

WLG 167

The Women's Place
31 Dupont St.
Toronto 5
Phone 929-3185

Dear Sisters,

"Your Place" has been in operation over a month now and this is the second newsletter since we moved in. Difficult to know really how to start and what to say; so much has happened. The inside of the house itself is quote presentable, having absorbed 15 gallons of white paint and uncounted buckets of our sweat. Much more remains to be done; we have to fix up the basement, overhaul lights and antiquated plumbing. There are floors to be laid, curtains to be made and hung, more furniture to be scrounged... Help!

Liberation workshops are booming. The Fix-It course proved an embarrassing success with 50 eager registrants who had to be split into four groups for the eight scheduled sessions. This quadruples the load on the volunteer instructors but at least this way we can accommodate everyone who was here that first chaotic Wednesday evening. . . . remember?

As more diverse feminist groups make use of the Place for their regular (and irregular) meetings, on most weekday nights this summer all rooms are fully booked. So, space is already at a premium and we have barely started!! If we must have problems, that's an encouraging one to have.

In lieu of moving to the T-D Centre we must make full use of available space. The back porch will be cleaned out and set up as a "neutral" waiting room so that the front entrance room can be closed off while in use for meetings. The carpentry workshop is making bicycle racks and a made-to-measure table for the kitchen; that should help also.

It looks as if all three Toronto womens papers--The Bellyful, The Other Woman and the Velvet Fist--will be layed out at The Place, probably in the basement, if we can make it habitable. Considering its present state, this will not be easy but must be done. We cannot afford not to use it. Does anyone know where we can get lumber, concrete paint, etc., free or at minimum cost?

The bookstore is in operation and considering its limited stock, well patronized. Much needs to be done by way of getting in the right stock at a decent wholesale discount. The library is just a gleam in our librarian's eye, but we have great hopes for a truly up-to-date, useful, professionally run operation. There are plans afoot for a book party (a book shower?) in the near future so check your shelves for suitable feminist books you can donate. (Perhaps we should also have one shelf of "dreadful examples" of sexist books - those are readily available elsewhere, unfortunately)

In the works at various stages are a legal clinic for women; a once a month Lesbian drop-in evening (no sociology students or "surveys", please), and a women's film festival. More about those as arrangements are firmed up.

Other ideas under discussion are: seminars-consciousness raising groups for women in media (we will not talk to men from any medium; they have to send women if they want anything from us); a credit union for women-- anyone know anything about C.U.'s? an advertising and editorial monitoring service to pick up and stomp on exploitive and degrading advertising and editorial content

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of our newspapers, magazines, radios and TV. All of these are potentially major projects requiring much thought, money and work. Anyone interested, knowledgeable or just mad to participate?

That is approximately the present status of "The Women's Place" Future depends on our combined ability to keep it going. That, in turn, requires active participation from as many women as possible.

As we all know, money is a prerequisite. Many women have expressed willingness to pledge a certain amount each month. Some have done so, many have not yet followed through. Please, if you intend to contribute, don't put it off.

In addition to cash, we need things--but most important, let's hear from you - call, write, come in. This is "Your Place."

THE WOMEN'S PLACE NEEDS YOU

We need volunteers to fill up our book which Heather worked so hard to put together. Get your name and phone number into our prestige binder today before its too late. Here are a few jobs which need doing.

1) Distress Centre- We have found a great need for a centre of some sort to be started in the city, and unfortunately we do not have room in the house here for it. If you are interested in starting a separate collective please phone and let us know. (LIP will start taking applications soon and this would be a good time to start making up a brief.)

2) Office Work- Our office needs volunteers most mornings afternoons and evenings to answer the phone, answer the letters and

answer most questions that women come in to ask. We supply free coffee and interesting conversation also a once in a lifetime chance to learn filing, typing and other trivia.

3) Housework-Here's the chance you have all been waiting for. Learn to do creative housework under our slavedriver and cleanliness maniac, Sandy. This includes painting and general fixing up as well as sweeping, washing, tidying, etc.

4) Newsletter- Now that I've belittled the other jobs let me convince you how serious our shortage of newsletter staff is. Or maybe the typing errors and sick humor have already. Call Steph or Judy if you wish to help us make it better. We need cartoonists, writers, typists and comics desperately.

5) Teachers- If you wish to fulfill your childhood dream of being "teacher" and you have one evening a week starting in September and/or skills such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical wiring, auto mechanics and/or knowledge of women in psychology, literature or sociology, volunteer to teach one of our Fall courses at our Liberation School. Also any suggestions or teachers for new courses would be welcome.

