

FOR REFERENCE <sup>SASKATOON</sup> ONLY

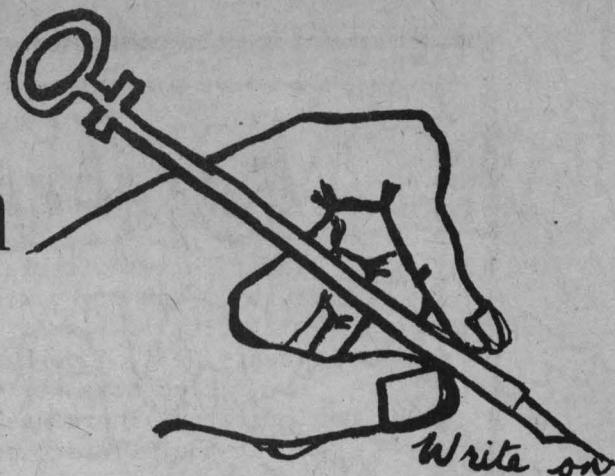
# WOMENS LIBERATION NEWSLETTER



JUNE '75

THE !!  
FROM WOMENS CENTRE

# Communication



Dear Friends,

I am contacting a number of Canadian women's centres to ask if you could help publicise the need for contributions by women writers to a new anthology of Canadian poetry about work and working that I am compiling.

The intent is to consider work in its broadest senses: usual and unusual forms of employment, plus all the unpaid labour (school work, housework, and so on) that involves us each day. I am also interested in poems about aspects of the working life off the job.

The anthology will be a non-profit venture, cheaply priced to make it as available as possible to the widest audiences. Manuscripts of poems can be sent to Tom Wayman, #11, 1870 Yew St., Vancouver, B.C. People should please enclose a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

Thank you for whatever assistance you could give in circulating this request. I very much appreciate your help.

With best wishes,

Tom Wayman



Hi you all,

Meant to send this off last month, but forgot. If I were not returning to Grad School would have sent more this year, but with only 2½ more months of wages and \$10 to Rosemary Brown's campaign, well...you'll understand.

The layout of the Newsletter gets better and better, and Marie Perron writes beautifully--look forward to meeting her one day.

See you next time I'm in Saskatoon--June now, altho' I want to come sooner if possible. Nadia and Lucie will understand!!  
Oh love.

Cheers,

Helene Josefowicz.

P.S. The Native Women are doing a provincial monthly Newsletter out of Regina now.

# **Editorial**

by Lucie De Blois

There is no editorial committee this month! You might wonder under what authority I am writing this editorial then. Well, I took it upon myself. We are facing some serious problems at the Centre: 1) There has been nobody showing up at the steering committee meetings for the last three weeks. This means a stop to decision-making and the smooth running of business at the Centre.

2) I understand that there were only nine people at the general meeting last month. This means that there is no "body" to deal with the steering committee problem.

3) You are lucky to read this newsletter; it almost didn't come out. This newsletter is the only vehicle we have to reach you, to let you know what is happening and ask for help when we need it. HELP!

The coming of spring and summer is certainly beautiful but it has its drawbacks. Women like to leave the city on weekends, stroll in the parks in the evenings. This is fine but only two things can happen, one we stop the newsletter and Centre activities or a few women carry all the work load and are unable to enjoy any of that nice weather.

So, come in full force to the general meeting on Saturday May 31 at 1:00 p.m. at the Gay community Centre at 124A - 2nd Ave. N.

We have a lot to discuss and many decisions to make for the summer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAY 31 (Saturday)

1:30 Women's Liberation General Meeting  
at the Gay Community Centre, across  
the hall from the Women's Centre.

Issues to be discussed include:

- reorganisation of finances
- organisation and responsibilities of the Steering Committee

Our last two steering committee meetings have not happened because everyone is too busy so the staff has been carrying on. That is not a good situation. Up to now, the Women's Centre has been very much a part of and focal point for women's liberation as a whole. If we don't want that to change, we've got to make sure, through the steering committee and general meetings that the Centre always reflects the directions of the movement as a whole.

Please note change of date and time!

3:00 Benefit for the Northern Independent Candidates, Rod Bishop and Frank Tomkins, at 113 Ave. B So. Carnival, supper, concert and dance. \$3 individuals, \$7 for families.

