

FOR REFERENCE ONLY



**Saskatoon
Women's
Liberation
Newsletter**

Nov. 74

HERSTORY

A Canadian Women's Calendar

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

Feminist Women's Health Center
Oakland, California
November 4, 1974

St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sisters,

Dear Sisters:

Enclosed please find our check for six dollars with which we wish to subscribe to your newsletter for a whole year! We look forward each month to our news from women in Canada and how the struggle is progressing in your area. Like the format, hear your appeal, and keep those issues coming!

In Sisterhood and Struggle,

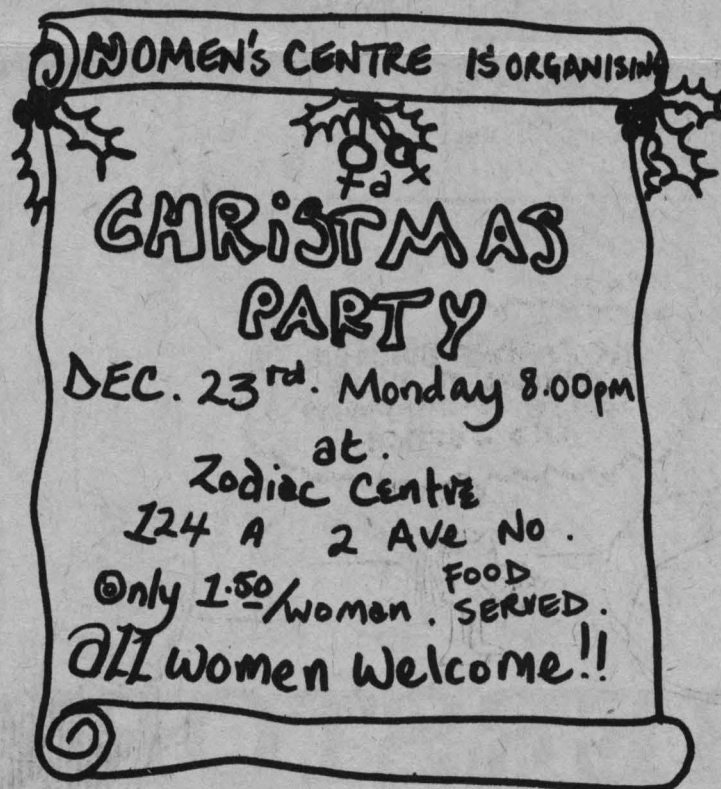
Kathy Stoddard, Communications

Enclosed is a long overdue payment for my S.W.L. Newsletter subscription - for a year past and a year to come.

It has been exciting to feel a maturing in the women's movement as represented in the newsletter over the past year. I congratulate you all on a very excellent and worthwhile publication and enjoy sharing your ideas and experiences. I do regret being unable to participate more directly.

Keep up the great work.

With you in spirit,
Ruth Smith



Editorial

by Cathy Christy

By the time a young girl enters her High School years, the sexual stereotyping within the whole system is very nearly complete.

In one High School, out of 735 girls, only 6 were taking the Industrial Arts course. They have been taught to perceive themselves as objects meant for eventual marriage. This brainwashing is doubly evident in the light of a recent t.v. program where it was discovered that 91% of girls from the age of twelve on used make-up on a regular basis in an effort to turn on their male counterparts. It is a sad commentary on our whole society today.

