

BEU.004

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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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March

1 U of M
Rape
Workshop
10 am - 5 pm
U of W MCCA
12:30 - 5 pm

2

3 8pm
Ms. Rebic,
speaker

4 8pm
MAGED

5

6

7

8 I.W.D.
party

9 I.W.D.
Celebration:
R.B. Russell
school
2pm.

10
Newsletter
Collective
Meeting

11

12 U of W
Film
Festival
7pm

13 U of W
Film
Festival
7pm

14

15

16

17 8pm
Business
Meeting

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 8pm
Funding
Workshop

25

26

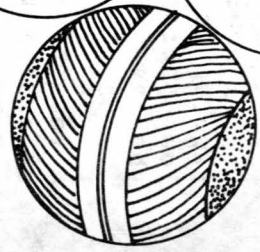
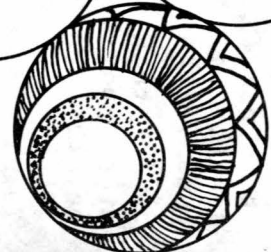
27

28
Press
Conference

29
Press
Conference

30
Press
Conference
Happy
Easter!

31
Press
Conference
Newsletter
Mailout



LETTERS

Sisters,

I would like to commend the new newsletter collective for the excellent professional look of our paper the last few months.

It is always a chore to put out a volunteer newsletter and to do such an excellent job is a credit to us all --particularly those who put in the many hours required.

So long as women keep submitting excellent articles and demonstrating the editing talent that is developing we can't help having a paper to be proud of.

Sandy Lechner

Dear Newsletter Collective,

Congratulations on the newsletter. It is really exciting to see it developing into such an attractive paper. The lay-out is terrific.

I took copies to my local drug store and they sold every copy. Maybe other people could try this as well. After all, it is International Women's Year!

Keep up the good work!

in sistorhood,

Linda Taylor

Once again, Winnipeg women who support liberalization of the restrictive abortion law vividly demonstrated how concerned they are about achieving their goal. At the abortion Tribunal (U. of M. Festival of Life and Learning), a crowd numbering maybe twelve(12!) persons showed up. Any anti-abortionist who came down to check out the opposition must have been absolutely delighted, for the opposition looked pretty sick. For the pro-abortion people, the experience was depressing, demoralizing, and infuriating.

This is not the first time that an action planned by the Manitoba Action Coalition has bombed. Everything put on by the MAAC falls through; nobody wants to get involved. We contact everybody on our mailing list, at a cost of 60 dollars per mailing, and maybe 2 people out of 350 respond. Granted, some of you have prior commitments, or other activities that are more important to you. But how many of you are just sitting on your butts thinking, "Its too cold to go.", "Its too far". (The woman who went with me to the Tribunal lives in Transcona and spent over an hour on the bus each way.) "There'll be other people there." "The law will be liberalized soon, anyways; hopefully before I get pregnant.".... ad nauseum.

I have been involved in abortion law repeal action for 3-4 years. I have gathered names on petitions, written letters to the government and newspapers, argued long and hard with people on the issue, marched in demonstrations, and sent a fair amount of money. Right now, I'm ready to stop it all. I'm tired, but more so I'm discouraged. Fed-up. Angry. Not at the anti-abortion government, nor the anti-abortion news media, nor even the anti-abortion movement. I am totally turned off the people who are supposedly pro-abortion. The ones who are letting a small group of already over-worked people fight the entire war all by themselves.

And why should we continue to fight that war for people who can't be roused out of their apathy and complacency long enough to write a letter or attend a meeting (such as the tribunal)? Maybe what the workers in the pro-abortion movement should do is bank their money just in case they get pregnant and have to take a trip outside of the country for an abortion, and let the rest of you fend for yourselves, And deservedly so!

In anger and frustration,
Kathy Taylor

IN THE NEWS

STATUS OF WOMEN

Vancouver (CUP)--- Delegates to the federal advisory council on the status of women here Jan. 13 to 17 moved to urge Parliament to update obsolete laws dealing with rape and other sexual offenses.

Chairwoman Dr. Katie Cook said the council is ready to initiate advice to the government on what changes are needed in that section of the criminal code.

"In case they forgot to ask," said Cooke, who makes it clear the council believes the law in general, and the justice minister, in particular, is an ass.

Details of the proposed recommendations will be discussed at the council's next meeting slated for April 7 to 9 in Ottawa.

"Lang has said he will introduce amendments to the criminal code as it deals with rape and sex offences but we (the council) haven't as yet, been asked for advice."

Cooke termed the practice of setting up the rape victim for character assassination by defence lawyers when the victim gives evidence as the crown's chief witness as "totally absurd".

"That's one of the worst examples of the weird double standard in our society", she said.

The delegates also discussed family planning, birth control, and abortion among other issues of critical importance to Canadian women.

They agreed more specific information is needed from the federal level before an effective planning policy will have any force.

Cooke said the council needs to know what kind of family planning projects are now operating, how they are funded and what kind of monitoring is done by the health protection branch of the safety and efficiency of birth control devices.

The council also discussed human rights and justice legislation. Parliament has procrastinated too long in introducing laws that will end discrimination on the grounds of sex.

"At the federal level we are still getting promises and that's all," said Cooke. "It's vital that we have a law showing society's acceptance of the idea that discrimination on the grounds of sex is incompatible with democracy. At this point I'm not about to offer any excuses for why the government hasn't acted."

Other recommendations passed by the council supported the idea of unified family courts with federally appointed, specially trained judges, passport recommendations to allow a woman to use her maiden name without additional proof of identity and citizenship to women who lost it through marriage to an alien prior to 1947.

Also on the agenda were matrimonial property rights and housewife's entitlement to participate in the Canada Pension Plan.

NDP WOMEN WANT BROWN FOR FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

Calgary (CUP) The women's caucus of the Alberta NDP passed a resolution at their annual convention January 31 to February 2 urging B.C. MLA Rosemary Brown "to accept the nomination for the Federal NDP leadership".

There are also campaign committees for Brown in Ontario, Winnipeg and Regina.

STUDENT POLITICIAN SAYS SEXISM REASON SHE WAS DUMPED

Vancouver (CUP) A student politician at UBC charged, January 27 that she has been dumped from the Student's Coalition slate as a presidential candidate because she is a woman.

