

Winnipeg
Women's Liberation
Newsletter

why not

February 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.

Newsletter Collective: Ellen, Bev, Pat, Julie, Pam.

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february

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2	8 pm. Abortion Workshop: Law Repeal	3	4	5	12 pm. U. of M. Centre at 8 pm. Med. college Dr. Morgenthauer 8 pm. U. of M. Lib 8 pm. Women for Non-sexist education	6	12:30 pm. U. of W. Dr. Morgenthauer	7	8
9	8 pm. COUNTRY REELS Workshop on video tape equipment	10	11	12	8 pm. Women in Rev. Study Group	13	14	15	
16	1:30 pm. Oxford United Postpartum concerns 8 pm. Business meeting	17	18	19	8 pm Women for Non-sexist Education	20	21	22	
23	1:30 pm. Oxford United Health Problems 8 pm. Newsletter mailout	24	25	26	8 pm. Women in Rev. Study Group	27	28		

IN THE NEWS

Feminist Songfest

Business Report

An organizational meeting was held on Jan. 6 at A Woman's Place. House Maintenance, organization and training of volunteers, issues and general strategies of action were discussed.

Two possible alternatives were presented as methods of house maintenance. Different people could be assigned various responsibilities in the house and continue these duties on a regular basis or volunteers could be thoroughly trained and provided with ongoing information as to how to deal with specific duties in the house. A timetable of volunteers was drawn up and many new volunteers were recruited. It was also decided that certain positions such as book-keeper and librarian would need to be filled on a regular basis. A schedule of when the house would be open and staffed with volunteers was created. A volunteer training workshop was planned for Thurs. Jan. 16 at 6 P.M.

A general strategy for the house was suggested in the delineation of areas of interest where women can work and mobilize new action and involvement. One such area is a Women For Non-Sexist Education Group which has formed. Rather than emphasis only education and consciousness raising groups, we decided to focus on issues and organize action around them. Two immediate issues of concern are the L.I.P. grant refusal and McKenzie's inaction and Otto Lang's mis-use of anti-abortion legislation.

A feminist sing-song was held on Mon. Jan. 13 at A Woman's Place. Eighteen women gathered to sing. Elana Greenberg, Chris Lane, and Terry Gray were special guests.

Songs and singing are an important part of every social and political movement. The women's movement has produced many good songs which, as yet, have not become widespread in society. In contrast to the songs we hear every day on the radio and on records, feminist songs are full of respect and love for women and their struggle for liberation. They tell of women who are strong, independent, and resentful of society's constraints on them. Songs such as "What did you learn in school today, dear little girl of mine?", "I know a young woman who swallowed a lie", and "Custom-made Woman Blues" do one good to sing. More Women should hear these songs.

Plans are being made to have feminist songsheets available at A Woman's Place. Evenings of relaxation with our sisters, such as this, are inspirational and refreshing. There should be more of them.

To be sung to the tune of "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody":

A pretty girl is a commodity
With stock to buy and sell.
When the market is high,
Count up your shares
In what she wears
That pay you dividends.

A pretty girl in this society
Is judged by looks alone.
What you see on her face
Is often the waste
Of chemicals developed for the war.

♀ for Non-sexist Education

On Jan. 8 a group was formed which will tentatively meet every second Thurs. at A Woman's Place. The Women For Non-Sexist Education group will be preparing a brief, and an educational packet to be presented to the school board by the end of March for distribution to teachers. The educational packet will show where sexism exists in the present school structure, curriculum, and texts. It will also present concrete alternatives for teachers in the form of articles, lesson plans and bibliographies of good material.

A second but not less important objective of the group will be meeting with parents, teachers, students, librarians, and other interested people to discuss sexism in the schools, and plan ways to make education more meaningful and fair.

The next meeting of women concerned with sexism in education will be on Thurs. Jan. 23 at 8 P.M. at A Woman's Place. We will be bringing material on pre-school and elementary school for this session. Everyone interested is welcome.

