

FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE !!



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Over 1000 women joined in a march to city hall held last weekend in Toronto. The women were protesting federal and provincial government inaction in responding to their grievances.

photo by middleton

I am a deep river
bedded on rock
who knows what
subterranean streams
have kept me undiminished
what magic filters
of the soul still-
keeps me loving
Infinite and Indestructable
I hold the seed
of the world
in my rebellious Belly
only I know
the strength of the destroyer
that sleeps in my currents
only I know how
much I would risk
for a calculated Inch

Gert Beadle

(for the IWY Planning Seminar,
November 1974)

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"If a half-drowned pump
is put up against a
half-starved baby, there
are those people who
will exclaim the poor
pump."

The NEWS

MONTREAL(FNS)-The first Montreal Feminist Therapists Conference/Seminar took place on Saturday, April 14. The 40 women who attended the workshop attempted to formulate a philosophy of feminist therapy.

Topics discussed in small workshops included: the criteria of mental health; peer counseling; feminism as therapy; feminist therapy as a political act; modes of therapy; and, accountability.

One outcome of the Conference is that about 20 women have decided to meet regularly to consider such problems as breaking down client/therapist barriers and giving peer-group support.

This group can be reached by writing to the Montreal Feminist Therapists Group, c/o Women's Self-Help Centre, 3595 St. Urbain, Montreal, Quebec.

VICTORIA(FNS)-"Quality daycare is not a right in British Columbia." This would appear to be the message delivered by Norman Levi (Minister of Human Resources), to the parents and children of the South Hill Daycare Centre which is located in Vancouver's east end.

On April 17 at noon, 200 women, men and kids gathered in the legislative buildings in Victoria, B.C. and sat in the corridor outside the MLA cafeteria eating peanut butter sandwiches while the members of Parliament enjoyed their customary hot lunch government-subsidised. Norman Levi's answer to the children was that daycare is on the increase in B.C. since the NDP take-over and while his government could afford to care for them, they could not afford to feed them.

The demonstrators moved to

the NDP caucus room where they were granted 5 minutes to present their case. The caucus members promised to investigate the issue if "presented through the proper channels."

Several children were physically abused by the guards during the demonstration.

Tomorrow, the children of South Hill Daycare Centre will not have a hot lunch, but assuredly, the MLA cafeteria will be open as usual.

WINNIPEG(FNS)-The Woman's Place here went through a great deal of red tape earlier this year concerning the prioritization of LIP projects. The Woman's Place was rated 14th out of a field of 22 projects.

Woman's Place workers were concerned about the grounds on which their project was prioritized by the committee. A memorandum written by a Manpower worker attending the meeting attributes the following comments to some of the members: "We are not going to going to use this money to fund lesbians"; "Aren't these women all communists?"; "These women are just creating jobs for themselves." Other women's projects were not prioritized on similarly questionable grounds. An after-school lunch program of particular benefit to working women was not recommended for funding because "working mothers do not make good mothers" and "mothers supporting children alone are better off on welfare". Projects which encouraged women in non-traditional roles seemed generally to be regarded by the CAG as threatening. One committee member was quoted as saying that such women (feminists) were going to "spoil things" for those women who are content with the status quo.

Woman's Place immediately charged the CAG with sexist

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discrimination and requested a review of the application from Dan McKenzie (MP-Wpg.S.Centre) who was responsible for appointing the CAG. A review was pro-

mised by McKenzie in a letter dated Nov. 28, where he stated that he viewed the charges as being, "Very, very serious", and hoped to "bring the whole matter out in the open". The meeting, held on Dec. 13, 1974, was arranged by the Ottawa office of Manpower and Immigration. It was to include delegates from Woman's Place, CAG members, Manpower officials and McKenzie.

"The meeting of Dec. 13 with McKenzie was a farce", said Francine Geraci, a Woman's Place worker. "No members of the CAG showed up. It was impossible to discuss our charges of sexism, since McKenzie himself was not present at the original CAG meeting."

"The local Job Creation Branch advised us that our only course for future action, since we were dissatisfied with the meeting, was to approach Robert Andras with a request for the publication of the comments of the project officer of the CAG's first meeting. Maybe this way we can finally get out into the open all that was said."

MONTREAL(FNS)-Valentine's, at the corner of Mount Royal and Park, is a recently-opened gay bar in Montreal. It has a restaurant in the basement and a good-sized discotheque on the first floor. The majority of the patrons are male.

One evening a group of lesbians who wished to dine at the restaurant were refused admittance. The bouncer who turned them away stated that he did not like the way the lesbians were dressed(jeans). As well, one of the women had a black eye, suffered in a collision

with an open door, which he decided must have been the result of a fight. This woman was kicked in the groin by the bouncer as he ejected her.

A few days later, the woman kicked by the bouncer called the manager and told him that she had had a medical examination. The manager immediately offered excuses for what had happened and invited the woman and her friends to return. He offered free admission and drinks on the house.

When the women returned to Valentine's, the manager was not there and no reservations had been made for them. They also report that they found the atmosphere oppressive, in that the gay males there did not seem to want lesbians around.

VICTORIA(FNS)-On May 10th women in Victoria marched and rallied during "Outrage Day".

"Outrage Day" originated in Los Angeles where members of NOW(National Organization for Women) were denied sacraments and excommunicated from their Catholic diocese because of NOW's advocacy of abortion reform.

Everywoman's Books and the Victoria Women's Centre co-sponsored the march and rally which met at the Law Courts and proceeded to the Parliament Lawn.

The march was organised to show outrage on the following personal and social injustices:

- 1) Women still do not have equal access to well-paid jobs, nor do they receive equal pay for work of equal value.
- 2) Daycare (childcare) is still sadly inadequate. There are no 24 hour childcare operations, and children under three have few services. The reality is that many mothers with children under the age of 3 have to work and not everyone has a 9 to 5 job.
- 3) Women, especially poor women-still do not have equal rights

in family and property law.

4) There is still no safe and effective form of birth control short of total abstinence.

5) Women are still not free to choose abortion and to make their own decisions regarding their own reproductive processes.

6) Rape victims are still treated as criminals. 7) Dr. Henry Morgentaler remains imprisoned, not so much for his "crime" as for his outspoken principles.

The march was very successful.

OTTAWA(FNS)-The Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre maintains a 24 hour emergency line. Since the Centre's opening 4-1/2 months ago, 47 rape cases have been dealt with. Services are provided by a paid staff of 4 and 30 volunteers.

If a woman has been raped the Centre will ensure a medical examination, provide counselling and make professional referrals when necessary. If she wishes to report a rape, a centre worker will accompany her to the police. If charges are laid, a centre worker will provide emotional support through the preliminary hearing and trial.

Another major function of the Centre has been to speak to various public groups and

concerned professionals as to the nature of rape.

The Centre has received the energy and concern of a great number of people in the Ottawa area, including police departments and various social agencies.

Anyone interested in contacting the Centre can phone 238-6666 or write to P.O. Box 3773, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario.

TORONTO(FNS)-A few hundred trade union women held a conference on May 3 and 4 at Humber College, Toronto. This was to begin a coalition of labour union women in Ontario and eventually Canada. (See The Other Woman, Vol.3, #4.)

...For a complete pamphlet on Women and the Law in New Brunswick (June 73) write to:

The Fredericton Women's Action Coalition
172 Inglewood Drive
Fredericton, N.B.
Include 15¢ for postage.

In early February, the Canadian Negro Women's Association announced details for an IWY meeting of Visible Minority Women in Canada. The Association will act as a steering committee for Visible Minority Women who are of non-Anglo-descent or French descent. A meeting will be held at the Japanese Cultural Centre in Don Mills (Toronto) in October.

More than 90 native women from all provinces, the Yukon and N.W.T. held a conference in Ottawa on May 10 out of which came a National Committee on Indian Rights for Indian Women. The Committee grew out of a small group which supported Jeanette Lavell in her unsuccessful bid to the Supreme Court in 1973 to regain her Indian status after marriage. They want the Indian Act to define Native women as all women of North American ancestry which includes status, non-status, Metis and Inuit. Native mothers also recommended that no more names be taken off the rolls of Indian bands until Natives themselves can decide this question.

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4 FEATURES

AN INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

--FNS(TORONTO)

"Though the Amazons were instinctively and humanly justified in their resistance to the introduction of patriarchalism, they nevertheless were historically wrong. Patriarchalism, based on private property, and having as characteristics competition and the subordination of woman to man, was despite the oppression, the injustice, the misery it developed, the next necessary phase of social evolution. And since the women organized and fought to halt this development, they were reactionary in the historic sense. And reactionaries in the long run are bound to perish, no matter how well meaning or how idealistic they may be."...."The Amazonia of Africa, then, illustrates the highest phase of Amazonia development. But that phase was bound by certain limitations. It was incapable of destroying a higher social order, where accumulation and concentration of wealth would in time create nations in which both sexes, men and women of the propertied class, enslave men and women of the propertyless or working class. The African Amazonia could not develop a clear economic class struggle but mainly a struggle between the sexes, and hence was doomed to failure." (Emphasis mine.)

This quote was taken from The Amazons by Emanuel Kanter published by Charles H. Kerr & Co. in 1926 and is still relevant today. In light of what Kanter tells us, we are Amazons whether or not we all totally agree with that parallel. The Amazons were never "historically wrong" in resisting the patriarchy. But they went under. Will we? Now is the time to evaluate what we are doing. We can't afford not to. We are trapped between the media campaign which poses "those

bra-burners" against their token liberal feminists. We are trapped between those organized Male Left partiles who pose "those man-haters" against their more class-conscious (thus, more revolutionary) sisters. Both are quite effective. But, in terms of who we are reaching, (ie., those women thinking of radical social change rather than reform) we should worry most about that organized Male Left.