Joan Mitchell, internal affairs officer for the current AMS executive, said she was replaced by current AMS external affairs officer Gary Moore when other slate Members, all male, decided a woman leading the slate would hurt their chances for victory.

Anderson Speaks Out on IWY

Kingston (CUP) The editor of Chatelaine magazine is finding it difficult to be enthusiastic about International Women's Year.

Editor Doris Anderson was speaking at Queen's University in Kingston as part of a lecture series on human dignity and the experience of women.

She said that the government has promised \$5 million for IWY and this will be spent on five conferences.

"Surely what women don't need is conferences," she said. "We've been conferenced to death."

"Equal pay laws in Canada are obviously a farce and a cop out."

She said that recently 19,000 civil servants agreed on pay increases which give barbers 13 cents more an hour than hairdressers, and tailors \$1,264 more a year than seamstresses.

Anderson also spoke about marriage and the Property Act and said that Bill 117, which was supposed to implement co-ownership of the matrimonial home, is a fraud which does not even mention it.

"The young mother is the most exploited worker, working 24 hours a day, with no sick leave, no pay, few fringe benefits and no set vacation."

Anderson suggested that the Canadian government consider paying women to stay at home and care for the children as the West German government is beginning to do.

Broadbent, too

Ottawa (CUP) While the House of Commons paid tribute to International Women's Year, NDP parliamentary leader Ed Broadbent, was jeered by Liberals when he questioned the government's sincerity in endorsing the aims of women's year organizers.

The United Nations has designated 1975 International Women's Year to promote the status of women around the world.

Broadbent said that too much time has been spent on speeches, conferences, investigative commissions and slick advertising campaigns in support of women's rights. Legisla-

tive changes backing principles that politicians already have endorsed are now needed.

All the party leaders endorsed the year when Parliament reopened Jan. 22. Prime Minister Trudeau asked all Canadians to work for the equality of women and men and said the government will contribute substantially to women's year.

"Real freedom of opportunity for women will come only when society recognizes that women have the same right to pursue whatever goals they may individually choose," he said.

Broadbent was echoing criticisms raised by women's groups across the country about the Trudeau government's priorities for IWY.

The government is spending \$500,000 on a public relations campaign and \$250,000 on five regional women's conferences to promote the year. Women have said the money could be better spent on practical programs to aid women like day care and complain that the money for the conferences is excessive and that they have been conferenced to death.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS LINE OPERATES IN LETHBRIDGE

Lethbridge (CUP) A Sexual Assault Line is now operable in Lethbridge to provide support and information to victims of sexual attack.

By contacting Sexual Assault concern (SAC) the victim can make use of all the services SAC offers: information about medical, police, and legal procedures; support during the legal proceedings; support during the period of time required for emotional resolution of the incident.

The main focus of SAC is "the victim as a person", giving the Crisis Line a two-fold purpose: constant availability of aid to a person at the time of the incident, and constant support on a person-to-person basis during the days and weeks after the incident.

SAC is staffed by six volunteers and receives telephone funding from the Lethbridge Branch of the Alberta Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association.

Why WHY NOT?

Ottawa (CUP) Liberal women MP's are angrily campaigning against the button and advertising campaign which Health Minister Marc Lalonde is peddling to help liberate Canadian women.

Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway) and Iona Campagnolo (Skeena) won't wear theirs and they are not afraid to say "Why Not".

"It's bloody degrading" said Holt.

She charged Lalonde has been misled into endorsing the button by his "office full of surrogate wives."

"I consider it to be sexist in tone," said Campagnolo.

They said that none of the women in the House of Commons are wearing the buttons bearing the "Why Not" slogan and they appear to be intimidating their male colleagues to dump theirs.

Detractors of the button could be taken as having a "sexual connotation".

Lalonde has been visiting the North West Territories distributing buttons and was unavailable for comment.

When contacted back in her Vancouver constituency office Jan. 27 Holt said she was opposed to the advertising slogan and was totally against continuing with the advertising agency which is running the campaign.

"An agency that is as insensitive as they are by putting out the button and not even paying attention to women picketers who demonstrated in front of their offices against the campaign shouldn't be kept on," she said.

She said she complained to Lalonde along with several other women MP's and had made it quite clear to the men in the caucus why they object to the slogan.

She said however, that Lalonde told her he is committed to the ad agency and can't change now.

When she reached her office in Vancouver yesterday she found a large cardboard blow-up of the slogan which was meant to hang in her office. She promptly sent it back to Lalonde.

"LADIES THEY BITCH AFTER THE FACT"
SAYS SEXIST PM

Ottawa (CUP) Prime Minister Trudeau refuses to take Canadian Women seriously. "That's the trouble with ladies--they bitch after the fact", was Prime Minister Trudeau's reaction to criticism from within his own caucus of the button endorsed by Health Minister Marc Lalonde to support International Women's Year.

He refused to say why he doesn't wear the button bearing the "WHY NOT" slogan although he has been pictured wearing one before.

He also wouldn't answer criticisms levelled by Liberal women MP's that the button is sexist and degrading.

He asked his legislative assistant Joyce Fairbairn, why she hadn't stopped approval of the button. She replied that when she looked into it, it was too late.

Get Rid of Lang

Winnipeg (CUP) Another Canadian group has joined those already calling for the removal of Otto Lang as Canada's Minister of Justice.

The delegates to Canada's second annual Conference on women and the Law voted overwhelmingly the last weekend in January to urge Lang's resignation after sessions which showed their general dissatisfaction with his performance.

This is the third group to call for Lang's resignation in recent weeks as both the Canadian Medical Association and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada suggested the Justice Minister should be removed for exercising his personal morality over Canada's abortion regulations.

Lang was scheduled to speak to the Winnipeg conference but didn't show up sending instead Canada's Environment Minister Jeanne Sauve.

Sauve was greeted with hisses and shouts of disapproval when she told the group Saturday that she has "grave misgivings about any proposal to liberalize abortion laws".

ABORTION REFORM IN ITALY

ROME (CUPI) The number of deaths from clandestine abortions in Italy reaches about 12,000 every year. And the vast majority of the victims come from overcrowded slum areas.

As it now stands, Italian women who wish an abortion and can afford an expensive gynecologist (fees range from \$500 to \$1,000) are assured of a relatively safe and sanitary operation in a private clinic. For poorer women, however, abortion means submitting to the crude back-street abortionist, or following home-made remedies, risking in either case serious complications and death.