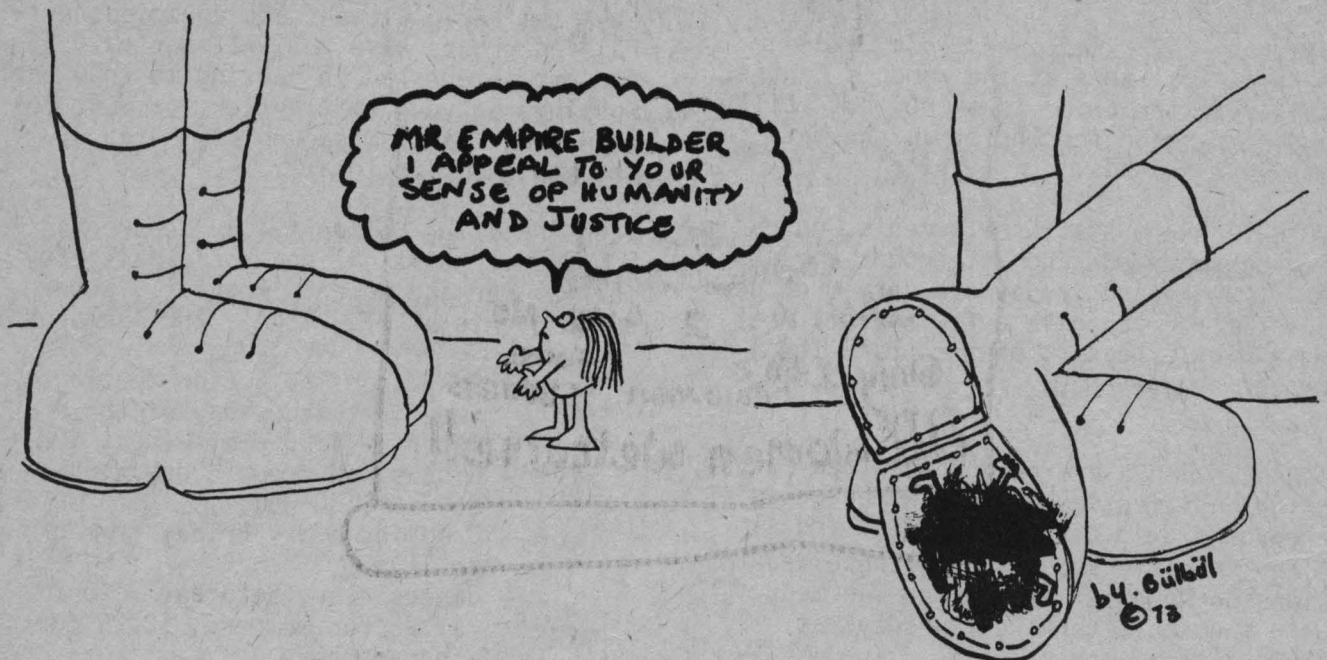
Another area of grave importance is Sex Education. Girls of today laugh off most of the films and books they receive on the subjects and complain that most information is twenty years out of date and doesn't tell them the plain simple

facts about sex or a knowledge of their own anatomy. These young persons have a right and a need to have open, honest discussions about sex and their own feelings about it.

The time to do something about these vital points is NOW. It is our responsibility to start training special women to go out to these young persons in the classrooms and start helping them to perceive their own worth and value as individuals.

The time to act is NOW. A program must be started and must go into every classroom and every school across the country. We must undo the sexual role-playing these girls have learned since Grade I.

These young persons are on the threshold of becoming, perceiving, and believing in the future of themselves. It is time for Girl's Liberation.





WOMEN'S CENTRE monthly GENERAL MEETING on Saturday, December 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at 124A 2nd Avenue North. This meeting will decide how the Secretary of State grant will be used.

Every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS happen. Any woman may attend. Bring your own supper and help make the decisions for the Centre.

DROP-IN RAPS are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. New women are invited to come by to learn what Women's Liberation is all about and how they can plug in. Women who have been involved for a while are invited to come down and meet new women.

Herstory - A Canadian Women's Calendar 1975 is available at the Women's Centre. This year the price is \$4.00, but still a good bargain for Christmas presents for all your friends.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS are being organized to offer positive support for women going through a crisis. Angela Stern and Cathy Christie are starting these sessions on November 21. Women can meet with them on alternate Thursdays at 7:30 at the Women's Centre.

STATUS OF WOMEN hold regular monthly meetings the last Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in the basement of the Public Library (Main Branch). There will be no meeting in December.

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 individual
- \$4.00/yr USA
- \$6.00/yr institutions
- \$12.00 for xerox copies of 15 back issues--Sept/70 to June/74
- \$1.00 for xerox copies per issue after June/74
- 25¢ for single current issue

Self-Help classes and consciousness-raising groups have not yet started. If you are interested in getting to know the workings of your body better, or want to examine the sexism around you, drop by the Women's Directorate.