The following is to begin putting us on the road to a sense of direction which will better equip us to fight those parties who would lead and control us. I believe revolution will eventually come to North America. We are not immune. I will not rest easy until I know we have the strength to not let it be one led by a vanguard party. "No matter how well meaning or idealistic" we are, we will not "perish". I should also emphasize that a real sense of direction is not in reaction against something but rather to counteract our own laziness regarding a viable alternative to give all women.

* * * * *

An independent women's movement may as well flounder and die if it does not see its connection to the Left. What constitutes the Left is unclear to a lot of women. To most radical feminists, it conjures up a vision of women rising with fists clenched in reaction to that Left which would subordinate us to a "broader" struggle. Also in reaction: those feminists who are so independent (of what?) that our loyalty to the female race is open to question when we will not wipe out entirely the word "people" from our vocabulary.

To see our connection to the Left--well, you know, it's all in the way

you look at things. The movement has concentrated on abortion, day-care, equal pay and sexual discrimination in every other way. They are all meshed together within the capitalist system which could not exist without the patriarchy as its backbone. How should we look at these struggles? Every time we talk about these issues we have to relate them to a concrete feminist analysis and not be out there marching just for the sake of passing a law. Once women have managed to pass one reform, all that energy will disperse with a big sigh of relief unless we have adequately linked up each struggle to all the others. In doing this, we will find there is nothing too male-oriented for us to handle. Our feminist strategy must begin to enlarge itself, to come out of its isolation, and recognize all the other "isms" (class, race, imperialism, etc) as patriarchal tools used to control and divide us all.

Our struggle lies wherever women find themselves. We must begin to broaden our goals by actively supporting women throughout the world, unorganized working women and immigrant, Native and Quebecois women. the list could go on and on. It needs more than a statement of principle. It needs determined women who will make our presence felt as feminists, taking the knowledge of our female potential with us wherever we go.

The only time an independent women's movement could be considered reactionary is when it isolates itself from all other movements and lives for that independence alone. We all know the importance of relating the cultural side of feminism to our political strategies as this is our best weapon but feminism is not just reading poems or playing the flute. Cultural feminists have helped to polarize personal and political. In a political sense things like art, yoga, therapy, personal relationships, etc.

can be seen as very practical tools. We are, however, looking inward and being narrow when we take pleasure in celebrating womanhood to the exclusion of all else. It is useless, just now, to pat ourselves on the back for being superior to Man as only time will tell just which behaviour is learned and which is inherent.

Being a woman-identified-woman, I recognize the significance of an ancient matriarchy but we cannot live in the past. We must live in the present working toward the future, a future which we cannot envision as a constant. Every step closer to an ideal changes a whole perspective and, with it, that ideal changes too. There is nothing "scientific" about it. It is change, it is freedom, it is struggle. One only arrives at freedom through struggle, with ourselves and others. The nature of feminism sees everything as political and open to question. The above should be of prime importance to us as *this is our very strength--and difference*. The vanguard parties would submerge our politics under the general heading of culture to be dealt with at some later time.

They are right in one thing only. We struggle on many levels. It is more than personal or interpersonal. It is a broad term encompassing that cold, Marxian phrase--class struggle. Whether we like it or not, women are affected, both culturally and economically, by class. The word class brings to mind a reality we have long lived with as workers with the lowest wages or no wages at all. From a feminist perspective, it is not so easy to bring the word class out of the closet because the issue of sexism complicates it even further.

One cannot be too clear about one's position as a feminist, especially when talking about going to the Left, or all those "nasty" Trots and Maoists will "get you". Beware of Sharon Stevenson (CPC-ML, Maoist)

and others like her. This woman wants you; that is, if you happen to know something about our movement--its strategies and structure. The Communist Party of Canada, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Canada, the League for Socialist Action and the Revolutionary Marxist Group (have I missed anybody?) all believe in "correct" lines. Some of them ignore us as too bourgeois but some of them see us as potential recruits. Some of them choose to organize in specific areas and some of them compete with each other to lead "the masses". They have developed strong leadership out of their centralized structure which is able to take control and manipulate any spontaneous situation or crisis. *This is our weakness.* We go to the other extreme and make a cult of the absence of leaders and structure. While feminism is opposed to the hierarchical and authoritarian patriarchy, we have to make what we are replacing it with easily visible to women who have not yet found a way round the male power system. What is just as important is the lack of planned action as feminists through a unified movement. It can hardly become unified if we do not know who we are talking to because of our loose structure.

You ask, why should the Male Left care what we are doing, what could they possibly gain? (Well, o.k., but don't ask that about the RCMP.) It's called either co-optation or infiltration. Whichever way you look at it, they're out to get us, to put us down under again. Why, the nerve of us saying, "But, daddy, I'd rather do it myself!" We are one of the few liberation groups to say this which means we must begin to address ourselves to the problem of why women find left organizations attractive. If we would rather do it ourselves, then let's do something about it! We can't continue to fight a losing battle.

For this reason, it is important that working feminists know as much about the various male ideologies as they can and to learn to trust their advocates just about as far as they can trust a snake. Any open collective of women should only be interested in Male Left literature to the extent of improving our own ideology as women. The only literature I ever totally believe comes from independent feminists because I know that it involved a process of total struggle.

Neither the old nor the New Male Left is what we have to be going toward. We need a revolution but not one defined by the organized Male Left. That is not to say that in avoiding this male left rigidity that we should also give up on men per se. It is the male power principle that is an integral part of the patriarchy. It is like a wagon out of control on a hill--those men who have thought about the issue of sexism just don't know how to get off. That is not to say, either, that we should help them get off. As oppressed persons, we are busy learning ourselves but neither should we turn away from those men who are aware of the need to work alongside (not within) our movement on terms set by us. It is political blindness to believe, as is typical of urbanized women, that all women can rely solely on other women. After all, not even the Amazons could entirely negate men from their lives.

We need a revolution led by women (as opposed to the Male Left) who are going to the left--not back!! What does this kind of feminism mean? A case in point is the speech recently given by Carmen Castello. Do we ignore her 1) because she is a Communist and 2) because the sponsor of the speech were male-dominated left groups (with the exception of the Canadian Women's Educational Press). The refusal of some to face these

kinds of questions is done at the expense of those women who need our solidarity and commitment as sisters in struggle. This cannot be mistaken for a white middle-class guilt trip about Third World women being more oppressed as there is not basis for comparison. Women are sexually oppressed in all countries, whether they be capitalist, fascist or communist, but they each experience sexism in different ways. This also speaks to how active feminists need to pay attention to world-wide revolutionary groups and economics between states.

Looking at our own North American situation will bring what I am trying to say closer to home. How many of us have an analysis of the "energy crisis"? How many of us have taken any stand on the immigration issue? How many of us are working day-to-day with the mass (oops!) of unorganized working women in Canada? We have never been wrong in the past 10 years of following the principle of an independent women's movement. Even though ten years is only a moment in a lifetime, the only "wrong" is that it has taken us so long to discipline ourselves to develop some comprehensive strategy. In maintaining this independence with our own broad analysis, we will ultimately create higher social order which will not be based upon money or any other kind of exploitation.

Pat Leslie.

Farm Women

SASKATOON (H. Zaleska)-After years of research, after receiving briefs and holding public hearings, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women produced a book containing 176 recommendations to improve the condition of women in Canada. It contained only one recommendation on farm women (#116 Farm Wife).

Buried among the mountains of literature available at the Women's Centre, we have 4 news-

paper clippings and one short statement from the Waffle on farm women.

The University Library has 3 books mentioning present-day farm women--in England, Ireland, and Egypt.

Yet farm women certainly do not deserve to be ignored. Farm women won the vote in the prairie provinces. It was no accident that Manitoba and Saskatchewan were among the first provinces to give women the vote. Farm women helped organize the CCF. Farm women have always been a driving force in farm unions. Through our history there march women such as Nellie McClung, Violet McNaughton (Pres. of the Women Grain Growers Assoc.), Dorise Nielson (left-wing MP.), Loise Lucas ("Mother of the CCF"), and many others--all of them farm women.

And the farm women today--they're out there all right--ignored, isolated and angry.

A farm woman is expected to fill a fairly clearly defined role. She does the housework. This means growing a garden, canning and freezing and pickling food for the winter, and baking bread, as well as looking after the kids, cooking, sewing, etc. These are all the jobs that a man will almost never do, except in an emergency. Besides all this, the farm woman is usually the number one hand. I think it is

very important to note the distinction between being a "farmer" and being a "farm hand". The difference is as great as that between "employer" and "employee". As the number one hand, the farm woman usually looks after the "frills" of the farming operation (eg. looking after the chickens, milking the cows) and occasionally helps with the major work of the farm (eg., driving the tractor, hauling grain).

There are many obvious areas

of discrimination against farm women. She may be the number one hand, but if she were paid wages, they could not be deducted from the farm income tax. Wages paid to any other "hired man" or even wages paid to the children can be deducted. Then, of course, there is also the problem of putting her husband in a higher income tax bracket if the wife earns too much. These problems are easily circumvented on most farms by not paying the woman anything at all. This prevents the woman from being able to take advantage of such things as the Canada Pension Plan. It enables Manpower to refuse allowances for farm women attending farm-related training courses.

So what does the farm woman get for her efforts, other than emotional fulfillment? Nothing! The Saskatchewan courts have decided in the Rathwell case that a farm woman has no interest in the farm, and that on separation or divorce she is only entitled to the normal maintenance allowance. Attorney-General Roy Romanow (Artful Dodger '74) has offered to deal with this problem simply by giving the judges more discretion in dealing with cases of this type, instead of changing the legislation which gave rise to the problem.

Another problem faced by farm women is isolation and lack of services. In the rural areas, there are no birth control and abortion information centres, no daycare, etc. In addition, when farm women are forced to take jobs in towns or cities to supplement the farm income, they face all the familiar kinds of discrimination in employment. By far the most serious problem faced by farm women (and men) is the threatened extinction of the family farm. It is the policy of the federal Liberal government to phase out small fam-

ily farms and replace them by larger "more economical" farms. The plans include a great reduction in the farm population. Thus the first priority among farmers is to prevent large corporate farms from replacing the family farm.

