

SASKATOON

Women's Liberation



25¢

Newsletter

Sept. 1974

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

Dear Sisters,

Would you please add my name to your mailing list. Since it was in Saskatoon that I first became involved in the women's movement, I am always interested in hearing about what's going on with you.

Your newsletter seemed to get better every month last year. It was always informative but also warm and humorous- definitely designed to give support to other women. Since I have now moved from Regina to Edmonton and away from like-thinking friends, I shall doubly appreciate that support. (The women's movement in Edmonton seems to be at a low ebb because it is very difficult to find people who have even heard about it, let alone know what is going on. However I might be quite wrong I remember feeling exactly the same in Saskatoon- until I stumbled into Molly).

Keep up the good work.
Sincerely
Lynn Bue

Dear Sisters,

I've thoroughly enjoyed the newsletters, but have been quite annoyed at some of the letters that regard lesbianism with disgust. I do not want to ignore these letters because these women have some valid objections, valid in the sense that they blindly uphold a major viewpoint in our society. I fail to comprehend why these same women would read our newsletter in the first place, because those that support one viewpoint are prone to accept other equally unjustified points of view, one obviously being the role playing between men and women. How can a person sincerely admit to being consciously aware of her many aspects as an individual and simultaneously deny the plausibility of sexual preference concerning others? What I ask is that those of you who do uphold this point of view, if you will judge at least be consciously aware of your subject. I'm sure that when you are, you won't be quite so threatened by us!!

Bi



Editorial

This month's issue has ended up as a little bit of everything. The sudden demise of summer has plunged us into a flurry of activity and in between hurling ourselves behind the University Employees Union in their negotiations with Administration, we have paused to reflect on past journeys.

Summer was a time for travelling and many Saskatoon women wandered the world bringing back news of the Movement. We have included in this issue one such article, relating the adventures of three innocents in Vancouver. As we settle into classes and work and causes, it may offer some joy or inspiration to read of women involved in the struggle in another city.

As evidenced by our centrefold and the minutes of last month's general meeting, women involved in the Movement in Saskatoon have had little time to dwell on summer glories. In the midst of all the other fall frenzies we joined the struggle of the University Employees Union and shared our energies in the spread of information and the gathering of support.

The Women's Centre gradually rises out of the ashes with Molly McQuarrie forming order out of chaos as Co-ordinator. Our resource material has been expanded by the Women's Resource Centre, our Self-Help Methodology solidified, and volunteers trundle back to staff the off-

ice. Your help, ideas and support will be ever welcome.

Among our recent acquisitions of interest is a copy of the Memo from Otto Land to Hospitals in Canada doing therapeutic abortions. The Memo was sent out in the spring, urging that abortion laws be tightened. Lang states that the provincial Attorney-Generals, responsible for the administration of the Criminal Code, have not been diligent enough in assuring that Lang's interpretation of the laws regarding abortion is followed. As Attorney-General for the NWT and the Yukon he prided himself on the strictness of the laws governing abortion there and goes on to say that he is against social and economic reasons being used to justify abortion. Surely the North is one area where social and economic problems are greatest, the contributing distress and paramount consideration in the lives of the inhabitants.

We also have been sent excerpts from a speech made by Pierre Elliot Trudeau in Sault Ste. Marie in which he discusses his views on Abortion.

These are available for women to read at the Women's Centre.

Already our thoughts scatter on to next month's issue. We tentatively plan to deal with working women. Your ideas, contributions, and time will be received with gratitude by we wearies.

The USSU Women's Directorate has become active again for the winter with the influx of students onto campus. Lesley Noton and Colleen Pollreis, co-directors this year, have a busy year planned. All campus women are invited to drop by, Room 14, MUB Tunnel, phone 343-3747, ext. 28.

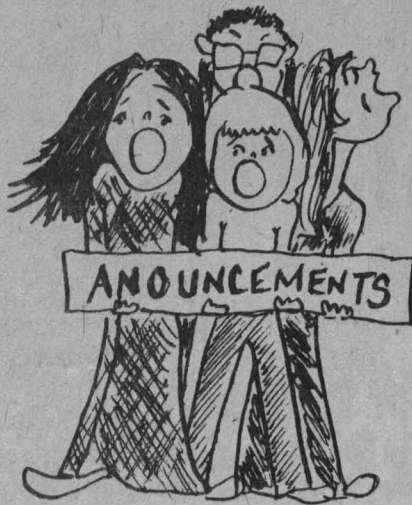
Shelley Gordon is organizing a weekly hour-long radio program on CJUS-FM. The programs, which started on September 25, will be on the air Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., but will likely be moved to an evening after a few weeks. Tapes of speakers, interviews, commentaries, will all be aired. Any women who are interested in any phase of production, or who has ideas to offer, should contact Shelley through the Directorate.