Volunteer Workshop

A training workshop for A Woman's Place volunteers was held on Jan. 16. The workshop started at six o'clock and included a Chinese dinner.

Phyllis Olin prepared draft copies of a volunteer manual. Volunteers went through the manual with Phyllis discussing different situations that could occur and how they could be dealt with. It was decided that a log book would be kept in which volunteers could record what happened while they were working. Also statistical charts on what types of calls we receive will be continued.

The manual will be expanded so that it includes a description of the structure of A Woman's Place, how to deal with questions and situations that arise and general policies. Copies will be made of the manual so that every volunteer will get one and there will be copies available at the house.

Lang Comes to Winnipeg

A Women and Law Conference, of which the main emphasis is to be Women and Labour, is to be held at the University of Manitoba from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1. It takes place at the Multi-purpose room in the University Centre.

The women organizing the conference received a letter from Otto Lang volunteering his services to lead a seminar on abortion! They fit him into their schedule on Friday Jan. 31 from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. His speech follows a workshop on abortion led by women from A Woman's Place and the Abortion Coalition. Needless to say, we all know Otto Lang's policy on abortion—he has made it well-known through his repressive actions towards women's groups and therapeutic abortion committees across Canada.

Women's Liberation is planning a welcome for Otto Lang. If you are interested in details, contact A Woman's Place at 786-4581.

Get Rid of Lang

Dr. Bette Stephenson, president of the Canadian Medical Association, said Thursday that Otto Lang should be removed from his office for "allowing his personal bias to interfere with his department's stand on abortion."

She also added that the federal government "consistently refuses to the long-promised parliamentary review and frequently-promised debate on abortion."

The criminal code was revised in 1969 by Parliament to allow abortions subject to the scrutiny of hospital therapeutic abortion committees.

Dr. Stephenson says "Lang threatens therapeutic abortion committees and encourages provincial attorney-generals to do like-wise, simply because they are doing the best job they can with Parliament's totally inadequate legislation."

She also stressed the need for more family planning programs in Canada.

Canada Lags Behind on Abortion

Canada is far behind in its archaic approach to abortion. Two predominantly Catholic countries have recently granted abortion up to ten weeks of pregnancy. France passed abortion laws several weeks ago and now Austria has followed suit.

Its not that women in Canada do not want and need legal abortion. A gallup pole in 1973 showed 2/3 of the people in Canada think abortion is a matter to be settled between a woman and her doctor. We have as many unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions as other countries.

The reason Canada is so backward in this area is our minister of justice?, Otto Lang. He has taken a hardline stand against abortion. He has been chastised by Parliament for making his attack on abortion so underhanded. If he wishes to amend abortion laws, he should bring the issue to Parliament rather than attempt to enforce his own obsessively strict interpretation of a purposefully flexible law.

The only way women in Canada can obtain their right to abortion is by removing Otto Lang from his office as Minister of Justice.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The Y.W.C.A. Women's Centre has decided to take a leading role in organizing a women's cultural festival as a project for International Women's Year.

The Festival would bring in women from across Canada with achievements in the Arts, music, dance and literature, and would provide workshops as well as performances in these areas. They are meeting with the Art Gallery and other cultural groups in January to recruit their cooperation. It is tentatively planned for the Fall.

The Y.W.C.A. wishes to be considered as a steering committee and wants to involve as many women's groups as possible in the organization of this ambitious project.

IWY PROJECT FOR SASKATOON

SASKATOON (CUP)----The all-man Saskatoon city council is willing to endorse a project which will suitably recognize International Women's Year, 1975 if the women in Saskatoon can suggest something.

Morris Cherneskey, the councillor who introduced the idea, says he has spoken to the Status of Women Committee and is assured they have ideas for speakers, sites, etc. Maybe even a pavillionat the local summer fair.

The best suggestion is for city fathers to grant women more freedom to control their bodies and ease abortion regulations at City Hospital where Saskatoon city administration has been tightening up policy while interpreting federal legislation.

