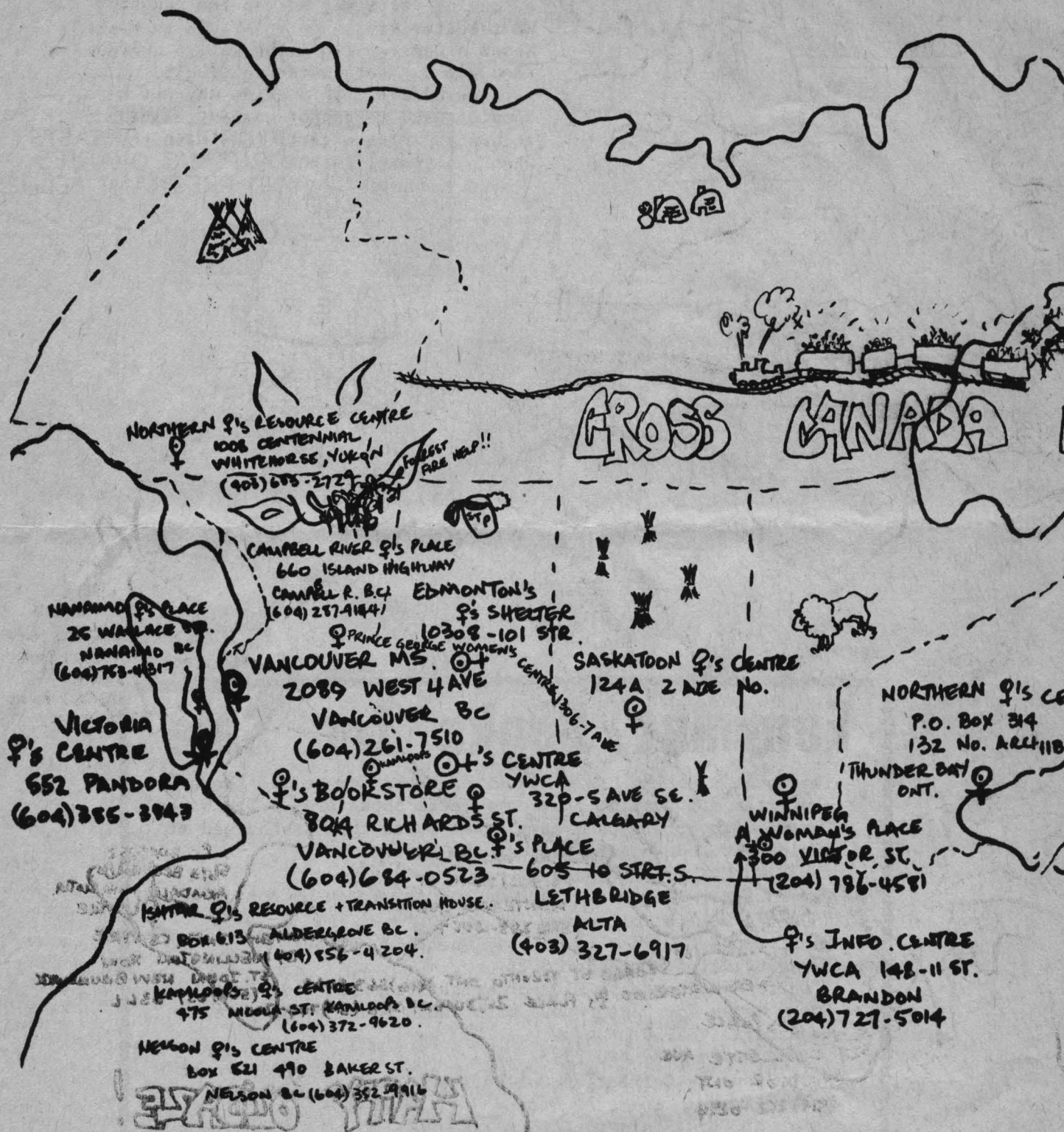
Never Done by Corrective Collective \$3.75

Born a Woman: Songs by Rita McNeil \$5.95

Women at Work: Ontario 1850 - 1930 \$6.00

The Rocky Mountain House Planned Parenthood also has a couple of pamphlets available

Include 35¢ for postage, please.



