



WINNIPEG WOMEN'S LIBERATION  
NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1974

The Monthly Newsletter is published by Winnipeg Women's Liberation, office at A Woman's Place, 143 Walnut St., 876-4581. Subscription price is \$3.00 a year and single copy price is 25¢.

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

## C O N T E N T S

Calendar	1
Letters	2
A Woman's Place News	4
The Women's Movement on Campus	6
Other Groups Around Town	6
Features of the Month:	
Women's Press Conference	8
Random Thoughts of a Housewife	10
Virtue Killing -- Inez Garcia	10
More Politics - More Assessing	11
Equal Portrayal of Sexes Urged	12
Advertisement:	
Crisis Housing	13
The Arts:	
Poetry by Patricia Schwitek	15

## D E C E M B E R   E V E N T S

## WEEK OF December 1 - 7

Monday, Dec. 2 at 8:00 p.m. at Woman's Place - Penny Wasabourn from the Women's Studies Faculty at the U of M will be speaking.

Thurs., Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at U. of M. - UMSU building, talk and discussion on "Politics and Strategy of Women's Liberation."

## WEEK OF December 8 - 14

Monday, Dec. 9 at 8:00 p.m. at Woman's Place general and coordinators' meeting.

## WEEK OF December 15 - 21

Monday, Dec. 16 at 8:00 p.m. at Woman's Place a relaxed evening of discussion and refreshments. Millie Lamb, high school English teacher will lead a discussion on the book "THE DIVINERS" by well-known Canadian woman novelist.

## WEEK OF December 22 - 28

Monday, Dec. 23 no meeting at Woman's Place

Friday, Dec. 27 First day of Women's Press Conference in Saskatoon.

Saturday, Dec. 28 Second day of Women's Press Conference

## WEEK OF December 29 - 31

Sunday, Dec. 29 Third day of Women's Press Conference

Monday, Dec. 30 at 8:00 p.m. mailout of Newsletter at a Woman's Place.

# Letters

Dear Sisters -

Belatedly, here is my cheque to cover the copies of WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER for the past year, and for the current year. I believe the nl was sent to me as a result of my attending your Open House on Victor Street over a year ago, and only on receiving your recent note was I aware that I should have been paying for it.

The balance of the cheque is my contribution toward keeping A Woman's Place going. Another cause absorbs what free time I have, or I would be taking part in some of your activities there. My interests, enthusiasm and concerns have been with the Feminist movement for about forty years, and I am most grateful to the younger women of this generation who are so ably articulating liberation for all of us. The newsletter has kept me informed of what is going on in Winnipeg, and for this I thank the editor(s) and all contributors.

With sincere appreciation toward those sisters who are trying to build, and keep alive, A Woman's Place.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hughes

\* \* \*

Dear Sisters:

The following is my reply to your "Politics of The Women's Movement" article which was featured in your November issue:

An Open Letter to Sister Sue White:

As a woman who appreciates A WOMAN'S PLACE and uses its facilities from time to time, I invite you to reconsider your "TIME FOR ASSESSMENT" (November issue) and in a structured and democratic manner (remember you said these were lacking) help change the things that can be changed and accept graciously the slow-moving things that are difficult to change or those things for the greater benefit of all are better left unchanged.

While no individual or organization is above criticism, appointing yourself as assessor and efficiency expert hit me in the gut. Some of your points are partly valid but I for one do not see A WOMAN'S PLACE as a source of endless highs for the media. Your claim that the media is uninterested is refuted by the fact that from time to time there is a request from the media for information or a speaker for a radio or other public affairs program. Perhaps I am blind but I have not seen the "organizational chaos" you speak of and co-ordination is only a culmination of the efforts put out by the women who use A WOMAN'S PLACE (don't exclude yourself). What could possibly be wrong with a little "group therapy"? Most informal organizations thrive on it! Or do you want this place so formal that the sterility of it all will keep women afraid to speak up and thus dominated by the very things from which they should be liberated.

In looking around at WOMAN'S PLACE I have noted that there are co-ordinators who see to the day-to-day running of the house; that there is a log kept of calls and that the resources here are immense. In other words at least some of the solutions you suggest are already in use.

I will not accept your conclusion that "it is too late" and that "the alternative for a Woman's Place is

to roll over and die". A WOMAN'S PLACE HAS MUCH GOING FOR IT AND I for one will ROLL OVER AND CHEER FOR THE MANY WOMEN WHO MAKE THIS PLACE POSSIBLE!

Sincerely,

Julie Paquette

\* \* \*

Sisters:

I would like to comment briefly on two articles from last month's newsletter.