There is the cost-price squeeze: farm costs generally rise much faster than the prices for farm products. For example, the price a farmer gets for a pig today is 52-53¢ a lb., which is almost identical to the price at this time last year. Yet inflation has raised the costs of farm supplies by 10-30% over the year.

And there is the perennial enemy--"agri-biz". Agri-biz refers to the big corporations involved in agriculture. There are the farm machinery suppliers. And there are the vertically-integrated corporations that own land and retail stores and all the stages in-between. They don't need to make a profit on farming because they can get that profit out of wholesaling or retailing the produce. It's not easy for a farmer to compete with that sort of corporation.

If you want a general idea of how farmers are doing, look at the paint on the buildings when you go out of town. When a farm has money to spare, almost the first thing it's spent on is new paint. Lots of freshly-painted buildings indicate that the farms in the area aren't doing too badly. Buildings that have very old paint or no paint indicate that there is no money to spare.

One alternative that would allow families to continue farming is the formation of cooperative farms. This has worked very well for many people. There were about 100 new coop farms formed last year. But while forming a coop can improve the economic problems of farming, it doesn't necessarily deal with the specific problems of farm

women.

One of the oldest coop farms in the province, Matador, was formed just after World War 2. But only the men are members. There is no room in the coop for the women. At one time the members formed a coop vegetable garden which was a good idea; but the women couldn't work in it because they were not members of the coop. They ended up pretty well confined to their houses. When they couldn't stand it any more, the coop garden was ended, and each woman got her own individual little garden that she could work in. That kind of coop leaves something to be desired.

I am a member of the Self-Reliance and Hard Struggle Coop Farm. After talking with some of the members (men and women) of the Matador Coop Farm, we decided to make the men and women completely equal. (We were all supporters of Women's Liberation anyway.) It's worked very well for us. It surprises the neighbours, though, to see men and women working as equals.

I remember an incident when we were picking up irrigation pipes on a neighbour's farm. I waded into the deep mud in the ditch to pick up a length of pipe (I had my rubber boots on) while Larry (in runners) stood back on dry ground. This greatly upset one of the farmers working with us. He got all red in the face and yelled at Larry, "Well, help the little lady!" Later on that same day, another of the farmers told me that the irrigation pipes were much too heavy for me to lift, although I'd been lifting them most of the day.

The farmers soon got over their surprise at the way we do things, however, and we have many friends, both among the women and the men.

Section 41 of the Labour Standard Act, part V "(1) No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall discriminate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee at a rate of pay less than the rate of pay paid to a male employee, or vice versa, employed by him (are all employers male?) for similar work performed in the same establishment, the performance of which requires similar skill, effort and responsibility, and which is performed under similar working conditions, except where such payment is made pursuant to a seniority system or merit system."

Apart from the sexism written into the law, its obvious shortcomings and its relative ineffectiveness, the law also does not allow for unscrupulous employers, and there are many, who have wage differentials existing between employees of the same sex.

This is especially true of unorganized labour --in Saskatchewan 75% of the whole non-agricultural labour force is unorganized. Where workers are not unionized, employers are past masters (and mistresses) of the loophole-in-the-law game. The bosses create different wage rates for women doing the same job, or men doing the same job in the one establishment and the law can't touch them!

CBC WOMEN FORM NATIONAL ORGANIZATION MONTREAL (FNS)-CBC women unsatisfied with the action of the CBC Task Force Report and the hierarchical organization of the CBC have begun to organize on their own. In Press On, a newsletter put out by CBC women in Montreal, Jean Erlewyn makes the following comments: We are gratified that the key member of the task force has pledged the corporation is not making a token gesture. We trust this pledge will be honoured. The aim of the Women's Association is very simple. All we want is equality of opportunity with our male counterparts throughout the corporation. This means full access to function in any area of broadcasting or associated responsibilities and with no restriction whatsoever because of our sex. Clearly, this means economic equality--that is the opportunity to earn equal pay...

YOU HAVE

LEGAL ACTION?

PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE
DO NOT wash, change your clothes, nor bathe or douche, until you have had a medical examination.
DO save torn clothing, articles which may have fingerprints, anything broken in the struggle, or any weapon used by the rapist.
REMEMBER the licence plate number, the description of the rapist, his car, etc.

CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY
This will help them find the suspect. You may go to the police station or initial investigators will come immediately to take down a statement. They will take you to the emergency ward of a hospital for a medical examination to obtain evidence, therefore you will require a change of clothing.
Detectives will conduct a more detailed interview. They will question you thoroughly about your description of the suspect and the rape situation. Some of the questions may seem irrelevant or make you feel uneasy: don't hesitate to ask for an explanation.

WRITE DOWN THE DETAILS OF THE RAPE
It may take some time before the rapist is apprehended and brought to trial. Your immediate recollection of particulars surrounding the rape, will help you at that time and also will be instrumental in any later investigation or report.

GOING TO COURT
The Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre will give you information, accompaniment and support. HOWEVER, THE DECISION MUST BE YOUR OWN. It will be a long and difficult process. You must keep the facts firmly in your head, and NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE INTIMIDATED. The major issues in a rape case are the identity of the accused, penetration of the vagina, and lack of consent on the victim's part. When a suspect is apprehended by the police, you will be asked to come down and identify him. You may be asked to pick him out of a line-up.

BAIL HEARING
This takes place after the suspect is apprehended. In 90% of the cases bail is granted on "own recognizance".

PRELIMINARY HEARING
This takes place a couple of months later and you will be informed in advance. The prosecution may talk to you about your case beforehand. The purpose of the preliminary hearing is to establish whether there is enough evidence to go to trial. It may last several days. You, the accused and any important witnesses in your case (police, doctor, etc.) will testify and be cross-examined before a judge.

TRIAL
This finally decides the case. It may occur several months after the preliminary hearing. It is generally heard before a jury, but the defense can elect to have it heard by a judge alone. The same individuals are present at the trial as at the preliminary hearing, plus any other relevant defense witnesses.

INFORMAL REPORT TO POLICE
You may do this so that the police be a key witness in your case. There is also value of having someone to relate your story to too many may become distorted or out of

CALL A FRIEND OR RELATIVE
Should you decide to prosecute, there be made to someone at the first report. There is also value of having someone to relate your story to too many may become distorted or out of

GET MEDICAL ATTENTION
For legal evidence; the doctor should ii) presence of torn or stained clothing for internal injuries and take vaginal cultures for gonorrhea or other i) syphilis, iv) ensure follow-up pregnancy.

GET A V.D. RETEST AND A PREGNANCY TEST
- A retest for syphilis will be needed 4-7 days. Until you have negative V.D.
- A pregnancy test is not valid until Crisis Centre will arrange pregnancy to agencies that will counsel

THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMMISSION
481 University Ave., Toronto, Ont. 1-416-...
Even if a rape case is dismissed is entitled to compensation for pain and suffering. The board conviction is not necessary for

SASKATOON(FNS)-The government of Canada has well demonstrated that it has no intentions of making the fundamental changes that are required to partly alleviate the oppression of women in Canada by its refusal to deal with such issues as equal pay for work of equal value, universal access to quality childcare, removal of abortion from the criminal code, safe and effective birth control for all, etc.

Instead, the government is spending \$5 million on an advertising campaign dealing with attitudes, only a symptom of women's oppression; and on conferences which are not action-orientated.

The Saskatoon Women's Liberation Centre was the only women's centre represented at the Consultation meeting regarding the World Conference of the International Women's Year to be held in Mexico in June. The Meeting, May 2nd, was attended by such groups as the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, the Catholic Women's League, the Girl Guides of Canada, and, to the left, the National Farmers Union.

This meeting was called on very short notice, none of the representatives had received the working papers, the two Mexico delegates did not stay for the entire meeting, the Canadian World Plan of Action has already been written and published.

The meeting was headed by Sylva Gelber, director of the Women's Bureau and delegate to Mexico. Gelber spent sometime in her introductory remarks in explaining that socialist countries are more oppressive to women than western countries. When asked to specify which countries she was referring to, she refused to answer on the grounds that she was making a general statement.

Also heading the meeting was Colleen Campbell, MP replacing Marc Lalonde and head of the delegation to Mexico. Campbell left

after her opening remarks, Gelber had the decency to stay a while, and left after the workshops.

The discussions centred around attitudes, words like abortion and working class were never used.

The term "non-middle class", was used a few times. The gov't decided not to get involved with Item 8 of the agenda which reads, "The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination." It is felt by our government that this Item is too controversial. When asked if Canada will state what is still left in front of us for the liberation of women, we were answered that we never talk about controversial issues. Our government is perpetrating the image of Canada as being the cream of the crop. In its world plan Canada makes recommendations such as no discrimination on the basis of marital status which is not in effect in Canada and several other recommendations which have not yet been implemented in this country.

When it was expressed that some of the women present were having difficulty in formulating suggestions for international action when so little was being done on a national level they were met with a gasp.

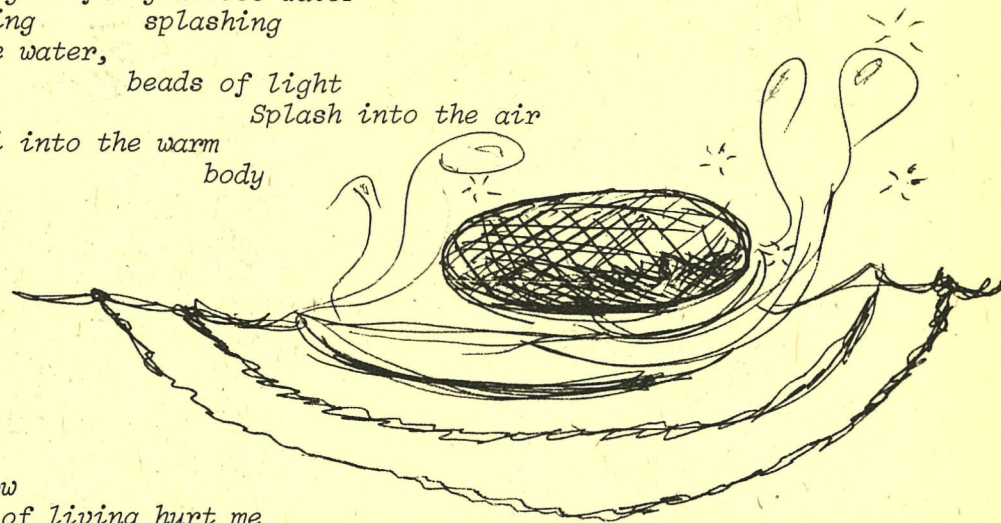
It was pointed out that the cause of women's oppression is economic and that the obstacles to women's liberation are economic ones. (one can see how much attention is being given to this by the government inaction in IWY).

