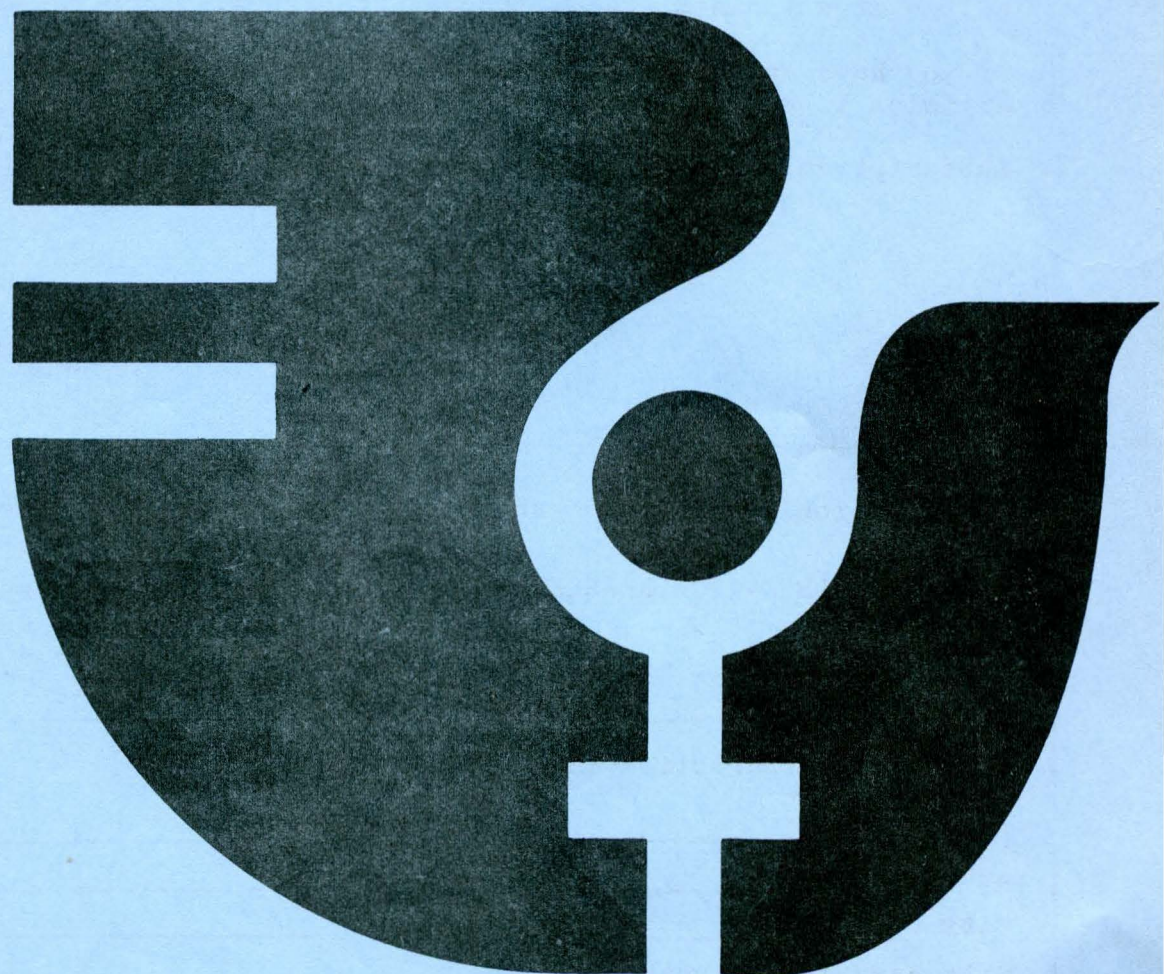


Winnipeg
Women's Liberation
Newsletter

International Women's Year

AUG 75



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The Monthly Newsletter is published by Winnipeg Women's Liberation office at a WOMAN'S PLACE, 143 Walnut Street, phone 786-4581.

If you have any letters, articles, announcements, poems, literary articles to submit, send them to the above address.

Subscription price \$3.00 per annum; single copy price 25¢

Subscription price \$3.00 per annum; single copy price 25¢

WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER

I want to be a subscriber.