First of all the OFY Summer Project Reports is one of the most disappointing articles I've seen so far. The smug report from A Woman's Place was better left unwritten. The list of accomplishments is so brief that any one person (with a little help on the newsletter) could easily have done the job. Assuming mundane tasks not worth mentioning might involve another woman's full time; that still leaves five paid women who did what? Improve staff relations? I think next year we should look at defining specific projects for women working at the house and including those in the grant proposal or not bother having a house proposal at all. My tax dollar could be better spent!

The write up from the Health Collective was equally disappointing. Even though that group disassociated itself from Women's Liberation this summer, their booklet is a valuable contribution to all women. Are we going to allow it to remain at the publisher's forever?

The second article which aroused my ire was Sue White's "TIME FOR ASSESSMENT". Although I personally agree with many of her concerns, particularly the lack of structure and the lack of focus found at A WOMAN'S PLACE, I feel many of her criticisms are not based on fact. I don't know about the past years but it is certainly my impression

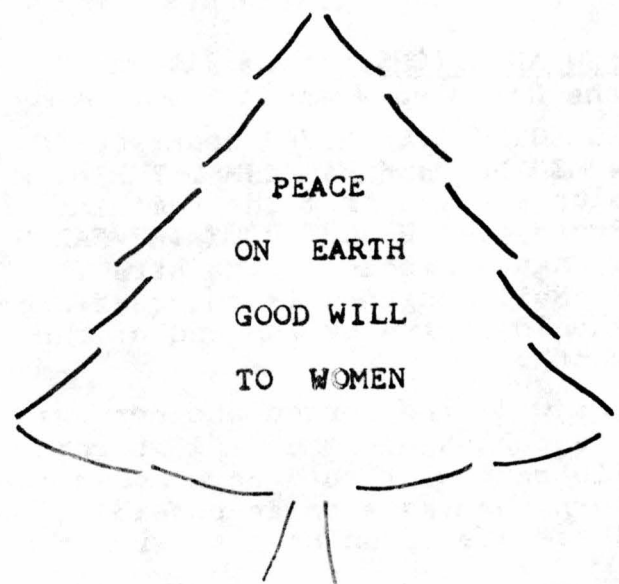
that such things as letters and enquiries are being answered quickly under our present house staff. Since we have almost no volunteers, who can answer the phone incompetently? We do in fact have a co-ordinating committee. To assume a lack of concern over the problems faced at the house can only be based on having attended very, very few meetings. So, too, the "group-therapy" criticism (re Ann Landers sessions) is unfounded in my experience. Even at CR groups, as Sue pointed out, people are unwilling to talk about personal neuroses.

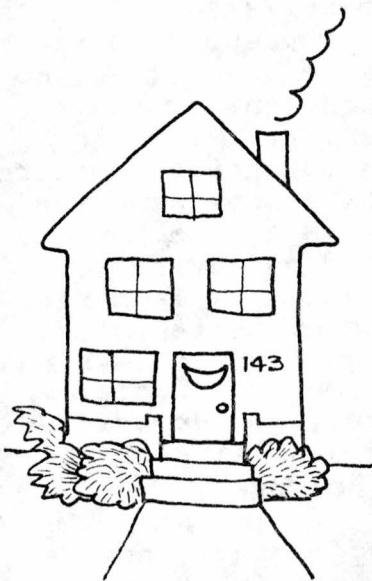
Besides these judgements, however, my basic question related to this article is: who is this nebulous "A WOMAN'S PLACE" who should stand up and represent the Women's Liberation Movement? Isn't it each and every one of us? Why do strong women come to A Woman's Place, get frustrated and leave? Why do women continually make suggestions as "outsiders" on how we can improve the centre so that it's good enough for them to return? Why don't they stay and work for those improvements which they think would make A WOMAN'S PLACE the focus in Winnipeg we all believe it should be?

In sisterhood,

Equally Frustrated

\* \* \*





# a woman's place news

WOMEN'S CALENDARS -- they have arrived. It's yours for \$4.00 (plus 15¢ postage if you want us to mail it to you).

The calendar, called Herstory 1975 is over 100 pages long with a date page for each week and the opposing pages containing a wealth of information on Canadian women as well as photographs, graphics and poetry.

THREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS from the Canadian Women's Educational Press are also for sale. For \$2.00 each are FRESH FISH...and CHIPS or MANDY and the FLYING MAP and available for \$1.25 is THE TRAVELS of Ms BEAVER a story of the search for adventure and new experiences.

NEW ADDITIONS to the library from the Canadian Women's Press are:

ECLECTIC EVE; NEVER DONE; CUBAN WOMEN NOW and MARXISM & FEMINISM plus a novel from the Feminist Press (US) DAUGHTER OF THE EARTH by Agnes Smedley. The Rita MacNeil Songbook is on order and should arrive by the end of the month.