The consultation was just another example of the "serious" manner in which the government is taking IWY.

If you wish to take action on this matter write to:
Status of Women, Social Policy SEC.
Privy Council Office
Room 146, East Block
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa.

moonsong —

My joy is like a skipping stone
 Love sent gracefully across water
 Skipping splashing
 Hitting the water, beads of light
 Splash into the air
 Then, fall into the warm body
 Of the pool.



The more that i grow
 The less the pains of living hurt me
 The less the pains of dying reach me
 The more the joy of being holds me



O, tiger sleeping
 under jungled vines
 You wake to a stroke
 as gentle as a drop of rain
 as strong as thunder
 Rise tiger, rise!
 and show your true colour

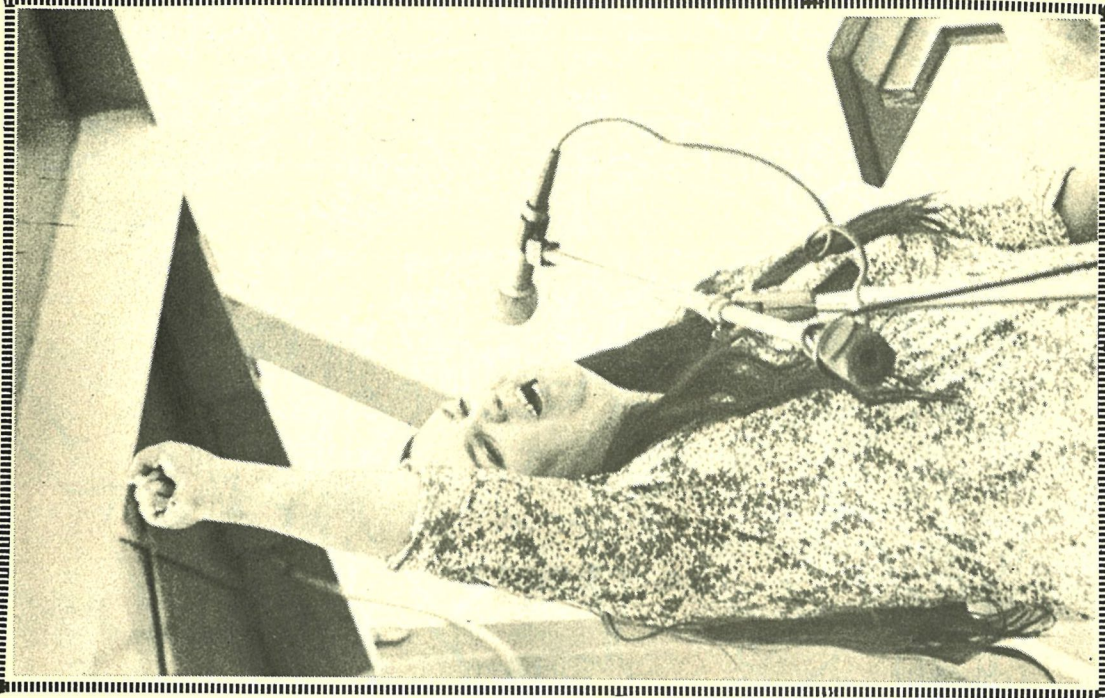
Stroke by stroke you grow and move
 from your wet jungle lair.
 High you stretch toward the wind
 And send out your roar
 WOMAN/TIGER
 awakes to life.

Moonsong ©



Photos & Graphics

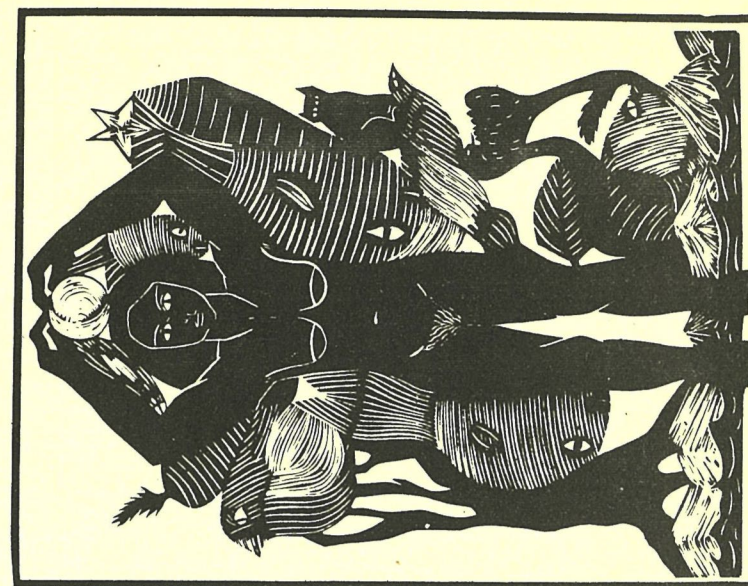
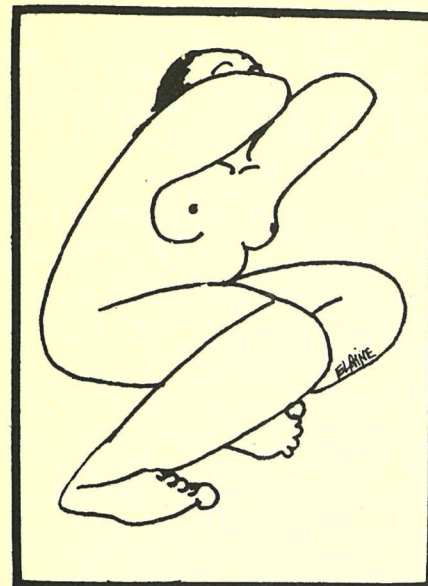
kate middleton



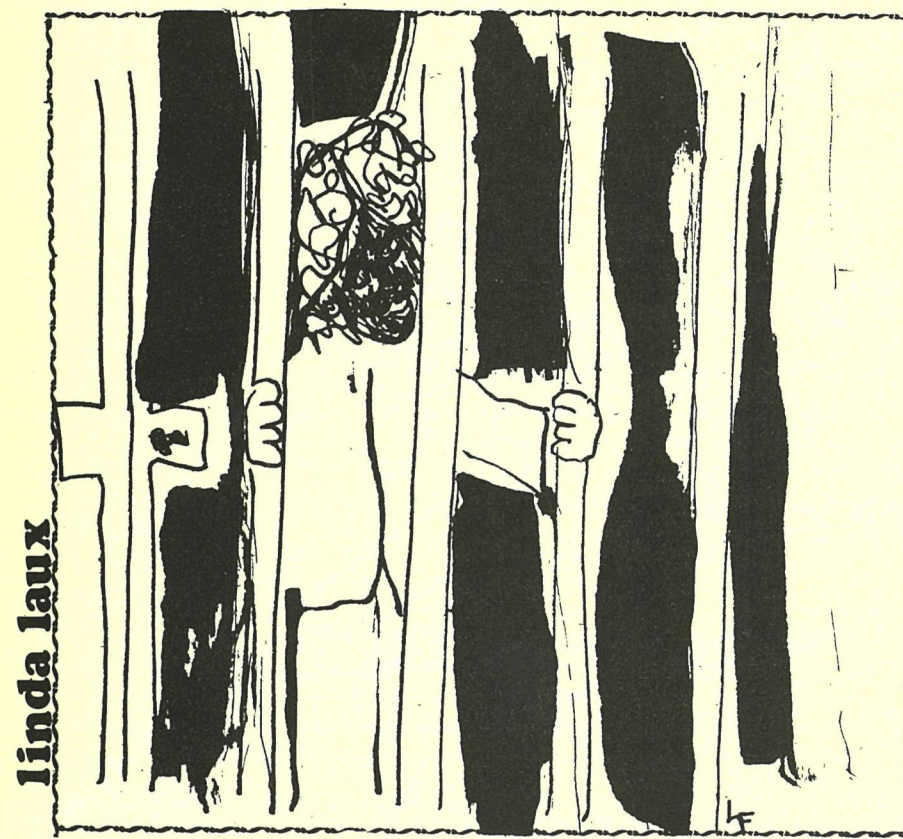
Rita McNeil ~ May 10/75



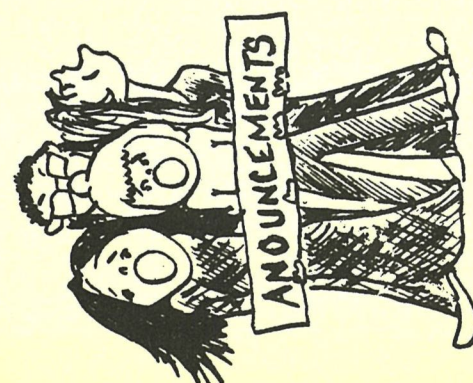
WOMEN'S SELF-HELP CENTRE
3595 st.urbain st. mtl. 844-5893