JUNE 6 (Friday)

6:30 Magpie Food Co-op Pot Luck Supper and Dance at the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Club, 360 1st Ave. No.

JUNE 6-8

"Women Together" Sask. Conference on the Status of Women in the Arts Bldg., U of S. Registration fee of \$5 entitles you to see the Red Light Theatre on Friday and singer Rita McNeil on Saturday as well as attend the sessions. Starts Friday 5:00 p.m.

JUNE 9 (Monday)

Magpie Food Co-op bulk order. Call 244-1574 for a catalog.

JUNE 15 (Sunday)

Self Reliance & Hard Struggle cooperative farm second annual pig-nic. Everyone welcome.

JUNE 26 (Thursday)

8:00 Status of Women Saskatoon elections.  
Meeting Room 1, Saskatoon Public Library to 405-245 3rd Ave. So.



### FNS WESTERN OFFICE

The feminist News Service has found a home for its Western Head Office. Sheila Jones-Steele has agreed to undertake the duties of western co-ordinator for FNS. She will be operating out of Saskatoon, and also doubling as Saskatchewan regional representative.

### ABORTION LAW REPEAL

A demonstration was held in Ottawa on May 24th to protest the imprisonment of Dr. Henry Morgentaler. This was the day that Dr. Morgentaler received the American Humanist of the Year award. Application was made for Dr. Morgentaler to be able to attend the presentation but Quebec Justice Minister Jerome Choquette said Morgentaler would not get leave from jail to accept the award. "I don't approve of that award" he explained.

Sue Warren and Glenda Brown and Linda Stowell represented Saskatoon at the demonstration. Next month we'll carry a longer report on it.

### FAMILY PLANNING

There are several new faces at the Family Planning offices these days. Sally Anne Williams and Maureen Chatton have both gone to British Columbia leaving Mary Conway, the office manager, as the "old timer". Willie Tosh is now Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Family Planning Association and Sue Smee is Co-ordinator of the Saskatoon Family Planning Centre. Betsy Naylor has resigned as Chairwoman of the local Board of Directors and has been replaced by Pat Ryan.

Clinics are held every Wednesday evening at City Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

Like most other groups, the Family Planning Centre welcomes volunteers. For more information call 244-7989 or drop in

## Staff report

Some staff changes have taken place at the Women's Centre. Annette Kouri, Nancy Allan and Glenda Brown were hired at the beginning of May to complete the duration of the Secretary of State grant. Three former staffers have gone on to greener pastures: Nadia is Ann Boulton's campaign manager. Connie is one of the IWY field workers and Lawana is working on the Canadian Women's Education Kit (funded by OFY)

May activities have centred around the Mother's Day demonstration and the all-candidates political meeting. Women in at least six cities marched on May 10 to point out the real issues of International Women's Year. About 100 people marched in Saskatoon and heard a series of interesting speakers.

All Saskatoon urban candidates in the forthcoming provincial election were invited, no, coaxed to attend the All-Candidates Meeting. We prepared a lengthy leaflet outlining major issues and about 130 people came to hear 13 of the candidates clarify their various positions.

Mary Lou Jones and Maylynn Woo are once again to be thanked for designing the posters for these two events.

This month we also spoke to a class of nursing students on abortion and visited the West Side Clinic to talk to the staff about abortion counselling.

The LIP grant under which the four staff are working runs out June 13. We long ago applied to Secretary of State for three student summer jobs to have started May 1 but are still in the dark about it (see report elsewhere in this issue).

While part of our operation is funded by grants, we still depend on contributions for such things as the newsletter, office supplies (only \$20 a month is available from the grant money), magazine subscriptions, etc. Our funds are reaching a frighteningly low level--please support the newsletter and the Centre by sending a donation today.



## General meeting

The monthly general meeting of Saskatoon Women's Liberation was held May 3 at the Gay Community Centre. There was a very poor attendance at this meeting, only 9 women were there. In brief:

*Staff Changes:* Lawana Kosedy and Connie Gerwing resigned as of April 30 and were replaced by Glenda Brown and Nancy Allan. Nadia Greschuk will leave May 9 and Annette Kouri will start May 12.

*Cyprus Report by Edna Meakes:* printed in full elsewhere in the newsletter

*Steering Committee:* there are again problems with people failing to come to steering committee meetings. Marjorie Clelland, Linda Charlton and Les Wieterman volunteered to come. We will discuss this problem at the next general meeting.