6) Referral Book-We don't actually need another book, but we do need names of good women doctors, lawyers, psychologists, printers, artists, photographers, etc. for our present one. Please call if you have either one of these occupations or skills or if you know of anyone else.

7) Drivers-We are constantly in need of women who have vans, cars or access thereof and who are willing to give us a hand at picking up donations of furniture and other goodies.

We also need a variety of
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other things which we are willing to pick up if it is not too far from Toronto city limits (including the boros).

1) Money-We are operating the centre on a shoestring budget. This is limiting and at times restrictive. This is your place. This is your place. Please, if you are able to pledge a certain amount a month, send a series of post-dated checks to 31 Dupont. If your financial status is uncertain, send a donation. If your financial status is desperate come in and talk to us instead and see what we are doing.

2) Furniture, desks, comfortable chairs, uncomfortable chairs, rugs, a working radio, an extra telephone? filing cabinets, waste paper baskets, couches, work tables, tools for our fix-it course and carpentry course, general office materials, such as pens, pencils, paper, more pens ashtrays, a clock or two, books periodicals and articles for our library, pots and pans, tea towels, a vacuum cleaner and/or carpet sweeper, a hand broom, buckets, mops, hand towels, a quart of milk and half a dozen bagels.

HELP....HELP....HELP!!!!

The staff at the Women's Place has been working hard all summer to build a centre which meets as many of the various needs of women in Toronto as is possible. However, we have found the work involved, to be much more than we can handle alone. Each staff member must handle her own specified job as well as doing other totally necessary work. Trying to find time to build on her feminist commitment to things outside the centre has become increasingly difficult. Personal lives away from the Place are becoming out of the question.

This is your Place. Help us to build it into something good. The staff have written short summaries below. They have all stated their need for help. If you can volunteer or are interested in any of these please call and let us know.

THE BOOKSTORE IS BORN

Early this month, amid sawdust, pegboard and lots of confusion, our feminist bookstore emerged. We built shelves, took inventory, and set up the books and posters. This is obviously only the beginning.

We are now directing most of our energy towards widening our selection. We need your help in suggesting books you would like to see us carry. For this purpose a suggestion list is posted on the wall, but if you happen to be someplace other than the Women's Place when you flash on a good book, just call us up.

We also need women to sell books in the evenings during Liberation School. If you have an evening you can donate, it would sure help us out. Call Heather B or Judy.

THE HIGHSCHOOL COLLECTIVE

One of the most crucial decision-making times of a woman's life is experienced at the High School and Junior High School level. At this point the choice is made. A woman may take courses which lead to grade 13, university and ultimately a career for herself as a person (regardless of her relationship with a man) or she may take courses which will get her a job with financial stability until she can start her 'real' career of marriage and child-raising.

A few years ago, there was no choice involved-it was known

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it was assumed that a woman would date several men during high school (always avoiding a "reputation"), get a job as a typist or salesgirl until she met the "right man", get married and live "happily ever after"?. Today many women are beginning to question this pre-arranged destiny. They want meaningful careers and want to treat men as people instead of prospective marriage partners. Most women, however, still don't realize that they have that choice.

The High-School Women's Collective meets weekly to discuss ourselves and our relation to school. In the fall we hope to go to different high schools in Toronto and show people, through different media, that they have a choice about their future. Anyone who is involved in Junior High Schools or High Schools (teachers, students, school nurses, librarians, guidance counsellors, parents, etc), or would like to be, contact Karen Englander at the Women's Place 929-3185.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS

One of the important happenings at the Women's Place is C.R. groups. A C.R. group starts when six or more women say they want to get together and talk about the women's movement and about themselves. Usually women call us and ask to be placed in a group but sometimes women who already know each other decide to get together.

The group starts with someone from the Women's Place who has been in a consciousness raising group, meeting with the group to answer questions and to help get discussion going. After one or two meetings she leaves the group to continue on its own. No leader is necessary. Meetings

are usually once a week for as long as the women involved like - usually six months to a year.

The purpose of consciousness raising is to give women a space in which they are free to talk about their feelings and problems as women, to explore their own exploitation and most important, to begin to analyze the reasons for their oppression. By discussing ways to change themselves and the system that oppresses them, they generally form a very close-knit group. Frequently all this involves reading and discussing current literature on subjects such as the family, lesbianism, daycare etc.

The relationships that are built among the women in the group are often the most satisfying. For many, it is the first time they have actually liked other women, for others it is their first chance to feel really close to women in the knowledge that they share common experiences and feelings.

If you would like to be in a C.R. Group just call the Women's Place and we'll get you into a group as soon as possible.

THE LEGAL HANDBOOK

Women form the bulk of the poor. Some 160,000 women with 350,000 dependant children are on welfare because their families are fatherless.