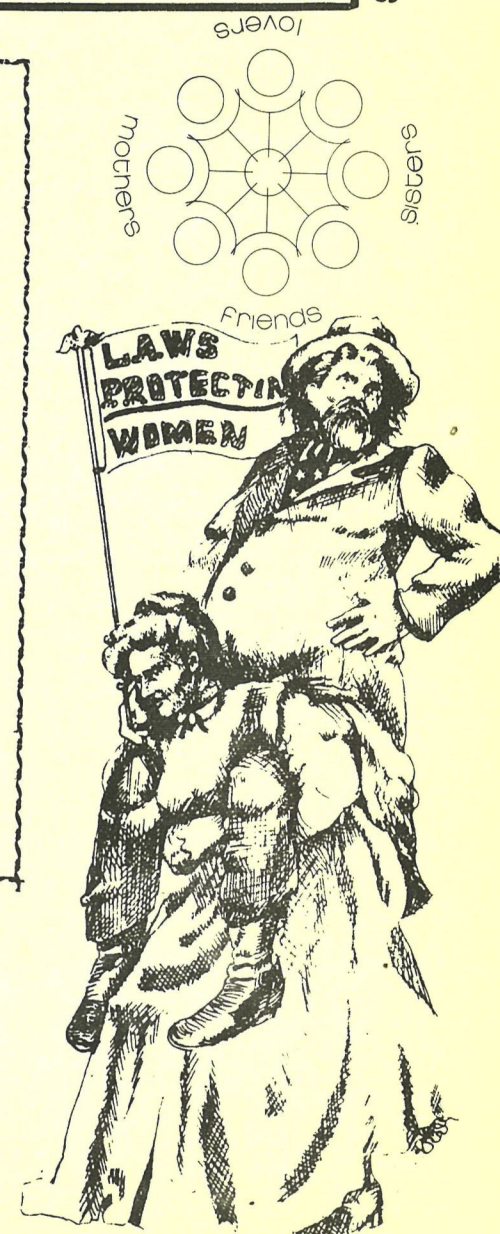
susan herman



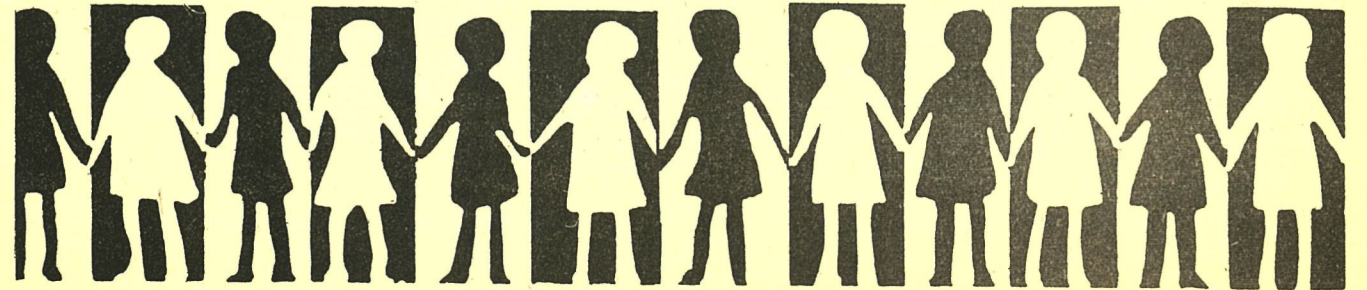
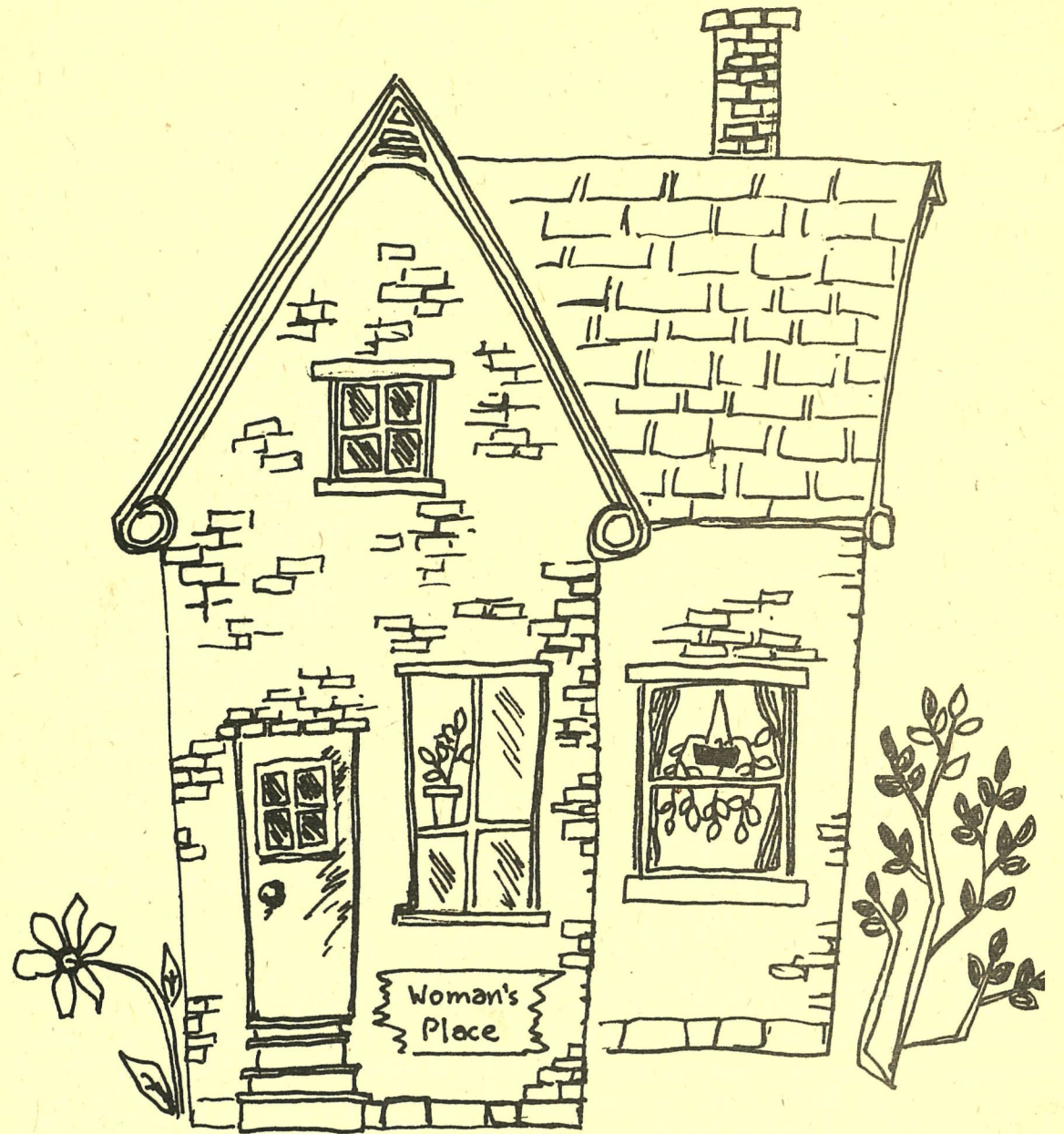
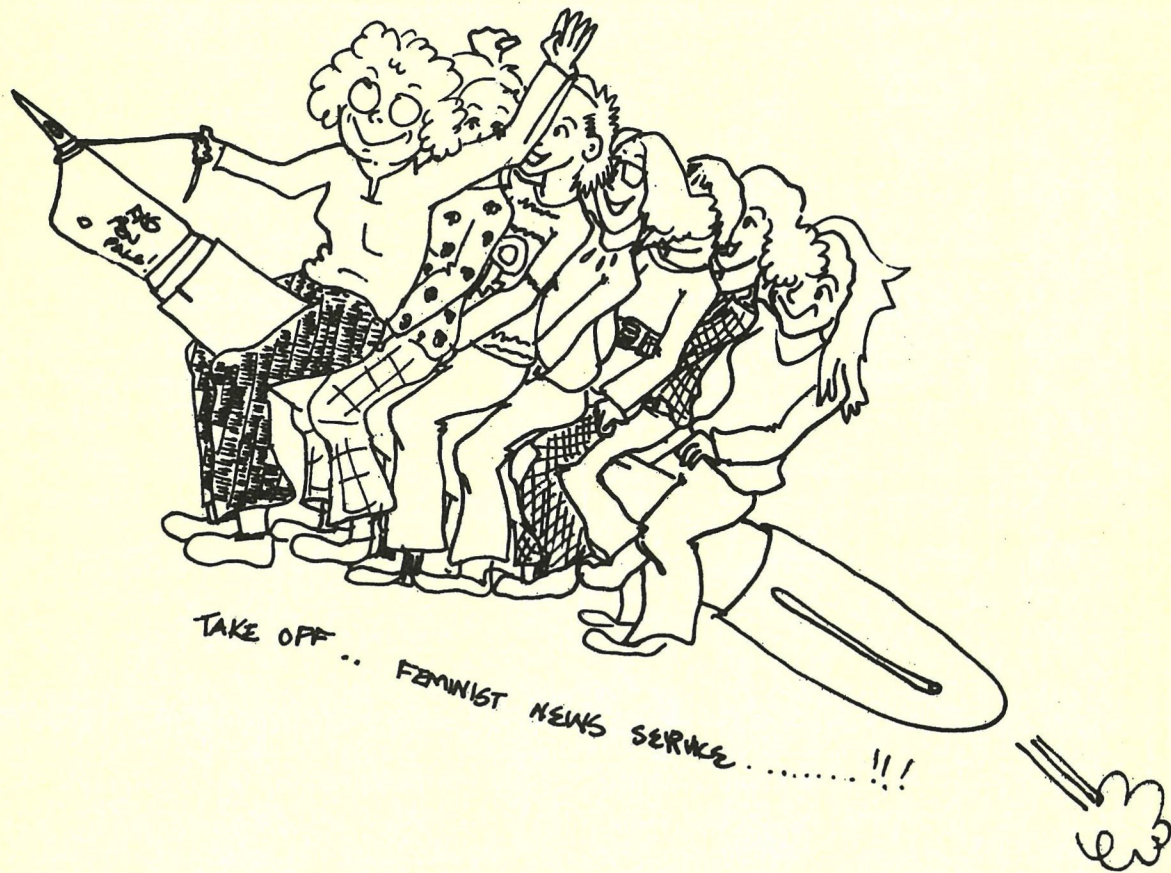
linda laux



Maylynn Woo



susan herman



WATERLOO(FNS)-On May 10, women across Canada marched, wrote and petitioned in protest to the government's inaction with the demands of women.