LESBIANS: The Community Gay 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. (Dec. 4th)
- discussion group every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.
- drop-ins every Friday from 8 to 11 p.m.
- dances every Saturday 9 to 2
\$1.25 for members, \$2.25 for non-members

USSU WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE

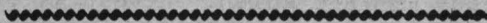
The women on campus are just starting to get involved in the activities of the Women's Directorate. The office, in Rm. 14 of the MUB tunnel, offers a library of feminist books, magazines, and newsletters, an information file, and a place to relax or eat lunch. The co-directors, Lesley Noton and Colleen Pollreis can be contacted at 343-3747, ext. 28, for information concerning Directorate activities.

A weekly series of six WEDNESDAY HAPPENINGS, noon hour educationals, were held in Rm 146 Arts Building starting the end of October. Although they will be discontinued over Christmas in December, watch next month's newsletter for topics and speakers for January's Wednesday Happenings.

The weekly business meeting is held every Friday in the Women's Directorate at 12:30. This is a time to discuss programs, to bring up problems the volunteers are having, and to find out what's been happening in the past week. All campus women are welcome.

Every Monday at 12:30 Women in Law hold a WOMEN AND THE LAW WORKSHOP to discuss the problems women encounter both in law school and with the law. This is your opportunity to ask those questions you may have about the law as it applies to women. Bring your lunch to the Directorate Monday at noon.

Shelley Gordon is anxious to get the long-promised WOMEN'S RADIO PROGRAM underway. She is also desperate for recruits who are interested in any phase of radio production. Come and discuss it at the Directorate.



Molly McQuarrie has resigned as co-ordinator of the Women's Centre. No one is presently acting as co-ordinator pending the decision to be made at the December general meeting about the grants. Nadia Greschuk and Lucie de Blois are donating time to the Centre in the interim.

PENIS COIL "STATISTICALLY SAFE"

INTERCOURSE, PA. July 10 - Dr. Sonia Softig of the Blue Balls Birth Control Clinic announced today the most effective method of birth control since castration.

The device, which Dr. Softig invented, is a microscopic coil which can safely be inserted into the penis with very little discomfort to the man. It will remain intact for as long as desired and can be removed as easily as it was inserted - that is, with a tiny steel rod which is gently rammed through the penis opening.

The main feature of the coil is its retentive power. Experiments on a hundred generations of pigs (whose sexual apparatus is said to be closest to man's) showed an expulsion rate of only 1.3%, with a complication rate of merely 18%.

Dr. Softig announced that the new coil has also been tested on unsuspecting male grad students who visited their University Health Clinic during the week of July 1 - July 8. An experimental study at Macho University showed that of the 762 male grad students who were given the coil, only 112 reported any adverse effects. Of these, 84 requested that the coil be removed. However, they were informed that they would have to wait until the study was completed before they could have the coil taken out.

Dr. Softig has conceded that occasionally a man will not be able to tolerate the coil. But she emphasized that this is entirely the fault of that particular man. "When we get such a case," she stated, "we usually refer the man to a psychiatrist."

- taken from The Northern Woman, September 1974, Issue XIII.

General meeting minutes

The monthly general meeting of Saskatoon Women's Liberation was held at the Zodiac Centre November 2. The meeting began at 1 p.m. with 15 women present.

1. The first item on the agenda was the announcement of the opening of the West-side Clinic in January and a request from them for program suggestions. Cathy Ulmer is the woman to contact with ideas.

2. Donna Sharkey called from the Dept. of the Secretary of State in Ottawa requesting information about OFY money received in the past. Otto Lang and Hugh Faulkner were meeting Wednesday afternoon to decide on the Women's Centre grant application.

Suggestions were made to publicize our position regarding abortion, as a defense against Otto Lang's accusations. It was decided that it was beneficial if individual women wrote letters to the Editor of the Star Phoenix. Cathy Christy and Laurienne Ring volunteered to write letters to the media.

3. LIP Grant - \$21,000 applied for. The grant was highly recommended from here. If we receive the Secretary of State grant we may not get the LIP grant, or it may be reduced.

4. Glenda Brown discussed the need for speakers on Abortion. She mentioned two requests we have had - one from the School of Social Work, the other from B'nai B'rith. Eleanor Fraser suggested that when we speak on Abortion there should be two of us there - one to speak on the counselling aspect, the other to discuss the legal aspects.