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Send gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Gift card should read from

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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M O O N S O N G —

My joy is like a skipping stone
Love sent gracefully across water
 Skipping splashing
Hitting the water, .
 beads of light
 Splash into the air
Then, fall into the warm
 body
Of the pool.

The more that i grow
The less the pains of living hurt me
The less the pains of dying reach me
The more the joy of being holds me

O, tiger sleeping
 under jungled vines
You wake to a stroke
 as gentle as a drop
 of rain
 as strong as thunder
Rise tiger, rise!
 and show your true colour

 Stroke by stroke you grow and
 move
 from your wet jungle lair.
High you stretch toward the wind
And send out your roar
 WOMAN/TIGER
 awakes to life.

courtesy FNS

Letters to the Newsletter Collective must not exceed 300 words. Opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily reflect the policies of this newsletter.

LETTERS

August 7, 1975

Dear Sisters,

Just thought I'd tell you how much I enjoyed your newsletter, and hoped I would continue to get it at my new address.

It is very hard, being a student in a rather tight faculty to keep up with what's going on and to hear of the struggle from the side that's right--rather than the side of the mass media.

So, keep up the good work; and please keep me in touch.

Yours truly

M. Lichter



CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS SYNDICAT DES POSTIERS DU CANADA

AFFILIATIONS: Canadian Labour Congress • Postal Telegraph, Telephone International
Congrès du Travail du Canada • Internationale des Postes, Télégraphes, Téléphones
280 METCALFE STREET, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K2P 1R7 • TEL 236-7238

July 4, 1975

Dear Sister:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a press release put out by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. You will also find a copy of the advertisement referred to in the release.

This advertisement is another indication of the government's attitude towards women which is exemplified both, through its treatment of women in the work force and its treatment of women in advertising.

The union felt the ad was particularly insulting because of the large number of women employees in the Post Office. It is discouraging when the union tries to fight sexual discrimination only to have the government promote sexism.

C.U.P.W. is trying hard this year to win the right to negotiate hiring practices, job classifications, the use of casual labour and the right to negotiate technological change.

In addition, the union has always had as a national policy, equal pay for equal work. This year, we are attempting in our negotiations, to have only one classification for both women and men working in the Post Office. Another one of our demands is 15 weeks paid maternity leave.

Because of the restrictive legislation contained in the Public Service Staff Relations Act, all Public Service unions are prohibited from bargaining these very vital working conditions.

The Post Office will be spending over one billion dollars on its automation program and there are absolutely no guarantees Postal Workers will have any form of job or wage security.

Because of these restrictions in the P.S.S.R.A., all Postal Workers have no protection from the adverse effects of automation. However, the part of the work force which will be most affected by automation contains many women.

The union's 6,000 part-time workers is composed mostly of women. The union has a full-time membership of 16,000. We feel, that once the automation program is implemented, the Post Office will reduce the work force in order to justify its cost and also because many of the jobs will now be done by machine.

Because the government can arbitrarily decide on the new staffing requirements, the union has no guarantee that part-time workers will be kept in the work force. The union is trying to gain some control over this however by demanding that there be guaranteed hours for part-time workers.

The Post Office also regularly uses casual labour and we estimate that over 80 per cent of this work force is composed of women.

The union has a policy, which is also one of our contract demands the law prohibits us from negotiating, that the use of casuals be abolished in the Post Office.

Instead, the Post Office should hire enough full and part-time personnel to ensure there is enough people to adequately handle the work.

Casuals are the most abused work force in the Post Office. The abuse of casuals has been detailed in several Royal Commissions on the Post Office and in many government paid management studies.

Casuals are paid lower wages than regular workers and receive no fringe benefits. Casuals cannot belong to the union and therefore cannot grieve or complain about any mistreatment.

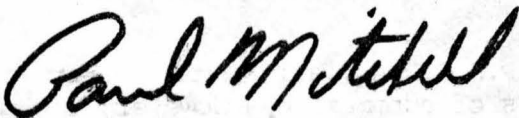
What this creates, is in effect, an exploited docile work force in the Post Office that management can bend to its will anytime it desires.

C.U.P.W. is using the Boycott of the Postal Code as its main weapon in attempting to gain the right to negotiate these working conditions.

We are urging you to also support the Boycott of the Postal Code both, so Postal Workers can gain the right to free Collective Bargaining and to show your displeasure over the government's sexist advertising promoting the use of the Postal Code.