In Edmonton, the Edmonton Women's Place collected over 700 names for a telegram sent to Prime Minister Trudeau and the federal cabinet. It called for the freeing of Dr. Morgentaler, the establishment of comprehensive birth control education programs and information centres across Canada, and the removal of abortion from the Criminal Code.

The 745 names were collected by the E.W.P. members in three hours spent with placards and clipboards on downtown street corners, stopping Saturday shoppers.

"We were amazed at the reaction," said one member, "We had people lining up to sign." Another woman said that people would wave from their cars as they passed by. Some even stopped their cars and got out to sign.

One hundred and fifty dollars was also collected, to help in the sending of the telegram.

"I think this is an example of the feeling of people across Canada. The federal government can no longer choose to ignore the women of Canada," said one E.W.P. member.

Thunder Bay sent a telegram of support to the march in Toronto. They had held a march and demonstration earlier that month which was quite successful. At one time, members of Thunder Bay's finest chased one woman through a large department store trying to arrest her for using a megaphone without permission. The woman escaped.

May 10th in Toronto consisted of a march of over 1,000 women followed by a rally. The march was not uneventful. Women shouted such slogans as, "Lesbian, celibate, straight, we all want money from the state", "equal work, equal pay", "what do we want? Daycare.

When do we want it? Now!" The section containing the revolutionary Marxist group, the Trotskyists and other socialist groups broke into running marches many times to the dismay of the march marshalls. When the march approached Young St. (the march had been told not to go down the street by the police) the Socialist faction tried to incite the rest of the march into going down the street. Their attempts were ignored by the rest of the marchers.

A constant battle developed between the Wages for Housework women and the Socialist faction. At one point the Socialists were shouting, "Socialism, yes! Feminism, no!", to which the women behind them replied in a deafening roar, "Feminism yes, feminism, yes!!"

Bad feelings definitely developed between the women in the march and the socialists who tried to take it over.

Similarly successful marches also occurred in Montreal and Ottawa.

THE FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE WOULD LIKE TO START A SPORTS SECTION. IF YOU HAVE FEATURE-LENGTH ARTICLES ON WOMEN IN SPORTS(2 to 3 typewritten pages long) OR ANY NEWS ITEMS ON WOMEN IN SPORTS PLEASE SEND THEM TO FNS WATERLOO. PICTURES AND GRAPHICS ON SPORTS ARE ALSO WELCOME. ARTICLES WILL BE CREDITED TO THE AUTHOR(PICS AND GRAPHICS TOO). IF YOU ARE INTERESTED ON THE SPORTS SCENE IN CANADA, READ THE NEXT ISSUE. WE WILL ALSO WELCOME ARTICLES, STORIES, ETC. ON ANY AREA OF LIFE IN WHICH WOMEN ARE INVOLVED OR ARE BECOMING INVOLVED IN(eg MUSIC). KEEP THE COPY ROLLING!

BEEN RAPED

NO LEGAL ACTION?

NO REPORT?

Have a record of the crime and the rapist. On and information in case the rapist may or may not have to go to court.

THIRD PARTY REPORT

The Rape Crisis Centre will do this for you on request. We give the particulars of the crime to the police WITHOUT using your name.

FOR THE RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

The first person you talk to after the rape will be the police. It is legally essential that a complaint be made as soon as possible. (This can be the police, a friend, a family member, or a friend with you for moral support. (It is unwise to talk to anyone before relating it to the police. Facts may be forgotten.)

Should check: i) the whole body for injuries, ii) take a pelvic examination to check for damage, iii) do a routine bloodtest for infections, iv) do a routine bloodtest for gonorrhea, syphilis and possible other infections.

PREGNANCY TEST

Necessary in 4-8 weeks; a gonorrhea check in 4-8 weeks; if you are pregnant, you could be spreading the virus.

Wait 6 weeks after your last period. The Rape Crisis Centre will refer you on the alternatives.

DISPENSATION BOARD

65-4755

If the offender never arrested, the victim will need medical and legal expenses and costs to her. The Rape Crisis Centre will review a case.

● REMEMBER, THAT EVEN IF YOU REPORT THE RAPE TO THE POLICE OR TAKE THE CASE TO COURT, YOU CAN DROP THE CASE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROCESS.

For more information write:

The Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
P.O. Box 3773, Station C
Ottawa

Registered Charity No.
0434894-09-10

NEWS(cont)

In March, TCLSAC (Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa Colonies) uncovered an undercover agent in their midst. There are now female mounties. We must not be so naive as to think that our various women's groups go unnoticed.

WOMEN: A Special Issue of Dimension available by mid-May. Articles by Kay MacPherson, Marlene Dixon, Margaret Benston, Dorothy Livesay, Claire Culhane, etc. Send \$1.00 to : Canadian Dimension, Box 1413, Winnipeg, Man.

WOMEN'S FILMS:

A Catalogue of Films Projecting Women (National Film Board). This catalogue was conceived, researched and written by the women of the NFB in Ontario. We are proud of the quality of the work and the cooperative energy that went into the making of this catalogue and we offer it in the hope that it will be a valuable resource to people concerned with the status of women and men in the world today. Write to: NFB, 1 Lombard St., Toronto, Ont.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK:

Some of us will be travelling across Canada in July and August. If you are interested in organizing a meeting in your city to discuss Wages for Housework, contact us as soon as possible at the address below and we'll try to schedule it. Wages for Housework Committee, P.O. Box 38, Stn. E., Toronto.

CORA, the Women's Bookmobile is coming!

We are travelling women's centre, bookstore, resource centre. We are starting our second venture in this spring of

1975 with books, pamphlets, newspapers, leaflets, films, videotapes, magazines, etc. on... law, herstory, **non-sexist** children's books, wages for housework, photography and the arts, politics, sexuality, etc.

Women outside of the cities, especially in Canada, where distances are so great, are isolated from each other and their movement. The Bookmobile is an attempt to break down this isolation by providing access to feminist materials and ideas, and by helping women to contact each other. But we need your help: information by, for and about women; names of women and groups who would like us to visit; used books, periodicals, etc. to be given away free; suggestions and loving criticism.

Tentative schedule: from May to August in all areas of Ontario and September and October the Maritimes.

For more information and donations contact: Bookmobile, 342 Jarvis St., Toronto, Ont.

S.O.R.W.U.C.
SERVICE, OFFICE, AND RETAIL
WORKERS UNION OF CANADA
2049 Turner St. Vancouver
British Columbia, 253-5059

A Union for Working Women
There are about 366,000 working women in B.C. But only one out of every four is a union member. S.O.R.W.U.C. was formed by working women who believe that as working women we can and must organize ourselves into trade unions that will begin to meet our needs.

SERVICE, OFFICE, AND RETAIL
WORKERS UNION OF CANADA
** is an independant Canadian union - all dues stay in Canada.
**each local elects all its own officers. The membership determines its own needs and interests.

**there is no fulltime paid staff in the union at this time. And by our constitution, anyone who takes a paid position in the union must be elected to that office, and can be in that office a maximum of 2 years. We don't want trade union bureaucrats who haven't been on the job for ten years to be telling us what our needs are.
**we don't need professional negotiators or organizers. As workers on the job and in the union, we can talk for ourselves.

FNS MONTREAL

The Montreal Women's Coordinating Committee, representing at least 23 women's groups and interested individual women has been meeting regularly for several months in an attempt to determine what type of umbrella organization would fulfill the needs of all groups represented. Suggestions for the purpose and structure of this umbrella group included:
1) the formation of an organization which would cater to the needs and desires of women not already committed to the feminist movement, and
2) the formation of a group which would deal with and organize around a few specific long-range issues.

It was decided that the second proposal was more practical in terms of the time and energy women had to devote to the umbrella organization. The majority of women felt that they wished to organize around the abortion issue.

Mary Two Axe Early spoke about the plight of the Indian women of Caughnawaga who have lived all their lives on the reserve and are

to be evicted in the near future because they married non-Indians and thereby lost their Indian status. She asked the Committee for their active support in the struggle of the Indian women.

It was decided that abortion and the support of the struggle of the Native Women would be the two issues the Committee would actively work on. This Committee does not have an address although they can be reached by writing to any women's group in Montreal.

WESTERN CANADIAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

June 13 til 16, 1975
at Pass Creek Park, Castlegar British Columbia. Four days in the Selkirk Mountains of camping, music, and learning exchange workshops. In home billotting can be arranged if you write or phone ahead costing \$2 per nite. There will be home-made food booths.

Childcare is provided and is part of this festival. There will be pick-ups from the bus depot and the airport. The festival is free -- no registration fee. Friday and Saturday are for women only. Sunday and Monday for women and their invited guests. Artists, musicians, crafts-women, women of joy and know-how, please write to us, share with us, come to the festival.

Contact:
Kootenay Womens Council
P.O. Box 1200
Castlegar, B.C.
365-3815
Marcia Braundy
Festival Co-ordinator
226-7624

Also wanted are women sound technicians to operate the mixing panel of the sound system. Pay is up to \$3 per hour. Write or contact them immedietly.