(PS will the person who borrowed the copies of Women - A Journal of Liberation at the Opera House return them as soon as possible. These are often used for reference)



SPEAKER'S BUREAU -- A brisk pace has developed in this collective.

During radio station CKRC's week-long open line Look at Women in October Ellen Krueger ably represented women with Gary Scherbain as moderator. Three Cheers for Ellen's fantastic confrontation with Bobby Riggs. Ellen, women loved you! Ellen also spoke on a panel at the University of Manitoba on Nov. 6th; on Nov. 4th she was taped in an interview by Donna Martin of radio station CFRW which was aired the morning of Nov. 18th. Ellen has another speaking engagement on Nov. 26th. We have requests for speakers for two more functions later in November and yet another for January.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR --

At the last co-ordinating committee it was decided that Women's Liberation would work together with other groups on sponsoring a festival for International Women's Year about women and their art. Ellen Krueger and Linda Taylor have been attending meetings with the YWCA, the Action Committee, University Women and others.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 AM at the YWCA Women's Centre. All endorsing groups will send representatives. In addition, other interested women, who wish to commit themselves to a festival may attend. (continued on next page)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (con't)

We intend to invite authors (M. Laurence, Atwood, etc) poets, singers (St. Marie, Collins), bands, theatre groups, film makers, fine artists, etc. Priorities will be determined soon. The festival would probably last four days and be in June or September. Workshops in all areas would be given. If you have ideas and/or want to get involved come to the meeting or call Women's Place. We will count on involvement of many of you if we can get this off the ground.

*Monday  
Meetings  
at  
A Woman's  
Place*

December 2nd 8:00 PM our speaker will be PENNY WASABOURN, one of the teachers with the WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES at the University of Manitoba. A Mirror in Women's Studies is now available in the Faculty of Arts. The two basic courses are Women's Studies I and Women's Studies II. Other courses deal more specifically with Women's relationship to History, Psychology and Religion and the family. Penny will be able to tell us how the classes are going and what has been the reaction of students to the class.

December 16th 8:00 PM we will be having a book discussion of THE DIVINERS by author Margaret Laurence, the well-known Canadian woman novelist. The discussion will be led by Millie Lamb, high school English teacher. Join us

for a relaxed evening of discussion and refreshments. Copies of THE DIVINERS should be available at most libraries and at the Liberation Book Co-op, 725 Osborne. Also, it has not been printed in paperback.

December 30th at 8:00 PM there will be a mail-out of the newsletter and a business meeting.

December 9th, 8:00 PM general and co-ordinators meeting.

December 23rd - no meeting

THE METAPHYSICAL group will continue to meet on Mondays at 8:00 through to and up to December 9th.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Dump It!*

If you have bottles, tin cans and newsprint lying around your home NOW is your chance to take part in recycling these useful waste materials which normally end up in garbage cans.

Fort Rouge is the pilot area to test the feasibility of a recycling depot. The depot is situated on a vacant lot between Mulvey and Fleet Street, on the east side of Osborne Street South. It consists of three huge containers which will hold tin cans, newsprint (bundled) and glass, respectively.

The depot is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

HELP MAKE THIS PILOT PROJECT A SUCCESS!

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Management Division of the Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources & Environmental Management (sponsors of the project) at 489-4511, extension 271.

*Call Me Ms*

# The Women's Movement on Campus

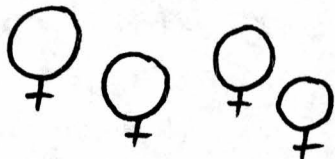
The primary activity of this University of Manitoba group is still the introductory series of weekly discussions. Upcoming topics are:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 28 | Women in Literature                         |
| Dec. 5  | Politics and Strategy of Women's Liberation |

Attendance so far has been not as good as expected but about thirty women and four men have participated so far.

Action-oriented activities are now in the planning stages. An investigation into campus day care has been initiated and when completed we hope to work for expanded facilities if a real need is shown to exist (we think it will be). A letter to all Faculty Student Councils reminding them that 1975 is International Women's Year and urging them to direct some of their energy and money into women oriented events at the Festival of Life and Learning in February, is being distributed. As well, we hope to present some ideas of our own regarding possible festival programs to UMSU. CR groups are planned for the near future and a party is in the offing.

Anyone with suggestions or questions about this group should contact Diana Everatt, 786 1289 or Sandy Lechner 269 1245.



# Other Groups Around Town

## YWCA WOMEN'S CENTRE

Legal Clinic - Staffed by women lawyers and law students, the Clinic will try to answer any legal concerns or questions you may have. If a lawyer is needed the Clinic will refer you to an appropriate person. The Legal Clinic will be open every Monday evening from 8-10 p.m. This program has been in operation since Oct. 7th. No appointment necessary; just drop by or phone 943-0381. SERVICES FREE!!