Summer is travel time and many women will be making their way across the country. What better way to do this than to visit Women's Centres along the way, a guaranteed way to meet fantastic people in strange cities. This guide may not be complete and we cannot guarantee its accuracy. Please carry this with you when you travel forth.

DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S CENTRES

CENTRE
 1000 ST.
 LONDON
 322 DUNDAS AVE LONDON ONT.
 CENTRE 14 TUNNANT ST. GUELPH ONT. (519) 874-1051
 262 RIVERIDGE ST. PETERBOROUGH ONT.
 OTTAWA W'S CENTRE 581 O'CONNOR ST. (613) 263-2500
 KINGSTON W'S CENTRE 110 QUEEN ST. (613) 942-4222
 CENTRE DES FEMMES
 4319 ST. DENIS ST.
 MONTREAL QUE.
 (514) 298-4057
 P.O. BOX 5052
 5673 BERTHIAUX
 ARMDALE, ONTARIO
 WOMEN INFO CENTRE
 27 WELLINGTON ROW
 ST. JOHN'S NEW BRUNSWICK
 (506) 657-6366
 187 GEORGE ST. TORONTO ONT. (416) 363-8962
 25 DUNDAS ST. E. (519) 744-7011
 KITCHENER-WATERLOO W'S PLACE
 327 QUELLETTE AVE
 WINDSOR ONT.
 (519) 252-0294
 THE WOMAN'S PLACE
 4 FREELAND ST.
 ST. JOHN'S
 NEW BRUNSWICK
 (709) 722-4553

HAPPY 'OLDAZE!

A NEGLECTED AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY...DAYCARE

by Marcia Maradyn

When women were desperately needed for production during the war, they were encouraged to take jobs in plants, factories, military, and civil service areas; and daycare centres were started to accomodate their children.

After the war, women returned to the home and became as they are still, an occasional source of cheap labour. Day-care centres closed.

The idea of daycare evolved again in the most industrialized parts of the country in the 1960's. It was seen by some as a way of challenging the family structure, a way of giving women an opportunity to work in co-ops, control their lives, participate in the community. It was one facet of many revolutionary ideas that progressive women promoted.

Without losing sight of those ideals, women have been forced, more recently, to take account of a few more facts related to women's situations at this time.

- 1) Many women do not have the time or energy after work to view daycare as an exciting, participatory experience.
- 2) Many women do not choose to work; they *have* to work.

So, daycare has become a more "sober" reform issue. And people who are interested in daycare for one reason or another realized what a tremendous job it will be to win this particular reform. We are a long way from universal access to child care.

The government of this province has done little to promote day care. Its two million dollar programme has done almost nothing to stimulate the kind of daycare development that is needed. There is one main reason for this failure... the dispensation of money to individuals and groups to start and to operate daycare centres is inadequate.

A \$200 grant per child will not raise a daycare centre. And a maximum \$80 subsidy to eligible parents thereafter will not keep a centre going. The result of such funding has contributed to the severe shortage of daycare spaces,

and has encouraged existing centres to continue paying poor wages to their employees. The quality of child care is suffering.

There are at least two big contradictions in this province's daycare arrangement.

The first is between the parents and the government. In the future, all daycare centres will have to be parent-controlled. But this concept has limited meaning when one realizes that the government holds the purse strings.

While both parents and government might be interested in providing good child care, the government may fail to see it as a real priority at this time. With the country's economy failing as it is, the government may not be interested in helping women enter and advance in the labour force by providing daycare for their children.