5. Shelley Gordon read the letter on Flagyl received from Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the Public Citizen Health Research Committee. Flagyl is commonly used in the treatment of trichomonas vaginitis. It has been proven in numerous studies that the drug may have harmful effects. Dr. Barkwell was contacted for comment and expressed concern. He will look into it further. It was suggested that copies of the letter be sent to the Student Health Clinic and the Health Protection Branch,

Dept. of Health and Welfare. Detailed copies of the studies have been sent for.

6. A financial report for Women's Liberation was given by Halina Zaleski. There is \$168.98 in the Women's Liberation Account. Most of this is from monthly donations and most will be used to pay for last month's newsletter.

7. A letter from a woman in Langham was read, asking if we need financial support. She may be able to help.

8. Kendra Petty mentioned a possible project for International Women's Year - a display of stamps about or designed by women.

9. The question of how to get women interested in the women's movement in the rural areas was discussed. Halina Zaleski will contact Pat Atkinson from the NFU. She also suggested the Union Farmer and monthly Educationals as possible places for input. She will ask some women to our general meetings, but wants to publicize it first so there is a larger turnout.

10. There was discussion of Monday raps. Halina needs people to help out. Concern was expressed that there is nowhere for women to go once they get the basic information about the movement. It was decided to offer Halina and the women coming to the raps more support.

Family Services has been referring women to us. There is a need for a support group. Cathy Christy and Angela Stern will tentatively run such a group Thursday nights.

Shelley Gordon agreed to help Halina Monday nights. Eleanor Fraser spoke of setting consciousness-raising groups for women who have been through the Monday raps and need something else - the whys of the movement.

11. Rosemarie Rupps raised the question of the Steering Committee Meetings and the need for a representative from each group to be present. She also mentioned the possibility of electing representatives to the Steering Committee but it was felt that this was unnecessary.

If the Women's Centre was bugged...



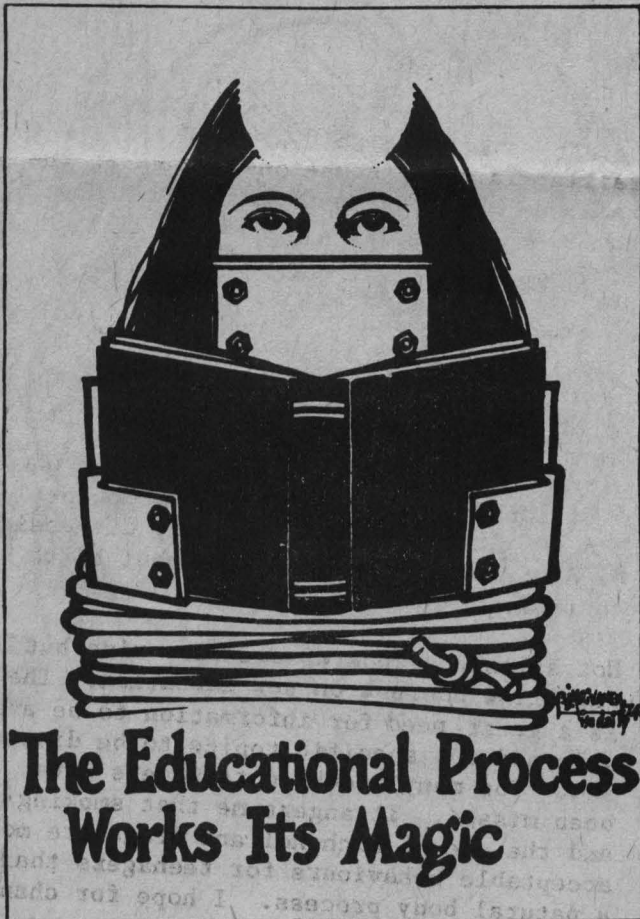
Education f

STUDENTS RIGHTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

"It is in fact nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands warily in need of freedom; without this it goes to rack and ruin without fail. It is a grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty."

- Albert Einstein

reprinted from the pamphlet on Student Rights from the Sask. Assoc. on Human Rights.



General graphic credit (CPS/CUP)

A teacher in the secondary school system of Saskatchewan is often caught in a dilemma. She or he is required by law to do two things: 1) teach the curriculum of the Department of Education for the field of instruction and 2) follow the policies of the School Board. In fulfilling these obligations, there is often little room for the introduction of topics which are of interest and importance to the student but, which are not part of the prescribed course.