What makes a woman eligible for welfare assistance? What should she expect when she goes into a welfare office to ask for financial aid? Under what circumstances is the Children's Aid able to take a woman's children from her? Can a woman who has no income of her own obtain assistance to leave her husband if life with him is intolerable? These are the kinds of questions that the legal pamphlet which is

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being produced at The Women's Place tries to answer.

If you wish to contribute any ideas or information to this pamphlet, please contact Heather Wright at The Women's Place.

LIBERATE THE CHILDREN

"Dick and Jane as Victims" is a recently released publication which analyzes the contents of elementary school readers and documents the instances of sexual stereotyping which weaves the fabric of almost every characterization and human situation which confronts the young reader. In a statement to the American Psychological Association in September 1970, the Association of Women Psychologists said, "Psychological oppression in the form of sex role socialization clearly conveys to girls from the earliest ages that their nature is submissive, servile, and repressed, and their role is to be servant, admirer, sex object, and martyr. The psychological consequences of goal depression in young women - the negative self image, emotional dependence, drugged or alcoholic escape - are all too common. In addition, both men and women have come to realize the effects on men of this type of sex role stereotyping, the crippling pressure to compete, to achieve, to produce, to stifle emotion, sensitivity, and gentleness, all taking their toll in psychic and physical traumas."

At a time when psychologists are beginning to call attention to the great damage done to both men and women by our narrowly defined sex roles, the sexual stereotyping of the books reviewed in "Dick and Jane as Victims" forms the basis of reading courses in Toronto schools.

The Women's Place wants to make its resources and services

available to women who would meet over the summer to prepare a programme for the fall which would challenge the use of sexist books and material in the schools, suggest alternatives and raise the general consciousness regarding stereotyped attitudes in the structuring of classrooms, counseling, and in teacher-student interaction.

If you wish to contribute or would like more information on sexual stereotyping contact Bonnie Laurie at The Women's Place.

ALL ABOUT THE FILM FESTIVAL

To raise money for the continued existence of the Place, we will be holding a film festival Fri. Sept. 15 & Sat. Sept. 17. Films shown will include Wanda, Kate Millett's Three Lives, Women on The March, (part 1), a child-care film, It Happens to Us, an abortion film by Amalie Rothschild, Growing up Female: Six Become One, and others.

If you are interested in helping to organize this festival working on a brochure to hand out, contacting advertisers for this brochure, designing ads (we especially need help here) working on publicity, please contact Ellen or Marcy at The Women's Place (929-3185). Place and times of showing will be announced in the next newsletter.

THE LIBRARY

The Women's Place Library is organizing a collection of books, magazines, pamphlets and articles by women or of interest to women. Books should be available for circulation by the end of July. Unfortunately, our budget for buying books is lim-

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ited and we need help, to make the library an adequate resource centre for women in Toronto. Donations of books by women or about women, back issues of magazines, pamphlets reprints, bibliographies of women's literature, etc. will make this possible. We would also like suggestions of books you feel the library should have.

FRIDAY AUGUST 4 at 8:00, THE WOMEN'S PLACE IS THROWING A BOOK PARTY FOR THE LIBRARY. REFRESHMENTS, CONVERSATION, AND FUN. ADMISSION: 1 book

WE'RE WORKING ON A TELEPHONE REFERRAL SERVICE

After much confusion and discussion, we have decided that instead of a directory, as was originally planned, we would compile a file system of community services. This way, any information will be easily obtained by calling The Women's Place and asking. In other words, if you have a problem, we probably have the number you should call for the solution. The reference files will consist of general services and services that are specifically for women, such as Welfare Rights, cheap or free medical and dental aid, day care centres, hostels, food co-ops and cheap housing; we hope also to exclude places which discriminate against women in any way.

It is alot of work so we need alot of volunteers to help us. The work is easy and quickly done--if you volunteer, we'll give you a small list of places to call, and tell you exactly what information you should get from each.

Please help us. Call the Women's Place and ask to be signed up in the volunteer book under "Directory".

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GOODS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN TORONTO

The Open Door- All Saints Church Sherbourne at Dundas 366-4319

Open Monday to Friday, 10a.m.-4p.m. The Open Door is a drop-in centre for women providing coffee, companionship, television and advice and information on community services. It also runs a free rooms registry service, with a list of clean rooms and apartments in the Ward 7 Area.

The Other Woman 31 Dupont St. 929-3185

The Other Woman is a revolutionary feminist newspaper put out by volunteers. It has no grants. It needs subscriptions (\$2/yr for six issues) photographers, artists poets, writers, researchers to contribute.