The second contradiction exists between the parents and workers in the centre. It is in the interests of parents to keep the cost of daycare down. But daycare workers who desire more than minimum wage, are a factor in increasing the cost of daycare.

As a result of a survey conducted at the university it was determined that one hundred sixty children might use campus daycare services. After the approximate cost of the daycare (\$135 per month) was announced, that number fell to about fifty-five. Initially about thirty union families had expressed interest. That number has fallen to about nine.

One might worry that in the near future campus daycare will be set up only for those students who can collect subsidies, and for those faculty and campus members who can afford it. But union employees, many with medium incomes, will not be served.

There is no solution in cutting the proposed wages to the staff in order to make the cost of care less. Clearly the government must become involved in providing much better subsidies to people. Parents and workers must act together to bring pressure on the government in this matter.

In order to protect themselves and promote better childcare, daycare workers must form unions. It is difficult

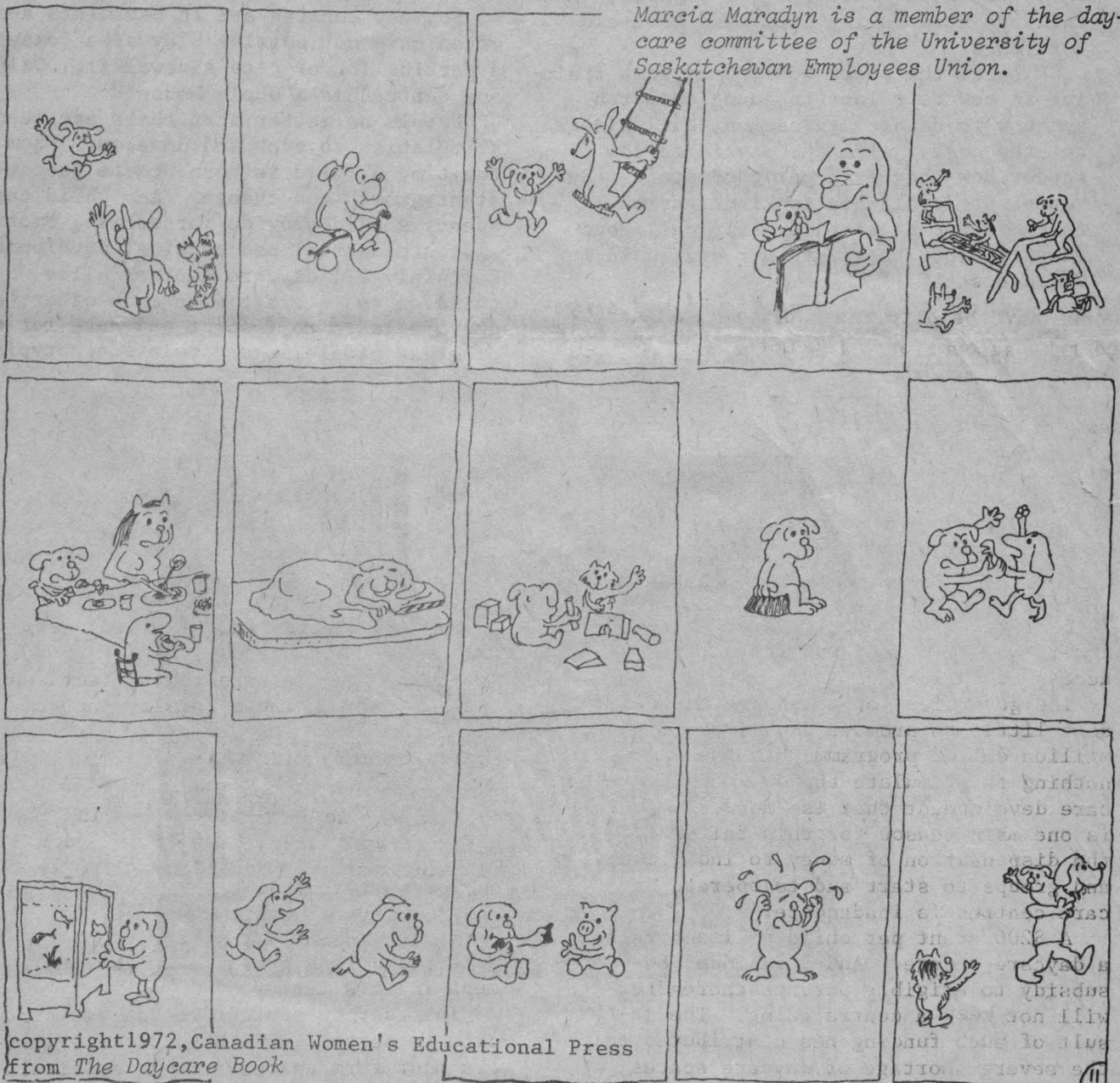
at this time to see how a union can bargain effectively for higher wages, since many centres seem to be operating on minimal budgets, and all centres are or must become non-profit organization. But unions can provide parent groups with the necessary ammunition to face the government when asking for more, better distributed revenue for daycare. And they can certainly protect workers in the day to day functioning in the centre.

