

Winnipeg Women's Liberation Newsletter



OCTOBER '75

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.

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Brought to you this month by: Julie, Yvette, Pat, Pam, Linda

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WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER

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Sat. Oct. 25

for
men and women

8:30 - 1:00

Food

SOCIAL

Fun

and

BENEFIT

Singing

Theatre

299 Young St.

\$3.00 a ticket

Buy early, avoid disappointment
Womens Place, Weds. 8-10:00
Liberation Bookstore
Y.W.C.A. Womens Centre U.of M., umsu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The University of Winnipeg will mark the celebration of International Women's Year by sponsoring a Women's Week October 20-24. The event is open to the public.

According to Dr. Claudia Wright, assistant professor of Political Science and chairperson of the Women's Week Committee, activities have been scheduled throughout the week which focus on women's concerns, needs, current status interests and futures. The program has an all-Canadian content with the exception of one film which is produced and directed by a woman.

"The objective of the U of W Women's Week is to provide information for women about women. We are also concerned with providing women with information that will give them the ability to enrich their lives as women", Dr. Wright said.

Scheduled to make the key-note address at 12:30 p.m. Monday in Theatre A, room 431 Manitoba Hall is Madeleine Parent, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union who will address the topic: "Women in the Labor Force".

Other speakers include: Ann Davis, of the Winnipeg Art Gallery who will speak on the subject "Through a Window - Christiane Plug's Vision" Tuesday at 12:40 p.m. in room 110 Lockhart Hall; Margrit Eichler from the department of Sociology in Education, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, who will speak on the subject "Sex in the Economy", Wednesday, at 12:30 p.m. in room 437 Manitoba Hall; and Anne Marie Kanert of the University of Winnipeg's French department who will talk on the topic: "Womanpower: Something New?", Friday at 12:30 p.m. in room 112 Lockhart Hall.

WOMEN'S WEEK

University of Winnipeg



In addition, two panel discussions are planned: one on Sex Roles; the other on The Status of Women in Manitoba.

Discussants on the Sex Roles panel scheduled for Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in room 437 Manitoba Hall include Margrit Eichler; Roberta Buchanan, Memorial University, Newfoundland; Vanaja Dhruvarajan, assistant professor of Sociology at the U of W; and Ester Koulack, lecturer in Sociology at the U of W.

Participants in the Status of Women in Manitoba panel discussion scheduled for Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in room 271 Manitoba Hall include June Menzies, chairperson, Advisory Committee on the Status of Women; Mary Eady of the Women's Bureau; Muriel Smith political and community activist; and Marline Palamateer, executive director of the Metis Women's Association of Manitoba.

A full program of feature films is also scheduled for both afternoon (2:30 p.m.) and evening viewing (8:00 p.m.) in room 431 Manitoba Hall. Among the films to be shown are: "A Very Curious Girl" directed by Nelly Kaplan of France - a film of revolt; "Women at Work" with Monica Townson, economist and columnist with the Financial Times; and "The Legal Status of Women" produced by the Hon. Clair Kirkland Casgrain, lawyer and Quebec Minister for Cultural Affairs.

A display of books, literature and audio-visual material sponsored by the Women's Bureau will be located in the concourse of Centennial Hall.

Full details on the event are available from the University's public relations office, _____
786-7811, ext. 330.

women and socialism

Margaret Randall, author of Cuban Women Now and the 1974 Afterword will be traveling to Canada and doing a cross-country speaking tour.

Margaret brings with her a wealth of knowledge and understanding of women both in the Third World and within the North American women's movements. She has been living in Cuba for the last five years, working closely with the Federation of Cuban Women and the Book Institute. The research for her book Cuban Women Now took her to outlying corners of Cuba and her talks with women from all walks of life have provided a panorama of the life of Cuban women within the Cuban revolution, one of the best views we have of the prospects of liberation for women within Cuban socialism. She has closely monitored the controversial Cuban Family Code, the newest and possibly most progressive piece of legislation concerning women in the world. It effectively legislates that sexism and chauvinism are illegal.