If you would like any further information on the Postal Code Boycott, please contact us.

Yours fraternally



Paul Mitchell
Information Director

PM:im
Encl's.
opeiu 225



Photo by Boris Spremo

We're not "stringing" you along
Use Postal Codes – you'll "thing" our "thong"
Don't be cheeky – you've all got 'em
Please include them on the bottom



Canada
Post

Postes
Canada

CU PW NEWS RELEASE

CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS ■ SYNDICAT DES POSTIERS DU CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 1975

OTTAWA - - - Joe Davidson, President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers today blasted the Post Office Department for placing what he termed as the "most disgusting sexist advertising" he had ever seen in a Toronto publication.

The ad depicts a man painting the Postal Code on the posterior of a woman wearing only a string bikini. There is also a degrading poem with the ad which appeared in the latest edition of the Toronto Men's Press Club magazine, "Byliner".

"This ad is an absolute disgrace. I wonder if this is how the Post Office Department views its women employees? Do they think women are nothing but objects to be exploited?"

"A large majority of the Post Office workforce is female and for the Post Office Department and the Canadian government to depict them in this light is absolutely disgusting," said Mr. Davidson.

"It shows the government's utmost hypocrisy and their true attitude towards International Women's Year. While they publicly assert they are in support of the women's movement they continue to exploit women in their advertising."

- 30 -

Contact: Joe Davidson
(613) 236-7238

for French:
Jean-clude Parrot
(613) 236-7238

a copy of the ad is included. C.U.P.W. has only one copy of the original which it would like to keep. If anyone wants it for reproduction purposes could they please contact Paul Mitchell at 236-7238.

IN THE NEWS

PARRY SOUND (FNS)...A young native woman was raped by sons of the MASON lodge here. First, they pounded salt into her vagina, then they gangbanged her. Nothing was done after the incident since she is a native woman and the men were sons of Masonic Lodge members!

KITCHENER-WATERLOO (FNS)...A Rape Distress centre has been set up in Kitchener-Waterloo to fill the need of victims of sexual assault and/or rape for sympathetic knowledge and support. At a press conference which the group held the seven women presently involved stressed repeatedly that rape is not a sexual crime but is a crime of violence, a primarily aggressive act against women.

Presently, a communications network is being established by centres across Canada, and this group is also working to create liaison with various legal, medical, and counselling agencies.

When questioned as to whether they are going to do anything about the cause rather than the effects of sexual crimes, the women pointed out that they are teaching women how to cope with rape through educationals at high schools, colleges,

and community groups, and also by contact with the media. They want to make people aware of the sexual abuse which is a common occurrence today.

The centre is non-profit and is open to all who feel the need of its services. The service runs on a 24-hour basis.

OTTAWA (FNS)...The delegates to the national conference of rape crises centres have issued the following release in response to Otto Lang's address:

"We fully support Mr. Lang's proposed elimination of the instruction to the jury respecting the necessity of corroboration of the complainant's testimony. A victim's testimony is just as credible as that of an accused.

However, his other recommendations already exist in law as precedent and are, in effect, redundant. To entrench them as statute law only reinforces the attitude that rape is something that should be hidden behind locked doors.

At Mr. Lang's invitation, the conference will be submitting a set of comprehensive and substantial recommendations in the near future.

WINNIPEG...A public meeting to discuss WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK was held at the YWCA on August 7th. Many differing points of view were presented.....while all agreed that practically every woman cooks, cleans, sews, is sexy and a good listener, looks after children, smiles a lot, does the shopping, makes ends meet, decorates, etc. all for no wages a formula that would take women out of the low economic scale even if she were paid for housework was not so easy to devise.

Male reporters were not admitted to the meeting. Their disappointment was evident in the patriarchal press reports and editorials the next day.

WINNIPEG...A copy of "NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE" on "IWY - CATALYST FOR CHANGE" was received by A Woman's Place. The address was given July 14th to the Rotary Club of Brampton, Ontario.

Following are some excerpts from the address.....

"Keeping in mind the necessity to ensure continued improvement of women's position in Canada, I am pleased to announce that a national one-day conference will be held October 15 of this year. The purpose of the conference is to ensure action beyond International Women's Year in those areas of greatest concern to women.