## Regular groups are:

- Single Mothers
- Women Alone (for mature women)
- Consciousness Raising

## New Programs:

Open Marriage - a six-week discussion series beginning January 20 at YWCA. Discussion leader will be Prof. Barry Newman of the University of Winnipeg Counselling Department. Call the Y for further information.

You, Your Health and Your Body - beginning Feb. 19 for five weeks. Topics:

1. Liking Your Body.
2. All About Birth Control and Family Planning.
3. Breast Cancer, Vaginal Disorders and Venereal Diseases.
4. Orgasm - Facts and Falacies.
5. Sex and Sexuality

Call the Y for further information and to register.

FOR MEN ONLY - a discussion group for men to examine your feelings and attitudes about the role of men in today's world. If you are interested in taking part in such a group



call the YWCA Women's Centre and leave your name and phone number.

For more information or for general counselling call the centre at 943-0381 or drop in Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday evenings till 9 p.m.

#### MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES -

After a slump this group has become revitalized with brand new headquarters at CLIFTON SCHOOL, courtesy of Winnipeg School Div. #1. There is much to be done and are asking: Where are you? If you need help or are willing to help call Helen or Roy Jenner, 253-4107 or Liliias or Jack Shannon 489-2133.

WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT MONTH FOR SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION FROM THE "EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COUNCIL"

The MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL DISORDERS will hold their regular monthly meeting Thursday Dec. 5th, 8:00 pm at the Family Bureau, 264 Edmonton St.

DASCH (Direct Action in Support for Community Homes) has some exciting developments in connection with retarded children and adults. Myer or Irene Kurnarsky at 489-9087 will be happy to take your calls.

\* \* \* \* \*

A note of appreciation to Sister Phyllis Olin for the use of her typewriter without which the newsletter could not be produced.

If anyone has a typewriter to donate or sell we would like to hear from you.

#### WINNIPEG FOOD PRICES COMMITTEE

The Consumers Day of Protest and Concern on November 9th indicated a response that was overwhelmingly supportive and enthusiastic. A petition brought 1400 signatures in an extremely short time; not having anticipated this very large response, there were not enough forms to continue the petition throughout the afternoon.

A meeting was held Nov. 13th. Members of the Committee are to meet with Mr. Schreyer Nov. 21st and an appointment will be sought for a delegation to meet with Mr. Richardson at an early date.

Several sub-committees were struck including a Research and Education Committee. Many proposals for future action were discussed.

At the Nov. 13th meeting it was decided that endorsing organizations and members of the public would be asked to continue signing and circulating the petition, as well as writing letters to elected representatives.

BE PART OF THIS COMMITTEE and attend the next meeting on Nov. 26 at the YWCA. Because this newsletter will not reach you until this date or later call Cathy Taylor, 943-6739; Ann Thorne 582-7133; Linda Taylor, 475-4777, Randi Ahoff, 284-4582; Millie Lamb, 774-4180; Julie Paquette 489-2282. Volunteers are needed and ideas are welcome.

## *Calling All Women*

Tell us about your organization if it is specifically womanly, womanly inclined or of interest to women. Our newsletter will also be happy to make announcements about your organizations -- all you have to do is give us the details before the 15th of each month for notices of events for the following month.

# Women's Press Conference

by Rita Moir

Saskatoon, Sask

December 27-29

## NEWS EXCHANGE AMONG WOMEN

It seems the women's movement in Canada could be stronger if we knew what our sisters across the country are doing, what issues are important in our respective communities, what action we take and how we are successful.

Besides personal contact and conferences, we look to the press to keep us informed, but often this communication is out of date, sporadic, or leaves questions unanswered. A prime example of this poor news coverage is Justice Minister Otto Lang's recent move to block funds to the Saskatoon Women's Centre due to their abortion counselling. Although the Saskatchewan press covered the issue thoroughly, most women in other provinces found two-inch stories on p. 47 of their local paper.

We are proposing women's press conference in Saskatoon, Dec. 27-29th for the purpose of establishing a news exchange among women's newsletters and papers in Canada; we think a cohesive women's press would strengthen and further women's struggles by keeping us all informed.

Resource people at the conference would represent areas such as health care, sports, education, women's publishers, and many more issues that we cover in our newsletters.

Ann Harvey of SOURCE: Alberta Women's Provincial Newsletter and myself of UP: Lethbridge Women's Place Newsletter are organizing the conference and we have mailed out 120 invitations and agendas to women's centres, newsletters, papers and individual women across Canada, interested in communication.