It is appalling that at present daycare teachers are so poorly paid. The blame for this situation must clearly be placed on the government. While costs in other areas have increased at a rapid rate - food, clothes, housing, basic com-

-11- modities, etc., the government subsidy for daycare has remained set at \$80. The average cost of day care in this city is a low \$115. Centres providing daycare at this low rate, do so at the expense of their workers, most of whom receive only minimum wage.

The government is the only organization which is big enough to solve the wide - spread daycare problem. Some employers may decide that it is worth their while to help finance centres for their employees. But it is clearly up to the government to become more involved by making more money available for one of its most neglected areas of responsibility...child care.

Marcia Maradyn is a member of the daycare committee of the University of Saskatchewan Employees Union.



Assessment of Daycare

by Regine G. Cantrill

Good daycare is not easy to find in Saskatoon. More centres exist now than formerly, but you have to pick and choose. I visited five of the centres and not one had exactly what I was looking for.

I wanted a place that served healthy wholesome food like wholegrain bread, beans or brown rice. At one daycare, the children were having pizza and kool-aid for lunch.

I hoped the staff would have some training in how to relate to young children and how to handle aggression, but this is not the case. Also the pay is so low I wonder how they ever get good staff. Bursaries are available to kindergarten teachers for classes in early childhood education, but these are not available to daycare staff.

I wanted to find a staff who had a sympathetic and supportive attitude to children. Children need to know they are ac-

cepted even when their behavior is unacceptable. A child may break a toy or smash a dish, but this should not result in such a scolding that the object becomes more important than the person. In one daycare centre, toys were often left on the shelf so the children would not use and break them.

So many centres are in basements and often have not outside play area (except a parking lot or city sidewalks). Only one centre has a whole house.

People no matter what their age need stimulation to grow and develop. From the time a child is born, there is constant growth and change. Any child care agency should provide for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Certainly all daycare centres allow children to interact with each other, but do they learn to respect and care for each other as people? is sex role stereotyping



avoided? are they allowed to be independent?

Too often government and sometimes parents think of daycare as nothing more than a gloried babysitting service, thinking that all we have to do feed the kids and prevent them from getting hurt. Children develop to their fullest in a stimulating environment. This should include field trips as well as intellectual, physical and creative activities.

It is important to me as parent to have input into my daycare. I have found one now that I feel OK about. It's not as good as I would like it to be, but I have a say in what goes on through general meetings and board meetings. The attitude of the staff is one of doing the best they can and encouraging parental involvement.



ALR DANCE

Saskatoon Women for Abortion Law Repeal will be holding a dance to raise money, Friday, July 25, at the Indian Metis Friendship Centre. A band will be playing. Starting time has been slated for 10:00 p.m.
Keep your eyes and ears open.