Names are currently being accepted at the Women's Directorate for a new Self-Help class. Times have not been established, so drop by, and leave your name, phone number, and time preference.

A bisexual rap is presently being organized by a few interested women. We need participants. If you're interested please contact the Women's Directorate on Campus. Phone 343-3747, ext. 28. The time is tentatively Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Muriel Wiens is willing to lead and organize a support group at a cost of \$25 for two full weekend sessions if enough interest is shown. Names may be left at the Directorate.





THE MONTHLY GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ZODIAC FRIENDSHIP CENTRE (ACROSS FROM THE WOMEN'S CENTRE) AT 1:00 ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5.

Steering Committee Meetings are open to anyone. Come to the weekly Wednesday meetings, held at 6:00 at the Women's Centre to discuss the running of the Centre and the functions and problems of Women's Liberation in general. Bring your own supper.

Drop-in Raps are continuing every Monday night at the Women's Centre. Any new women are especially invited to these consciousness-raising sessions.

After a month or so of muddling through without a co-ordinator, in the period after the OFY projects had finished, we are pleased to announce a NEW CO-ORDINATOR for the Women's Centre. Molly McQuarrie has been appointed part-time co-ordinator by the Steering Committee, to, as she put it, "not do the work, but co-ordinate it so the volunteers can." She will be paid a modest sum for her efforts.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler is making a cross-country tour beginning the 10th of October. He will be speaking in Saskatoon on October 15th at 12:00 noon in 241 Arts on the U of S campus and at 7:30 p.m. at the Prairie Room of the Centennial Auditorium.

SUBSCRIPTIONS! MONEY!
 Every month, the newsletter just barely manages to pay its bills, but lately the need for funds is crucial. If you have not already paid for your subscription, we would appreciate a contribution of the usual amount to our fund. If you are working, or are otherwise feeling generous, we would very much appreciate it if you would share your wealth with us in the form of post-dated cheques for a monthly sustaining donation. Cheques should be made payable to Saskatoon Women's Liberation. Please! This is an urgent appeal for money!

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

On October 19-20, Molly McQuarrie and Nadia Greschuk will be attending a federal government conference on International Women's Year. The agenda has not been announced but it appears the focus will be a discussion of programs and activities to commemorate International Women's Year. Molly (representing the Women's Calendar Collective) and Nadia (representing the Women's Centre) would appreciate any opinions and suggestions to take to Ottawa with them. Also, if any of our readers have been considering projects for funding in 1975, this information would be valuable.

WORKING WOMEN'S COMMITTEE has been revived! At the moment, they are mainly concerned with working on the University Employee's Union strike as a support group, however, once they become more established, regular meeting times will be adopted. Watch for announcements in the newsletter or contact Gwen Morrison-Gray.

General meeting minutes

The monthly general meeting of Saskatoon Women's Liberation was held at the Zodiac Centre, Saturday, September 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Halina Zaleski.

1. The first item on the agenda was again a request for volunteers to staff the Centre. Now that the OFY Projects are over there is a large gap to be filled. We discussed the need for consistency in giving out information and Molly McQuarrie offered to train some volunteers to this end.

2. Maureen Desjardins, co-ordinator of the University Employees Union, was at the meeting to explain the situation on campus. As the negotiations stood, management was offering a \$65 increase to 70% of the workers - clerical, food services, Library, and printing services staff - largely comprised of women- and a \$100 increase to the other 30% - tradesmen and technicians. The Union is asking for a \$125 increase for all members. Ms. Desjardins pointed out that at present there is a great disparity in pay allotted to a janitor, for example, and a clerical worker with more education and more experience. She added that the men were in full support of an across the board increase. A strike vote is to be held September 16 that will determine the course of action.

The issue of Daycare was briefly discussed but is not as major a concern at this time. Ms. Desjardins gave as possible reasons for this the fact that many women on staff as yet do not have children, or have children already in school. Previous requests for Daycare facilities have been strongly discouraged by management as being too costly. Salary and job classification disputes are the stronger areas of discontent.