Gays "Coming Out"

SASKATOON (CUP)----A society formed three years ago for Saskatoon's homo⁷sexual men and women is "coming out."

Originally named the Zodiac Friendship Society the group is now in the process of officially changing its name to the Gay Community Centre.

The society believes that "coming out" is an indication that society has come to terms with homosexuals and feel that they have a right to be open about their sexuality with others.

As part of the "coming out" program the society has adopted a new logo--a turtle coming out of its shell.

In the past the Society has played an active part in the ongoing struggle to change provincial legislation pertaining to sexual orientation and have set up weekly discussion groups so that people might discuss the various aspects and problems of being homosexual.

Women's Press Conference

by Pam Atnikov

Saskatoon

With no help from CNR's back-destroying coach service, Francine and I are happily back from Saskatoon. As Winnipeg's representatives we did you all proud....drinking, thinking, dancing, working, socializing, etc. with the best of them. To prove what well-rounded, marvelous feminists we were.... we even threw the "I Ching".

The most important thing we got out of the event....is the most difficult to convey in words. The friendships, the support, the understanding, the feeling of being part of something unique, important, and creatively womanly. It seems that whenever feminists meet, something warm and beautiful happens. It's inevitable. Women have so much love. It was an important experience for us and an experience I feel that as many women as possible should have--meeting in one place with strong women from across the country. It is too easy to become isolated, alienated and despondent. But when one is in the same space with women from other places.....sisterhood, "the struggle", and the universality of our movement becomes a reality, not just a theory.

About thirty-five women from Women's Liberation newsletters, The Other Woman newspaper, Branching Out and The Canadian Women's Educational Press attended. Because not enough groups could be present, the conference did not make any firm decisions. We spend a lot of the time discussing the situation of the Women's Movement in our home towns. It was felt that it was essentially important that better means of communication between centre and groups across the country be devised. Not only would a good communications system keep women informed about what was happening all over, but it would help unify the Canadian Movement. Groups could act on common concerns, support each other in times of need, and offer each other good ideas. And so we dreamed of a feminist news service. News would be co-ordinated in a central location and regularly sent

across the country. Research papers, interviews, reviews, and up-to-date directories could also be included.

After all, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR won't last forever.....grants may cease, conferences will no longer be happily paid for by our "ratherly" federal government. If anything meaningful is to be established we will have to do it ourselves. How can we become a powerful movement when we don't even know what struggles and problems are going on in the province or town next to us? A FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE could link us together. And what better, cheaper means of communication is there than the written word? Newspapers, women's magazines, books and local newsletters reach so many women.

Winnipeg

A group of women in Montreal have organized another PRESS CONFERENCE. Winnipeg was asked to host the event. There will be Federal funding so women from every centre can afford to participate. Out of the March Conference hopefully something concrete will be born. It will be very exciting.

Winnipeg women will not be organizing the content of the conference. We will be responsible for things like arranging accommodations, meeting places, car pools.

- = FOR ALL OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE CONFERENCE CONTACT PAM.
- = It has not yet been decided if the out of town women will be staying at a hotel or at private billets. IF YOU HAVE SPACE AND WOULD LIKE TO BILLET ONE OR MORE WOMEN PLEASE LET PAM KNOW. Also state whether you could also take children, are vegetarian or have any militant anti-smokers in your home, etc.
- = There are copies of an interesting paper written by Rita Moir and Ann Harvey (Lethbridge) titled "The Need for a Feminist Info Network in Canada". Copies are available at the house.

PAM can be reached at A Woman's Place:
786-4581 or at HOME: 474-2813

Lip Protest Continues

The whole matter with respect to the refusal of LIP funding of A WOMAN'S PLACE has been in abeyance for a month because the House has been in recess since Christmas. Now that all the bureaucrats are back in Ottawa, though, we can renew our campaign.