Through the efforts of Italian feminists and the small but very vocal Radical Party, a non-parliamentary civil rights group, a campaign to liberalize Italy's strict abortion law has begun to gain ground.

In its 18 months of existence the Radical Party's clinic in Florence has provided thousands of abortions at the relatively low fee of \$150 (free abortions were given to women who could not afford the cost).

The Radicals hoped in this way to combat the inequality of the current system, which discriminates against the working class and slum dwellers. But recently the clinic was closed and a doctor, three nurses, and ten patients were arrested in a police raid.

For the majority of Italian women the use of contraceptives as an alternative to abortion is almost non-existent.

Four years ago an Italian court ruled that this country's ban on contraceptives was unconstitutional. But in an effort to appease the Vatican, which condemns all forms of artificial birth control, the Italian state made no effort to promote family planning programs or distribute relevant information.

The small five per cent of Italian women who do use some form of birth control are almost all from middle and upper-middle class homes. As one senator from Rome recently pointed out: "The Pill is the contraceptive of the rich, while abortion

is that of the poor".

Meanwhile feminists and radicals have decorated the country's streets with pro-abortion posters. Booths have been set up in busy shopping areas in order to collect the 500,000 signatures Italian law requires for a national referendum on repealing the existing penal legislative.

Sensing a danger in all this activity, and shaken by a recent public poll which showed 80 per cent of Italians are in favour of proposed abortion reforms, the Vatican has reaffirmed its condemnation of abortion.

But this has not dampened the fervour of pro-abortion forces.

SASKATOON WOMEN CHARGE CITY HOSPITAL WITH SECRET ABORTION RULINGS

Saskatoon (CUP) The Saskatoon Women's Centre has charged City Hospital with deciding on a policy for the interpretation of the present abortion law which they haven't made public.

In a January 9 press release the centre said City Hospital, the only municipal hospital in Saskatoon, was a public institution and therefore should inform the public of their decision on abortion. The release asked the board members to define what they meant by the word "health".

"We have in recent weeks noticed a sharp increase in the number of women turned down by the Therapeutic Abortion Committee at City Hospital," the Centre commented.

Health administrators have informed the Centre that in the last week of December, 1974, of seven women who applied for a therapeutic abortion, six were turned down.

The centre said with this many women being turned down the hospital must have made some policy changes.

Women have been phoning the Centre recently asking for information on illegal abortion. The Centre said this had never happened before.

One aspect of the work at the Women's Centre is to make information on abortion available. At this point they find the task impossible, as they do not know City Hospital's new policy.

Saskatoon

A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Saskatoon (CUP) Saskatchewan's law reform commission has suggested new matrimonial law is needed to meet contemporary society needs.

Professor Brian Grosman, commission chairman, told a University of Saskatchewan audience the old premise that the legal existence of a woman was incorporated and consolidated into that of the man is no longer accepted.

He said it is "impossible to correct the injustice and unfairness" to women which resulted from the present law by mere tinkering. The whole legal basis and structure must be re-examined he said.

"The new premise is that marriage is a partnership of equals."

The commission has placed proposals before the public for discussion before making final recommendations which would form the basis for legislation.

Grosman said the commission's first and immediate proposal is that the courts be given wide discretion to order the division of property between spouses in the case of marriage breakup.

It is also proposing legislation to provide for co-ownership of the matrimonial home to give "some measure of security" to both partners.

The third measure would be a program of deferred participation which would allow each partner to own and control his or her own property and entitle each to an equal share of the value of the property acquired during the marriage.

One of the major problems is whether changes would be enacted only to apply to future marriages or retroactively. Grosman says public reaction has been about 50-50.

Margaret Harris, chairwoman of the Saskatchewan advisory council on the status of women said that through legislation, government can assist both spouses to attain economic equality and protection "but they cannot legislate equal partnership in marriage".

"Only we who are the marriage partners are capable of achieving this."

A directory of social and medical services for women is on sale in stores throughout Winnipeg.

The book, Handbook for Winnipeg Women, is the work of the Winnipeg Women's Health Collective.

The idea for the book evolved from the collective's Opportunities for Youth project in the spring of 1974 putting out a pamphlet for lower income women listing all the medical and social services available in the city.

Since the list became too vast for a pamphlet, the six woman researchers (two University of Manitoba medical students and four University of Winnipeg students) decided to put their directory into book form for Winnipeg women of all incomes.

The result is 151 pages of information on everything from abortion and marriage counselling to pre-natal classes and what to expect during a visit to a gynaecologist.

The book also has chapters on rape, venereal disease, breast examinations for cancer and basic information related to the body and health of a woman.

"We think there's nothing else like it available in Winnipeg," said Barbara Poole, one of the book's authors.

"You can buy it in a book store for \$2.00 and it is being distributed to social agencies such as self-help groups at specially reduced prices."

Ms. Poole said money from the sale of the book will go towards printing costs.

A WOMAN'S PLACE has the booklet on sale for \$1.50, plus 24¢ postage if you wish it mailed. If unable to afford \$1.50, send us what you can.

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

conferences

This is the second year that Montreal Gay Women have put together a lesbian conference. Last year, out here in the prairies, no one took any notice of it. If anyone had read the notices in Long Time Coming (or, in fact, read LTC itself) they weren't letting on. This year, despite notices in such prestigious journals as the Status of Women newsletter, much the same thing was happening. But between September's National Gay Conference and December's Women's Press Conference, lesbians had rediscovered their most valuable tool: word-of-mouth. So a few of us in the frozen wasteland knew. Now there was only the insurmountable cost and distance to overcome. A Woman's Place came through with \$50, there was some personal fund-raising, and one of us (out of all the lesbians that should have) went.

At any other time getting on the same plane as the Mennonite Children's Choir would have been cause for turning back. One worries about whether this kind of thing is an omen. (Or a plot.) And later, whether one's enemies have conspired to give you a seat between two obnoxious males in a section full of obnoxious males. But walking off the plane and seeing two dykes waiting is a kind of coming home that washes out distance. Like all good dykes (or conference participants) we trooped to the bar.