Package for High School Women 306 Glen Rd. 923-2271 (after 5)

Pam Mcleod has been funded by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to produce a package of materials about women for use in High Schools. It will include filmstrips, records, slides, printed materials, photographs, etc. She would like to hear from women, teachers, and high school students who have ideas to contribute.

Parkdale Single Parents Association 1267 Queen St. W. 532-2977

This is an association of single parents, separated, divorced, unwed, widowed, regardless of custody, male or female. Members discuss mutual problems-money, daycare, welfare, etc. Free day care is available possibly through the summer. Two student lawyers are available. General meetings are held the first Weds. of every month at 7:30p.m.

(Goods and Services Available
to Women in Toronto, Continued)

Women's Bureau
400 University Ave. 10th Floor
365-1537

The Women's Bureau was established to conduct research for the improvement of the status of women employees, promote expansion of employment opportunities for women, receive and investigate complaints of acts contrary to the Equal Employment Opportunities Act. This Act prohibits discrimination because of sex or marital status in hiring, training, promotion or dismissal. Discriminatory advertising or referral by agencies is prohibited. All employers with more than 25 employees must provide 12 weeks maternity leave for women who have worked at least one year. Dismissal for pregnancy is prohibited. Anyone wishing to file a complaint should contact the Bureau.

Lesbian Drop-In
31 Dupont St.
929-3185

One Friday evening a month the Centre will be open for a Lesbian Drop-In evening. NO SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS OR SURVEYS, please.

Women's Liberation Movement
The central office has closed but several collectives are still in operation

WLM Legal Collective 363-9621
Has an advisory bureau on legal problems. Puts out fact sheets on women's rights in marriage divorce, custody, etc.

WLM Working Women's Collective
Contact Karen Webster - 923-8531

WLM Well Baby Clinic 920-1793
64 Augusta
Open Saturdays
Doctors, dentists, nurses available.
Women from the collective help patients, explain problems and give advice.

WLM Abortion and Birth Control Collective -
Contact Ruth Miller at 925-7721

Woodgreen Community Centre
835 Queen St. E.
461-1168 and 467-9088
The Centre trains people on welfare about welfare rights. Any ten people on welfare can apply for free instruction.

Abortion Coalition 863-9973
An organization set up to fight for the repeal of all abortion laws. It is a nation-wide coalition of women and women's groups.

Childbirth Information 489-6350
228 McCaul St.
Contact Sharon Auerbach for information on free childbirth preparation classes using the LaMaze method. Also information on breast feeding, birth control and doctors and hospitals that are helpful.

Community Hostel 925-4613
191 Spadina Road
Overnight accomodation for women or couples and children. Open 6 p.m. (registration) till 10 .m. with a three day limit. Breakfast and supper for 25¢ each.

The Centre 225-6542
25 Sheppard Ave (at Bayview)
For information counselling and medical referral on birth control venereal disease and unwanted pregnancy. A volunteer community service. Staff is trained by the York Student Clinic.

York Women's Caucus 493-5835
A women's group in the suburb of York primarily organized around the abortion issue.

(Goods and Services Available
to Women in Toronto, Continued)

New Feminists
Box 597
Station A, Toronto

Children's Liberation Workshop
Box 207
Ancaster, Ontario

Women's Involvement Project
921-6591

A group involved in video taping programmes about women for cable TV. Brochures are available for the 12 programmes already completed. Shows to be completed by the end of August are:

- Women in Welfare"
- "Patriarchy and Sour Grapes"
- "Women in Institutions"
- "Pornography"

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THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING

July 27-Thurs.

Abortion Coalition Film Night
Place: Neill Wucik College
22nd Floor-Hanke Room
96 Gerrard St. E.

Charge: Employed-1.00
unemployed- .50

Titles: "It Happens to Us"
"She's Beautiful when she's
Angry"
"Phoebe"
"Women on the March"

July 28-Friday

CHAT-weekend sensitivity group
(call for details)

Aug. 3-Thurs

CHAT movie night

Aug. 4-Friday

Women's Place, Library Party-8:30
price of admission-1book for the
library. Refreshments served.

Aug 19th-Sat through Sun Aug 27
CHAT "Gay Pride Week"

Gay festival, Gay picnic, films
(one especially for women), dance,
demonstration and petitioning of
government and church service.

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WANTED Feminist to share apartment
at College and Spadina. \$70 mo.
Telephone 964-2122 *Keep trying
until you reach her-Sylvia. No
hurry.

Are you driving anywhere? Vancouver,
the Maritimes, the States? If so
contact us. A lot of women need
rides and some can share expenses
and driving.

THE WOMEN'S PLACE
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Toronto 5