We intend to keep the issue alive and before the public until we are satisfied that it has been dealt with as seriously and as thoroughly as it deserves. Though there is little or no hope at this point of our getting LIP funding, we believe that there is a larger principle at stake --namely, that the time has passed when institutions and officials can make social and political judgments on the basis of outdated and oppressive sexual bias--and have their decisions pass unchallenged.

By the time you receive this newsletter you will probably be aware through the news media of our Press Release informing the public of our position re Andras and LIP.

The following is a registered letter sent out January 17th as the Latest Development in the whole crummy LIP business.

January 17, 1975

The Hon. Robert Andras,
Minister of Manpower and Immigration,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Reference: Our letter of Nov. 25, 1974
Your letter of Dec. 9, 1974

Dear Mr. Andras:

On December 13, 1974, a delegation from Winnipeg Woman's Place met with Mr. Dan McKenzie (MP - Winnipeg South Centre) and three Manpower representatives to discuss the prioritization of our LIP grant proposal, Women in '75. Much to

our disappointment, members of the original Constituency Advisory Group, who had been invited to attend, failed to appear.

This turn of events was particularly frustrating because the discussion was to have centered around charges of sexist discrimination in the prioritization of grant proposals. Obviously, in the absence of the CAG, no such discussion could take place.

We at Woman's Place are dissatisfied with the nebulous outcome of the December 13th meeting. Our charges of discrimination (which were specifically outlined in our Nov. 25th letter), which we view as a matter of grave seriousness, still stand unanswered.

Our only remaining course of action is to demand that the written comments of the attendant project officer be made public. We have been advised by our Local Manpower Officials that such a recommendation from you would help finally to bring this entire issue out into the open.

Our situation with regard to the judgments of our CAG has made us painfully aware of the inadequacy of present evaluation procedures for the screening of LIP grant proposals. These committees are appointed arbitrarily and non-democratically and their meetings take place behind closed doors. This is clearly an unsatisfactory means of allocating public funds. We appreciate the difficulties entailed in the administration of any program as far-reaching as the LIP, but we feel strongly that our experience serves as a precedent to illustrate the need for a basic review of procedures. Why can't LIP committees be elected in much the same way as those evaluating OFY applications? Further, why can't the meetings of these committees be announced publicly (in the newspapers, for example) and opened to any members of the community who are interested in observing the proceedings? Had such measures been in effect this year, our own situation would likely not have arisen, and if it had, we would not have had to deal with such secrecy and evasiveness in airing our charges.

Your prompt attention in this concern will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Francine Geraci for
A WOMAN'S PLACE

CUPE Attacks Sexism

OTTAWA (CUP)----The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has launched a major program attacking sex discrimination within its own ranks and in the workplace.

Stan Little, CUPE national president says "the program approved by CUPE's national executive board is to be carried out through International Women's Year 1975. It is designed to promote the full participation of women as union members and to encourage unionists to eliminate the discrimination women face at work and in the community".

During the program CUPE will put out pamphlets and booklets which will assess CUPE's success in attacking sex discrimination and outlining the achievements and difficulties of CUPE's women members.

Women will also be encouraged to become more effective in ending sex discrimination in contract negotiations through special seminars and workshops at member meetings.

"The union movement offers women a viable instrument with which to achieve equality in the workplace and community," said Little.

"By participating in programs like the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women and its follow-up campaign in 1971 significant gains have been achieved by women."

He points out that discriminatory wage rates between nursing assistants and orderlies have been almost eliminated since 1971.

"The participation of women in positions of leadership within the union has also improved considerably," says Little.

In 1968 only 12 per cent or 79 locals out of a total of 659 had female leadership. Only one local with a male majority had elected a woman president.

As of June 1974, only 28 per cent or about 300 locals out of a total of 1,077 had female leadership. Figures for the number of women presidents from male dominated locals is not available.

CUPE's 16 member national executive board contains four women

including the national secretary treasury, the highest position a women holds. More than 40 per cent of CUPE's 200,000 members are women.