Friday night in dykeland, or what, getting the information that 400 women were expected, could easily appear to a lonely prairie lesbian (any prairie lesbian MUST be lonely) as heaven. The Wpg. contingent spent most of Friday night peeling vegetables, surrounded by other lesbians also peeling vegetables,

moving furniture, setting up sound equipment. Looking around and being able to see at a glance two dozen other lesbian-feminists, the Wpg. contingent made immediate plans to move to Montreal.

This conference was not a conference in the male-defined sense of the word. There were no delegates, no votes, no rules of order. But it was perhaps the most well-organized conference I have ever attended: with a minimum of structure workshops got together, talked, broke into other workshops. Women arrived, were billeted, registered, given daycare, directed to cheap restaurants. In two languages. For 365 women, things ran smoothly.

Montreal Gay Women had ensured that every workshop had a "facilitator"-a woman to encourage discussion when it seemed likely to bog down. But the atmosphere was without elitism, without censure. And although from that it is likely to be labelled non-political (and was, by some gay males) it was rather conducted in the MOST political of contexts: lesbians defining for themselves a theoretical framework, an analysis. From this conference lesbian women could seek direction in a sharing of thought and experience. And gain, most importantly, strength. There is nothing that has zapped lesbians more than an incredible sense of aloneness born out of fear of being open, from every straight woman's inability to understand the lesbian experience. I would wish, perhaps, that every lesbian-feminist in Wpg., or even every lesbian, could have shared that experience of strength with me, could have returned with just a little of my determination to make lesbian-feminism a viable

Montreal * Lesbian Conference

by Sue White

force in Wpg. It could be said that my strength comes from being with 365 lesbians, but one thing the conference clearly demonstrated was that 365 is an unnecessary number. In centres as small as Ottawa and Waterloo a few people have gotten together and are reaching out to form a basis of strength and a resource for the lesbian community. They have, in effect, made what Wpg. has in name only, a Lesbian Resource Centre, into a vital working part of their women's centre. There is always the recognition that we are few. But in many places out of that has come, rather than a sense of defeat, a determination to keep (or start) working, and support one another.

Over the two days of the conference, I attended workshops on Bisexuality, Dyke Separatism, Multiple Relationships, and an immensely long (and interesting) discussion called "Search for a National Direction". The many and various things which came out of these workshops (and on which I have piles of notes) could easily be the basis for a lesbian discussion group, lesbians getting together to share opinions and experience. (A suggestion) Women from a number of centres who attended the conference explained how they had managed to get a lesbian drop-in functioning. (Another suggestion.) The entire conference made clear how successful lesbian resources centres can become when there is interest and determination. (An appeal.)

During National Direction, it was suggested that the Feminist News Service can become a most efficient vehicle for lesbians across the country to exchange thought on where we are and where we are going. On a national basis, it seems that the

communication barriers forced by distance are coming down. Perhaps its time that the ones that keep us apart on a smaller scale should also be broken down.

Some less serious events took place. On Saturday evening, the conference gathered in the auditorium to hear and sing with folksingers, share a lot of good feelings, and some laughter: notably when the couch broke and in response to the lesbian words for "Put Your Head on My Shoulder": it became "Wrap your legs Round my Shoulders". (For unknown reasons, this new version has not yet been released by a major record company.) Then it was down to the gym to dance to the music of New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band. Wild enthusiasm, much togetherness, friendliness and euphoria. People from all over Canada and the U.S. getting along just fine. There was enough togetherness that almost all of us got up to attend Sunday's workshops, despite tiredness and occasional hangovers. Late Sunday afternoon, it was time again to sweep, move furniture, do dishes. The Wpg. Contingent mopped washrooms. And felt alright about it.

I've made suggestions (and appeals) in this article concerning getting SOMETHING going out of our lesbian resource centre. ANYONE with any ideas, suggestions, or interest, please write me c/o A Woman's Place or call me at home. (475-1822)

Women's Press Conference

Winnipeg

On March 28, 29, 30 & 31, the
NATIONAL Women's Press Conference
will be happening!

The grant for the conference is still
being processed but final confirmation
ought to happen very soon.

The budget:

Correction--In the last newsletter
a group of Montreal women were named
as the organizers. The organizing
group is : 'The AD HOC Committee
for a Feminist Information Network'.

Travel	\$ 5,228.00
Publicity	100.00
Rental	300.00
Other	50.00

AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 28th

- 10:00 - 12:30 Noon Opening discussion: agenda discussed and changes incorporated. Why delegates came--goals, etc. Organization of recorders for present and future meetings. Brief, but concise outline of papers to be presented later on during the conference. (i.e. Rita and Ann's proposal for a news network, position papers on legal hassels, etc.)
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. GENERAL MEETING on the News Service, Structure, financing, guerilla structure.
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. SUPPER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 7:00 p.m. Presentation from Western News Service
- 9:00 p.m. Country Reel's film presentation.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29th

- 9:30 a.m. Workshop on layout, photography, graphics
- 11:00 a.m. Workshop on staff/collective relations
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Distribution of papers/newsletters (bring list of distributors and/or mailing lists)
- 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. separate meeting for newsletters and newspapers to discuss common complaints and problems and relevant issues (i.e. day care, minority women)
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. SUPPER
- 7:00 p.m. Our perspective of International Women's Year "Why Not?"
- 9:00 p.m. SOCIAL TIME, WITH MUSIC, DANCE AND BEVERAGES.

About fifty women are expected and we need more people to volunteer extra beds, floor space, etc. Preferred areas are: Downtown, Crescentwood (River-osborne, Stafford, Corydon) and the West End (Wolseley, Sherbrook, Broadway).

The YWCA and/or the University of Winnipeg are tentative locations for the conference. AS THESE AREAS HAVE NOT BEEN VERIFIED AS YET PLEASE CHECK with us about the exact place closer to conference date.

Every woman is welcome to all events.