*In Sunday School, one little girl was asked if she knew the story of Adam and Eve.*

*"Oh, yes," she replied. "First God made Adam, and looked at him and said, 'I think I can do better'. So he created Woman."*

--from the London, Ontario  
Women's Centre Review

# On not voting

*The provincial election being announced for June 11, the inevitable debate about the value of electoral politics was launched. Some women in the Women's Movement have thrown their support behind Ann Boulton NDP candidate for Saskatoon-Sutherland, an avowed and unabashed feminist. Others have been working for John Richards an Independent Socialist running in Saskatoon-Centre. Still others are questioning the validity of traditional party politics and the antics of elections. Certainly the futility of overcoming "the system" must be obvious to everyone.*

*The following is reprinted from an article written by Pat Leslie for The Other Woman.*

Bourgeois democracy is run by and for the capitalists; we have no control. This form of government has been given to us under the name of representative democracy.

Voting *per se* will get us nowhere. It is playing their game, the game of power and control that they know so well. Voting and running for office only endorses the acceptance of the state apparatus (which theoretically should protect our real interests rather than control and limit what it thinks our interests should be) instead of building a viable opposition for change.

As long as we think it necessary to vote and play the parliamentary game, there is no way out because the oppressive power and social relations going on right now run thru our whole capitalist culture. Parliamentary democracy plays a large part in this by giving us the illusion of some control over our environment. The seizure of power, their power, is useless. We only end up caught in the same heirarchical spiral which allows the idea to take shape of the more women in power the better-equality is power but power is not

equality- whatever their political belief.

I know all the answers before they are asked. We cannot opt out of the system; we have to make changes; reforms are necessary for those who are already up against the wall. Reforms are necessary (who can deny that?) but they are only a band-aid service, a delaying action, before all of us, the people on the bottom, are ready to govern ourselves.

Now there is another word that more accurately describes self-government and that is participatory democracy. But this can also be manipulated by those in positions of power; i.e., on a local level, ratepayer groups. What there is a real need for is the small group working collectively on a community or work-oriented basis. This cannot, and should not be seen as, operating effectively on a national, centralized scale. For one reason, we all have different regional interests. These groups/collectives can be just as useless as participating in electoral politics if all they end up doing is creating some alternative outside the system (i.e., health clinics, foodcoops) without attacking the base, without publicizing who controls us and why.

I need to emphasize again and again how necessary this discussion is to also discussing certain trends in the women's movement. It is very important that Canadian women not follow the example of the American women's movement which is either into a gigantic women's counter culture or putting women into positions of power within the system whether it be through politics or academic circles.

This is not the way. The women's movement is part of a world-wide struggle of social and economic liberation and I think a lot of women fail to realize the significance of this. It is not a matter of creating a movement that will give us more credibility in the eyes

of progressive Left groups for, as anyone who follows leftist theory can see there are very few progressive people on the Left. They, too, are caught up in the election trap; or in a variety of other things, like centralization, authoritarianism and, of course, presuming to represent the working class, a great number of which is now women.

The women's movement must prepare itself to get out of the ghettos and into

-7- the streets, into the real world. However, any organizing that does not help build self-organizing will fail in the long run because women must stop looking to "leaders" and depend on themselves. Self-reliance comes through not individualism and the outworn work ethic but through group interaction. It is a self-reliance that proves to each of us that we do have power, collective power in a movement.

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## Books at the Women's Centre



The Women's Press,  
Ste. 305, 280 Bloor St. W.,  
Toronto, Canada.  
(416) 962-3904

## Women at Work: Ontario 1850-1930

This is just one of the new books we have for sale. Others include:

*Born a Woman: Songs* by Rita McNeil. \$5.95

*Never Done: 3 centuries of women's work in Canada* by the Corrective Collective. \$3.75

*You've changed the combination and So you don't want to be a sex object*  
by the Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood Association. 40 cents each.



# Women

position beside Turkey and its nearness to the Middle East, in the scheme of affairs today, make it "the Unfortunate".