We are hitching around Western Canada following up the mailing and have met with really positive response. This trip to Winnipeg has been one of many places where women have supported our work and want to make it to Saskatoon. We had hoped to visit all points in Eastern Canada, but time, finances and weather have limited our eastern-most trip to the Thunder Bay Northern Women's Centre.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

We have hop-scotched (3,000 miles in one month!) to Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, and Thunder Bay; now we are sticking our thumbs into the brisk Prairie wind for Brandon, Saskatoon, Vancouver and interior British Columbia.

It's exciting to move across Canada meeting great women and getting this amazing picture of what work women are doing. It has really lifted us out of the isolation we both felt in our home towns.

COINCIDING CONFERENCES

Coinciding with the women's press conference in Saskatoon is an alternate press conference and meeting of campus papers. We organized it this way so all three groups can meet together for issue-oriented sessions such as "The Food Industry in Canada" and for technical sessions such as newswriting and photography. Some time is available for the three presses to meet to discuss what common issues we work on and how we can get that news out to more people, since we all act as alternate news systems to the commercial established press.

But the point of the conference is to meet as women's press, and what time we spend with alternate and campus papers will depend on what we decide as a group in Saskatoon.

SEE YOU IN SASKATOON!

It has been incredibly good for us to meet women all over Canada. It will be most energizing for us all to meet in Saskatoon to learn skills together, share information, and become a more united body nationally.

For a complete conference agency, travel details, list of resource people and more, call Sarah Berger at Country Reels, 774 0045 or ask for her at The Woman's Place, 786 4581. You are welcome to drop in at 143 Walnut Street to see all the particulars.

Hope to see you in Saskatoon!



Don't buy AEROSOL SPRAY CANS!

It has recently been revealed that aerosol spray cans contain an inert substance called freon which is endangering our atmosphere. The U.S. gov't has formed an emergency committee of scientists who say that unless production of freon is stopped immediately, all of the ozone in our atmosphere will be destroyed in ten or fifteen years! Ozone protects the earth from the sun's ultra violet rays which are destructive to life. It's a matter of life or death for our planet.

PLEASE  
HELP!

We can help by not buying aerosol spray cans and by writing to our local M.P.'s, the Minister of consumer affairs, and the Minister of the environment, and urging that legislation be passed that will ban the production of freon immediately.

# Random Thoughts of a Housewife by Sheila Harwood

What is Women's Lib? Is it the "bra" burners, the Lesbians, those who talk just to hear themselves, or is it the average woman who keeps house and raises a family? The young, the old or a mixture?

Take the group of disgruntled women who went on a spree of "bra burnings" in public. They became, to a lot of us, a group of ridiculous radicals to be laughed at for freeing a bouncing bustline. To some of us, a case of sheer exhibitionism. No one really cared except some of the male population who figured - Oh Boy! no straps in the way.

The Lesbians, a fringe group of society, have declared they are "liberated" because they are openly doing (as the saying goes) "their own thing".

Then there are the women who talk a lot but seldom make sense. I find a lot of them belong to the 40-60 age group. They only hear what pleases them and they become boring in the extreme, spouting catch phrases and mouthing platitudes to justify themselves. The young adults who hear the biased remarks are very often confused, taking sexual freedom or promiscuity as the "in" thing in being liberated. Very often they become the aggressors in their dealings with the opposite sex.

Are these groups really members of Women's Lib? I don't believe

so. They are the extremes which are in the news. They do not give a true picture of what the movement stands for. The only thing they have contributed is bringing to the attention of the public that there really is a Women's Lib. while the attention is focused on them, the truly dedicated members are working quietly and with dignity to advance their ideals.

You ask, what are or is true Women's Lib.? Well to me, it is women from all walks of life, working diligently for equality in jobs and wages for women and not to be discriminated against because of the old axiom "It's a man's world."

## 'Virtue' killing: woman jailed

MONTEREY, Calif. (CP) — Inez Garcia was sentenced Monday to five years to life in prison for slaying a man she said helped to rape her. Feminist supporters protested the sentence and shouted: "Free Inez!"

The prosecution which claimed that no rape took place considered the case an "open and shut homicide," said Deputy District Attorney Arthur Braundrick. The killing arose, he said, out of a fight between Mrs. Garcia and a friend, her co-defendant, with the two men over narcotics. They were arrested and charged with the murder soon after the incident.

Women in the crowded courtroom screamed in anger when Judge Stanley Lawson imposed sentence. They cited the case as an example of how women are treated in rape cases.

Mrs. Garcia, 30, was convicted of second-degree murder Oct. 4 in the slaying of Miguel Jimenez of Soledad, Calif. She admitted on the stand that she killed Jimenez, saying he had held her down while another man raped her.

The mother of an 11-year-old son, Mrs. Garcia dismayed her lawyer attorney and shocked the jury by proclaiming from the witness stand: "I killed the son of a bitch and I wish I had killed the other."