The Department of Education specifically allows for individual differences in teaching and for a variety of topics related to the curriculum. A subject such as "sex education" can thus easily be integrated into a Social Studies class, for example, which evaluates cultures from foreign lands and our culture at home. What the Department of Education will allow, a school board, often, will not.

A school board has an obligation to the parents who elected it. It assumes the role of guardian of the student's intellect and moral soul and has set guidelines to regulate the classroom world. Deviations from these guidelines must be within the moral attitudes of the School Board members. This is where a teacher may run into difficulties as some topics are acceptable, some are not.

Smoking is a well-respected topic for lectures and discussions, usually in the elementary school. Alcohol and "drugs" have gained recognition as temptations for the high school students and an evil against which to warn them. Most teachers frown on the use and/or misuse of both alcohol and "drugs" and, thus, a

for What ?

discussion in the classroom is not greatly feared by most school boards.

Sex education - the topics of reproduction, contraception, abortion, and homosexuality - is apparently something to be feared as it is not an acceptable subject for classroom discussion. Herein lies the dilemma for the teacher - how to aid the students' growing awareness of herself or himself and to broach these "taboo" subjects without directly breaking school board policy and giving cause for being fired. For most teachers it is too much bother, so they simply teach the course. For those who have set sex education as a priority in their teaching, they must find a way to incorporate it directly into a course.

Within the limits of my teaching experience, I had no difficulty, curriculum-wise, in including sex education in either Physical Education or Social Studies. The Department allows for "Health" in Physical Education so I set aside classroom time for "Health" in all high school grades. We had information sessions about hygiene, cancer and V.D. There were a lot of questions and even more related discussion. After distributing the "McGill Handbook on V.D.", I mentioned the "McGill Handbook on Birth Control" which legally I was prohibited from giving them. I had many copies of both pamphlets which I left on my desk when I went for coffee - and many were gone when I returned. By word of mouth, other students, whom I did not teach, heard of these pamphlets and either came to me for them or read a friend's. I listed names of doctors who would give high school women the pill or other contra-

ceptive devices and I named organizations which would help or give advice for almost any situation. But most of all, they talked. They asked questions. I gave what answers I could. I asked questions and they responded readily. They really wanted to talk about it all. They talked to each other about experiences and feelings and it was all out in the open. It wasn't dirty and there were few giggles. More than anything else, the knowledge that others were facing the same questions and experiences made the subject lose its mysticism and smuttiness.

I thought I was accomplishing something (as indeed it was a beginning) but as I have been writing this, I realized a major failint in the discussions. Most of the talk was of contraception. Seldom was homosexuality mentioned.

As a teacher, I would have had no problem on the basis of curriculum for the inclusion of sex education. However, had I been found out, I could have been fired by the School Board for allowing the students to see the "McGill Handbook on Birth Control". My School Board (of whom 5 of the 8 members were medical doctors) had a stated policy against any discussion or distribution of material about birth control.

Not all school boards are like mine but few allow courses on sex education. There is a great need for information to be available and for specific topics to be discussed. Too many troubled teenagers have been missed. It angers me that smoking and the use of alcohol and drugs are more acceptable behaviours for teenagers than a natural body process. I hope for change.

One Woman's Opinion

by Diane Fraser

I first started to get involved with the Women's Centre about a year ago, when Audrey Hall was teaching a self-help class to myself and a few friends.

At first I really didn't want to go to them because I figured I knew all I needed to know about contraception, etc. But my mother kind of pressured me into it so I decided to go. When the classes started it was kind of ugly because I was scared that it wouldn't turn out. After the second class it really started to get interesting. I soon found out that I had no need to worry about whether my friends liked the classes or not because afterwards my friends all said they really enjoyed them and they were glad that they went.

At school people react differently to Women's Liberation. Some of the teachers resent you, while others make fun of you. Others respect your feelings towards the Women's Movement. Some of my friends laugh at me and the feeling I get from their reaction is that they would like to find out more about the Women's Centre.

I feel many pressures from people in school. Many girls I know seem to feel they have to go out with one guy and not any other guys for fear of getting a bad reputation. Most girls seem to think they aren't any good if they don't go out with a guy. Some of them even brag about going out with a guy. I couldn't care less if I was going out with a guy or not. I'm only 16 and I have a lifetime ahead of me.