Cyprus became an independent republic in 1960. Here both Turkish and Greek Cypriots lived quite happily throughout the island though the Turkish Cypriot's representatives overstepped their privileges agreed to by Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Because of the Turkish attitude, Makarios asked for revision of the London and Zurich agreement. An acute crisis led to United Nations peace keeping forces being sent to the island. Turkish Cypriots began withdrawing into Turkish enclaves in the northern area of the island, while in other areas the Turkish and Greek Cypriots lived quite happily and peacefully together. The withdrawals to the north were probably a forerunner of the geographic division that has been made since 1974.

On Sunday, April 20, 1975, twenty thousand women marched to Famagusta, on the island of Cyprus. They walked on behalf of the 200,000 Greek refugees, a third of all the Greek population on the island. These refugees live in physical hardship and moral degradation. Some are in tents overcrowded with beds and a few other belongings. Some that we visited live in an old wine factory that has been divided into squares by plywood partitions.

The government does its best to keep these people alive on welfare and rations, but they face problems of malnutrition and hygienic conditions beyond their means in an island whose economy has been completely disrupted.

It has been estimated that 50,000 households have been dismantled leaving behind all their properties. The Turks now occupy over 40% of the most productive area of Cyprus though they only represent 18% of the population of the island. The displaced Greek Cypriots live in tents.

The Greek and Cypriot community of Toronto asked the Canadian Peace Congress to send a delegate to Cyprus to participate in a demonstration walk that would not allow the world to forget about these unfortunate refugees.

Cyprus has had a stormy history through the centuries and its geographic

The Greek fascist government that had been set up in Athens by a group of Greek Colonels in 1967 found the Makarios government intolerable. They could not accept his policy of nonalignment with the great powers. Makarios had been elected three times by his people. There were even a few communist deputies elected.

The first attempt on the life of Makarios, in 1970, failed. In 1974 the coup d'etat carried out by Greek officers announced that he was dead. However he was not dead and he went to England and then to the U.N. to seek help. The NATO powers are not satisfied with a policy of nonalignment and the people fear what their future will be.

In November, 1974, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 3212 calling for the return of all refugees to their homes in safety. So far this resolution has not been implemented, and a group of women witnessing this continuing tragedy in Cyprus decided, in association with the Cyprus Women's Organisation and the Cyprus Refugee Committee, to take action that might influence governments and thereby the U.N. implementation of the resolution that would correct this Turkish flaunting of the U.N. request.



# of the world unite

by Edna Meakes

On the day of the demonstration there were flags of 75 nations and banners representing many more organizations--there were flags from the third world, Asia, the Communist world, Western Europe, Canada, U.S.A., Mexico and Latin America. It was truly a magnificent sight. It was a joy in international organizing and a delight for International Women's Year. It was a ray of hope for those thousands of refugees who joined and swelled the gathering.

To this great appreciative audience many of the delegates spoke. I was pleased to be able to speak on behalf of the Toronto Greek and Cypriot Community who had sent me, and on behalf of the Canadian Peace Congress. We were offering to negotiate, not obliterate.

The women marched to the U.N. Checkpoint where the territory is divided by Turkish invasion. Here we hoped to meet the Turkish women and present the following message:

"We the Greek Women of Cyprus are walking today in peace and friendship...with the women of the world as Cypriots, in an attempt to implement a unanimous U.N. resolution...not to diminish your rights, but to declare to the world that we are ready to ...work together to build a new Cyprus free from all foreign influence. We want to break down the walls of hatred, mistrust and barbed wire that separate us...without violence but in peace and love."

"It is in all interests...that the Greek and Turkish Cypriots must live together in this one homeland. We are all yearning for those happy days when all people of Cyprus lived together in peace. Let us leave behind the tragedies, the mistakes of the recent past, and let us look towards a future fit for our children."

The Turkish women had been invited to meet us at the checkpoint and receive this message from the Greek women. The Turkish Officers would not allow them to accept the message nor would they take it.

Outstanding women such as Lady Fleming, working in the struggle against Greek imprisonment and torture under the fascist government in Athens, Melina Mercouri, the Greek actress, and noted women from France such as Françoise Sagan went forward to present the message but each time it was

refused. Finally the message was left with a U.N. officer. But the Turkish Officers has not received the message when we left Cyprus.

I think you will agree that never before has such an attempt been made to bring about a peaceful solution to a military occupation. It was, indeed, a glorious hour for women in international unity for a worthy cause.

If the Turkish women had been allowed to receive the message, the plan was then to join them and proceed to the town of Famagusta which was in sight. The refugees would walk to their homes and occupy those empty houses they had not seen for months. This did not happen.