"Several women's organizations and individual women have expressed concern and some objection to the number of women's conferences. Following these representations, I instructed officials to go back to the provinces for further discussion. As a result of their findings, a number of conferences in several provinces were cancelled and vans which are being used as mobile information centres are now travelling during the summer months in the majority of provinces. They are distributing information on the status of women, and on services available to women - both provincial and federal. These vans work in conjunction with local women's and men's organizations in the communities they visit, stimulating discussion and action on women's issues at the local level.

"The idea of a national conference in the fall was also brought up, and some months ago I set up an Advisory Committee, taking representatives from the public at large and several women's groups to examine the desirability and format of such a conference.

"After considerable discussion the Advisory Committee decided it was advisable to hold such a conference.

"The conference will see 300 chief executives gathered at the invitation of the government. Coming from business, industry, labour, the media

and educational fields, these executives will be presented with positive methods of improving the status of women. The principal areas which will be dealt with are those which affect the lives of the greatest number of Canadian women - namely employment and the image of women which is presented in the various media. Also participating will be women who, because of their positions and abilities, can contribute to an understanding of the benefits of change.

"It should be emphasized that this meeting is about women - their present position and specific actions to improve their position. Some may criticize these plans, as it is apparent that the majority of those attending the meeting will be men, because, in the present structures of business, chief executives are predominantly men. But it must be remembered that it is these men who are in the position to affect changes to improve women's status within their own fields.

"This is only part of the plan for continuing action towards women's equality. One measure of the effectiveness of International Women's Year in Canada will be visible in the number and the scope of initiatives begun during this year.

"The government will be assessing its program for International Women's Year to determine whether our objectives have been met and we will publish a report as early in 1976 as possible. I am sure that the women's groups and others who have been involved in International Women's Year will also want to assess the year from this point of view.

"If we settle for only half-way measures towards women's equality, we will all be equally culpable in a silent consent to women's second-class citizenship. To allow this to occur is incompatible with the goals of any nation that seeks an ideal of justice and freedom for all its citizens."

Marc Lalonde is the minister of National Health and Welfare and minister responsible for the status of women.

ORILLIA (FNS)...Cora, the women's liberation bookmobile, faced a few problems here when they stopped for a short time. A man in the town made a complaint to the police that the bookmobile was distributing pornographic material (The Other Woman, and the Birth Control and V.D. Handbooks). The officers concerned found nothing wrong with the material in question, however, the bookmobile was parked illegally in a one-hour parking space and had to move.

The media reported that the bookmobile had been "driven out of town" and a newscaster on CBC, on the national news held up the Lesbian Issue of The Other Woman and then showed a picture of two women making love WHICH WAS NOT IN THE OTHER WOMAN, sighting it as an example of the pornographic material carried on the bus. Once again the patriarchal press spreads its lies.

TORONTO (FNS)...All six offices of a Toronto women's building were broken into on the night of June 17. The Other Woman, Wages for Housework, Women's Information Centre, Women's Artmobile, Tomorrow's Eve(theatre) and Inner-Visions (video) all had locks on their offices broken. No one knows how the intruders gained entrance to the house itself.

On Wednesday morning, it was found that all rooms had things moved around in them. Those with filing cabinets had the drawers left still half-open. Small change and a few cheques were taken from all the offices. The Artmobile office had some herbal tea dumped from a jar into the coffee percolator. Nothing of importance was taken although the film group and Wages for Housework had expensive video equipment. The Other Woman's typewriter was also left untouched. However, the Women's Information Centre was vandalized and files were removed.

A meeting held Wednesday afternoon with four of the groups involved decided not to report the matter to the police. They agreed that it could only have been the police themselves who had been "checking" the building for drugs and useful information.

THUNDER BAY (FNS)...Largely in response to the Women's Movement in North America, a Men's Movement has been evolving during the last few years. Beginning with an examination of the Women's Movement from the perspective of men's social roles, it is directed to helping men come to understand the wide range of influences on their behaviour and their relationship with women and other men.

A conference is being planned here and will include a series of speakers (Warren Farrell, author of The Liberated Man), seminars, symposia, and workshops.

The focus of the planned conference will be on the theme of the male role, the socialization of the male, men's C-R, and egalitarian relations between the sexes.

The contact for this conference is Brahm Friedlander, R.R.#1, Kaminitiqua, Ontario.

WINNIPEG...Highlights from the July 21st Business Meeting held at A Woman's Place.