Before I started going to the Women's Centre my main goal in life was to grow up, get married, have kids, and look after

the house. Now I want to live and not be tied down. I don't want any responsibilities of that sort. If I decide that I want to get married it's when I'm ready and when I want to.

If a guy came on too strong with me and wanted a good screw I would probably have done it so the guy wouldn't get mad at me. But now I'd tell him where to go because I'm the one who is liable to end up pregnant and not him.

Since going to self help I now know what my body is and what it looks like. If I want to go to the doctor I could help him out by saying what I see as not being normal.

It was funny because when we did self examination everyone was standing by the door. When they looked at the vagina it was just a quick glance. Later everyone got comfortable with it and really took a look. I learnt what I looked like. That meant a lot to me.

In one of our self help classes we went to a rap with a group of Lesbian feminists. It was really interesting. Since talking to them I feel much better about gays. It really pisses me off when I'm in the can having a smoke and someone calls someone else a fag. I guess it's because they're kind of scared, they really don't know what it's all about.

Another thing I have learned is to pay my own way. Some guys get really upset because it's in the social code that guys have to pay for everything, which is stupid. I feel if I pay for my stuff then I don't owe anybody anything. I find this situation is very hard because many



people don't know how to deal with it. They were taught to let a guy pay for you which is really kind of buying a person off.

Through these classes I soon found friendship and I'm not afraid to express my feelings anymore. When a girlfriend and I are uptight we hug each other and it feels really good. Prior to that I was really scared to hug her because, "what would people think?". Now I don't really care what they think. I feel sorry for them because they can't seem to hug a friend for comfort.

I think that if everyone had self help classes they would learn a lot about themselves and they would feel like a human being instead of a thing.

I wish to thank all the women everywhere for their efforts in being equal.

INEX GARCIA CASE PARALLEL

Cape Coral (CUP) The recent California murder trial of Inez Garcia, who was sentenced to five years to life for killing a man who helped rape her, raised the question of whether similar justice would be meted out to a man. We now have the answer, thanks to a recent Florida case involving two men.

Vincent Welsh of Cape Coral, Florida was recently tried for the murder of Edward Wood, who had allegedly made homosexual advances toward him. Unlike the Garcia case, Wood didn't actually rape Welsh, but the outcome was about the same, Welsh beat Wood to death.

The defense argued in court that Welsh "was unwittingly victimized with an abnormal situation . . ." and reacted with rage. That was essentially the same defence used in the Garcia case. State's attorney Joseph D'Alessandro called the murder "the most brutal beating I've ever seen."

The similarity between the two cases ends there, however. For while Inez Garcia was convicted and sentenced to five years to life, Vincent Welsh was convicted and placed on ten years probation.

GRANT GRANTED!!!

The Women's Centre has received a Secretary of State grant for \$5,760.00. The question of whether or not to accept this grant is open for discussion.

The next general meeting of Women's Liberation will be held at the Zodiac Centre - 124A - 2nd Avenue North, December 7th from 1 to 3 p.m. At this meeting, we will be considering the grant, the pros and cons of acceptance, and what to do with the money.

It is essential that all interested women attend this meeting, and bring with them their views and ideas.

An important question to consider is the functions of the Centre and how the grant enhances or destroys these functions.

If the Centre is a coalition of groups such as Self-Help, Abortion Law Repeal, the Newsletter Collective, Birth Control Information and Abortion Referral, and the Resource Centre, then the money could be divided amongst these groups.

On the other hand, if the Centre performs a counselling and information function, then the money should be used for these purposes.

The question of whether or not to hire a co-ordinator is an important consideration, a problem of volunteerism versus paid staff.

The acceptance of government grants is fraught with pitfalls. On the negative side, a salaried co-ordinator could result in the loss of volunteer help. The job of running the Centre is an immense one, requiring a lot of support. Volunteers tend to drift away when there is someone else being paid to do the work. Difficulties also arise when one woman is in charge of the Centre, when one

woman knows what's happening. Should she leave, a void is created that no one else can fill. The information, the contacts, the proceedings, have all been resting with one individual. Should she leave, everyone else is at sea, and things fall apart.

Another problem with short-term funding arises when the money is gone. There is a danger of being in a position of having no funds, thus no co-ordinator, and projects begun under new-found wealth must cease.