She will bring a recent Cuban documentary on Cuban women.

A prolific writer and poet M.R. has published numerous books, and poems and she edited a literary magazine in Mexico for 8 years. In 1970 she participated as a judge in the Casa de las Americas Literary Contest, Havana Cuba. She was a judge for the Combate del Obrero Literary Contest sponsored by the University of Santiago de Cuba in 1970. For the last three months of 1973 she was invited by the International Labor Organization of the United Nations and the Peruvian Government to work at the Centre for the Study of People's Participation in Lima, Peru. In September and October 1974 she travelled to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the liberated zones of the Republic of South Vietnam, invited by the Vietnam Women's Union. This past year she participated in an International Women's Conference in Venezuela. We feel that Margaret has a great deal to say to Canadian women and we're excited about the prospect of being able to share experiences with her, especially this year being International Women's Year, considering the paucity of events that have taken place.

MON. NOVEMBER 17 YWCA

MARGARET RANDALL SPEAKS

co-sponsored by A Woman's Place and
Voice of Women.

For additional information,

phone Pam - 452-8331

or

Esther - 284-7945

CUBA

Women Now by Margaret Randall is
available at Woman's Place library
Cuban

Winnipeg Women's Press Conference

"IWY a Farce"

Women's Liberation and perhaps other women's organizations will hold a press conference Saturday, October 25, at approximately 10:00 A.M., to present our views on International Women's Year

Come and join us.

A Free U Course IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FICTION

Beginning Wed. Oct. 15
Room 228 7:30 P.M.
University Centre
University of Man.

Reading and Discussion
of novels by and about
women, including works
by Lessing, Atwood, and
others.

Phone 889-4118 or
come to Rm. 228

HELP!

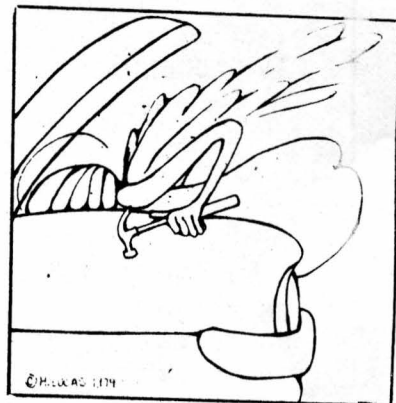
If you have a few hours
a week please volunteer
to staff A Woman's Place.
Even a few hours a month
would be of enormous help.

Available at Womens Place

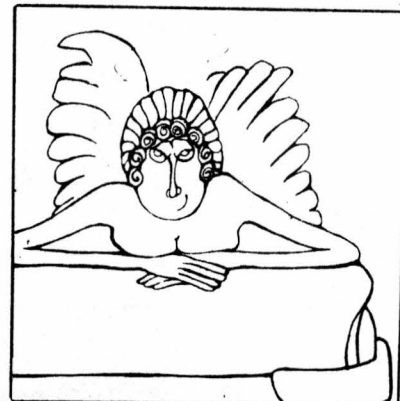
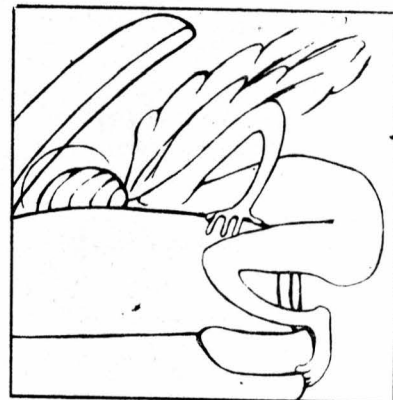
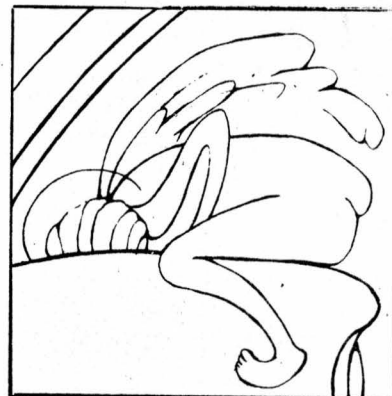
Every woman's almanac 1976
- \$3.00

Dimensions issue on Women
- \$1.50

Manitoba Women Together
- a legal handbook - revised
1975 - 60¢



TODAY A PLUGGED FUEL PUMP...