"The federal government should raise funds by means of a capital gains tax to provide revenues to the provincial governments to cover the costs of constructing and operating the centres and training the necessary staff...We suggest industry financing since it is industry that receives the benefit of women working."
Submission of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women

If a mother has to work due to economic necessity, she has to have day care for her children. If day care centres are not available, these children are entrusted to relatives or strangers, and for some the arrangements are completely inadequate and even harmful."

Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

A CASE FOR ORGANIZING DAYCARE WORKERS

a union is formed

by Frances Mundy

Though some daycare centre in Saskatoon are up to ten years old or more, and are well established, most daycares are relatively new and are having hard time making financial ends meet. Space rental, equipment and toys, food and staff salaries must all come out of monthly fees paid by the parents. And though most centres need much more money, they are reluctant to pick the pockets of single parents, low income families, or in fact any parents who use the centre.

Yes, the government has set up a subsidy program, but very few people realize how inadequate it is. Through the daycare branch, Department of Social Services, parents can receive subsidies of up to 80% of \$100.00. However, most daycare centres must charge over \$100 in order to survive. Parents receiving the maximum Subsidy receive \$80 whether their daycare expenses are \$100 or \$150 per month. When daycare centre consider an increase in fees, they are, in fact, considering taking money directly from the parents' pockets.

The subsidies are set up in percentages according to family adjusted income (total income minus \$50 per month per child). In order to get a full subsidy of \$80, a family must earn less than \$404 per month. If a family makes \$714, They will receive \$2.50 from the government and must find the other \$97.50 plus whatever their daycare charges above \$100, themselves. This adds up to a very meagre subsidy program.

During the past year the daycare branch has been pushing all daycare centres to form co-operatives. The parents become the owners and form a board to run the daycare. The parents, therefore, become the employers of the daycare workers. Workers and parents find themselves haggling over financial matters which cannot be solved, while the government sits back, hands washed of the whole matter.