SUNDAY, MARCH 30th

- 9:30 a.m. Regional meetings to discuss formation and implementation of FNS as it relates to each region and its needs.
- 11:00 - 12:30 Noon GENERAL DISCUSSION "Forming an economically self-sufficient organization"
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH
- 2:00 p.m. Technical aspects of a news exchange, postal rates, telecommunications, carrier pidgeon.
- 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. POLITICS OF A NEWS SERVICE Re: Nationalism, Feminism.
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. SUPPER
- 7:00 p.m. GENERAL MEETING - discussing the results of the Regional Meetings proposals for a News Service. Ratification of above and job descriptions for FNS. Membership and Subscription rates.
- 9:00 p.m. SOCIAL TIME WOMEN'S THEATRE

MONDAY, MARCH 31st

- 9:30 a.m. Meeting of recorders, compiling of minutes and papers presented during conference. Directory of women present.
- 11:00 - 12:30 Noon Discussion of a newsletter/newspaper exchange and bank. Presentation of results of Women's Centre Conference held in Thunder Bay.
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH AND THE DESSEMINATION OF PAPERS.
- 2:00 p.m. FINAL MEETING to choose the site and workers of the National Office and national co-ordinators, and the regional clearing-houses and co-ordinators.
- COFFEE HOUSE AND GRAND MELÉE UNTIL EVERYONE LEAVES

Women's Film Festival

Women make films!

Women-made movies will be shown at a mini film festival in rooms 110 & 111, Lockhart  Hall, University of Winnipeg on March 12 & 13. Continuous showings from 7 p.m. No admission charge,* but donations will be appreciated.* Sponsored by A Woman's Place & Country Reels. Craftswomen are invited to sell their wares. Aside from some last minute surprises, here are the films:

MENSES: A comedy of ritualistic women's activity, play and satire, around and about the monthly flow, ranging in landscape from the corner supermarket to the mountains. A really funny movie with feelings of bonding and thrust evident amongst participants. 3 minutes--colour.

COMING OUT: The film reflects the stages of that early awkwardness and self-doubt, as well as many women's alienation from men. Done by the Berkely Lesbian Feminist Film Collective. 1 minute--B & W.

CONTINUOUS WOMAN: Five very dynamic women talking about their lives and putting them into a larger social context. This is a film which explores the personal, and connections between persons, as political--and does a fine job. 25 minutes--colour.

(continued on next page)

* N.B. Because of the high cost of the films it was necessary to make a change. ADMISSION FEE has been set at \$1.00

ROLL OVER: A short exciting montage of women's roles--starting with the traditional and 'rolling them over' to show women doing anything and everything. The sound tract by Lavender Jane places strong emphasis on women bearing the bonds of dependence and forming new bonds based on self-sufficiency and sisterhood. 10 minutes--colour.

CHILDCARE: PEOPLE'S LIBERATION: A good beginning film on childcare, which starts from women's isolation with their children and moves to the establishment of a community day care centre, showing the ways that parents and children can develop new relationships with their peers and each other. 1970 20 minutes--B & W.

IT HAPPENS TO US: A selection of interviews with women who have had abortions under all kinds of grim circumstances, of all ages, races and classes. 30 minutes--colour.

A LUTA CONTINUA: A documentary about liberation struggles in Mozambique. Mozambique women have integrated themselves and women's demands thoroughly within the daily revolutionary struggle. 1971 32 minutes--colour.

THE JOURNALS OF SUSANNA MOODIE: An evocative re-creation of one woman's view of life in this country in the last century; based on the poems of Margaret Atwood. 1972 15 minutes--B & W.

GE (GENERAL ELECTRIC) SLIDE SHOW: A 50 slide show of GE's global manipulation of women, third world, and poor peoples through both consumer indoctrination and economic politics. Shows the connection between sexist socialization, racism, and profit without abstraction or rhetoric--mostly with the company's own ads.

HOME MOVIE: A combined personal and political statement about growing up gay in America. 10 minutes--B & W.

WOMANHOUSE: In 1971, 26 women from the California Institute of the Arts transformed a run down mansion into a 17-room environmental Art and Theatre piece. They rebuilt, reshaped and painted each room to produce a brilliant treasury of the longings, fears and dreams women have as they wash, cook, clean, iron their lives away. Working alone or in groups, each woman expresses her feelings and thoughts about the 'Home' and 'femaleness'. "That's what it's all about....coming to terms with our own femaleness and transcending it".

THE WOMEN'S HISTORY SLIDE SHOW

PART 4 - WOMEN IN REVOLT: Deals with organized and individual resistance by women covering many centuries and countries.

There will also be several NFB films about women. To be announced.

For further information please contact: Pam Atnikov, Sara Berger, Jean Dunmire or Francine Geraci from Country Reels--telephone #786-4581.

FEATURES

DEATH OF THE DOUBLE STANDARD

by Shelly Elizabeth W. Richardson

The old double standard is the product of a sick society that allows men a free rein on sexual realtions, yet demands that women remain chaste. It congratulates the male on his sexual conquests, while condemning the female that participates. Sexual relationing not founded on love is considered allowable for men but sexual relations not founded on love is considered demoralizing for a women. "Beware of loose and wanton women".

Women have in inalienable and natural right to love when they may, to love for as long or short a period as they wish, and to change that love every day if they so choose.

Enough women have been sacrificed to male sentiment--their hyprocritical prating about purity. It has to be men's most effective engine for women's division and subjugation.

Men create the public sentiment, build the gallows, and make women hangmen for their own sex. Women of all ages who dared to love as they chose have been crucified. Let us

end this ignoble record: if women must be crucified, let it be men who drive the spikes and plait the crown of thorns. Stand by your sisters, for if you are party to their crucification, in your own ignorance you are crucifying yourself as well.

I conceive an intense indignation toward men who are intimate with, and caressing women in private, then coolly passing them without recognition before the world. Worse yet is the male snicker or wink, exhibiting to their friends, their sexual conquest. What shallow entitlements they be.....who constantly require reassurance of their masculinity and the ego boost they desperately require to compensate for their own inadequacies as complete people!

Sex has always been men's prerogative.....or so we have been led to believe. It is a misconception that has been perpetuated since the beginning of time. Sex is a women's prerogative even more than men's. Males have endeavoured in every way to convince us otherwise. The maladroit lover has used it as an excuse to exonerate himself for his sexual inadequacies. Loyal and cringing servitude along with passive acceptance of this has been women's place in the past. It will not be in the future.

Women, be doormats no longer! There will be no groveling at their feet. Our time has come!