3. Halina Zaleski proposed the re-organization of the working women's committee and suggested those interested meet after the General Meeting to discuss this further.

4. Halina Zaleski gave a financial report for Saskatoon Women's Liberation. We have \$102.62 in our account with a bill of approximately \$105.00 outstanding for the August Newsletter. Once again a financial appeal was made. The need for the Newsletter to raise money was discussed and also the need for sustaining donations, i.e. monthly contributions.

Anne Smart suggested a combined campaign for funds organized by the various needy groups in the Women's Centre. The possibility of a dance to raise money was discussed and it was decided that we hold a Hallowe'en Dance at the Indian/Metis Friendship Centre with Walpurgis Night providing the music. Nadia Greschuk agreed to book the band and the Centre.

5. Projects for International Women's Year were discussed as Nadia Greschuk will be attending the Conference in Ottawa on October 19th. Molly McQuarrie outlined a Saskatchewan Herstory Publication as a possible project and briefed us on the Toronto Status of Women's bid for an International Women's Resource Centre. Colleen Pollreis mentioned that the Calendar Collective will also be applying for funding for the coming year.

6. Glenda Brown, from Abortion Law Repeal, announced that Dr. Morgentaler would be going on tour from September 18-28th. Exact dates of his arrival in Saskatoon were not known but plans were being made for appearances on campus, at the Public Library and a meeting with Saskatoon Doctors. Glenda also announced the sale of 'Repeal Abortion Laws' buttons for 30¢ each.

7. Lynda Holland and Nadia Greshcuk asked for volunteers to help with the Newsletter. The Newsletter Collective meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Aid Centre - 136 Avenue F. S.

8. Molly McQuarrie's Self-Help Classes were discussed during which she justified the price she is charging by saying that she put out considerable expense to go to Los Angeles for three months

to learn the skills and knowledge that she has. She also stated that women have been doing things for nothing for so long.

From here the discussion dribbled into a myriad of areas - concern with communication between the various groups functioning out of the Women's Centre, representation at the Steering Committee meetings, and the need for these groups to maintain some sort of autonomy.

Anne Smart also criticized the Newsletter for being just like another magazine, lacking in information. It was suggested that a weekly newsletter be put out to perform an informative function and the present newsletter maintain its content on a monthly basis. Very often announcements and important information are received too late for a monthly periodical. This suggestion was generally well-received but for the lack of time, energy and money to carry it out.

9. Glenda Brown announced Women and Films plans to purchase films to be stored at the Public Library for circulation. "Home Movie" and "After the Vote" are two they

have in mind and Glenda asked for other suggestions. "It Happens to Us", a film on Abortion shown at the Women's Film Festival, was mentioned.

10. Letters recently received at the Women's Centre were dealt with. One was from the Univ. of Regina School of Social Work, an evaluation questionnaire of the Legal Assistance Clinic. Anne Smart offered to take care of it.

The Women's Lifestyle Research Project from Pennsylvania also sent a questionnaire to be filled out by one woman regarding various aspects of her way of life. Lynda Holland offered to look after it.

11. Audrey Hall outlined developments in the rape case of last spring and the harassment the woman involved has been experiencing.

12. Anne Smart announced a series of Seminars on Sex-Role Stereotyping at the Public Library from September 16 to October 7, every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. A leaflet containing more information may be obtained at the Library.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Kiet

I am a searcher of the Snow Queen
I wish to pass through and be caught
Up in the intricacies of snow and ice
And a woman's love
Drive spikes of frozen humiliation through
The heart of a man
I see to invite him here beside me on the journey
Where I am guided
But a female hand holds itself still over
My breasts and my heart itself grips the cold
Of winter
The Snow Queen has me in her arms while the man lies
Slain red across her robe and she discards him
To the snow beneath
To the eternity of frost
I wish I'd been able in myself to relinquish him
I wished too at that moment to be with him
As I loved the eventuality we possessed
The degradation of being a woman in love with someone who
Despises you
Alone now you have grown cold and the Queen leads me away
She leads all woman to contentment
And we are stronger for ourselves
Our strength is no longer a lie
Bled from us
The Queen is not frigidity
She is a loving denouement.