Was the demonstration a failure? Partly so because the message was not received and the women did not walk to their homes. But a vigil is being held at the checkpoint for days, or weeks, or until the Turkish Forces do implement the U.N. resolution. Women from all over the island were volunteering to help keep the vigil day and night. Many noted women remained at the checkpoint after the rest of us left. Those of us who returned to our countries vowed that we would do all possible to make our governments aware of the problem and so impress upon the U.N. that their resolution must become a reality.

Did you hear about the demonstration before? Press coverage of 20,000 women for a peaceful cause is very meagre on this side of the world. Few people I have talked to have read about the walk or about the plight of the refugees, but I would not say the effort is not worthwhile, nor is it a failure, for when that many women converge at one point for a just and humane cause, that effort is a success. When women from every segment of the world unite to restore dignity to the victims of war and occupation, then that unity is a success and International Women's Year is worthwhile, and the refugees may yet walk home.

*Edna Meakes is Vice-president of the Saskatchewan Peace Council.*

## **Another conference**

*Lucie De Blois was our representative at a meeting in Ottawa to discuss the position to be taken by Canada's delegation to the official UN IWY conference. The following is her report of the meeting which was sent to all centres across Canada.*

The government of Canada has well demonstrated that it has no intentions of making the fundamental changes that are required to partly alleviate the oppression of women in Canada by its refusal to deal with such issues as equal pay for work of equal value, universal access to quality childcare, removal of abortion from the criminal code, safe and effective birth control for all, etc.

Instead the government is spending \$5 million on an advertizing campaign dealing with attitudes, only a symptom of women's oppression, and on conferences which are not action oriented.

This attitude of the government was made well clear at a meeting I attended on the weekend of May 2nd in Ottawa.

The Saskatoon Women's Centre was represented at a Consultation meeting regarding the World Conference of the International Women's Year to be held in Mexico in June 75.

The Saskatoon Centre was the only Women's Centre there. 38 groups were present, including such groups as the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, the Catholic Women's League, the Girl Guides of Canada and the left, the National Farmers Union.

This meeting was called on very short notice, none of the representatives had received the working papers, the two Mexico delegates did not stay for the entire meeting, the Canadian World Plan of Action has already been written and published.

The meeting was headed by Sylva Gelber, director of the Women's Bureau and delegate to Mexico. Ms. Gelber spent sometime in her introductory remarks in explaining that socialist countries are more oppressive to women than 'we' in the West. When asked to specify which countries she was referring to, she refused to answer on the

grounds that she was making a general statement.

Also heading the meeting was Colleen Campbell, replacing Lalonde and head of the delegation to Mexico. Ms Campbell left immediately after her opening remarks. Ms Gelber had the decency to stay a while, she left after the workshops.

The discussion centered mostly around 'attitudes', words such as abortion and working class were never used. The term "non-middle-class" was used a few times. The government decided not to get involved with item 8 of the agenda which reads: "The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination". It is felt by our government that this item is to controversial. When asked if Canada will state what is still left in front of us for the liberation of women, we were answered that we never talk about controversial issues. Our government is perpetuating this image of Canada as the cream of the crop. In it's World Plan of Action, Canada makes recommendations such as no discrimination on the basis of marital status which is not in effect in Canada, and several others which have not been yet implemented in this country.

Some of us at the meeting were experiencing difficulties in formulating suggestions for international action when so little has been done on the national level. When this was expressed it was received by a gasp.

It was pointed out by a woman from the B.C. Federation of Women and by myself that the cause to women's oppression is economic and that the obstacles to women's liberation are economic ones. This statement was received with a frown and not discussed any further.

This meeting was a gesture as all the other activities of the International Women's Year program.

Also Secretary of State is making \$5,000 available for non-governmental organizations representatives to go to Mexico. Again an indication of the lack of seriousness of the government in regards to grass-roots participation.

## A modest proposal

-11-

by Laura Jones

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

there in the closed-up pouch until they hatch.

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

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

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

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

# Summer Projects

A Canadian Women's Educational Kit is being compiled. It will be an informational package containing articles on women's studies, legal rights, consciousness raising, health and Canadian women. Upon completion this kit will be made available to women's groups, women's centres, women's studies groups, high schools and libraries across Canada. This project is being funded by OFY and the group has applied for an IWY grant from Saskatchewan government.