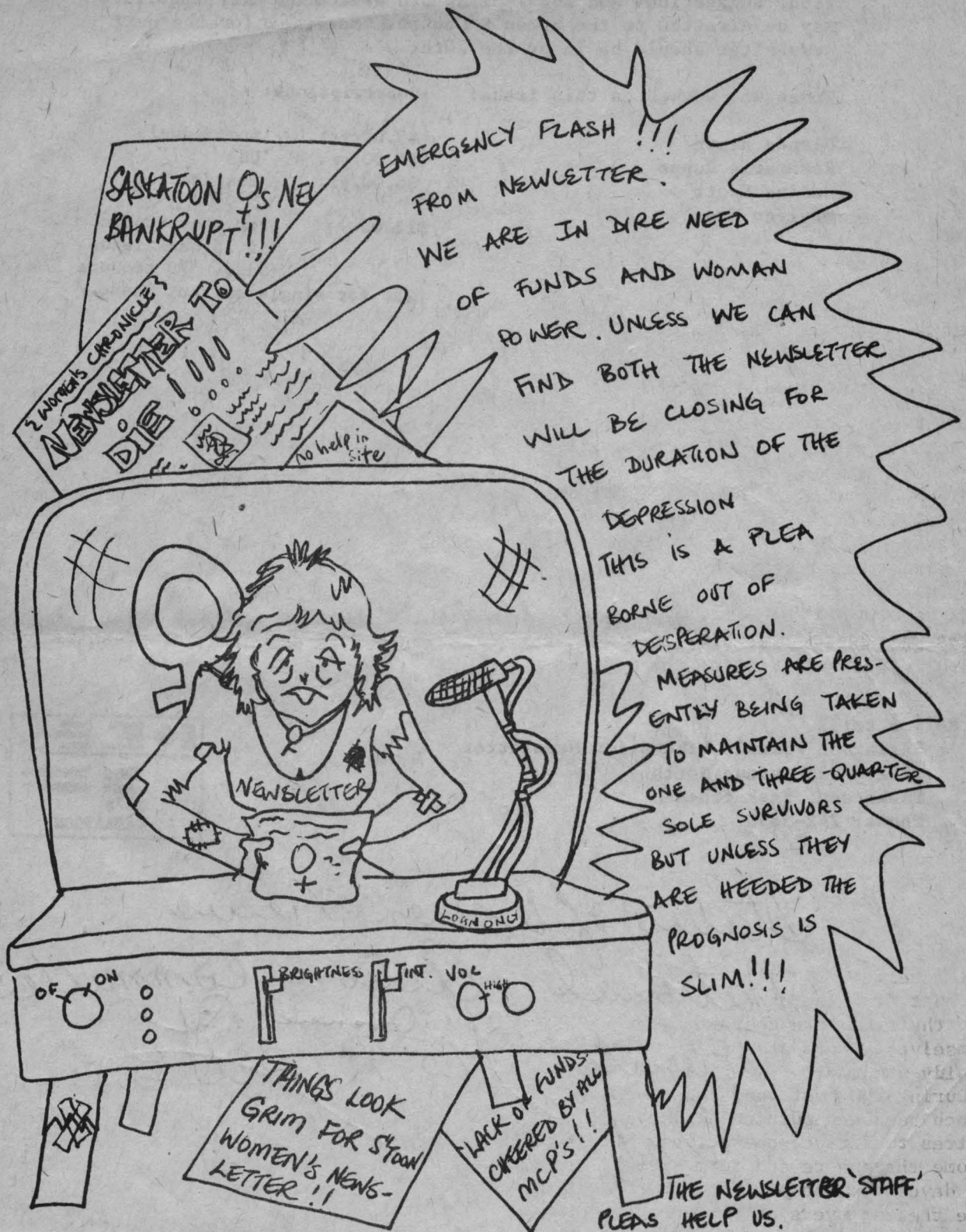
The predicament this leaves daycare centres in is low-paid workers, largely women, performing a "labour of love," attending meeting and workshops on daycare in their off hours. It leaves daycare centres in basements, cutting corners on any expenses they can. The workers don't want to ask for more money to alleviate these conditions and the parents can't pay more money.

It's obvious more pressure has to be put on the government to provide more subsidies; subsidies for salaries and for children; subsidies for new centres; and eventually enough money to provide free quality daycare for everyone.

About two months ago, the workers at three parent co-operative daycare centres talked about the possibility of forming a union as one means of organizing to apply pressure. The example of two co-operative daycare centres in Halifax who unionized under the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) was an incentive. With a contract which sorted out working arrangements between workers and parents, they were and are able to join together in a fight for better daycare.

The benefits of joining a union have become Multi-fold. As union members, daycare workers will be able to publicize and influence other members of organized labour. The daycare branch will feel pressure growing from a united body of daycare workers and parents. Daycare workers will benefit by having a contract worked out between themselves and parents providing job security, as well as more structured expectations from both employer and employee. This contract would not change as board members change and would allow the workers to feel more dignity about their role in the centre.

By the end of July three daycare centres in Saskatoon will be unionized under CUPE. This is just a first step. Hopefully, the union will become a basis for organized towards free universal daycare.



The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter remains financially independent of the Women's Centre, and any grants it may receive. The newsletter survives only through subscriptions and donations. Please be as generous as possible. Make cheques payable to Saskatoon Women's Liberation. Suggestions and submissions are welcomed. All inquiries may be directed to the Women's Centre. Material for the next newsletter should be in by the 20th.

Women who worked on this issue:

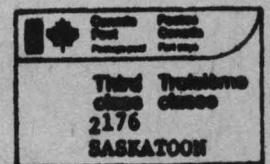
Glenda Brown
Rosemarie Rupps
Nadine Scott
Maylynn Woo

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



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National Action Committee
Toronto 121 Avenue Rd
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