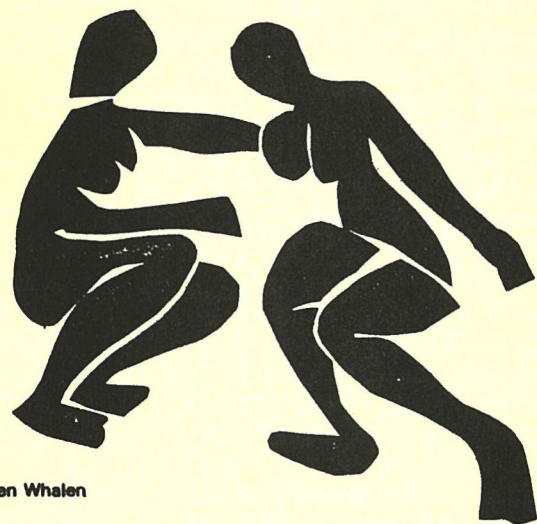
THE MYTH OF MADNESS
Box 161, Station E
Montreal, P.Q.

Published by LONG TIME COMING, is about lesbians and mental health. The contents include lesbians' personal experiences and attitudes toward their contact with mental health institutions in Canada. Topics include:
-shock treatment
-lesbians as patients in mental hospitals
-drug therapy
-insulin therapy
behavior therapy
alternatives to traditional psychiatry
-homosexuality and the new therapies (Transactional Analysis, etc)
Poetry
-news and information
The Myth of Madness is in its second printing. Order now, for \$1.25 includes postage. Bulk rates available on request.

MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS
Box 161, Station E,
Montreal, P.Q.
Mothers & Daughters, a new special issue from LONG TIME COMING, which published THE MYTH OF MADNESS. The content will include:
-articles on how lesbians relate to their straight mothers and vice versa
-articles on how daughters feel about their mothers' lesbianism
-what lesbian mothers hope for their daughters futures
-an article on what a lesbian mother and her lesbian daughter think about each other
AND MUCH MORE!
Publication date - August 1, 1975.
ORDER NOW
\$1.75 per copy
Bulk rates on request.

SASKATOON(FNS)-On April 11, 70 people demonstrated in Regina on the steps of the legislature and confronted Health Minister Smishek in regards to the imprisonment of Dr. Morgentaler and the right of women to have access to safe abortion. The next day in Saskatoon, 150 people marched and the rally that followed was addressed by 15 people including doctors and lawyers.

The Saskatoon Women's Liberation group would like to hear from anyone that also took similar actions on April 12th. Please send clippings, press releases, etc.



Eileen Whalen



Sheila Jones-Steele

WOMEN in MUSIC

CANADIAN WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL PRESS

BORN A WOMAN
by Rita MacNeil
\$4.75 paperbound
40 pages
21 p. b/w photos

Born a Woman is an exciting new step for the women's movement, a unique combination of art forms that creates a very special book, a collection of Rita MacNeil's songs with music and guitar chords, illustrated by photographs of 10 women who have visually captured the feeling of being Born a Woman.

What better way to celebrate International Women's Year than with a song? This book makes it possible for everyone to share Rita's musical vision. It is difficult to capture the spirit of an idea with words alone; music has long been a consciousness-raiser for groups of all sorts. Pictures too have an evocative power all their own.

Born a Woman is more than a song book, more than a picture book, it's a celebration of being a woman as well as a nostalgic look at what it's really like to grow up female. This is a book to remember long after International Women's Year and to keep as an album for future inspiration.

Rita MacNeil is well-known to the Canadian Women's Movement; she has sung at many conferences and meetings across the country since the 70's and plans several appearances in conjunction with International Women's Year. Her thoughtful and timely lyrics in a variety of musical styles distill the essence of the movement as only songs can do. For Rita the women's movement has provi-

ded the inspiration to bring her music to the people.

Rita was born on Cape Breton Island 30 years ago. She came to Toronto from the Maritimes and lives with her family in Alderwood, Ont. She worked as a clerk at Eaton's for 7 years. Rita has loved singing all her life, but it took the movement to liberate her voice for public performance.

Note: Rita MacNeil is also making a record that will probably be released this spring. We plan to do more publicity in conjunction with the record when a release date is set. Tapes should be available for interested reviewers in the near future. We plan exhibitions of the works of the 10 photographers as multi-media type events. Publicity will be released around these events or for further information write to The Women's Press.
280 Bloor St.W., Ste. 305, Toronto.

SPPS RECORDS

We are very happy to inform you that the song HALF THE WORLD IS WOMAN by Jacqueline Lemay and Angele Arsenault, a song that is rapidly becoming a theme song for International Women's Year, is now available on 45 RPM record.

The record has already been presented in Paris at Ms Francoise Giroud's meeting with the woman members of the French governments.

The Quebec government has contributed financially to this recording which is the first production of SPPS Records, a new record company formed by a group

of Montreal women.

If you wish to order the record or obtain further information, please feel free to call or write to us. We would be very grateful for any help you could give us in promoting this song for International Women's Year.

SPPS RECORDS, 2030 Crescent,
Suite 6, Montreal, Quebec.
845-9718 or 738-2269
Record: \$1.50 each.

WINNIPEG(FNS)-Women artists are not to be highlighted in the Winnipeg Art Gallery's program for International Women's Year.

Instead, says the Art Gallery Newsletter, the program will feature an "exhibition demonstrating the 'Changing Role in Women Through Art I' Through the paintings, prints and sculptures of nineteenth and twentieth century Canada, we will explore the ways women have been portrayed and perceived."

Sponsored by the Art Gallery's Woman's Committee, the program received \$10,000 from the IWY coffers. The exhibition will take place Nov. 29-Dec. 7.

The actual organization of the exhibition is being directed by a committee of about six people guided by the curator of the Art Gallery, Ann Davis.

In tune with the age-old attitudes towards woman-as "the other", the shadow, the second sex-this show carries on the tradition of treating woman as object. Artists featured in the exhibition will be both male and female, the criteria being only that the work be Canadian, of high quality, and about women.

Volunteers are searching through catalogues with the aim of finding works that show the changing role of women from the 19th to 20th centuries. Ms. Davis gave examples of the contrast between a 19th Century portrait of a woman with

a lace collar and a demure expression sipping tea, to the 20th Century "where you can see women in a wide range of roles". Pressed for an example she replied, "Like a painting of a woman driving a tractor".

But there is no way of getting around it-the emphasis is not on women doing the seeing, but on the way she is seen, with half of the seers, men.

How revolutionary can this theme really be? How is it going to raise people's consciousness about women and their potential?

Ms. Davis did not see the need for an exhibit by woman artists alone. She said that the gallery has already shown many women's exhibits. She added that other galleries across Canada are featuring women artists for IWY and the Winnipeg Art Gallery wanted to do something original and stimulating.

"It's going to be about lots of women in different roles. The aim of the show is not to bombard anyone with a heavy message. The aim is to portray woman as individual, as a total creative individual."

Ms. Davis is not seeing the forest for the trees. The best way to convince the public that a woman can be a total creative individual is to show what woman creates!

Perhaps the Art Gallery has exhibited women artists, but the shows have been in isolation of each other. So what if other galleries across Canada are honouring their women artists for IWY. It's not a competition; Manitoba artists can be as unique and stimulating as artists anywhere.

It's the content, not some academic formula that makes an exciting show. There certainly would be more of an impact on the public if it could view a whole roomful of creative paintings, sculptures, and prints produced by women.

With such a show the tiresome requirement that every work be about WOMAN would not be necessary. Woman would be the subject, the

doer, but her work would reflect her world view-perhaps her feelings about what is around her.

What role, then, can women artists play in this program? Ms. Davis committed herself to "woman painters, sculptors and printers will be very well represented at least equally". She added, "Again quality is a major criteria". She said the group planning the exhibit is open to ideas and they welcome artists who wish to volunteer their help.

What kind of patronizing, lowly, position are female artists relegated to-as "volunteer" help? It's interesting that Ms. Davis is now eager for help from all kinds of women. No women's groups and few women artists were consulted when the proposal was drawn up.

Ms. Davis sees the thematic approach of the gallery as educational. "We hope this way to involve a lot of people who might be interested in art but don't know much about women's history or who might be interested in women but don't know much about art." She plans to put along side the works cards with suitable quotations about the work from the artist or excerpts from writings by woman authors.

She justifies this approach by saying, "Just as we have to start writing various histories about women, we have to document the history of the theme of women in art".

It seems a show depicting a history of women as artists and perhaps changes in their self-image or world-image is a much more valid and valuable approach.

Ms. Davis is also concerned that the program reach a great many people "like the woman sewing jeans on Main St. who should know about women's roles. One way of increasing her knowledge is through art".

So an outreach program is planned for "people who maybe don't see the ads about the gallery or haven't been there before or don't even know where it is". Volunteers will

take slides of the exhibit out to women's workplaces, "Like the cashiers club at the Bay".

Such hope of educating the public with this kind of exhibit is implausible, especially the outreach ideas. The theme will be confusing because it tries to explain too much and in a linear way. Where will the gallery find works that really reflect the changing roles of women unless selected by a woman artist's own self-conception.

Artists, like most people still see women in basic ways-as the nude-body-beautiful, as the mother or as the lover.

When I flipped through the 1500 cards collated by volunteers of potential works for the show, I ran into nude after nude-1872 to 1974. Or I saw Madonna and child or women with families at picnic.

Women are still heavily identified with these roles and the odd picture of a woman driving a tractor isn't going to mean much.

It's commendable that Ms. Davis wants to highlight how conceptions of women are changing. But it's peculiar she doesn't start in her own backyard-by highlighting all the new, talented, blossoming women artists in Manitoba for a start and spreading the message of their talent to all the people who never frequent the gallery or know nothing about the creative imagination of women.

My rather frustrating interview with Ms. Davis was nearly over when an unsuspecting male wandered into her office to borrow a slide to test some equipment. He picked up a slide of a potential painting for exhibit, and, wandering out, he squinted at it and muttered, "Oh boy, a naked lady."!

(article by Sara Berger)

WINNIPEG(FNS)-Recent meetings between gallery brass and the women artist's group has shown the gallery prepared to make certain concessions.

The "women only" group are to be given space in the gallery for their own show.

However, none of the \$10,000 IWY money will be made available to them.

There is also fear that "erotic" content will not be tolerated by the gallery. The women artists feel that a picture of the lives and history of women without the sensuous aspect of womanhood would be incomplete.