For more information call Shelly, Bev or Lawana at 242-9556 or write #4-510-8th Street East, Saskatoon.



## Women-What they are today

Another project entitled: **WOMEN--WHAT THEY ARE TODAY** will prepare three or four slide-tape presentations on working women in Saskatchewan:

- high school women and career aspirations
- working women in professional jobs
- farm women
- homemakers

Their objective is to get people to listen and question job opportunities for girls after high school and increase awareness of counselling information, inadequate though it is.

For more information call Kathy, Linda or Marguerite or Judy at 343-8339.

## Canadian women and religion



Canadian Women and Religion has evolved from the questioning by a number of women of a contradiction in their lives. Women have been, even up to the present, almost non-existent on church decision-making boards and have been under-represented in the leadership action of the corporate worship of most congregations. This "over-looking" of women appears to be inconsistent with Christ's actions and affirmations of women as described in the gospels. In 1974 these women as individuals began to find other women who are also questioning this contradiction and from this the group has formed and is planning its first conference in October 1975. The Conference will deal with such topics as What is the involvement of women in church ministries? What kind of images of women have the churches fostered through liturgies, catechisms, Sunday school materials, rituals and teachings? How did Christ behave towards women? and What does the gospel say to women?

As background for the conference, two students have been hired this summer to do an analysis of church school materials for sexual stereotypes and will be interviewing members of various churches throughout the city as to the role of women in the structure of these churches.

Two newsletters have been published and a brochure about the conference is being printed now. For more information write to:

Canadian Women and Religion  
1332 Osler St.  
Saskatoon



# Issue thoughts

We are well into the election campaign and the status of women in this province has not been a major issue for any of the parties.

Women play a vital role in our economy yet we are discriminated against in every aspect of our lives, we do not have equal access to anything.

Issues such as resources and agriculture are important to women as members of this society but it must not be an either-or situation. Changes specifically oriented to improving the position of women have to be implemented and women's issues have to become an integral part of this election campaign and must be remembered after the election.

This year we have a few more women candidates but none of the parties saw it fit to have a woman candidate in a strong riding. By this I mean that the large majority of women running in this province do not have many chances of winning because of the riding they are in. Women candidates are sacrificial lambs.

We want women MLAs but they must be women willing to stand for and support women's demands.

Some of our demands are regarding Human Rights, women are discriminated against as a sex in every facet of their lives. We need a strong human rights legislation and a human rights commission that has the power, money and facilities to enforce this legislation; the human rights commission should have the ability to investigate without a complaint from a specific person; the Human rights act should be amended to include marital status, age and sexual orientation.

In the work force, part time workers who are mostly women, should be entitled to the same benefits as the full time workers, that is, regarding workmen's

compensation, sick leave, vacation pay, seniority rights.

All employees in the province who are not covered by the Federal Fair Employment Practices Act should come under the jurisdiction of the provincial Fair Employment Practices Act.

The minimum wage should be raised to a level where supplements would not be required by working people.

Maternity leave legislation should be amended to be increased from fifteen insured weeks to nine insured months.

In the area of birth control and family planning, family life education, including sex education should be part of the public school system.

The age of consent for medical treatment, now eighteen, should be lowered to sixteen.