UNIVERSITY UNION

The University of Saskatchewan Employees Union went out on strike September 25th. Because women comprise a large part of the Union, and because they have played such an important role in negotiating with the Administration and organizing for strike action, the Newsletter Collective has deemed it important to deal with the situation.

Women's Liberation initially became involved in the struggle of the Union against the University Administration when Maureen Desjardins, a Union Representative came to talk to our General Meeting. She informed us not only of the discouraging state of negotiations, but also that women comprise the majority of the membership of the Union. Most of the 70% of the membership in the lower paying categories are women, as is typical of any segment of the work force. They work primarily in the Library, Food Services, and as clerical staff.

A large number of women employees receive salaries that are lower than those that men with less education and experience receive. Although this issue has not been a major negotiating point, the fact remains that women have played a large role in initiating the negotiations for an improved contract. The male employees are aware of these disparities and support the women on this issue. Administration has not taken any actions to improve this very obvious discriminatory practice.

The first bargaining position of the University has been to offer \$65 to \$200 increases per month. The larger increases

were to go to people already earning more money, while those people at the lowest-paid levels would get the smallest increases. This would force those in the lower paying jobs to fall even more behind. Women would be most adversely affected by this offer.

The Union's demand is a \$125/month increase across the board, for people at all levels, a figure considerably down from their original request for a \$200 increase. This would lessen the gap and give the lower paid workers a fair increase against inflation. The University has now changed its bargaining tactics and is offering across the board increases but still fail to meet Union demands.

In addition the Union has been asking for a number of fringe benefits for its membership. Some of these have been rejected outright - for example eye and dental care plans. Of special concern to women is the Union's demand for daycare. As increasing numbers of families find it necessary for both parents to work, it becomes important to know that the children are well looked after. Present daycare facilities on campus are inadequate to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff, and plans for expansion are intended for the children of students. Although the Administration has offered a letter of intent to look for space for daycare, the Union is dissatisfied with this indecisive action.

It was decided at the September general meeting that we, as women, could definitely sympathize with the problems of the Union,

EMPLOYEES CRISIS

and would be willing to give active support. When the University year began, the responsibility of organization fell to the Women's Directorate, because of its location on campus. We saw our role primarily as informational. We would try to acquaint the student's with the state of the negotiations and attempt to win their support for the Union.

As negotiations progressed, or rather as they didn't, it became increasingly evident that a strike was eminent. In talking to Union officials about what students could best do to help the Union, we learned that, in the event of a strike, our active support could most effectively be shown by boycotting classes. Armed with a motion of support for the Union, the coordinators of the Women's Directorate went to the first Council of Union Executive meeting. Among the clauses were a request to the Board of Governors to agree to Union demands, a promise to publicize through speakers and seminars the Student's Union support for the Union, and requests for students to honor the picket lines and refrain from doing Union jobs in the event of a strike. It was an unexpected victory when the Student Council did indeed pass the supportive motion.

