

WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE



formerly Women's Place

165 Spadina Ave.
Ste. 27 & 28
Toronto, Ont.
363-8021

NOVEMBER 1974

Dear Sisters: As you probably know, Women's Place has been going through changes in the past few months. We decided to go back to using our official name, WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE (WIC). We've moved again, permanently, to 165 SPADINA AVENUE (at Queen). And we've decided to alter our functions somewhat.

The original collective split in two at the end of the summer. One group has been planning to set up a women's cultural centre - coffee house - drop-in (see the enclosed flyer). The other group (WIC) has decided to concentrate on the "business" aspects of the old Women's Place.

WIC will continue the phone referrals, speakers bureau, legal clinic, CR groups, and newsletter. Because we've dropped the drop-in, we no longer need a house and have moved into a 3-room office. Our Grand Official Opening will be on Monday, December 16. Come down and see us anytime between 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., we're having an open house. (Our phone lines are already in operation 929-3185 until December 2, and 363-8021 after).

Since the summer, we've been operating on no income. We're waiting to hear from Secretary of State and LIP, but there's no assurance that we will receive funds. So we are in need of money, and if you can spare anything, we would appreciate your donations.

If, and when we do get funding, there will be a few job openings - if you'd like to work at WIC, write soon and tell us your areas of interest and we'll let you know if anything comes up.

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to you all.

CAMPUS DAYCARE SOS

Your friendly neighbourhood non-sexist, parent-run, cooperative daycare centre is in financial distress.

Inflation has caught up with us and we are in considerable debt. We've had to raise the fees to bring our revenue up to par with our expenses. Our debt won't increase any more, but we must find the necessary money to clear the debt as it exists. And we depend heavily on donations - from our own pockets, from family, friends and supporters from the community.

So, if you support us, please send your donations (they're tax deductible) in cheque or money order made out to:

Campus Community Cooperative Daycare (CCDC)
12 Sussex Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

As most of you know by now, 1975 has been declared (by the U.N.) International Women's Year. The Government of Canada has forked up \$5 million in a spirit of internationalism to celebrate the changing status of women throughout the world. Of course, it sheepishly admits that not much has changed, so part of the money will go to sensitizing the general public to the need for change.

To be more specific, the \$5 million will be split equally between the Department of the Secretary of State and the Privy Council's International Women's Year Secretariat.

Suzanne Findlay, chairwoman of the Women's Programme of Secretary of State (not to be confused with the Privy Council Secretariat) has obtained a budget of \$2.5 million to be used for women's projects (cultural projects, publications, travel, etc.) This money is likely to be put to good use, since the Secretary of State office and Sue Findlay in particular, has proven responsive to the needs of Canadian women. (If you have a project in mind and would like Secretary of State funding, talk to the field representative of the regional Secretary of State office nearest you).

Unfortunately, Suzanne Findlay's job is in jeopardy. Although she has demonstrated competence, and the Women's programme has been highly successful, it was decided from above to reclassify her job upwards, and hold a competition for the position. (typical government procedure). Findlay lost the competition and the job went to a woman who so far has demonstrated no interest in women's groups or women's issues. This move has been widely protested and Findlay has appealed the decision. (The appeal will be held publicly in Ottawa on November 29).

Now for the other \$2.5 million from the Privy Council Secretariat. This money isn't likely to be put to good use. Although no-one really knows how it will be used since the Secretariat refuses to publish a budget breakdown.

This much is known - \$1 million is being used to stage 5 conferences (\$200,000 each!) to 'sensitize the dominant culture', i.e. clue in the public that women have rights too. What will happen at these conferences, or who will be invited, is unclear.

Another \$500,000 has been awarded to an all-male creative team at Ronalds-Reynolds Advertising Agency to present a campaign based on the slogan "Why Not?" ("Why not trivialize women's issues, its better than taking them seriously," etc.). Protests have been sent by letter to Ronalds-Reynolds asking that they resign from their campaign, or set up an advisory committee of women. Ronalds-Reynolds has declined to reply and as a result a demonstration has been planned to bring pressure to bear on this issue. Women will be gathering in front of the Toronto headquarters of Ronalds-Reynolds, 154 University Avenue (just north of King) between 11-1 P.M. on Thursday, November 28. Your support is needed.

