

W.C. 167

FEB 1 6 1973

OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

THE WOMEN'S PLACE,
31 Dupont Street,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Mon. - Thurs. 10.30 a.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 10.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
929-3185

Hi! January has just rushed right into February with so many things happening. And all planned by women! It's a really fine feeling!

In our whirlwind of activities, those of us who come through the House are finally directing our energies outward in a united front - to make our presence felt and our voices heard. It's been really exciting to not only see so many women new to the House come down to see what we are all about, but to see them come back again and again; to see women who know of the Place but never had a chance to make it down before; as well as women - angry women - wanting to talk out their frustrations specifically with other women because they know that all of us here care and do all we can for women.

It's just so good being in a House full of women - women doing or women just being - "hanging out", getting away from outside pressures for a while.

The House changes daily. It feels and looks lived in. One can't take time to worry over dirty floors. Somehow it all gets done. If we keep growing at the fantastic rate of this past month, we will have no choice but to force ourselves to move out - not to vacate, but to help women set up houses like this one in their own area. It's just not good enough to say, "Oh, yes, Toronto has a Women's Centre". Out of one should grow many. (The Western YWCA has set up their own Liberation School and provided for women's groups to hold meetings.)

We have barely scratched the surface and the need is as great as ever. But somehow, I don't feel quite so isolated anymore. More and more women are talking about Women's Place. And that's all we need, really - passing the word along. It's actually beginning to feel as if we can make a Women's Revolution, on whatever level one wants - as the Newsletter this month will demonstrate. And one can certainly feel free to use the Newsletter for any projects they want to start. That's what it's all about, you know - getting women together! There are so many ways of attacking the oppressive structures that keep me and you from a fulfilling life. It concerns us all and we will work together in different ways for the same end.

Anybody who even faintly thinks that they might have a skill to use (dare to try, and come out a stronger woman for it!) in our struggle - or any ideas, interests - don't hesitate to come down or call. We need you! We can't come to you - we don't know you, yet.

The Women's Movement can only exist by the efforts of "ordinary, average" women. But wait! We are not ordinary or average. We haven't even begun to test our strength. So if even one person has trouble getting down here or is not sure of what she might have that all of us might want, a very substantial contribution would be a monthly (or donation) of even \$1.00. Women have always been good at scraping things up, at somehow "getting by" - but never at raising money. How can we ever raise money if we have never had any? One demand of ours that has been around for a long time is "equal pay" and we still don't have it, though we should, legally. Another one is "equal opportunity". We are clerks and secretaries and so many of us never get a chance at re-training. So how can we ever give money away to "worthy causes", as businessmen do, if we are never allowed the chance to do more than survive?

So support us - and you - by making your sister-workers aware of on-the-job oppression, and by just talking about Women's Liberation wherever you might be. Spread the word, Sisters!

DID YOU KNOW that your Newsletter goes out to almost 2,000 women, including individuals and groups across Canada?

I'm sure you can realize the tremendous work involved sending it out to you, e.g. collating pages and stapling together; writing out addresses (we will soon have computerized stickers for this); and then stamping them all. This all comes, of course, after the information has been gathered together. (The Newsletter just won't happen if no one person shown as interest in getting everything possible out to you.) Then, of course, the whole thing is typed, then run off on our Gestetner. I feel incompetent around machines myself, but this one is so easy that even I can operate it. Once one learns, it is just a matter of waiting for 6,000 sheets, which makes 3 pages (depending on the length of each Newsletter) to go through the machine, and do it all over again on the backs of pages 1, 3 and 5.

This is all done by women who have volunteered their time. Will you? All this has been stretched out to sometimes a week in length, and there is just no reason at all for a really good event that happens early in the month to be over and done with by the time you find out about it. (I have heard that women actually pin this up on their kitchen bulletin board as a daily reminder.) I cannot emphasize enough that we depend on you. This House could not survive without your support, for you are this House!

The Newsletter Party will now be the last Saturday of each month and, if we have to, on the Sunday. After all, if even 2% of the 2,000 women came out, 20 women can get a lot of work done. And have a lot of fun, too. (We always seem to have something good to drink around these days.) Don't forget about the children's room with a crib and lots of toys, if you have no baby-sitter.

Also, for any group that wishes to be listed or to have meetings publicized, all information must be in 4 days previous to that Saturday. (It then leaves the Centre to be typed.) So, anyone wanting to help on the Gestetner, please come down by 2 p.m. that Saturday, and I'll be waiting. And if you can, arrive by 7 p.m. for our work party. At any rate, please call to let me know how many to expect.

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS POETRY AND GRAPHICS. TOO COPY-HEAVY! ANYBODY WANT TO HELP ME START A "NEWSLETTER COLLECTIVE"?

CENTRE COLLECTIVES

LETTUCE OUT BOOKSTORE

It is paying for itself now. It is not the Book Cellar, but it's the best place around for women's books - fiction or movement. We have a good selection of Canadian authors. We always buy paperback books because we know how expensive most hardcovers are for women. Plus a 45 record done by a Toronto feminist selling for \$2.00. (She paid for the whole production herself. Nobody would back her with the finances.)

Of course, our posters. We have some really good posters but, unfortunately, they have to be brought in from Chicago. (Why don't we start our own Graphics Collective? Any artists reading this? How about the Women's Group at the Ontario College of Art?)

THE LIBRARY

Our women's Library is really running well. The books keep coming back every 2 weeks and women are always coming in to spend a few hours on a school project. There are papers and pamphlets to read from the reference section. But, really, it's kind of hard to explain to people why the shelves are not all full, because I know that they would be overflowing if all the books out were returned at once.

HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE

It has turned into a good solid group of women who come down every week to find support from the oppressive school structures where they are lucky if they are taught family planning.

One woman was able to have a woman's group in her school through the intervention of her feminist guidance counsellor. Women are allowed to meet together on school premises if it can be shown that is nothing more than a social club. And principals certainly know by now, since it has even crept into the female teaching staff, that Women's Liberation is not a social club.

These women meet every Thursday at 6-8:30 pm. Tell your daughter. Tell your friends.

THE OTHER WOMAN NEWSPAPER

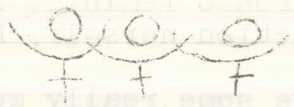
A group of 7 or 8 women are, at present, still meeting out of Women's Place as the only existing Women's Paper in Toronto. We have no grants. The money goes right back into the next issue. So please, send us donations or money for subscriptions of whatever you can afford. We need women who have knowledge in special fields to give us research information, writers, etc. Our next issue will focus on Women in the Work Force and International Women's Day (March 8th). If you have heard of anything that we could use, or could write us an article, please call the Women's Place. Write our P.O. Box 928, Station Q, Toronto 7, or in care of the Women's Place.

THE "WOMEN'S LIB" TYPE PRESS

Is available for printing jobs. We will do Movement and personal work - flyers, pamphlets, letterheads, children's books, reprints, etc. Movement prices for Movement work. Call the Women's Place.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE INDOCHINESE REVOLUTION

So said our big red banner. Twenty of us came out for our Women's Contingent for the January 20th Demonstration against Nixon's War in Vietnam, and there were many other Feminists in the different groups.

The best pre-rally speaker was, of course, a woman - Clair Culhane who has seen first-hand, the damage done spending much time in the hospitals of Vietnam. (Read her book "Why is Canada in Vietnam" for more information.) This war affects little children terribly who have no idea of politics - homeless and maimed.

We started the traditional Algerian Women's Call to Action, used particularly during their revolution. The sound was quite chilling and impressive, when even half of the 1,000 present picked it up.

Ah, yes, Sisters marching arm-in-arm down the street for our Sisters in Vietnam who are womanning the anti-aircraft guns against the American napalm bombers (each B52 bomber contains 1 ton of Canadian nickle) who are trying toturn their farms, their livelihood, intowasteland.

Our Sisters in Vietnam have and are showing how we must be strong through unity in all areas of our mutual fight for Liberation.

Most noticeable was the joy manifest in this action - in the call for solidarity with our Sisters.

NEWS FLASH!! NEWS FLASH!!

OTTAWA WOMEN'S CENTRE RECEIVED A GRANT!!
also
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND STARTED THEIR CENTRE ON A GRANT!!

*** RETRACTION RETRACTION ***

- 1 - The only connection between Dare and Kraft is the exploitation of workers. (See below for Dare.)
- 2 - Sealtest is distributed by Dominion Dairies, which is owned by Krafco. However, Dominion Dairies is unionized. (Therefore, you can boycott it if you like but don't publicize Sealtest as bad.) Confusing?
- 3 - The phone number listed was flooded with calls. So if you are sincerely interested in working with the Kraft Boycott Committee do call 536-8131. Otherwise, write to Toronto Support Committee, P.O. Box 1053, Station Q, Toronto 7, Ontario.

THE DARE STRIKE

During November, serious efforts were made to effect conciliation between the strikers at Dare and the Company. Telegrams were sent to Fern Guindon, Minister of Labour, requesting his personal intervention to assist in the settlement. Strikers will continue their action against Dare, although the company is in production and operating with scab labour. If you wish to help the strikers, contributions can be sent to The Dare Strike Fund, Brewery Local #173, 65 Lodge Street, Kitchener, Ont. Remember: DON'T BUY DARE COOKIES!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: Why do we wear dresses?

CENTRE PROJECTS

INTERVAL HOUSE TO OPEN SOON

Interval House received confirmation of a \$30,000 LIP Grant on January 16th. Members of the Interval House Collective hope to open the residential distress centre for women with children by February 19th.

The House offers a month of co-operative living in a supportive environment to women with children facing crisis situations - marriage breakdown, temporary financial problems, etc. The House will be staffed 24 hours a day. Women staff members will offer a friendly ear, and assistance and encouragement with house and job searches. Referrals will be made for legal aid, counselling, medical aid and vocational services. Babysitting will be provided.

Interval House hopes to provide a supportive environment for sound decision-making - the women who live there will be each other's greatest resource.

Renovations - including scrubbing and painting - will begin at 173 Spadina as soon as the actual money is available.

We need all the help we can get! If you'd like to pick up a mop or paintbrush, or become a volunteer staff member, call darlene or Martha at 966-3091.

If you have house furnishings of any sort, call Suzanne 966-3091 or Lynn 767-2849, and we will arrange to pick up things as soon as possible.

FEMINIST SUMMER CAMP

Women interested in working to set up a Feminist Summer Camp on donated land near Belleville on Bay of Quinte, please phone Women's Place and ask for Ellen or leave your name and number.

** FIX-IT COURSE **

We are offering a Basic Electrical Fix-It Course. Projects will include changing light switches, plus repairing small appliances. Women can bring in toasters, etc., and work on them. 8 weeks starting March 7th. Fee: \$5.00

INFORMATION BOX - Anyone interested in working on an Information Box on Women and Children's Socialization for Elementary Schools, call Laura 920-0972 or Leah 929-3185. Man on it, so not meeting here.