The showing is to be in November. Meetings between both groups are continuing.

MONTREAL(FNS)-The federal government is doing a lot of publicity for International Women's Year 1975, but this is not backed up by intentions of any real changes in the status of women.

Women's groups were not consulted about plans for the Year. Seventy representatives from women's groups were invited to Ottawa last October to "be informed of the Department's plans".

Those of us who have been working in the women's movement at the grassroots level for years realize full well that this sudden official attention being paid to women's struggles will serve to allow officials a big pat on the back for their efforts while having no effect on the everyday lives of the women we work with.

The IWY bandwagon will serve the interests of big business in bolstering their image by the promotion of a few token women.

This is apparent to anyone who examines the way the moneys appropriated by the government for recognition of the Year will be spent.

One of the official opening events put on by the government for IWY

was a cocktail party for businessmen and politicians.

Of the two and a half million dollar budget, a half million went to the advertising company Ronalds Reynolds to produce the insipid "Why Not" campaign.

One million was initially set aside for a series of big business and upper echelon government people to the necessity for change concerning attitudes towards women.

After protests from women's groups across the country this was changed to allow for smaller "information meetings"; this is still not satisfactory.

The remaining million dollars, only two-fifths of the total funds, was made available to women's groups, to be spent over two years.

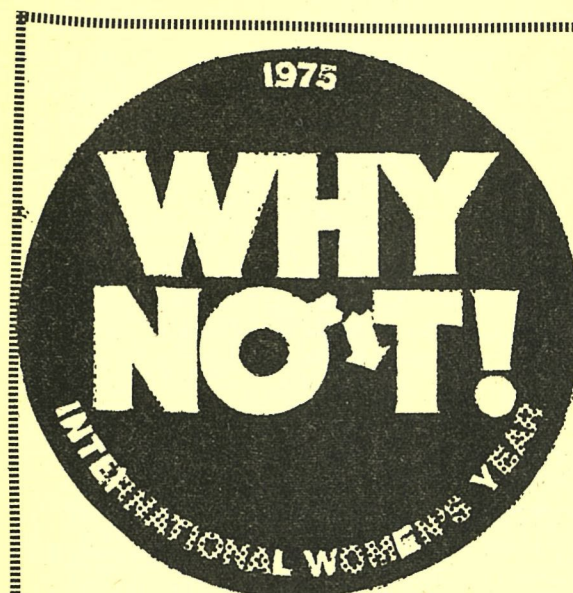
In terms of Quebec, this means that \$75,000 was allocated from April 1974 to March 1975, the same amount will be allocated from April 1975 to March 1976.

In terms of individual groups this means that no group will receive enough funds to do anything effective. In practical terms, those of us already working in a concrete way with women will have to compete for crumbs among ourselves.

We refuse to participate in this scramble.

We urge all other groups to support this move to boycott government plans for International Women's Year.

(Women's Info and Referral Centre)



Dissatisfaction with government plans for International Women's Year have been voiced by women's groups across Canada. Feedback, a Halifax group, has come up with this alternative "Why Not" button.

REGINA(FNS)-In Saskatchewan, only 10 of our 147 accredited hospitals have therapeutic abortion committees and these are very selective in the cases they accept.

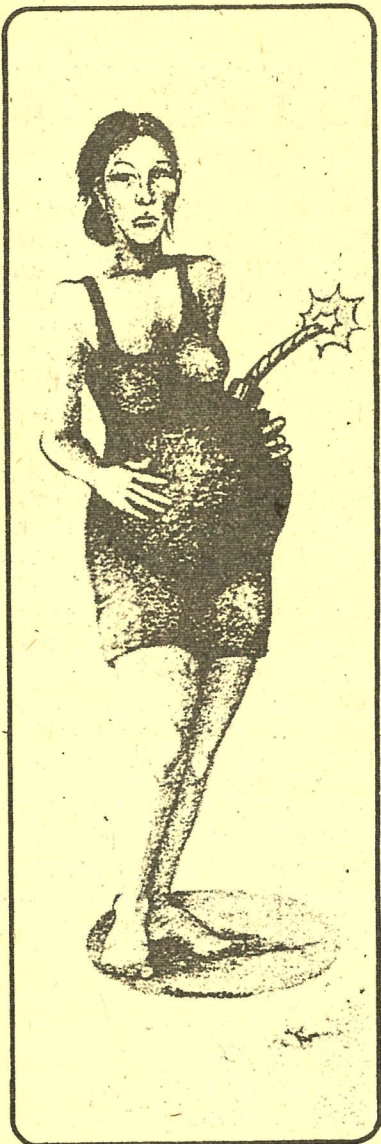
Of the 3 hospitals in Regina, only Regina General has a committee and it refuses any abortion over 12 weeks. This 12-week limit is enforced even when the complications of the committee procedure themselves are responsible for the length of the pregnancy. In addition, women are being refused by Regina General on the grounds of "a lack of beds". If there truly were a shortage of beds then the solution is to provide more beds, not to cut back on services. The health needs of women are not of such low importance.

In Saskatoon, only 2 of the 3 hospitals have therapeutic abortion committees, City Hospital and University Hospital. The other hospital, St. Paul's,

although publically financed, refuses to supply this service. In the last year, City Hospital has severely reduced the number of abortions performed and refuses all pregnancies over 12 weeks. It also refuses to consider any cases involving women who lived in areas where a therapeutic abortion committee already exists. This, in effect, restricts medical services on a geographic basis, a policy which denies equal access to medical care for all patients in the province. The hardship such a policy produces for women from outlying communities becomes evident when one considers the situation with respect to the availability of abortion in these cases.

Except for Regina and Saskatoon, the rest of the province has only seven therapeutic abortion committees. These are in the larger centres of Moose Jaw, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Yorkton, N. Battleford, Swift Current and Weyburn. However, for some of these hospitals, 2 abortions per month is above average and even the better ones don't provide adequate service. Therefore for women in these areas there is no recourse. Women's centres in Saskatoon and Regina are being forced to refer women to Seattle and New York in order to procure safe abortions.

WHEN!?



BACK- BENCHERS

HALIFAX(FNS)

Atlantis, a Women Studies Journal will be out sometime this fall. It is to be published by the instructors of and inter-disciplinary Women's Studies course at Acadia University. Atlantis represents the symbol of the lost kingdom which women are trying to re-discover by themselves.

The Maritime Women's Access Handbook is coming soon.

The Reel Life report has become an almost-book which includes an in-depth analysis of the whole tour of Nova Scotia and the scope of the ReelLife project. As an added bonus there is a discussion of the nature of government funding, its effect upon groups, women, and individuals. We consider this report required reading for anyone contemplating that nebulous world of government funds. Write to Reel Life, 1671 Argyle St., Nova Scotia, for the booklet.

HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES
HEALTH-April 8, 1975

Mrs. U. Appolloni(York South)
Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the very important medical, social and moral facts put forward by members of the Canadian Physicians for Life in their open letter of April 4, for the sake of women and unborn children of Canada, for the sake of doctors and other concerned medical personnel of Canada, will the minister please withdraw his proposal that the hospitals of Canada be forced to establish abortion committees?

MASTHEAD

Well, this is it! After many months of meetings, conferences, planning, implementation, laughs, tears and love we have finally put together the first news-packet of the Feminist News Service. If IWY has taught us one thing it's that we have to form our own media and communications, we certainly can't rely on the government.

Many times we've been asked "Why do women need a news-service?" Well, the answer lies in the question. The very fact that we're asked this indicates that the questioner is not aware that there is a feminist movement in Canada that is viable and strong enough to demand a system of news exchange. We've received some criticism. People want us to go through the "proper channels". Well, we've been trying to since who knows when but our requests for space in newspapers and in the media have been turned down time and time again.

The government has been saying "why not". We know why-it's because of their ineffectual actions-in our country women still do not have equality. We have to beg for money for rape-crises centres etc. while our PM is handed money for his own swimming pool.

Now is the time to say "when". Now is the time to demand and refuse to compromise. We have half of humanity united. STAND STRONG AND PUSH FORWARD!!

Kate Middleton

Hon. M. LaLonde(Minister of Nat. Health and Welfare)

Mr. Speaker, I have never said that hospitals should be forced to establish abortion committees. This is certainly not a matter which I can force upon the provinces. But I still believe that the hospitals are semi-public institutions and should provide those services needed by the people of this country.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Tom Cossitt(Leeds): Mr. Speaker I rise to ask the consent of the House to move the following motion: In view of the recent government announcement to establish a scale of fees for admission to national historic sights and to establish a scale of tolls for canals, in line with apparent government policy that those who use the facility should pay for such use, the House requests the Prime Minister to make a statement as to whether operating costs will be defrayed by charging an entrance fee to users of the lavish, luxurious and opulent \$200,000 swimming pool at 24 Sussex Drive.

Mr. Speaker: Fortunately, I have the gravest reservations as to the urgency and pressing necessity of that motion.

(The above discussions were taken from the House of Commons Debates for Tuesday, April 8, 1975.)

It is interesting to compare the amount of money spent on the PM's private pool and the funding allocated for International Women's Year.

FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE!!



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LESLEY WATSON	J. MANTHORNE
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FNS STARTED IN DECEMBER 1974. SINCE THAT TIME THE NEWS SERVICE HAS BECOME NATIONAL. AT PRESENT, WE HAVE OFFICES RIGHT ACROSS CANADA. EACH PROVINCE (EXCEPT FOR THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES AND THE TERRITORIES) HAS A PROVINCIAL OFFICE. TO SUBMIT INFORMATION (BE YOU A WOMAN OR PART OF A WOMAN'S GROUP) SEND YOUR COPY INTO THE REGIONAL OFFICE IN YOUR AREA. THE FNS WILL BE PUTTING OUT BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH PACKETS. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY WRITE TO US OR RECEIVE INFORMATION IN EITHER FRENCH OR ENGLISH.

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