OTTO LANG ON ABORTION

Otto Lang, the Justice Minister who said "women's right to control their own bodies" is a silly slogan, has been imposing his beliefs on the administration of the law in Canada.

The Roman Catholic father of seven (who says his religion and number of offspring are irrelevant to the issue) feels abortions and abortion referral services should be severely restricted.

Lang has called into question the legality of abortions and abortion referrals, regardless of the criminal code in Canada which states that abortions are legal when the health of the mother is endangered.

Nowhere in the criminal code does it suggest the illegality of referring women to hospitals or to foreign countries to procure an abortion. Yet Otto Lang has seen fit to interfere with the granting of government funds to the Saskatoon Women's Centre on the grounds that its abortion referral services could be outside the law. (luckily because of widespread protest in the media, the Saskatoon funds were granted recently after a delay of 8 months - proof that our voices will be heard if we raise them).

Meanwhile, Lang has been sending out letters on Ministry of Justice letterhead to hospitals across the country, stating that in his 'personal' view, hospitals are stepping out of line in granting too many abortions for reasons other than the mother's health.

In his view, "health" must be interpreted narrowly to mean physical health, and that the Criminal Code implies this interpretation even though it does not say so. But John Turner said on numerous occasions (as Justice Minister) that the Code was purposely left vague to be open to interpretation by individual therapeutic abortion committees.

When an individual citizen expresses her/his views or registers protest it can be seen as just that - an individual protest. But when the Minister of Justice expresses his personal views with regard to the law, it is irresponsible.

We can't sit still and let a government official create a backlash on the abortion issue. The Criminal Code isn't all that hot as it is, but at least it recognizes a need. Otto lang will respond to pressure, if we press hard.

Philinda Masters

WOMEN CANDIDATES

We had originally intended to run an article on the women candidates for the municipal election on December 2. But ... there are over 80 women running for office in Toronto & the boroughs! We don't have the space to list them here, with their platforms. And it wouldn't be fair to single some out and neglect others. We suggest you call the women candidates in your ward and ask them how they stand on women's issues. Some candidates are feminists, others prefer to run on non-women platforms. It pays to find out. And, if the only candidate you trust in your ward is a woman, don't vote for someone else just because you have two votes*- that helps the opposition. If you want the phone numbers of women candidates call Yvonne Gordon (after 6 p.m.) at 537-9403.

*Everyone has two votes - but using both could cancel out your 1st choice for alderperson.

(See page 6 for brief list of candidates.)

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE- 487-2345

Any women who has been attacked or raped can call the crisis phone line any time 24 hours a day/7 days a week and receive immediate help. The centre has been operating for a year now, first on donation then on a summer OFY grant, and now on a small UCF grant. They still need your support and would appreciate your donations. The RCC has put out 3 publications since it opened: 2 pamphlets ("Rape: What every Woman should know" and "The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre") and one booklet ("Rape, the Crime Against Women"). For copies of these, write to: Rape Crisis Centre, P.O. Box 6597, Postal Stn. A, Toronto.

AMAZON WORKSHOP - 12 Kensington Avenue (862-0414)

BOOKSTORE: Among the new selections are two publications by the Canadian Women's Press:

Herstory '75 Canadian Women's Calendar:

A Daily Appointment Book with notes on our herstory by the Saskatoon Calendar Collective.

Never Done: Three Centuries of Women's Work in Canada,

by the Corrective Collective.

Coming Soon! : Born A Woman? The Rita MacNeil Songbook

Feminist Record: Virgo Rising featuring "Freedom Ladies' March", "Housewives Lament", "There was a young woman that swallowed a lie", and "We don't need the men".

Self Defence: a new 8-week course is starting in mid-January. call for information.

LESBIAN CONFERENCE

In Montreal January 25 and 26. Lavendar Jane will be there. For more information write to: Women's Information and Referral Centre, 3595 St. Urbain, Montreal, P.Q. More information will be available in our next Newsletter.