REFLECTIONS

by Lesley Silver

At the heart of the Women's Movement--at least in the beginning--was a dissatisfaction with lack of opportunity. This lack derived from the inequality between the sexes. From that philosophical foundation--i.e. a quest for greater equality, the Women's Movement has proceeded to its present stage of development, at which time two important comments can be made about it: firstly, many women--and many men--feel that the Women's

Movement has "arrived". Witness the cigarette commercial: "You've come a long way baby!" The fact of the matter is that the Women's Movement is still in its infancy. A recent study of high school girls in Winnipeg indicates a total lack of consciousness and awareness of the changing roles of women. Secondly, the philosophical foundations of the Women's Movement have been completely forgotten--if in fact they were ever

really comprehended by most women. The idea of equality, which nurtured the original "Women's Liberationists" is now almost forgotten by the sole beneficiaries of the Movement to date--that is, white middle class women who now have a somewhat greater opportunity to do what the men have long done. These women, by and large, have forgotten that the soul of the Movement was the quest for equality--and that quest cannot be restricted to white middle class women. Large numbers of the officially recognized poor of this country are women--what is the Movement doing for them? At least half of the native people of Canada are women--what has the Movement done for them? Why has the Movement never realized that the quest for greater equality and dignity and justice for women in our North American society is only a part of a larger quest--for equality, dignity and justice--which must be waged for the very large minority of Canadians who do not share in the 'goodies' of our society, who do not have the opportunities which are rightfully theirs.

The Women's Movement--being a struggle for equality and justice--must align itself with ALL those in our society who are denied equality and justice. The empty sloganeering of the advertising industry--"You've come a long way baby!"--is a disgusting little ditty and an attempt to buy us off and make us feel we've arrived. The Women's Movement won't have arrived until the ideals upon which it was originally based are realized by all Canadians--of all races, of all classes, as well as of both sexes.

The danger is that the daughter of the middle class family who now has the opportunity to become a bank manager or airline pilot, will react to the society in which she lives in the same way as most of today's bank managers do--i.e. she will assume all is well--the "after all, I worked hard to get where I am" syndrome--and she will lose sight of the injustice against which her female predecessors railed so loudly and so gallantly. She will lose sight of the fact that many women don't yet share in the good things of life.

They don't because they are poor and disadvantaged, as well as because they are women. If any women should benefit from the Women's Movement then ALL women should benefit, and if all WOMEN benefit, then so should ALL PEOPLE. Women must recognize that they are only a part of the oppressed of this society--and must refuse to remain silent, must refuse to cease their criticisms and their struggles--until those original and noble goals of the Women's Movement are realized. Those women who have benefitted, and also forgotten the many others of society who remain oppressed are not deserving of the commendation of the Women's Movement.

The goal therefore is not to get more women in the board room--rather the goal is to get more women in the positions of power and have them do different things. The point of the Women's Movement is to remove the oppressor--oppressed relationship. It is NOT to substitute one oppressor for another. The woman who gains entry to the 'board room' and then perpetuates the policies of her male predecessors is not doing anything to solve the problems about which the originators of the Movement complained. If in fact we are satisfied with having women play the same games that men have always played, perpetuating the same kinds of injustices which so recently saw us as victims, then the whole Movement has missed the point and honest women must abandon it.

The Women's Movement must align itself with other movements of the oppressed: where was the voice of the Women's Movement last summer when Kenora area Indians occupied Anicinabe Park? Do they not suffer the same oppression as we? Where is the voice of the Women's Movement on the whole question of poverty? Do we not feel that the fact that from 1/4 to 1/3 of Canada's population lives below the poverty line is injustice and inequality? And is it not injustice and inequality against which we fight? Do they not suffer from the same oppression as we?

Let me just briefly summarize the two main points that I am emphasizing here today. First, I con-

sider slogans like "You've come a long way baby", a patronizing insult as well as an inaccuracy. We have some some good progress, it's true, but let us not be duped into complacency by the slick slogans of the advertising industry. We still have a lot further to go. And second, as we continue along the path that we have started, let us not, those of us

who have benefitted from the changes brought about thus far, lose sight of the original driving force behind the Women's Movement, that is, the search for justice and equality; and let us keep in mind that if women are deserving of justice and equality so are all others in our society who presently feel its lack.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

by Ann Harvey and Rita Moir

A Critical Look

The ideas presented here come from personal experience working on government funded projects, from many discussions with women's centres in 1974, and from an article by Morgan Fox in Vol. 1 No. 1 of the B.C. Federation of Women Newsletter. Basically, we would like to talk about problems arising in the process of applying for and accepting government funds.

Areas where problems seem to arise are:

- 1) The time and energy spent applying for and awaiting decisions on grants. Dealing with an unseen bureaucracy rather than contacting and depending upon a community of women for support in work hours and finances.
- 2) Forced growth which occurs when a lump sum of funds arrives. Projects may begin with no real demonstration of need, with no long-term planning, and may end when the funds run out. What the community witnesses is a lack of continuity and permanence.
- 3) The occasional necessity of molding or shifting goals of the group, especially in the area of research, to qualify for the grant. He who pays the piper calls the tune.
- 4) Employment grants such as OFY and LIP, which when ended may leave the centre with no solid volunteer

base. Knowledge and decision making can fall into the hands of these few full-time but short-term workers. Such grants may act as short term pacifiers which defuse energy directed toward long term concerns and goals women have.

- 5) Competition with other women's groups for available funds, especially on a regional basis. Gives advantages to the groups with good application writers and political strings to pull. How does this help make for a grass-roots movement.
- 6) What will we have when the grants end, and we have not built a base for self-support? When will the government decide we are becoming a threat to this system? Justice Minister Otto Lang's recent admission that political investigations of women's centres are common prior to funding should tell us what grants hinge upon.
- 7) What are the motives of a government which spends \$5 million spotlighting 1975 as "our year", but which refuses to remove abortion from the criminal code. Are we being pacified by this money, and are we allowing the government to keep tabs on our politics and momentum by depending upon them for our survival?

If a group decides not to apply for funding, it must look at alternative ways to make money.

The B.C. Federation of Women is taking this route. Because they do not believe IWY has much potential for ending the oppression of women, they will not apply for any IWY funds, but will call upon the government to remove abortion from the criminal code to show its support for the women in Canada. BCFW will depend upon membership support as one form of funding.

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

Although the above analysis of government funding was produced in Alberta, Ann Harvey (SOURCE, Edmonton) and Rita Moir (Lethbridge) have summed up very well what is a real problem across Canada.