Because of the success of the May 10th March day of protest over government inaction on key issues of concern to women, both Toronto and Saskatoon have asked us to participate in another national day of protest--October 25th. This is the date chosen by the Liberal government to sum up its "achievements" in International Women's Year.

Woman's Place decided to sponsor a march and rally culminating in workshops on the various demands that we'll be making. Needed are workshop leaders, people to telephone, make placards, etc. Call Woman's Place if you wish to help.

Two new groups are in the process of forming and meeting at Woman's Place. See ANNOUNCEMENTS for further details.

Official and unofficial minutes hopefully researched will provide an important and interesting meeting planned for September 8th. The discussion is on the International Women's Year Conference held in Mexico.

Concern was expressed about the inability to advertise A Woman's Place more widely due to the house being open so little as the result of not enough volunteers to staff the house.

A fund-raising social is planned for sometime in September. Watch for more details and plan on supporting us while enjoying yourself!

Some great T-shirts were silk-screened for our use and enjoyment as well as for sale as a fund-raising project. WONDER WOMAN AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION designs are available for only \$4.00 adult and \$2.00 children.

WINNIPEG...Pat Oliver from Toronto is making a tour of Canada and testing for support of a National Women's Resource Centre. Her concept of the Centre would be archival as well as an informational service particularly for trading and sharing--especially in briefs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING FOR A NEW T-SHIRT?

A Woman's Place has them!!! As a fund-raising project some great T-shirts were silk-screened for our own enjoyment. Available are Wonder Women designs and a Women's Liberation design. For only \$4.00 each (\$2.00 children's) support this worthy cause.

MANITOBA LEGAL HANDBOOK

Revised edition 1975 available for only 50¢ from A Woman's Place

ABORTION ACTION COALITION

A Woman's Place is eager to have all of those women who belonged to the above coalition to come to our aid. Please send us a letter or postcard or telephone us. Keep in touch by sending us your subscription to the WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER.

SOCIAL AND SOCIABLE! YOU BET!

Whet your fun appetite for a social sometime during the third week of September. All details forthcoming!

JUST WOMEN FOLK - A RETREAT FOR WOMEN
(and kids)

Join with other women for a relaxing and fun time in 100 acres of secluded woods near Almonte (near Ottawa). We have a rustic log cabin for our gathering place and tents for sleep and quiet times. Bring your own food, drink (beer is there), and sleeping bags. Come and stay for as short or as long as you want but, register in advance so we will be expecting you. The Retreat is run on a cooperative basis with shared responsibilities and shared skills. If you would like to become a member, the cost is \$10.00 per month per woman or if you would like to just visit at specific times the cost is \$2.00 per night per woman. There is no charge for your children. Transportation can be supplied from Ottawa upon request (there will be a gas charge) Please do not...1. bring male children over 12 years of age or....2. bring your animals unless absolutely necessary.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME
ADDRESS
.
.
.
. PHONE

I wish to become a member and enclose 12 post dated cheques for \$10.00 per month per woman (please let us know when you will be using the Retreat). OR I wish to register to use the Retreat on these dates:

.
inclusive, at \$2.00 per night per woman and enclose payment in full.
Number of children ___ ages ___ ___
sex

Return to Gail Toy, 33 Irving Ave., Ottawa, Ontario. Confirmation of registration and a map will be forwarded within two weeks of receipt of Registration.

DAY OF PROTEST OCTOBER 25th

October 25th is the date chosen by the federal government to sum up its "achievements" in International Women's Year. Winnipeg women will stage another national day of protest over government inaction on key issues of concern to women.

Woman's Place will sponsor a march and rally culminating in workshops on the various demands that we will be making. We need workshop leaders, people to telephone, make placards, etc. Call Woman's Place at 786-4581 to say you will help!

TWO NEW GROUPS

1. Women new to Women's Liberation wanting to rap and/or find out more about the movement are forming a group. If interested call Tula at 786-4581.
2. A rap group for single, divorced, separated or separating women-- especially those with children will begin in September. We have many requests from women wanting to meet others in similar circumstances. If you know of someone who needs such a group have them call Ellen at 774-5080.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR MEETING to discuss the Conference held in Mexico. This important and interesting gathering is planned for September 8th and hopefully there will be copies available of researched official and unofficial minutes of the Conference.