THE TORONTO WOMEN'S
YELLOW PAGES
IS
NOW AVAILABLE!!!

The Toronto Women's Yellow Pages is the first comprehensive listing of professional women, craftswomen, tradeswomen, Women's organizations, services oriented to women and businesses owned and operated by women throughout Toronto.

\$2 for individuals (plus 25¢ for handling)
\$5 for institutions(" " " ")

For further information contact: Terry Hilliard 923-9820 or Caroline Bode 484-4788.

To order a copy for yourself or a friend (for Christmas?), fill in the form below:

TORONTO WOMEN'S YELLOW PAGES
c/o Terry Hilliard
399 Sackville Street
Toronto, Ontario

No. of copies -----
Cheque \$-----
Money Order \$-----

NAME- _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel. No.: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

We would like to exchange our newsletter with other women's centres, resource centres or women's publications across Canada.

If you would like the newsletter free and have publication to send in return, or know of someone else who would like to get in on the exchange, write WIC, 165 Spadina Avenue, Toronto or call (416) 363-8021.

WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (WCFL)

- for women interested in playing, coaching, organizing or funding this league
- amateur teams only.

For more information, write: Yvonne Gordon, 42 Columbus Avenue, Toronto; or call after 6 P.M.: 537-9403

FREE PREPARED CHILDBIRTH CLASSES

- for women, and people who will be present at childbirth
- classes teaching Lamaze Method
- exercises and talking

Contact: Ann Lacey at 967-7653
Julie Mathien at 961-6980

PAMPHLETS

- ☒ "The Law Relating to Working Women" - This brochure outlines federal and provincial law regarding working women including salary discrimination, sex discrimination, maternity leave, "protective" legislation, etc. Write: Women's Bureau, Dept. of Labour, Sir Wilfred Laurier Bldg., 340 Laurier Ave. W, Ottawa.
- ☒ "Mandate for Change: The Employment of Women in the Public Service of Canada" - Describes special measures adopted to ensure equal opportunity for the women in the Public Service, and outlines areas where discrimination is still rampant. Write: Office of Equal Opportunities for Women, Public Service, Commission, Place de Ville, Tower "A", Ottawa.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING KITS

We have CR Kits for sale: \$2.50 (+25¢ handling). Kits include articles such as "Why I Want a Wife", "Woman Identified Woman" & "Politics of Housework", as well as questions to help discussions: on marriage, advertising & the media, cosmetics etc.

YWCA WRITING SESSION

There will be a seven week writing session organized by Betsy Van Horn (of the YWCA) in January. This is not a creative writing course, but rather a shared exploration with each other of new ways to express what's happening within ourselves. We will attempt to write a one page short story, poem, paragraph, etc. each week to share in the group.

For more information: Call Sandra Varey at 961-8100.

WOMEN'S COUNSELLING COLLECTIVE

- ☒ Seminar on Assertive Training for Women presented by Linn Pearl
Monday, December 9, 8 P.M. at Macphail (YWCA residence)
389 Church Street (at Carlton)
- ☒ Anyone interested in joining the counselling collective can call Sandy Stienecker at Bongard House (YWCA) 961-8100.

WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

TORONTO MAYOR: Joan Campana; Rosie Sunrise. ALDERWOMEN: No. following is Ward) Elizabeth Eayrs,1; Yvette Tessier,1; Eleanor Bro,2; Pat Case,4; Penny Simpson,4; Erna Koffman,5; Judy Lily Lucko,5; Sandra Fox,7; Janet Howard,7; Peggy Reinhardt,7; Beatrice Zaveruch,8; Dorothy Thomas,9; Margaret Bryce,10; Juanne Hemsol,10; Anne Johnston,11; Pauline Shapero,11. BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Mable Elliott,1; Mary Fraser,1; Irena Atkinson,2; Diane Brdar,2; Evelyn Cotter,2; Melania Gural,4; Debra Lewis,5; Judith Mayor,5; Pam Dineen,6; Kathelēen Boyes,8; Pat Werry,8; Ruth Malloy,9; Stella Meagher,9; Charlotte Maher,10; Judith Jordan,11.