Her defence rested on the contention that she was defending her virtue and was under

great emotional strain after the rape.

One woman was removed from the courtroom during the shouting, which erupted after Judge Lawson said of Mrs. Garcia: "I think this woman is dangerous, frankly."

During her three-day trial, Mrs. Garcia testified she was forced to strip and was then raped by Luis Castillo, 17, while Jimenez held her. She said that moments afterward she killed Jimenez with a rifle.

"I killed the guy and I missed Luis, but I mean to kill him too. The only thing is that I'm sorry I missed Luis."

Castillo was not charged

# More Politics

- More

Assessing  
by Joanne Richardson

I am writing this in an attempt to reply to certain contentions Sue White has made in an article printed in last month's newsletter.

To begin with I would like to clear up one or two points concerning the basic running of A Woman's Place. Letters, phone messages and people who drop in are now being systematically dealt with. Any incoming mail is now immediately answered, with the person who answers it marking on the original letter the date that it was answered along with her signature and then placing it in a file for future reference. With respect to telephone messages, all calls are now being recorded and filed. As for dealing with women who drop by the house, people should realize that for every woman who feels she has not been adequately treated there are many more who feel otherwise. Admittedly, the putting off of even one woman is deplorable and the staff will do everything in their power to ensure that this will not happen again.

Insofar as structure is concerned, the co-ordinating committee now consists of the paid staff, representatives from various groups ie speakers bureau, newsletter collective, out-reach group etc., and any other interested women. This committee meets once a month on every third Monday and the meeting is open to any woman who wishes to attend. The problem of A Woman's Place does not seem to be so much a lack of structure

and co-ordination as a lack of energetic and concerned women. This brings me to my major point.

I feel that it is extremely important to examine the contention that "A Woman's Place, its formation and direction has served to castrate Women's Liberation in Winnipeg." If it is in fact true that A Woman's Place has castrated Winnipeg Women's Liberation it is largely because the majority of women seem to have assumed that the paid staff (soon to be only three people) should be responsible for political organization as well as the basic duties involved in keeping the house open. The staff at A Woman's Place is NOT Winnipeg Women's Liberation-- they are merely a small handful of feminists who are kept busy enough with the day to day operational problems of the house without having to worry about being solely responsible for the political direction of the entire movement. A couple of years ago it was not unusual for the attendance at Winnipeg Women's Liberation meetings to be in the forties (and these were not just people who happened to drift in and out--they were concerned and dedicated women), then with the formation of A Woman's Place attendance at meetings dropped to nine or ten people on a good day. As most people know, the meetings eventually became such a joke that for awhile they were stopped altogether. (Imagine how delightful it was to have to answer the phone and tell some new woman that the Winnipeg Women's Liberation meetings had been cancelled due to lack of interest). Surely the reason for this could not be that women just suddenly lost all interest in an organized feminist struggle. What seems to have happened is that women felt that due to the sudden appearance of a house along with a paid staff everything would be taken care of and that their dedication and enthusiasm had somehow become superfluous. Hence there quickly developed a state of affairs which was terribly frustrating and depressing for everyone concerned-- the staff, naturally not being able

to handle everything, began to feel that they were letting everyone down and consequently became overly sensitive and resentful of other members of Women's Liberation while the other members of Women's Liberation felt frustrated and annoyed because things were not happening and tended to take it out on the staff--who, it must be admitted, seemed to offer a rather convenient scapegoat. The solution to this condition will only be found when women realize and accept the fact that they as intelligent and thinking individuals have a personal responsibility to Winnipeg Women's Liberation as an organized political force and are once more willing to direct their energies toward working together to bring about a true feminist revolution.

## Epilogue

by Sue White

Having read Joanne's letter I can only say that I would corroborate all that she has said. My natural tendency (often known as cowardice) to avoid naming names left the letter open to misinterpretation by those who would wish to use it for their own political designs. Joanne's elucidation is, I feel in keeping with the spirit of the letter and yet clarifies it. I must add that no reference in the letter was directed at the paid staff of A Woman's Place.

\* \* \* \* \*

Women have discovered that they cannot rely on man's chivalry to give them justice--just as men before them found out that we cannot be saved by other people-- we must save ourselves.

Helen Keller

# Equal portrayal of sexes urged

By CAROL COLLIVER  
Tribune Staff Writer

The news media should begin a policy of equality in portrayals of men and women. Mary Gusella, director of the International Women's Year Secretariat, said Tuesday in Winnipeg.

Ms. Gusella spoke on Sex Stereotypes and the Media to a meeting of the Canadian Public Relations Society of Manitoba.