HELP!

If you have a few hours a week please volunteer to staff the house! Even a few hours a month will be of enormous assistance.

ACTION

More pressure must be brought to bear on your Member of Parliament to have abortion legislation removed from the criminal code.

A B O R T I O N

L E T T E R

W R I T I N G

C A M P A I G N !

A group of women are initiating a strong campaign in Winnipeg South Centre (Dan McKenzie, MP). We hope to follow up in September with a petition campaign and need volunteers to take around petitions.

If you can help call Kathy Thursday evenings after 9:00 p.m. at 943-6739 or Ellen at 774-5080.

Encourage your friends in Winnipeg South Centre to write McKenzie in addition to writing your own MP. Here is a copy of the informational letter being sent:

Dear

Recently, a petition containing 1,000,000 signatures was presented to the federal government. It demanded that abortion legislation be changed so that abortions could be performed only if a mother's life were endangered. This would prevent legal abortion in cases of rape and known or suspected fetal abnormality, as well as in cases in which the prospective mother is mentally or physically unable to cope with the birth of a child. Under present legislation, abortion is allowed in the above cases.

The 1,000,000 signatures have made an impression on our parliamentarians. Justice Minister Otto Lang described the petition as "obviously very persuasive" and said "the government will soon decide whether to hold a full inquiry on the touch issue" (Winnipeg Tribune May 30, 1975). Our own MP Dan McKenzie, is inclined to think that the anti-abortion groups represent majority opinion, although a Gallup Poll issued in Oct/74 found that 62% of Canadians favoured letting abortion be a private matter between a woman and her doctor. Please help convince him of the real majority opinion by sending him a letter on this important issue. He is a conscientious MP and your letter will make an impression on him.

Before you write, please consider the following points on this issue:

1. Present abortion legislation may sound good, but its im-

plementation has resulted in many inequities.

2. Only 260 out of 1300 accredited hospitals in Canada have established therapeutic abortion committees--i.e. only 260 hospitals will perform abortions. Thus a woman's accessibility to abortion depends on location and finances.
3. Catholic hospitals, although largely maintained with public funds, have not established therapeutic abortion committees.
4. Current legislation permits abortion if continued pregnancy could be likely to endanger the mother's "life or health". The word "health", undefined in the law, has been variously interpreted, depending on the therapeutic abortion committee.
5. Because of the inequities mentioned above, and other difficulties, doctors themselves, through the Canadian Medical Association, have requested that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code, and that it be treated as "a private medical matter between doctor and patient like any other surgical procedure." (Winnipeg Tribune, June 25, 1975).

In my opinion, abortion legislation should be changed along the lines recommended by the C.M.A. rather than those suggested by the anti-abortion groups in their petition. Surely we should show more compassion for the child who may be born unwanted, and perhaps uncared for or severely handicapped, than we should for the fetus. A study of child abuse in Denver, Colorado revealed that 50% of abused children resulted from admitted unwanted pregnancies. There is also the fact of illegal abortion. Restrictive laws which limit a woman's access to legal abortion create a flourishing illegal trade.

Abortion is not a pleasant subject. If we lived in Utopia I would glad to forget about it. Unfortunately, sometimes in our society it seems to provide the best solution. I hope you agree.

Most of all, I hope you will write to Dan McKenzie and encourage your friends in this area to write, also. His constituency includes St. James-Assiniboia, Tuxedo-Charleswood (west of Lanark), western Winnipeg (bounded by Ellice, Maryland and the Assiniboine River), and Armstrong's Point (East Gate--West Gate). Write to: Mr. Dan McKenzie, MP, The Parliament Bldgs., Ottawa. No postage required. Be sure to include your own address.

Thank you for reading this. If you wish more information on this letter-writing campaign, please phone: 774-5080.

Yours sincerely,

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

Women's Theatre
presents

The **S**even
AGES
of **W**oman

International Women's Year

SPECIAL of sketches, songs and
dramatizations

DATE: Monday, August 25, 1975

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: Room 211B
YWCA, 447 Webb Place

A theatre night for all to enjoy!
Bring your friends.

NOTE: Volunteers wanted for this
event and for future parti-
cipation so that lively and
active Women's Theatre can
go ahead. Tremendous way to
learn about the women's
movement! Give Millie Lamb
a call at 774-4180.