Preceding all of these difficulties are the problems created by deciding how the money is to be allocated. Such decisions are potentially destructive and divisive. Priorities must be established, goals and philosophies must be determined.

Another possible danger of a large financial input is that of forced growth. It is essential to consider carefully where the money is to be spent, and to ensure that when the funds are depleted it does not mean the end of projects and programs begun under relative financial stability.

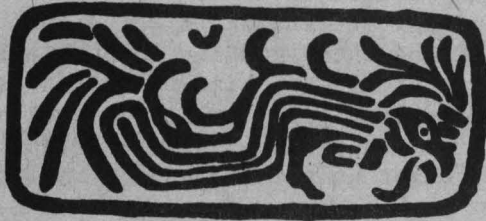
On the positive side, the Women's Centre is in need of money. Our financial resources are in a sad state and questions of paying the rent and utilities are pre-eminent. Should refusal of the grant mean a shut-down of operations we must consider the issue even more carefully.

Another utilitarian aspect of the issue is that of setting a precedent for receiving government funding. However "political" a motive this may be, it is a valid one. In addition, the possibility is there to prove our worth to the government and the general public. The Women's movement has never been respect-

able, and perhaps as the word is normally used we do not wish to be, but these funds would make possible innovative and relevant programs and enable us to reach more women than we do at present.

Another consideration is our right as women to receive these funds, even the necessity of government support for women's issues and concerns. Women's groups should be funded. Our work deserves such financial support.

The issues are complex and we could use your ideas and your help. Come to the general meeting December 7 at the Zodiac Centre to make your feelings known.



IPD (Intrapeanal device) IS TESTED

URP: The newest development in male contraception was recently tested on male prostitutes. Called the intrapeanal device or the IPD, it is inserted through the head of the penis and pushed into the scrotum with a plunger-like instrument. Occasionally there is perforation of the scrotum which is disregarded since the male has no sensitivity to this area of his body. No one really knows how they work or what the long range effects will be, but then, who cares?

Common complaints have been severe cramping, massive hemorrhaging and green discharges from the head of the penis which are merely signs that the man's body has not yet adjusted to the "new resident". Hopefully these symptoms will disappear within a year.

IPD's usually are implanted with a string to insure quick removal or for sado-masochistic "play". In cases where the sex partner has complained of the string, the string is removed and then the IPD must be taken out surgically.

The following article was taken from an article entitled "Autonomy or Co-option" by Pat Shaker, printed in the July '74 issue of "On Our Way", available at the Women's Centre.

Differences of opinion must be hassled through. Analysis of purpose and direction must happen. Factions are the result if these things don't happen. It is pointless to be held together only by government salaries for tasks which become pragmatic. Some women choose to leave the women's movement completely because of their unpleasant experiences with women's projects.

If a women's group accepts funding:

- (1) it must already have established its procedures and rapport independent of government domination.
- (2) It must be able to deal with the concepts of wage slavery and 'paid' work.

That is, salaries may enforce a regimentation that will displace our spirit of dedication and cooperation.

As women in this society we are marginals. It is from the sense of the oppression which makes us marginals that the force-drive for revolution comes. Then how can we afford to be franchised and controlled by the very system which oppresses us?



feminist writings and the emergence of new directions

This is part four of a lecture given at the Public Library last summer, sponsored by the Women's Resource Centre. Parts one, two and three appeared in the previous issues of the Newsletter.

by Lynda Holland

I would now like to leave the feminist theory behind and discuss a few of the women that are achieving, women who have written with great perception; their novels, plays or poetry a reflection of a woman's place and woman's insights.

We all know the herstory of women writers in the 19th Century, how many of them wrote under pseudonyms in order to be published. We know too of the relative acceptability of women writers in the early 20th Century. I say relative, for although women were given the license to write, witness the style of writing that women felt was socially acceptable for them. They had the freedom only to write as they were expected to. They wrote books for children, historical fiction romances, reflections of their lives as wife and mother - light, airy and unrealistic novellas that perpetuated the myth of woman in her place. Then came the women who wrote of reality and with great insight - Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath - and suffered under the feelings of inadequacy and minimal acceptance of their genius. From their strength began undercurrents of a new awareness of potential, the beginnings of anger and thus the demands for understanding. The rise of feminism began anew - expanded to bombard our whole society rather than the solitary issue of the suffragettes whose efforts won a battle - absurd that it had to be fought at all - and thus pacified, weary and absorbed with an equally absurd war of man's making, returned to the home, domesticated.