... TOMORROW THE WORLD!

FAIR
FIGHTING
in
love and marriage

FIVE THURSDAYS - October 30
to
November 27
7:30 p.m.
YWCA, 447 Webb Pl.

Aggressive feelings and behaviour are normal for every human being. However many of us feel uncomfortable with these feelings and behaviour because we imagine that it damages the most intimate relationships of our life. Many of us were brought up to believe that aggressive feelings are wrong and we should neither feel nor express them.

Some of the main goals of a constructive aggression workshop are to help people get in touch with their aggressive feelings, to understand them, and to become more comfortable with them. The workshop will help participants see how aggressive feelings are useful in relationships and will give them some practice in channeling personal aggressiveness into more constructive paths.

WORKSHOP LEADER:

Reverend James J. Strachan
Director of Chaplaincy Dept
Health Sciences Centre

FEE FOR SERIES: \$36.00 p r couple
\$26.00 single

YW MEMBERS DEDUCT \$3.00

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

The Registrar
943-0381

Want to increase your skills in
Volunteerism?

. . . . then consider

V O L U N T E E R I N G
E F F E C T I V E

six
sessions
starts
november 6th
thursdays
at
the
YWCA
447 Webb Pl.
fee: \$10.00
promptly at 7:30 p.m.
registrations must be in no later
than october 30th

for further information please
call Carla Droznak at 943-0381
or the Volunteer Bureau at
943-6671

THE
MANITOBA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

presents the

SECOND ANNUAL
CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

Date: Friday evening, Nov. 28
Saturday, Nov. 29, 1975.

Place: Theatre "A" (431 Manitoba
Hall) University of
Winnipeg.

PHONE: Laura Mills 783-4980
Lynne Peresky 256-3873

October

November

Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22 Meeting ♀ Place	Oct 23	Oct 24	Oct 25 Women's 9:30 AM LIBERATION SOCIAL 299 YOUNG 10:00 AM PRESS CONFERENCE
Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30 YWCA Fair Fighting 7:30 pm	Oct 31 HALLOWE'EN	Nov 1
Nov 2	Nov 3 Business Meeting	Nov 4 MACEID 475 2463 United WAY	Nov 5	Nov 6 YWCA F.F. 7:30 pm & Volunteering	Nov 7	Nov 8 ♀ for Non- SEXIST Educa- tion Phone Linda 4754777 for time & place
Nov 9	Nov. 10	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13 YWCA F.F. 7:30 pm & Volunteering	Nov 14	Nov 15
Nov 16	Nov 17 Margaret Randall YWCA 8:00 P.M.	Nov 18 Margaret Randall-place to be deter- mined	Nov 19	Nov 20 YWCA F.F. 7:30 p.m	Nov 21	Nov 22

FEATURE

Women in Literature

INSTALLMENT TWO

by Millie Lamb

In Women in Love, D.H. Lawrence, speaking through Birkin, drives home the lesson of woman's submissive role, as Birkin and Ursula witness Gerald's lashing his Arab mare into submission:

"It's the last, perhaps highest love-impulse to resign your will to the higher being...And woman is the same as horses; two wills act in opposition inside her. With one will, she wants to subject herself utterly. With the other she wants to bolt, and pitch her rider into perdition."

The effect of such attitudes on female students at the junior high school level was demonstrated in a recent study by Val Smyth, a Winnipeg school counsellor, in her report to the 1973 Conference on Women in the Labor Force:

These girls are hampered by feelings of extremely low self-esteem. These feelings are then generalized to the belief that women are inferior to men. 2

Speaking at a teachers' inservice at St. James - Assiniboia, Sybil Shack recounted how mothers of bright girl students came to her in despair, fearing that their daughters' academic prowess would interfere with their popularity and chances of marriage. Girls at the high school level are especially vulnerable to these social pressures. Literature must do its part in overcoming them, but formidable obstacles lie ahead.