Comments are invited; we want YOUR OPINIONS. Also if any of you have suggestions for Alternatives we want to HEAR ABOUT THEM. Meanwhile read on:

Alternatives

Until we can control how tax payers' money is administered, and guarantee long term financing for women's centres, we can either continue on the thin ice of government funding or seek viable financial alternatives.

In seeking alternatives, it is time to turn to the people we are trying to reach, our own communities, and find out what support we will receive.

Unlike the process of dealing with a government bureaucracy, if our support (financial and otherwise) is coming from people effected by the centre or newsletter, we'll know exactly where we stand, how much support we have actually got, and how many people we are effectively reaching. The feedback we would receive in donations, newsletter subscriptions, volunteered time, letters and phone calls would probably increase if we were existing because of a community need and supported by that community.

*** Some methods of fund raising ***

1) Have community services relevant to

women locate a branch (one person with a desk or small room) in the women's centre, eg.

Storefront legal services
Family planning organizations
Employment counselling services

These organizations usually have money and could help share the rent, plus keep people in the centre. Provides other women with reasons for coming to the centre and being exposed to more and provides organizations with a better contact place for women.

- 2) If women's centre is a coalition of a number of women's organizations in the area, both new and traditional, perhaps each organization could help to cover a part of the rent each month. (For some organizations it could be part of yearly membership fees, while others could raise money in a different way).
- 3) Set up a bookstore in part of the centre for feminist books, literature, posters, buttons, crafts, etc. After a while this should be able to largely support the centre's rent, as is true in Vancouver and Portland.
- 4) Fund-raising drives - these are usually the most exciting, fun, pain-in-the-ass ways of raising money. You can implement your wildest ideas, feel good working on it with other women, and talk to and meet an incredibly wide variety and number of women who wouldn't ordinarily go near a women's centre.
- 5) Benefits - almost every city has music groups or individuals willing to do a benefit or take only a small cut at the door. Get together some women musicians, with poetry reading or theatre. Put up posters and pictures about the women's centre so people can find out what it is about. Set up book, literature and craft tables. Talk to people when they are looking at things. Have pamphlets to hand out for information, and where to send donations. Have a table for donations. An evening liquor license brings in more money.

- 6) Bingos - don't cringe - think of how many women go to bingos, who we normally might never reach. Again, have literature tables, posters, book sale, pics and posters about the women's centre and groups in town. Again pamphlets, a place for donations, maybe a short five-minute talk between cards. (N.B. This is how many civil rights and community groups in the States raised their money successfully).
- 7) Bake sales, rummage sales, bizarres --good health foods--set up a table in a shopping centre mall, maybe a few posters and pamphlets; it can really be a great time. Meet all kinds of people collecting stuff for rummage sales, etc.
- 8) Book and literature tables - at universities, colleges, conferences, shopping malls; especially successful around Christmas time. Big discounts available from publishers like Women's Press and then you can sell at regular price.
- 9) Raffles - raffling off a Texas mickie (or any other kind) has been proven success. Fifty cents a ticket, what can you lose? In Nfld. it is been known to raise more than \$100.00. Mind you, they're pretty serious drinkers.
- 10) Pledges - regular contributions of \$1.00 and up per month from many people could pay for the rent, or a good chunk of it.
- 11) Fair and festival booths, rodeos--sell books, buttons, show movies, sell crafts, etc., and newsletters or papers. This is especially good for publicity. If you want to promote junk food, this could be the place, but that does seem a bit sleazy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WOMAN'S PLACE MANUAL JUST COMPLETED

A Woman's Place has just compiled a manual for volunteers explaining the organization of the house and how to do various tasks. There is a long section on how to process and file materials for the Library. Copies of this manual are available to other Women's Centres and people doing research on Women's projects and organizations. Copies are twenty-five cents each, however, Women's Centres may obtain one copy free by writing to A Woman's Place.

ROOMMATE WANTED

Looking for someone to share my apartment on Ellice Avenue-- 2 1/2 rooms, \$70.00 per month (\$35.00 each). I am recently separated from my husband and in my mid thirties--would prefer someone in a similar situation. Call Georgeanne at 775-4215 or 284-3324.

MALE CHAUVINIST PIG NOMINATIONS

Watch this space next month for the WORST TEN. Meanwhile we are still taking nominations. They have tapered off so get yours in!

MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

AT A WOMAN'S PLACE

All meetings are at 8:00 p.m.

- MARCH 3 Tactics and Strategy of the Women's Movement. Speaker is Ms. Rebic from Toronto.
- MARCH 10 Newsletter Collective Meet.
- MARCH 17 Business Meeting
- MARCH 24 WORKSHOP on alternatives to government funding--please bring article featured in this issue in connection with this topic.
- MARCH 31 Mailout of Newsletter

IWY STICKERS FOR SALE

Last month we announced that The Provincial Council of Women is selling stickers and labels with the IWY emblem on them.

We now have the stickers available at A WOMAN'S PLACE. All proceeds to go the hosting of the Triennial of International Council of Women to be held in Vancouver, June 1976--67 countries around the world will be sending representatives.

Stickers also available at PCW offices 437 Don Street, Winnipeg.

NEW WOMEN'S PATCHES AVAILABLE

Some new hand-embroidered sew-on patches are available from A Woman's Place for \$1.00 each. We have some new designs as well as some old stand-bys. We now have available:

The International
Women's Year Symbol

Women's Symbol with Fist

Women's Symbol with Equal Sign

Call Me Ms

The above are available in the following colors:

Dark Blue on Light Blue material.

Gold on Mustard material.

Red, Rose, White, Purple or Aqua on Black material.

Any color on Tan material.

The following are available on Tan material only with any color thread:

Woman's Place Is In The World

Women Are Not Chicks

Sexism is a Social Disease

Uppity Women Unite

Disarm the Rapist

Feminist Lives

Also still available is "Sister hood is Blooming". All on Tan material with Black lettering and various flowers in the centre in light or dark Blue, Rose, Purple, Yellow or light Pink. If you want a large order, there may be some wait as these patches are all made by hand.

MANITOBA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

A General Meeting will be held from 12:30 - 5:00 pm on Saturday March 1st in Theatre A fourth floor of Manitoba Hall at THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG.

Day Care is available--but spots must be reserved.