Today women are tossing off convention, and strong in their individuality they create on a much broader spectrum, heedless of the lingering male prejudice. Yet many women writers today continue to suffer under the pressures of a male-dominated society and the burden of convention and tradition. Their heroines are stereotyped reflections of our situation such as we find in The Honeyman Festival by Marian Engles. A heroine who tells herself to get on with her life, forget her dreams, her desires, her needs, and keep busy pretending to be happy. A woman falling into, passing through, or struggling from, some kind of ruin, loss of direction and identity, at odds with the rest of the world, mired in confusion and caught in the anxiety of non-conformity.

To quote Kate Millet from an essay in Woman in Sexist Society called "Prostitution: A Quartet for Female Voices", "I should like to see the new movement give women in the arts a confidence in the value of their own culture...and a respect for its experience, together with the freedom, even spontaneity, to express this in new ways, in new forms." (p. 60)

In my search for a heroine free to be herself, strong enough to put down the sexist and patronizing attitudes of those around her, a heroine who does not suffer from her culture but is sure enough to ignore it, I found two books, one a play by Megan Ter-y called Approaching Simone published by the Feminist Press in 1973, and a novel, Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown, published by Daughters Inc. in 1973. The play reveals the life of Simone Weil, a writer and political activist living in France in the first half of the 20th Century. Phyllis Jane Wagner in her Introduction to the play says that it "exemplifies the gradual liberation of a woman as she transforms herself into a

creative person by the concerted efforts of her own will." (p. 10) Simone Weil died in 1943 at the age of 34 of cardiac failure brought on by starvation. In a speech from the inquest scene of the play a woman doctor says, "She did not eat... and gave as a reason the thought of her people in France starving." (p. 131)

In Rubyfruit Jungle we find a different sort of heroine. She is Molly, twice oppressed for being a woman and a lesbian, and yet twice strong because of it. The novel begins in childhood, Molly a strong-willed and confident child growing up in the narrowness of a small town.

She withstands rejection from family and friends and goes to New York to become a film director. Throughout the novel her goals are never shaken. She remains defiant and very much an individual. The bizarre episodes of revenge against those who antagonize her are tempered with the sensitivity and warmth of Molly's relationships with her father and the women in her life. Determined not to marry, in her own words, determined to be "the hottest 50 year old this side of the Mississippi" (p. 217) and determined to "be arrested for throwing an orgy at 99" (p. 193), Molly is, as she herself says, irresistible.



A conference will be held in Saskatoon at the Holiday House Hotel on December 27-29 to bring together women's newsletters and newspapers from across Canada to discuss the formation of an information and news exchange network for the women's press in this country.

A motivation for the conference is that women in various parts of Canada do not know how the Movement is progressing in other parts of the country. By bringing together Canadian women's publications, women can discuss common strengths, problems and areas of concern--how we organize production, staff, distribution, financing, how we build our readership, what issues we are most actively supporting and covering, and how we can establish a news and information exchange around them.

The Women's Press Conference will coincide with a weeklong Canadian University Press (CUP) involving campus, alternate and labour press. Hopefully through this

conference we can explore the possibilities of closer co-operation because both groups can benefit. University papers may cover topics of interest to women which does not receive as wide a readership as it would if shared with women's publications. Information on women's centres' activities and programs would reach more women if shared with alternate and campus press.

Although this meeting is intended primarily for women's publications, the Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter staff would like to encourage as many women as possible to attend as this will be an opportunity to share information with women across Canada. Workshops will deal with technical problems, the film, "Salt of the Earth", panels on northern Canada, the food industry, Canadian publishing, Canadian sports, and Women and Health Care.

Diane "Red" Rogers of the Sheaf should be contacted at 343-3747 for more information.

The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is published monthly. Next month's issue will focus on Farm Women. The deadline for all material is the fifteenth of next month. Submissions are welcomed but are subject to editing.

The Editorial Committee for this month's issue:

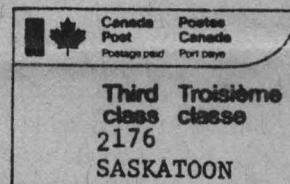
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