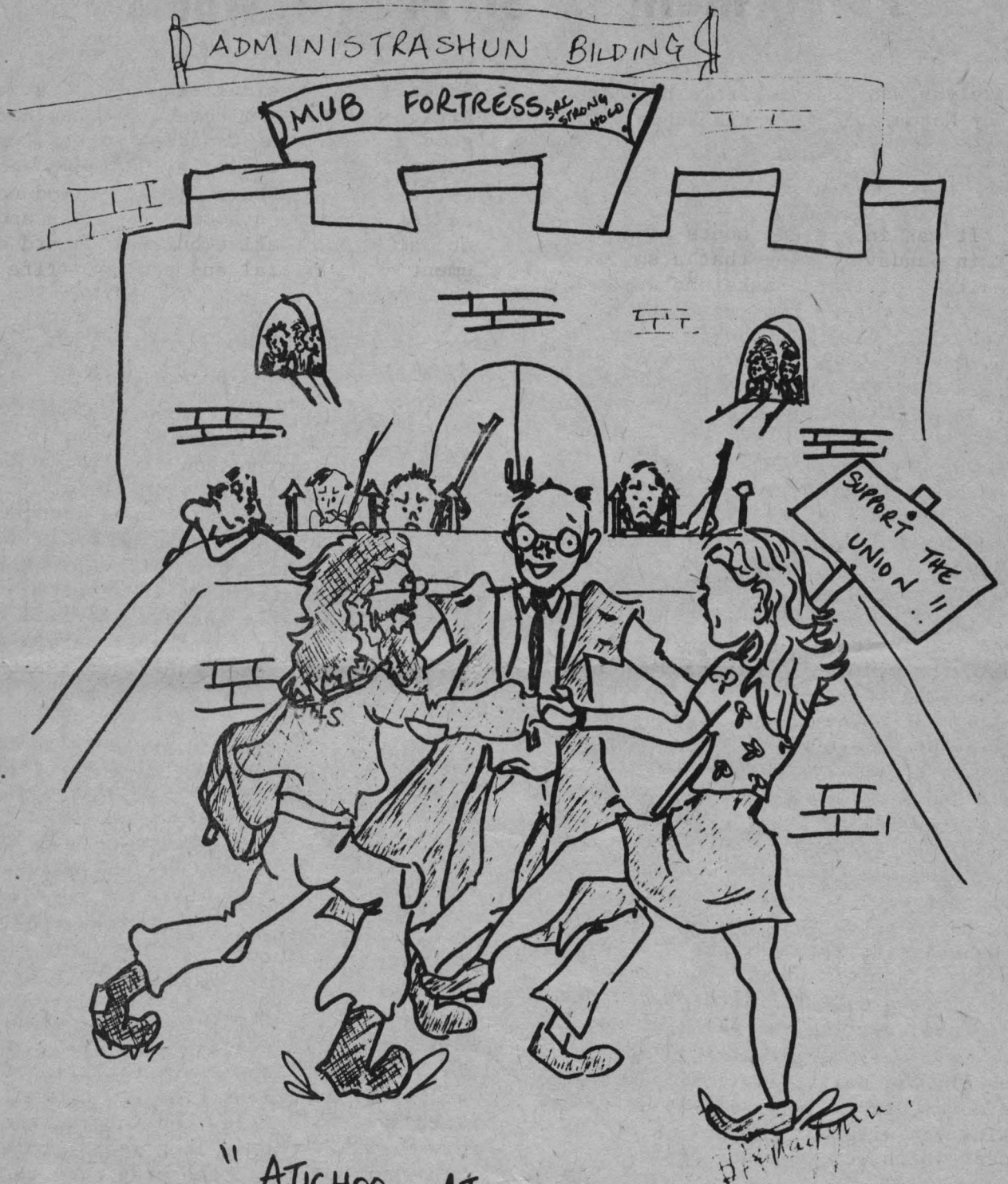
More students became interested in doing something to support the Union, and joined the women at the Directorate. As men came in, it was no longer appropriate to operate under the name of the Women's Directorate. Out of this came the Ad Hoc Strike Support Committee (it was not until

after the strike was called that we formalized our name).

The Ad-Hoc Strike Support Committee has worked closely with the Union in the writing and distribution of information to the Campus community. Working out of the Women's Directorate, they have launched the campaign to wear pro-Union armbands to indicate support, helped on picket lines, organized demonstrations in an attempt to reach the apathetic masses, provided coffee and moral support for the picketers and engineered a confrontation with the Cabinet during their meeting in Saskatoon.

The Administration attempts to carry on despite the fact that many faculty and students support union demands. They have already organized scab labour to do many Union jobs. This can only serve to prolong the strike and decrease the Administrations already shaky credibility. By hiring others to do Union work, the Administration hopes to carry on without the 1700 employees that make the University happen. This action can only serve to create hostility in the Union and their supporters who ask only for a fair deal.

One can only speculate how long the strike can go on, but despite the difficulties the Union employees experience they have gained in strength. The women in the Union have perhaps become more aware and more vocal. If you can share your voice, give some of your time, phone or come to the Women's Directorate on campus to find out what's happening. Phone 343-3747, Ext. 28.



" ATICHOO... ATICHOO WE ALL FALL DOWN,
TOGETHER! "

Peregrinations of Prairie Women

by Maylynn Woo with a little help from
Lesley Noton and Rosemarie Rupps.