NORTH YORK BOARD OF CONTROL: Barbara Green; Dorothy Holmes, Bernadette Michaels, Margaret Petersen. ALDERWOMEN: Dorleen Hewitt,1; Katie Hayhurst,3; Esther Shiner,4; Marilyn Meshberg,5; Barbara Kirkham,6; Marie Labatte,10; Lorraine Deane,11; Shirley Scaife,11; Betty Sutherland,14. BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Joela Treasure,1; Margaret Peg Grant,2; Frances Chapkin,6; Jessie Silver,9; Lyn Trainor,10; Marion Gordon,11; Althea Pouyos,10; Ruch Bick,13.

YORK BOARD OF CONTROL: Rose Galic. ALDERWOMEN: Lucille Griff,1. BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Harriet Wolman,2; Ruth Russell,3; Elizabeth Ashborne,6; Karen McCutcheon,8.

SCARBOROUGH BOARD OF CONTROL: Anne Johnston; Joyce Trimmer. ALDERWOMEN: Carol Ruddell,2; Shirley Eidt,8; Mary Jane Zissoff,8. BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Barbara Fava,1; Patricia Collie,2; Sheila B. Gracey,7; Shirley M. Tomlinson,7; Dorothy Reynolds,12; Fran Smith,12.

EAST YORK ALDERWOMEN: Edna Beange,4; Vi Thompson,1; BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Patricia George,1; Edith Tredway,2.

ETOBICOKE MAYOR: Mary Legg. BOARD OF CONTROL: Dorothy Price. ALDERWOMEN: Helen Wursta,1; Julie Lyons,2; Gail J. Cranston,3; Dorothy Hobbs,3; Lois Griffiths,4; Ruth Grier,5; Jean Hibbert,5; BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES: Aileen Anderson,4; Vera Ross,5; Victoria Stainton,5; Dora Stewart,5. HYDRO COMMISSION: Jean Heintzman.

LEGAL CLINIC

Women from University of Toronto Campus Legal Aid will continue to hold the Legal Clinic at WIC on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5-8 P.M. Call WIC to make appointments.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

CENTRE

OPEN HOUSE FOR WOMEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th 11am to midnight

\$1.50
DONATION



WORKSHOPS:

Yoga 11am-noon

Massage noon-1pm

Women's health (including self-examination demonstration and discussion of the direction + role of the CENTRE)

2-3:30pm

Natural medicine 3:30-5 pm

Childbirth Experience 5-6 pm

134 DARCY ST.

AND

AT ABOUT
6:30 PM



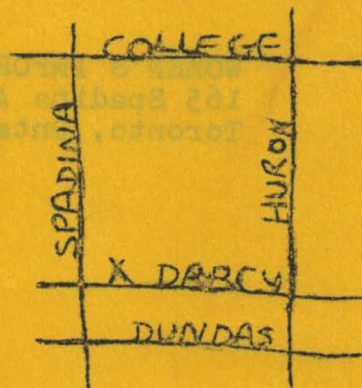
POT LUCK
DINNER

FOLLOWED BY
A

PARTY

WITH

POT LUCK MUSIC



366-0325



and probable licensed premises

EXHIBIT OF SARAH JACKSON'S BRONZE SCULPTURES -- Nov. 23-Dec. 12
GALLERY DANIELLI, 336 Dundas St. W. (opposite Ontario Art Gallery)
Sara Jackson is the only Canadian woman with pieces in the Hiershorn Collection in Washington, D.C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Due to the inevitable inflation, we have to raise our newsletter rates to;

\$3 for individuals
\$10 for institutions

If you can't afford these rates (as a group or as an individual) but would like the newsletter, please let us know.

If your subscription is due, the amount owing will be stamped on the address page. Please send the money soon, or we will have to remove you from our mailing list.

WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE,
165 Spadina Ave., Ste. 27,
Toronto, Ontario.



Eve Zaremba
16 Laurier Ave.
Toronto, Ont.

\$3