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Fall 9-1-1981

## Women's Center Newsletter (Fall 1981)

University of Maine Women's Center Staff

*University of Maine Women's Center*

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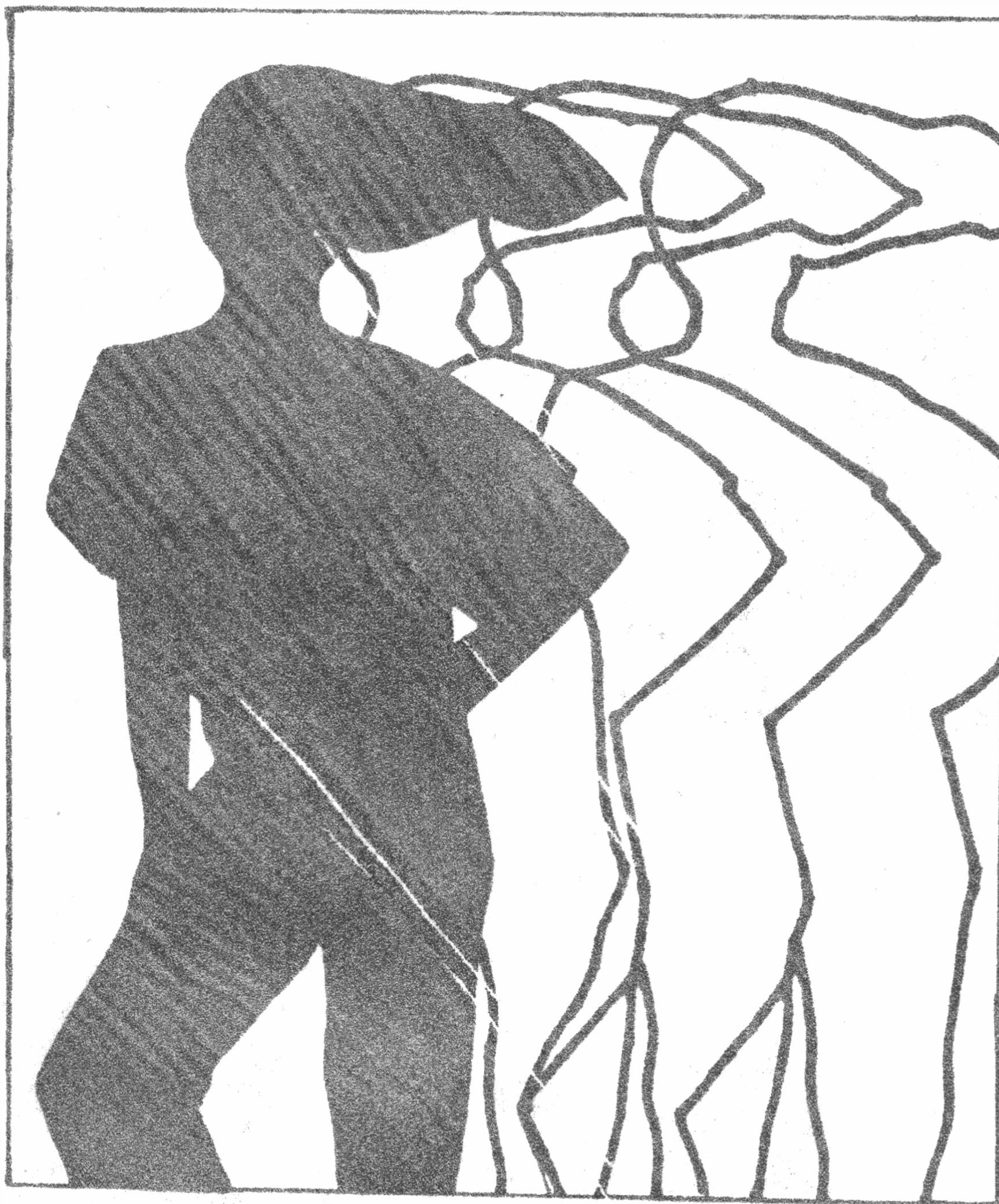
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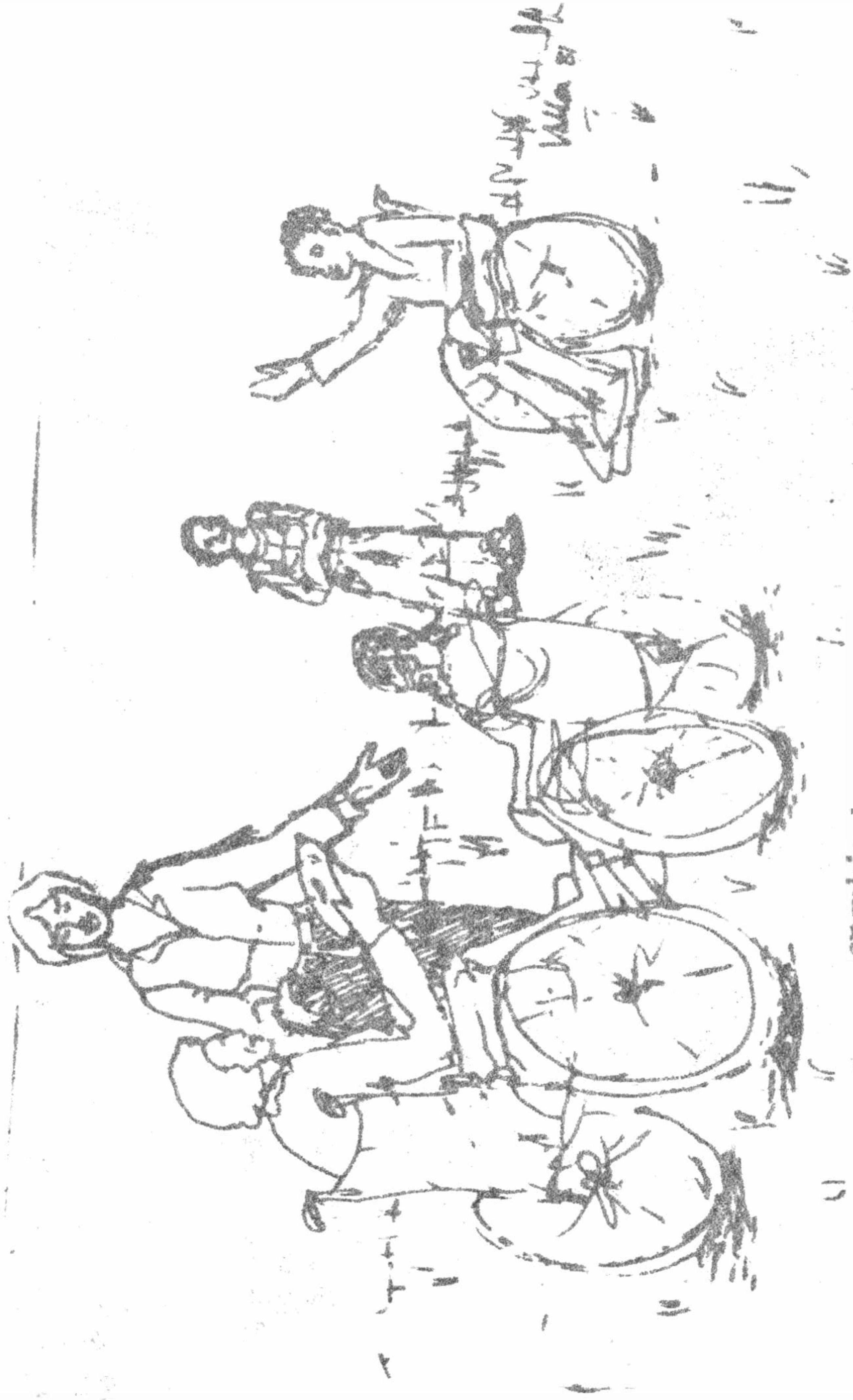
# **UMO Women's Center**