It was in the wee hours of an uncertain Sunday morning that a small expedition of three Saskatoon women set out to gather some knowledge and experience of life on the west coast. Both these were gained with varying degrees of success; as a result they felt it should be shared:

The first overwhelming attraction we encountered was the natural beauty surrounding the city of Vancouver, the second being, naturally (!), the Women's Movement, upon which the spirit and population of the city has a definite effect. Due to the size of the city, we found much evidence of fragmentation within the movement, culminating into entities such as the Press Gang (Pedestal), Vancouver Women's Bookstore, UBC Women's Study Office, Health Collective, Status of Women, Working Women's Association, and Vancouver Ms. The separation of these groups has enabled them to concentrate on their respective areas and to do high calibre work with their independence and allowed more room for women with specific interests to become involved.

We very much regretted, especially, not visiting the Pedestal, but were able to infer, that this was probably the political focal point of the Movement. We will endeavour to acquaint you with our impression of the groups which we did manage to visit.

Our impression of the Women's Bookstore was unanimously agreed upon; we were warmly welcomed into an easy, informative atmosphere. (We speculate the reason may well have been the healthy purchase of books we made with which to replenish our own literature here in

Saskatoon.) Besides the sale of a vast array of Women's literature (they had a good selection of Canadian works), we perused the periodicals, handouts, poetry, records, posters, jewelry, and non-sexist children's books available and an all-informative bulletin board documented the social and economic life of Vancouver feminists. The store also provided space where women could relax, and talk over coffee, and where various consciousness-raising and lesbian raps were held. We felt that this may well have been the focal point by which various groups within the movement could keep in contact and co-ordinate activities.

We also visited the campus Student Union Building at UBC in which the Women's Study Course office was located. We found them in a large, spacious office, provided by the Student Union. However, financially, they gained no support from the Student Union budget and relied entirely on donations and volunteers. The women were well organized--they offered a variety of short non-credit course, ie.-self-help, yoga, films, as well as a credit interdisciplinary course in history, psychology, sociology, English and interdisciplinary studies. The Office itself was stocked with a good collection of tapes and a library similar to our own. From posters, advertising, speakers and seminars, and talking with the women, we concluded that they were quite politically active.

The women of the Vancouver Women's Health Collective worked out of a 2 storey old house. The many rooms facilitated a variety of functions from an informal "public" area with files and information, to more private counselling rooms, to a kitchen where milk and the pregnancy tests were both kept in the fridge. More experience, more womanpower, and more money (from both the provincial and federal governments) is permitting them to offer more complete women-controlled health services for women. They conduct weekly Self-Help clinics at a city community clinic,

for which the province pays them \$100. A federal health research grant pays two fulltime reasearch workers and two service workers. Among their activities are counselling on birth control and abortion for which they have developed an elaborate system for evading the letter of the law, pregnancy tests, as well as the usual concerns associated with Self-Help. Although they are basically supplying a service, they have managed to do so in a political context.

Upon reflection, one of the striking differences we noticed when entering the Status of Women centre was a warm but middle class atmosphere ie-carpeted floors, contemporary furniture (a feeling of establishment pervaded). They were well equipped with ample room, about twice the size of our Women' Centre. We found that they considered themselves to be fairly close in philosophy to Women's Liberation, although they attracted more conservative women who did not want to be associated with that name, as such. We found their litterature geared primarily to middle class values and certainly of a less controversial nature. Our short visit here may not have justified the judgements we made on it.

One of our more frequently visited places was "Vancouver Ms", a symbol of progress within the women's movement towards a social environment in which all sub groups could feel comfortable. We found the club equipped with facilities for dancing, electronic ping pong, pinball, pool tables, bar, and grand piano. The atmosphere is casual enough for anyone to make use of these at any time. We must congratulate these women for so successfully keeping men away (even though the methods sometimes have been brute force!) Although there was a larger ratio of younger to older women and most times

of gay to heterosexual women, we found the atmosphere easy and friendly. We decided, when we ran into many women we had met elsewhere, that this was definitely the social centre for the Women's Movement.

Having introduced you to all these factions of the women's movement in Vancouver, we must conclude that we were quite impressed with their progress. Especially notable, was the apparent "rennaissance" of the fine arts. It seemed as if, having defined themselves, women have set out to define culture, in drama, art, writing, and music, all of which we saw while in Vancouver. However, there are certain pitfalls to their mode of activity. In their fragmentation lies a discontinuity in the movement as a whole, resulting in a lack of political togetherness. Without this solid base which is so essential to furthering the rights of women within our system, there lies a fruitless search for political equality and change. The words "Women Unite!" seem to apply to all women whether in terms of women's groups or individual women, whether aware or unaware. Vancouver, we're proud of you for what you're doing, but we all know we've got a long way to go before you or we or Canada or even women across the world an effect the changes we're so desperately struggling for, for the sake of ourkind!