"Despite these improvements", said Little, "there still remains a great deal of discrimination to overcome within the union as well as in the workplace where collective bargaining can be effectively used.

"Job designation by sex has to end, job opportunities for women have to be broadened and unfair sex-discriminating pension plans, group life insurance and fringe benefits have to be eliminated."

LETTERS

Dear Woman's Place:

Sorry I missed the party on Monday!

I've enclosed some information which might be useful re the liberalization of the abortion law. I don't know how many people are aware that our Criminal Code doesn't confer human status on an in utero fetus. If the anti's know, they're keeping the info to themselves. Knowing this, I think that we can rightfully argue that since the criminal code doesn't regard an in utero fetus as a human being, what's the hassle with liberalizing the abortion law?

Also A.R.C.A.L. and two doctors Dr. Bette Stephenson and Dr. Katie Cook have called for Lang's resignation because he is allowing his personal attitudes towards abortion to guide him in his action re the abortion law. No doubt the anti's have already sent floods of letters to their M.P.'s, the P.M. and the newspapers protesting this. I feel that we should do the same.

Hopefully, other pro-abortion-ists will manage to break out of complacency for half an hour in order to write these letters. Passive support = No support.

Yours,
K. Taylor

Sections of the Criminal Code

When child becomes human being--
Killing Child.

206. (1) A child becomes a human being within the meaning of this Act when it has completely proceeded, in a living state, from the body of its mother whether or not

- (a) it has breathed
- (b) it has an independent circulation, or
- (c) the navel string is severed.

(2) A person commits homicide when he causes injury to a child before or during its birth as a result of which the child dies after becoming a human being.

Infanticide.

216. A female person commits infanticide when by wilful act or omission she causes the death of her newly-born child, if at the time of the act or omission she is not fully recovered from the effects of giving birth to the child and by reason thereof or of the effect of lactation consequent on the birth of the child her mind is then disturbed.

Killing unborn child in act of birth--
Saving.

221. (1) Every one who causes the death, in the act of birth, of any child that has not become a human being, in such a manner that, if the child were a human being, he would be guilty of murder, is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for life.

(2) This section does not apply to a person who, by means that, in good faith, he considers necessary to preserve the life of the mother of a child, causes the death of such child.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

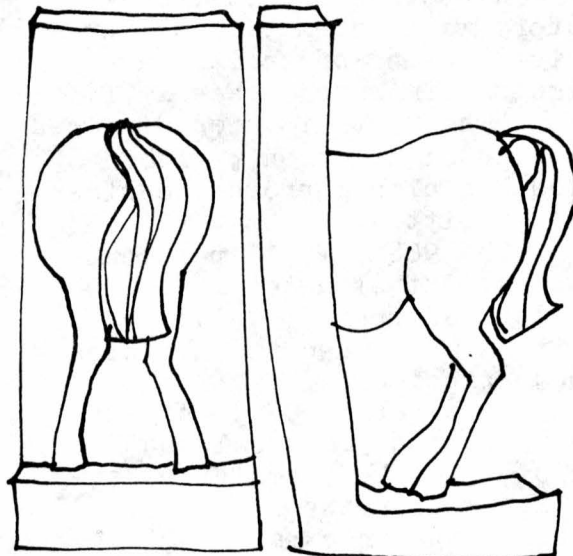
MALE CHAUVINIST PIG NOMINATIONS

Remember the "LAST PLACE" MCP Award we talked about last month?

We have received some nominations but KEEP THEM COMING. We know that you have been wanting to contribute to this amusing contest!

To refresh your memory the most obnoxious MCP will be presented with a gold-plated trophy with appropriate inscriptions and an interesting motto (THE MCP IS AN ASS)

Nominations with supporting stories should be forwarded to: MCP Nominations, c/o Woman's Place, 143 Walnut, Winnipeg. Or you may telephone 489-2282 and 786-4581.



DR. MORGENTALER IN WINNIPEG !