"Let's not perceive all men as having career, status and authority, and all women as being help-mates and adjuncts to a male world," she said.

Writers and producers should

give "equal treatment to equal news," she said, questioning why it is a major event if a woman robs a bank "but two paragraphs buried on page 46 when a man stages a hold-up."

To end stereotyping, "let's start by describing a doctor who is a woman as just a doctor, instead of a 'woman doctor'," she suggested.

The stereotype image of women held by many people is reinforced if women are portrayed by the news media as children or sex symbols, she said.

The image women have of themselves is also affected by media portrayal, she said.

Fewer than one per cent of 1,200 American commercials surveyed showed women as leading independent lives, she said.

In 42.6 per cent of commercials, women were involved in household tasks; 37.5 per cent, they were domestic adjuncts to men; and in 16.7 per cent, they were depicted as sex objects, she said.

Men, particularly in advertisements, are portrayed as "virile and prosperous owners of sports cars, expensive homes and families in the suburbs," she said.

The news media's stereotyped vision of the sexes may lead men to feel that if women's status improves, their own status "will in some way suffer", she said.

Rather than mirroring reality, the news media appears to be providing a distortion of women's roles, men's roles, family life and "daily life as most Canadians live it", she said.

Time-worn concepts on women's place linger for many reasons, "but one of the most powerful reinforcing elements is the recycling of old cliches in the advertising and media programming," she said.



*If a man does something foolish, people say, "Isn't he silly!" But if a woman does, they say, "Aren't women silly!"*

— T.J. McPhail

# Advertisement

We are a recently established house, providing emergency shelter for women and children.



WE ARE LOOKING

FOR :

WOMEN WHO:

- understand the social/economic and mental forces at play on women in our society
- can take direction and can also make a quick common sense crisis decision when need be
- are punctual and reliable
- can be sympathetic to other women without encouraging self-pity

IN RETURN WE OFFER:

- no pay
- little immediate gratification (or little long term gratification for that matter)
- confusion, incessantly ringing phones, screaming kids, crying women and general chaos

P.S.

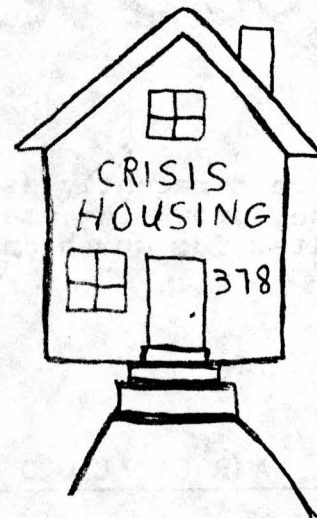
- we also offer human contact and all the tea you can drink

IF INTERESTED READ ON . . . . .

Last summer a group of agencies in the Winnipeg area co-sponsored a "Crisis House" for women. The six-week pilot project was extremely successful and on November 1st was re-opened on a more permanent basis under the auspices of the YWCA.

The new house, located at 378 Osborne Street has to date housed eighteen women and nineteen children for a total of ninety-three bed-nights. Women stay with us from one night to a week depending both on their situation and the decisions of the staff. Some require only food and a roof over their head for a few days, but most are in need of more extended help. Their problems are financial, legal, marital, psychological and physical. Many of these women suffer the most acute oppression in our society. They are often poor, frightened and alone with nowhere to turn.

At OsborneHouse we deal with the "whole" woman. Helping her sort out and get assistance with her medical/legal/welfare/financial problems etc. is only part of our job. The other part is providing her with the psychological and emotional support that she needs at this time. By talking with her, being there for her, we can help her to come to some sort of clarification about where she is, how she got there and where she wants to go with her life now.



The four staff members and seven volunteers are functioning well and the house is by any criteria by which it is possible to measure success "successful". But we need more people.

If you think you can help or if you are just interested give us a call at 475 6782. The four staff members are Lesley, Bruna, Heather and Lin. Anyone of us would be happy to talk to you about Osborne House, and, if you can see your way clear, the possibility of becoming a volunteer worker with us.

## More Advertising

I will spare you the details of how a good friend of mine ?? talked my husband into signing me up as a representative of AMWAY. AMWAY has a variety of products, mainly cleaning aids (ugh) but

some cosmetic and a few gift ideas. If any of you are familiar with AMWAY and are not already dealing with a representative or if you want more information give me a call. Shucks, I have to think up some way of making a little use of that City of Winnipeg Peddler's License and AMWAY KIT which arrived in the mail as a surprise. Julie Paquette, 489 2282.



# The Arts

## Poetry by Patricia Schwitek

### FANTASY FREE

When I was young  
with problems few  
Found sweets to my liking;  
favourite colour was blue  
Loved to lie in a meadow  
with eyes upward turned  
To set fantasy in motion  
and dismiss what I'd learned.