It should be noted, in a footnote, which this is, that the women in Vancouver are aware of the fragmentation, and are indeed working to overcome this by forming the B.C. Federation of women's groups, through which they hope to establish this unified front.

A Reminder

Next month's issue will deal with the problems and experiences of working women. Please put your thoughts to paper for your newsletter.

Herstory...a book?

"What happened to the promised September feature on the herstory of the Saskatoon Women's Liberation Movement?"

Molly McQuarrie volunteered to write the herstory for the Newsletter. After a month of intensive searching through files, past newsletters, and conversations with women involved in the Movement since 1969, Molly has compiled too much material.

The Newsletter Collective discussed the problem and arrived at two possible solutions. The first alternative was to run a series of episodes - "a continuing feature". The second possibility is to produce a super edition of the Newsletter or else publish a book so that all the material will be between one set of covers.

Molly pointed out that even though the research was incomplete, she had already prepared an outline for 30 episodes covering events or topics. So there was really only one choice - publish a book.

Watch for The Great Saskatchewan Novel!

The Women's Calendar Collective

Five Saskatoon women have put together a second calendar notebook which records significant events in the herstory of women.

Canadian Women's Calendar, 1975, has been published by The Canadian Women's Educational Press, a publishing group formed two years ago to focus on issues of importance to women.

The calendar is intended to reveal the struggles and achievements of Canadian women in politics, the arts, labor, and sports.

The format of the date pages has been changed- the amount of information has been reduced to allow more space for writing. The opposing pages include photographs, graphics, poetry and written material on women and events in Canadian herstory.

The Calendar was researched by five women from Saskatoon under a Canada Council grant. The Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective, a non-profit society, is distributing the calendar on the prairies. The Women's Press is doing a press run of 15,000, double the amount of calendars published last year. Advance orders are being taken. Cost is \$4.00 plus postage. To inquire further contact:

Molly McQuarrie
Saskatoon Women's Calendar
Collective,
P.O. Box 385, Sub. P.O. 6,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

or
Canadian Women's Educational
Press
Suite 305, 280 Bloor St. W.
Toronto, Ontario

HELP! Besides our usual plea for money this month we are also asking for more volunteer help for the newsletter. We always appreciate articles, and if you have any ideas, or suggestions, please feel free to phone someone on the editorial committee to discuss it. Even if you don't want to write, we need women to type, do graphics, do layout, help organize, and do addressing. We are meeting now at the Community Aid Building (Ave. F and 21st St.) every Wednesday night at 7:30.

Self-help classes will begin again in October. There will be three classes held at 820 Colony St., ph.- 244-8054.

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30

Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30

Each class will run for four weeks and there is a \$10 charge for each series of four sessions. The next classes will start in November.

feminist writings and the emergence of new directions

This is Part Two of a lecture given at the Public Library last summer, sponsored by the Women's Resource Centre. Part One appeared in the August issue of the Newsletter.

Lynda Holland

Part Two

Woman in Sexist Society: Studies in Power and Powerlessness, was edited by Vivian Gornick and Barbara K. Moran and published in 1971. It traces a varied pattern in essays, plays and interviews of the processes that maintain our place of subjugation in a male-dominated society. In their Introduction the editors state the entrapment, the powerlessness, that women must struggle from and the power that blinds men to the understanding of their role as oppressor. They say, "Women have so long shared acquiescently in society's patriarchal definition of them as beings composed of warmth, passivity, nurturance, inert egos and developed intuition, that they have become the very thing itself and can no more see themselves in that mirror of life that declares independence, aggression, intellectual abstraction and primary response to be the silhouette of human development than can men". (p. xx) for "men suffer from the oppression nearly every bit as much as women do... To act as an oppressor is to have only certain forms of behaviour open to you... it is necessary to suppress or destroy any impulses that cannot be expressed within those prescribed forms of behaviour...to have certain parts of the self, therefore, cut off from the release and growth of full expression..." (p. xxxi)