Dr. Henry Morgentaler will be speaking at three meetings at the U of M's Festival of Life and Learning, Feb. 6 and 7. The Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler is organizing a public meeting:

Thurs., Feb. 6 at 8:00 at the
Medical College, Health
Sciences Centre

Thurs., Feb. 6 at 12:00, U Centre,
U of Man.

Fri., Feb. 7 at 12:30 at U of
Wpg.

A work night will be held on Tues.,
Feb. 4 at 8:00 at 315B-416 Main St.
(McIntyre Bldg.) to work on prepa-
rations for the meetings. Every-
one who is interested in helping
is urged to attend.

MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

AT A WOMAN'S PLACE

FEB. 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Workshop on Abortion Law Repeal

FEB. 10 at 8:00p.m.

Workshop on Video Tape Equip-
ment, conducted by Country Reels

FEB. 17 at 8:00

Business Meetings - Represent-
tives of all groups should be
present

FEB. 24 at 8:00

Mailout of newsletter.

IWY STICKERS FOR SALE

The Provincial Council of Women is selling stickers and labels with the International Women's Year emblem on them (SEE emblem on our newsletter cover). The proceeds are designated to assist the National Council of Women in hosting the Triennial of International Council of Women to be held in Vancouver, June 1976 to which 67 countries around the world

will be sending representatives.

Prices: stickers 24/\$1.00

labels 12/\$1.00

Orders will be welcomed at

Provincial Council of Women

437 Don Ave., Winnipeg, R3L 0S5

We will have some available for sale
at A Woman's Place.

MANITOBA CHILD CARE ASSOC.

The Association has set up an advisory council which meets with the Provincial Day Care program staff twice a month. An all-day seminar was held on Jan. 18 for the two groups to examine the provincial program in depth. Watch for news of this meeting in the next news letter. For any suggestions and information on the new Provincial Government Day Care program, contact Laura Mills at 783-4980.

PREGNANCY INFORMATION SERVICE

This is a volunteer service offering pregnancy, birth control, and abortion information and counselling. They now operate out of Klinik at 567 Broadway, Ph-786-8686. They will now also have counsellors at the Women's Liberation/Abortion Coalition office on the U. of M. campus, Rm. 102P. Hours:
Tues. - 1:00-3:00
Wed. - 7:30-9:30
Fri. - 10:30-12:30

INFANT CARE AND DEVELOPMENT -

A COURSE FOR NEW MOTHERS

Sponsored by the Family Life Education Centre - River Heights City of Winnipeg, Public Health Department. These sessions will be held Monday afternoons starting February 17th, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Topics: Postpartum Concerns, Health Problems, Food and Feeding, Infant Development, The Toddler.

For further information please contact the Centre at 452-1742.

FEATURES

A POLITICAL RESPONSE

by Linda Taylor

Sue White's article "Time for Assessment?" has encouraged a lot of response both formal and informal. It is good to see people discussing and arguing about Women's Liberation; it is a sign of growth and change. Perhaps a sign of a re-committment to the movement.

However there was a lot I disagreed with in the article. Sue spoke of the lack of pressure on governments, and the lack of involvement in public demonstrations.

I, too, find it disillusioning to come to come to a demonstration (i.e. the last abortion demonstration) only to find about 40 or 50 of the same old people there. Almost all of us, and thousands more in the city have feared at one time or another that we might be pregnant with a child we did not want. We have seen unloved and unwanted children. We understand the issue. Where was everyone?

Perhaps they had been to other demonstrations, and seen the lack of success. Maybe they felt that other actions were more fruitful.

But much has happened in the last few years directly as a result of women's efforts.

The provincial government has been forced regularly and often to listen to women's groups. The Civil Service Women produced a task force report, and brought about changes in their work situation which opened many new opportunities for female employment. The human rights commission has outlawed discrimination based on marital status. Hundreds of groups presented briefs on day care and won a four million dollar program for 1974/75. That does not solve the problem, but it is a decent be-

ginning. The Federal government set up an advisory committee and has made many legislative changes relating to women. They will be (they say) creating a federal human rights commission and beginning to stop the exploitation of women in rape cases. The list goes on.....