Puffy clouds shaped like castles  
for princes and kings  
Became the make-believe stage  
for plays and such things;  
T'was no costly adventure  
to a girl or a boy  
The price--imagination--  
for each to enjoy.

I think of battles fought;  
always won valiantly  
By the greatest of heroes--  
none other than me,  
For who could ride swifter  
upon a white stud  
Raising clouds of grey dust  
and big chunks of black mud  
On the victory march home  
from the battleground blue  
Where there was no bloodshed  
by me, by you,  
For these battles were fought  
with one objective in mind  
To ride victoriously home  
brave, gallant and kind.

15  
The fairies and elves  
gaily frolicked about;  
There were smiles on their faces,  
seldom a pout.  
The elves teased and taunted  
the crickets that chirped  
While the fairies played games--  
then tiring they'd flirt  
With the butterflies and junebugs  
that were flitting all 'round  
Whose wings when aflutter  
made a musical sound.

Daffodils swayed rythmically  
to and fro  
While buttercups and daisies bobbed  
high--then low  
To the warbling of the choir  
in the tall poplar tree  
On the hill, near the pond,  
by the red granary.

No world famous symphony  
have I since heard  
That can remotely compare  
to the trill of a bird  
When it rises in song  
to greet a new day  
Still dampened with dew  
in the sun's foremost ray.

All this I remember--  
with sadness regret  
That so many "wee folk"  
have no meadow to let  
No woods to explore  
nor haunted houses to fear  
No streams to throw stones in,  
clean, uncluttered and clear;  
Only high-rise constructions  
that reach for the sky  
And make me feel dizzy  
to look up that high.

And now that I'm older  
and wiser too  
I think of that meadow--  
that sky so blue  
Where the greatest performances  
I can recall  
Were played "letter perfect"  
by one and all  
To its most loyal audience  
and faithful devotee  
Who narrated these treasures  
for you, for me.

COWBIRDS

Social status matters not  
And obligations are soon forgot,  
As stealthily their eggs are laid  
In nests that are by others made.

And all the while society pays  
To rear their babes in humane ways,  
The parents of these deserted young  
Ignore life's toil for delectation--  
for fun.

The years go by--adults they too  
become  
And like their parents, they too  
succumb  
To their inherent rut--society's  
dread  
And abandon their young in another's  
bed.

THE LEMMINGS

Two mighty empires  
Roman and Ur  
Crumbled and fell;  
Followed thereafter by  
Napoleon and Hitler  
In fiery hell.

Once more the symptoms  
of inevitable doom,  
Have been carefully nurtured  
to maturity--full bloom.

And, once more that magnetic,  
that hypnotic trend,  
Has drawn the masses to the edge  
of the cliff--the journey's  
end.

To wish you a  
Joyous Christmas  
and a happy and peaceful  
New Year

Christmas Gift Subscription  
to the newsletter

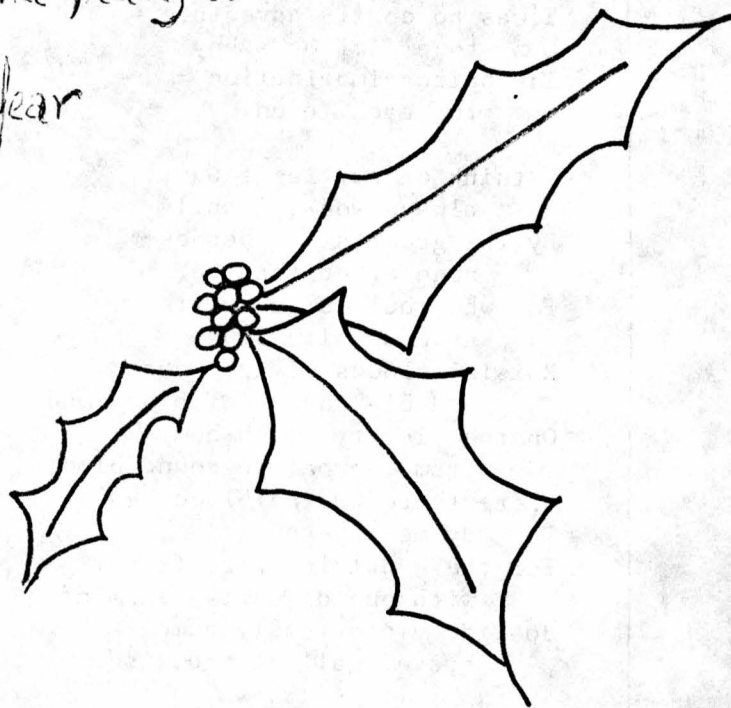
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The Women's Place  
137 Grand St.  
Toronto, Ont.