In November, 1973, the Task Force on Text Book Evaluation established at the request of the Minister of Education, found sexist bias and prejudice in the textbooks, and called for increasing vigilance and affirmative action on the part of educators.

In a recent issue of the English Journal, Susan L. Wilk wrote:

I found that current textbook literature does not in any way assist a female adolescent in establishing a satisfactory self-concept. Currently textbook literature perpetuates the female stereotypes which cruelly limit and define an adolescent female in terms of second class status. 3

I understand plans are going ahead for Women's Studies Courses at the secondary level, either as part of the secondary English programme, or as an interdisciplinary programme. In the meantime what can be done in the teaching of secondary English to stimulate the creative and intellectual potential of female students, to give

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- 1 Lawrence, D.H. Women in Love, (New York: Viking, 1960) pp. 132-33
 - 2 Smyth, Val Preparing Young People for the Changing Role of Women in Today's Society, p. 1
 - 3 Wilk, Susan L. The Sexual Bias of TextBook Literature, English Journal, (February, 1973) p. 224

young women a sense of dignity and worth in line with the UN Charter of Human Rights and Canada's Bill of Rights? How do we overcome the effects of sexism, which dehumanizes boys and girls, by equating masculinity with aggression and violence, and femininity with passivity and dependence; and which denies to one or other the human qualities of efficiency, intellectuality, drive, tenderness, and consideration?

We can encourage a critical faculty, an awareness that the form and content of literature is historically and culturally conditioned, a reflection of patriarchal civilizations in which, for thousands of years, women were regarded as chattels, and barred almost completely from participation in economic, political, and intellectual life. In Canada until 1928, women were legally non-persons; they are still denied access to most occupations, and only recently granted limited civil rights. Most students are unaware of the historical factors that have prevented the emergence of a female Shakespeare.

In novels, plays, poetry and short prose, the student should be encouraged to understand how each literary work is a response to the patriarchal attitudes of our culture. In most cases (the writer), because he or she, as an artist, is especially sensitive to human feelings, senses the resultant erosion of human experience. Even though the work in question may not mention women, implicitly it is critical of patriarchal values. For instance, Shelley's "Ozymandias" uses ironic contrast to show the absurdity of the patriarchal obsession with the perpetuation of its wealth and power. In "Mending Wall", Robert Frost pokes gentle fun at similar patriarchal values, the dark and brutal values of individual possessiveness.

But Shelley and Frost along with many great poets addressed themselves specifically to the position of women. Shelley's Queen Mab and The Revolt of Islam contain passionate pleas for sexual equality, and the condition for men's liberation as well as women's:

Can man be free if woman
be a slave? ... well ye know
What woman is, for none of woman born
Can choose but drain the bitter dregs
of woe
Which ever from the oppressed to the
oppressor flow. 1

In "Love and a Question" Frost suggests that the lover who attempts to protect his beloved from the concerns of the outside world, and cherish her as a precious object must necessarily abandon his humanity:

Within, the bride in the
dusk alone
Bent over the open fire,
Her face rose-red with the
glowing coal
And the thought of her heart's
desire.
The bridegroom looked at the
weary road,
Yet saw but her within,
And wished her heart in a
case of gold
And pinned with a silver pin. 2

Once the teacher is aware of this particular responsibility, every English class will afford fresh opportunities and insights. In "Sirens and Seeresses" (English Journal, November, 1973) Lois Josephs Fowler points this out:

One goal for secondary school teachers lies within the scope of the English curriculum as a whole; to deliberately raise issues related to women's roles in all literature, film, or language study. What were things like for women at a given time or place? How did they get to be that way? Have things always been like that? Are they like that now? Do women act and speak differently from men? In what ways are their interests different, their lives easier or more difficult?

1. Newbolt, Sir Henry ed. Poems of Shelley (Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., London) The Revolt of Islam, p. 89.

2. Perrine, Laurence, ed. Sound and Sense "Love and a Question", pp. 14-15.