These changes are not massive, but added together they are a big improvement. Only five years ago there were two or three day care centres in Winnipeg as one example.

What is interesting is that many, if not most of these pressure groups or actions involved women's liberation people in key positions. Women willing to act, to work for change, to pressure government or business, turned not to Women's Liberation, but to other groups to express their energies. I think that is sad, both for our morale, and for our public presence. Too often I fear women with the time and desire to work publically for change get accused of bad motives, etc. instead of getting support from Women's Liberation.

Women's Liberation members seem to feel their oppression in a multitude of different ways. Some work on abortion, not gay liberation or day care. Others focus on work, ignoring housewives or rape, etc., thus the difficulty of a united front--a strong protest. A brief I was involved in called for free, universal care for all children who wanted it, as a necessary step towards liberating women and kids. Surely that was an issue we should all support. But didn't.

The lack of a strong cohesive movement is partly, perhaps mostly due to a

lack of political analysis. Without that we will continue to be fragmented and lacking direction, looking for personal solutions to specific problems.

Two phrases I hear often which annoy me are "Women's Lib" and "We, Liberated Women.....".

Liberation means freedom--to choose between meaningful alternatives--to have a sense of identity and community and security--to grow to one's potential without phony limitations. It also means freedom from want, from discrimination and exploitation, from restrictions based on one's sex, color or whatever. Liberation is an important concept, and an important word and "lib" is often used to put down such struggles.

Within that context the phrase "liberated women" becomes meaningless. We are not liberated now and cannot in some way miraculously bypass an oppressive system and become free. What is more important if one buys the argument that the system must change before freedom is possible, one understands that it can only be achieved if we work together. As long as women receive less pay than men, do not control their bodies, are responsible mainly for children; as long as women are poor, without confidence, without security, I am not free. Furthermore the more you believe, express or act upon such beliefs, the more tenuous you will find freedom is in Canada.

If we could get away from the idea of personal liberation, we would see we must join together. There just aren't any personal solutions.

Others are oppressed too: the poor, natives, minorities, gay people, handicapped people, sole-support parents, workers, etc. Women's Liberation is a priority for me because it is the major way in which I am exploited. It is my fight because I am a woman, not because it is the only fight. So I don't believe that the feminist position as I understand it (that men and patriarchal and male attitudes are the major problem) is the answer. Male dominated institu-

tions are part of the problem, but not all of it. Replacing men with women, providing equal opportunities for women to exploit others is not the answer.

The chief cause of our oppression as I see it is a system based on profit geared to exploiting all people for the purposes of the wealth and power of a few. We have to fight to replace the whole system with one based on co-operation on people's needs, on human rights, on equality of wealth and power.

The two factions Sue sees in Women's Liberation are not really there in my view. Most of us are still grappling with the question of what is necessary to free women and how that can be done. Certainly no formal debate between feminism and socialism has taken place. Juliet Mitchell who addresses most of these questions in an excellent way in WOMEN'S ESTATE, sees a necessary synthesis and it should be explored.

If we could agree on the cause of our oppression, ways of combatting it would be easier. We could move away from moral decisions, and start making political ones. Questions of leadership and democracy, responsibilities, etc. would be much clearer. One might decide that support for certain ideas or groups is morally imperative, but might prove to have a distrous effect on mass organizing.

I would like to recommend Mitchell's book which really is worthwhile. Our own QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS booklet also addresses many of Sues questions regarding why no men at the house, why the structureless (which I agree is alienating, and destructive) when the co-ordinating committee meets, etc.

One final comment. With the exception of the Trotskyists, nobody ever gives a "party line" at Woman's Place. The simple truth is that most parties in Canada have no line on women. They still believe that if they ignor us for long enough, we'll disappear.

They are wrong! We will win in the end.