The agenda is as follows:

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Business meeting--
passing of by-laws
report of advisory
council
financial report
memberships
- 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. Action Workshops
- 1) Rural Childcare
 - 2) Family Day care
 - 3) Group Childcare
 - 4) Part time Care
 - 5) Lunch & After school.
- 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. Presentation and acceptance of Workshops. Recommendations.

For more information contact Deb Blower at 786-7537 ext 32 or Laura Mills at 783-4980.

Manitoba
Association
for
Children
with
Emotional
Disorders

General Meeting, Tuesday March 4th, 8:00 p.m. at the United Way Boardroom, Midtown Bldg, 267 Edmonton Street. Guest speaker, W. Lylyk from the Provincial Social Services Office will talk about effective directions for MACED to move to. For more information call Dorothy Waksdale 233-7442 or Julie Paquette 489-2282.

THE WEST END CO-OPERATIVE RESOURCE
CENTRE

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
A NEW ADDITION TO THEIR SERVICES:

A Consumer Help Office

A joint project of the Federal
Dept. of Consumer and Corporate Affairs
and the West End Co-operative Nursery
Schools inc.

In addition to:

Parent-child services
Workshops relating to children
Newsletter
Toy-book-slide lending library
Consultant services

You are invited to call or drop in
with any consumer problems you have to:
THE WEST END CONSUMER HELP OFFICE
796 Banning St. (Sargent and Banning)
775-5346

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. - 9:00-5:00
Wed. - 9:00-8:00
Sat. - 9:00-12:00

PARTY!

International Women's Day festivities
to be held at the residence of our
newsletter graphics designer, Bev Coy
15 Foxberry Bay in Wesdale, anytime
after 8:30 Saturday March 8th.
Everyone welcome (♀ and ♂)! BYOB

For more information call Julie at
489 2282 or 786 4581.

Are there any artists/crafts-
women out there? I'd like to form
an artists "Brains/Hands Trust" to
gather artwork for the newsletter,
pamphlets for a Woman's Place and
other women's groups, posters, etc.
Also had an idea to have a spring arts
and crafts fair here. Most people
(including me) don't have a lot of time
but if we could get together a couple
of hours a week....feedback to me,

Paula Ring 783-0685
after 5 and week-ends

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Congress of Canadian Women in co-
operation with the Association of
United Ukranian Canadians; Federation
of Russian Canadians and the United
Jewish Peoples order are sponsoring
an INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRA-
TION to be held Sunday, March 9th at
2:00 p.m. at R. B. Russell School,
364 Dufferin Street.

Keynote speaker is Virginia Thomson
who is a day care teacher; a shop ste-
ward of CUPE Local 79; and chairperson
of CUPE Day Care Association.

During the day events such as a
Variety Concert, a display of books,
magazines and artifacts concerning
IWY, and an international doll display
will be held.

BUTTON CONTEST

Would you like to see your favorite
slogan reproduced en masse, on a
button? You may even win a few
buttons!

Examples:

Share the shit work.

Woman's place is in the world.

Miss on you pister.

NOW enter yours in what could be an
exciting contest!!!

MOST DISGUSTING!

"The Lance" writes, on Jan.22,
"Show me a woman who still washes her
dishes and I'll show you an unliberated
female."

This is the kind of tremendous
distortion of liberation movements that
occurs in the press. If only we can
buy more, suddenly we'll all be free. A
great attempt by capitalists to turn
liberation into a consumption movement.

I noticed as well that the dishes
are still defined as "her dishes". Not
a useful object, but an extension of
women.

Most disgusting!

Linda T.

RAPE PREVENTION WORKSHOP

- A look at the men who rape and the women they attack. Where it happens, how it's done and why some men are driven to it:
- Protective measures every woman can take.
- After: What to do, who to call, what will happen to you.
- The results of reporting a rape: Police interrogation, your medical examination and the legal case against him.
- The Trial: your chances, is it worth it, how the trial may affect your life, your family, your man's love.
- Help for the rape victim: Women's organizations, what they do, how to reach them. Government action, pioneering rape laws.

SPONSORED BY CAMPUS WOMEN'S LIBERATION

TIME: SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10:00 – 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: 205 UNIVERSITY CENTRE

REGISTRATION FEE: \$2.00

SPEAKERS:

RAPE CRISIS COUNSELLOR: ELLEN GORDON

LAWYER: BARNIE SNEIDEMAN

SELF-DEFENCE FOR WOMEN: COLE SUMMERS

DOCTOR

PREVENTION OF CORROSION

IN STEEL STRUCTURES

BY
DR. S. S. BHARGAVA

PROFESSOR
OF
CORROSION

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
KANPUR

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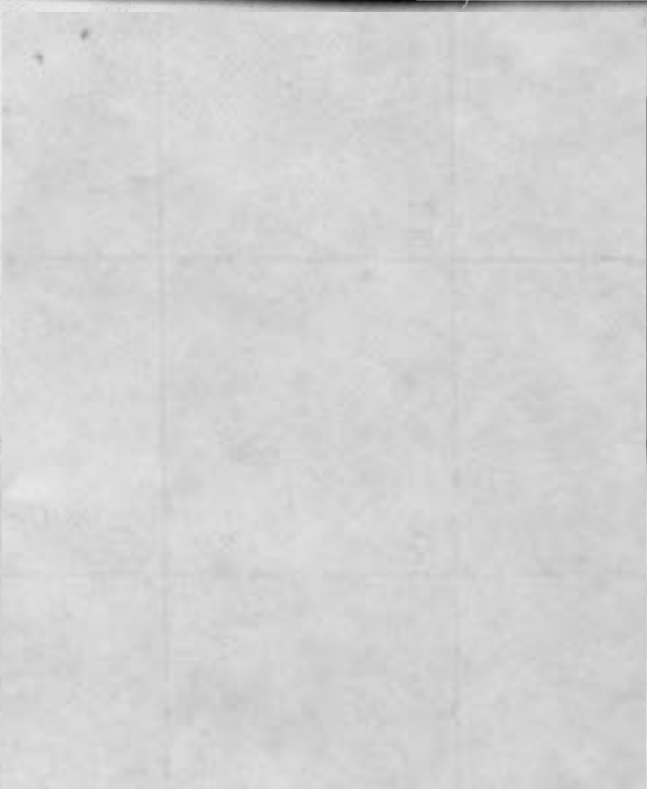
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