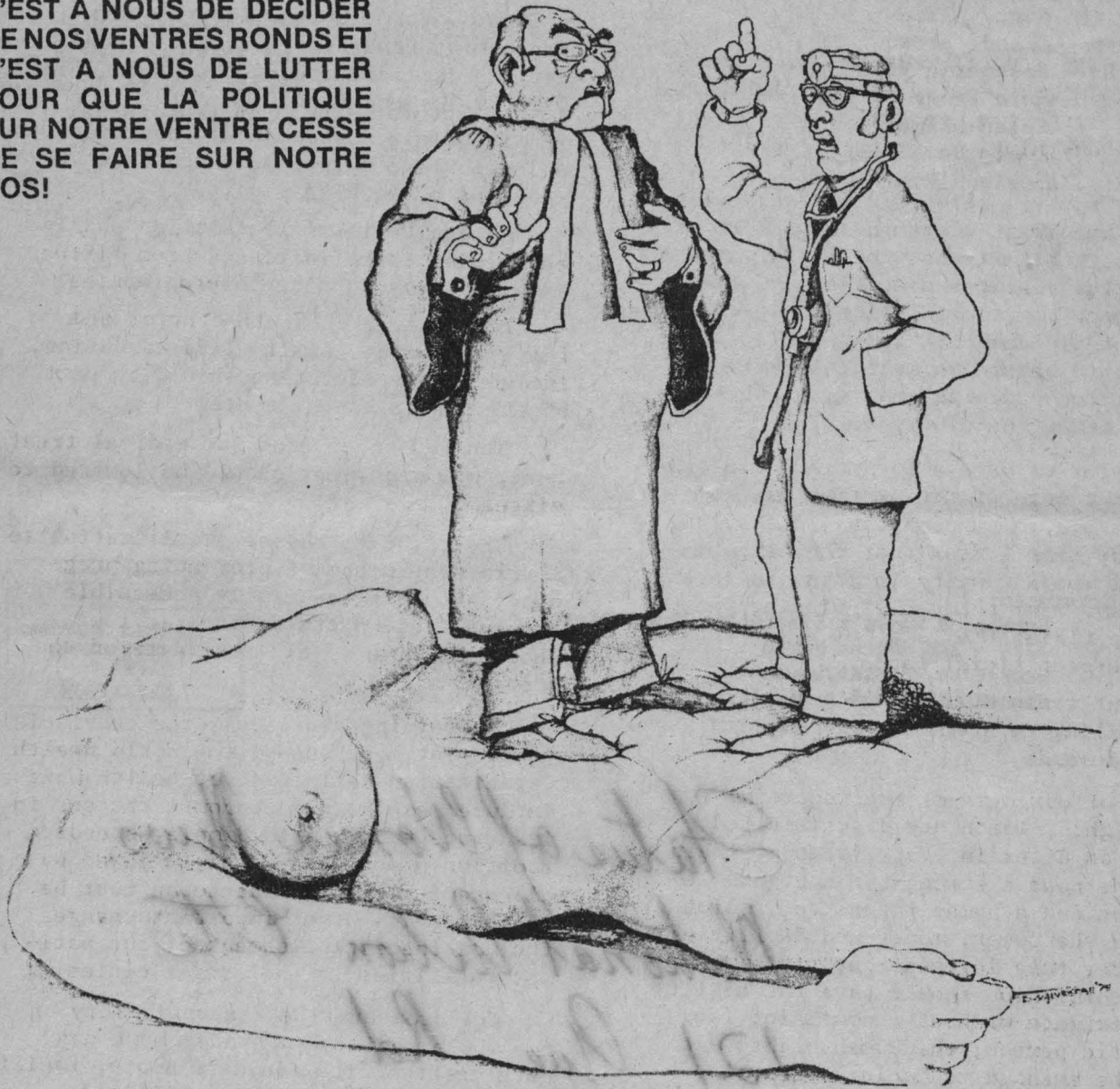
The right to choose sterilization as a permanent means of preventing pregnancy should be an easily accessible alternative. Birth control devices should be free to all residents of the province.

Concerning abortions, the provincial government must accept the World Health Organization definition of health which included social and economic factors in its concept of health. Simple, standard abortion procedures to be followed by all hospitals in Saskatchewan must be established. Other important changes include the establishment of out patient facilities in the larger cities.

Children are the responsibility of the whole society. We need more day care centres with adequate space, facilities and a staff that is well paid.

These are only a few of the areas in which women are oppressed and they are all within provincial jurisdiction. Make your demands known to your candidate.

C'EST A NOUS DE DECIDER  
DE NOS VENTRES RONDS ET  
C'EST A NOUS DE LUTTER  
POUR QUE LA POLITIQUE  
SUR NOTRE VENTRE CESSE  
DE SE FAIRE SUR NOTRE  
DOS!



The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is published monthly. The grant for the Women's Centre 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. The deadline for all material is June 20 Submissions are welcomed.

Subscriptions:

Women who worked on this issue

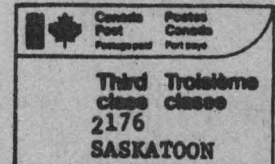
Nancy Allan  
Glenda Brown  
Rosemarie Rupps  
Kate Bragg  
Susan Gilmer  
Lucie De Blois  
Maylynn Woo

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