Woman in Sexist Society deals with woman's place as the product of our culture, the socialization process that teaches us to be submissive, the patriarchy that flourishes at every level of our lives from politics to family. An essay written by Jessie Bernard outlines "The Paradox of the Happy Marriage" which she begins

with a quote by Alexis de Tocqueville written in 1840. He wrote, "In America the independence of woman is irrecoverably lost in the bonds of matrimony: if an unmarried woman is less constrained there than elsewhere, a wife is subjected to stricter obligations...The Americans...require much abnegation on the part of women, and a constant sacrifice of her pleasures to her duties which is seldom demanded of her in Europe...When the time for choosing a husband is arrived at, that cold and stern reasoning power which has been educated and invigorated by the free observation of the world, teaches an American woman that a spirit of levity and independence in the bonds of marriage is a constant subject of annoyance, not of pleasure; it tells her that the amusements of the girl cannot become the recreations of the wife, and that the sources of a married woman's happiness are in the home of her husband. As she clearly discerns beforehand the only road which can lead to domestic happiness, she enters upon it at once, and follows it to the end without seeking to turn back..."

"Nor have the Americans ever supposed that one consequence of democratic principles is the subversion of marital power, or the confusion of the natural authorities in families. They hold that every association must have a head in order to accomplish its object, and that the natural head of the conjugal association is the man. They do not therefore deny him the right of directing his partner; and they maintain, that in the smaller association of husband and wife, as well as in the great social community, the object of democracy is to regulate and

legalize the powers which are necessary, not to subvert all power. This opinion is not peculiar to one sex, and contested by the other; I never observed that the women of America consider conjugal authority as a fortunate usurpation of their rights, nor that they thought themselves degraded by submitting to it. It appeared to me, on the contrary, that they attach a sort of pride to the voluntary surrender of their own will, and make it their boast to bend themselves to the yoke, not to shake it off." (p. 145-146) At least things are now somewhat changed.

Women are now facing with shock the reality of married life and rebelling against the rules and expectations that ask they be obedient submissive servants to their husbands. The myth of marriage is at last beginning to crumble, marriage is being questioned, but there are still many women who accept their situation because they feel they have no alternative, they have no idea how good a relationship can be. Ms. Bernard asks the question, are women "confusing adjustment with happiness?" (p. 156)

She also discusses the double standard that exists in the area of mental health. A woman who is docile, dependent and cautious may be judged well-adjusted, while a woman who is aggressive, strong-willed and daring may be seen to have emotional problems, to be over-reacting, having masculine traits. A quote taken from an article by Inge K. Broverman, "Sex-role Stereotypes and Clinical Judgments of Mental Health," in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, (number 34, February 1970), ably illustrates this point, "... clinicians are more likely to

suggest that healthy women differ from healthy men by being more submissive, less dependent, less adventurous, more easily influenced, less aggressive, less competitive, more excitable in minor crises, having their feelings more easily hurt, being more emotional, more conceited about their appearance, less objective, and disliking mathematics and science. This constellation seems a most unusual way of describing any mature, healthy individual." (p. 158)

In our society, marriage has become a goal. Women are in competition with other women to catch a good mate, yet find that once their objective is achieved, marriage is not the blissful, fulfilling state that we have been led to believe.

In the achievement of this goal, the pressure to be more beautiful and appealing than other women, we accept what Una Stannard has called "The Mask of Beauty". In this essay, she shows how women are manipulated by the cosmetic and fashion industries, conforming "to all the whims... so that they...(will)...look like every other woman." (p. 193) Women are free to look sexy, forced to conform to the present requirements of what turns men on, but still not free to be sexually aggressive. Advertisements tell them that there is something wrong with their body that must be altered. They learn that they must be beautiful in society's terms for a man to love them. From childhood we are taught that boys are full of energy and mischief while girls are pretty. As Ms. Stannard says, "A girl's potential is only physical." (p. 196) "Women are supposed to be bodies, not differentiated complex minds." (p. 197)

THE GONAX KIT

The gonax kit has been developed to enable women to test for V.D. at home. It is still experimental and a letter from the director of the Dept. of Public Health in Regina indicates that there has not as yet been a great demand for the kits. Leaflets on the Gonax Kit are available at the Women's Centre. For further information phone the Provincial Inquiry Centre at 800-667-8755.

The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Newsletter is published monthly. Next month's issue will focus on Working 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:

Mary Conway
Lucie De Blois
Nadia Greschuk
Lynda Holland
Rosemarie Rupp
Maylynn Woo

Graphics by Maylynn Woo

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