**Fall  
Newsletter  
1981**

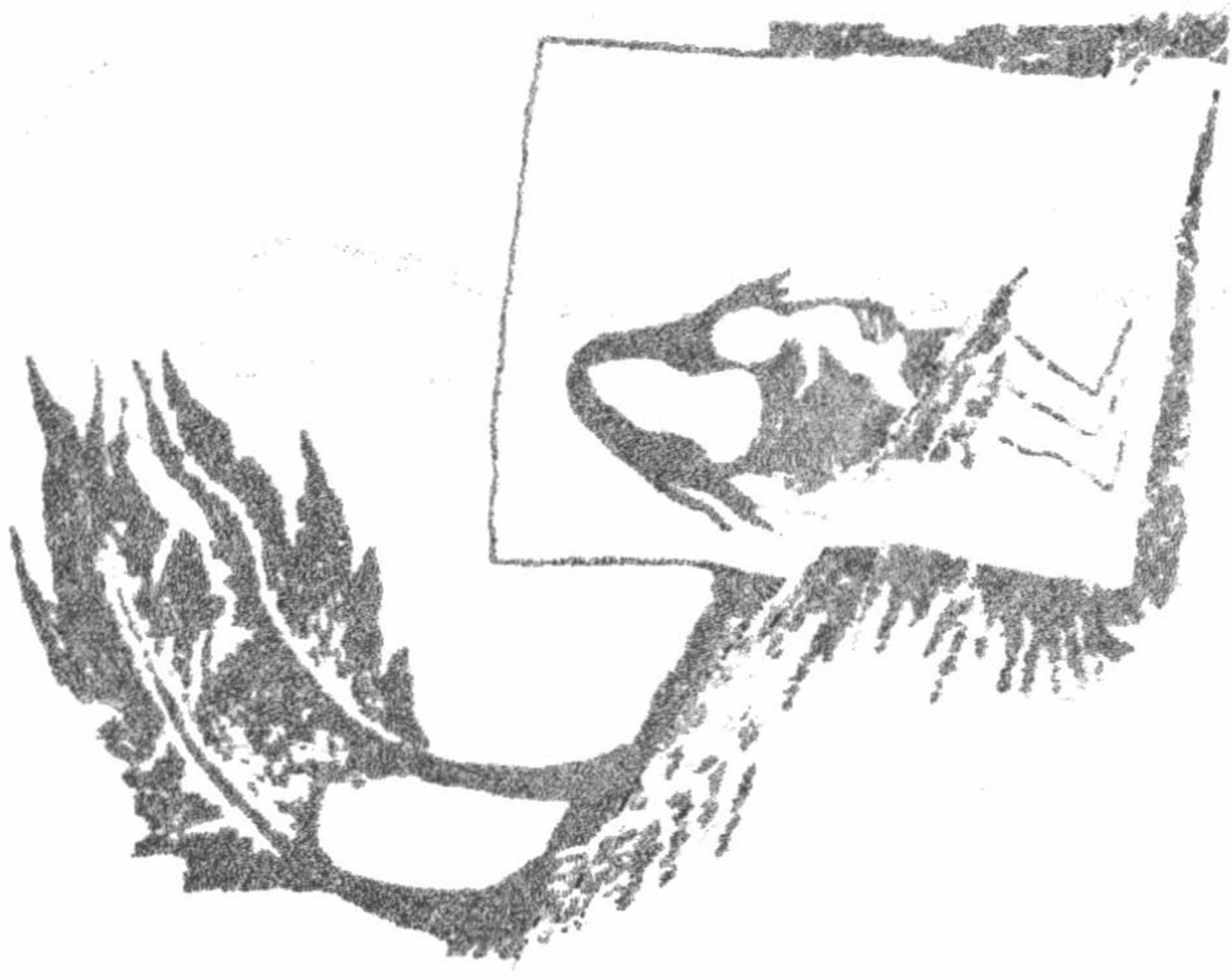


# CHILD CARE PROVIDED



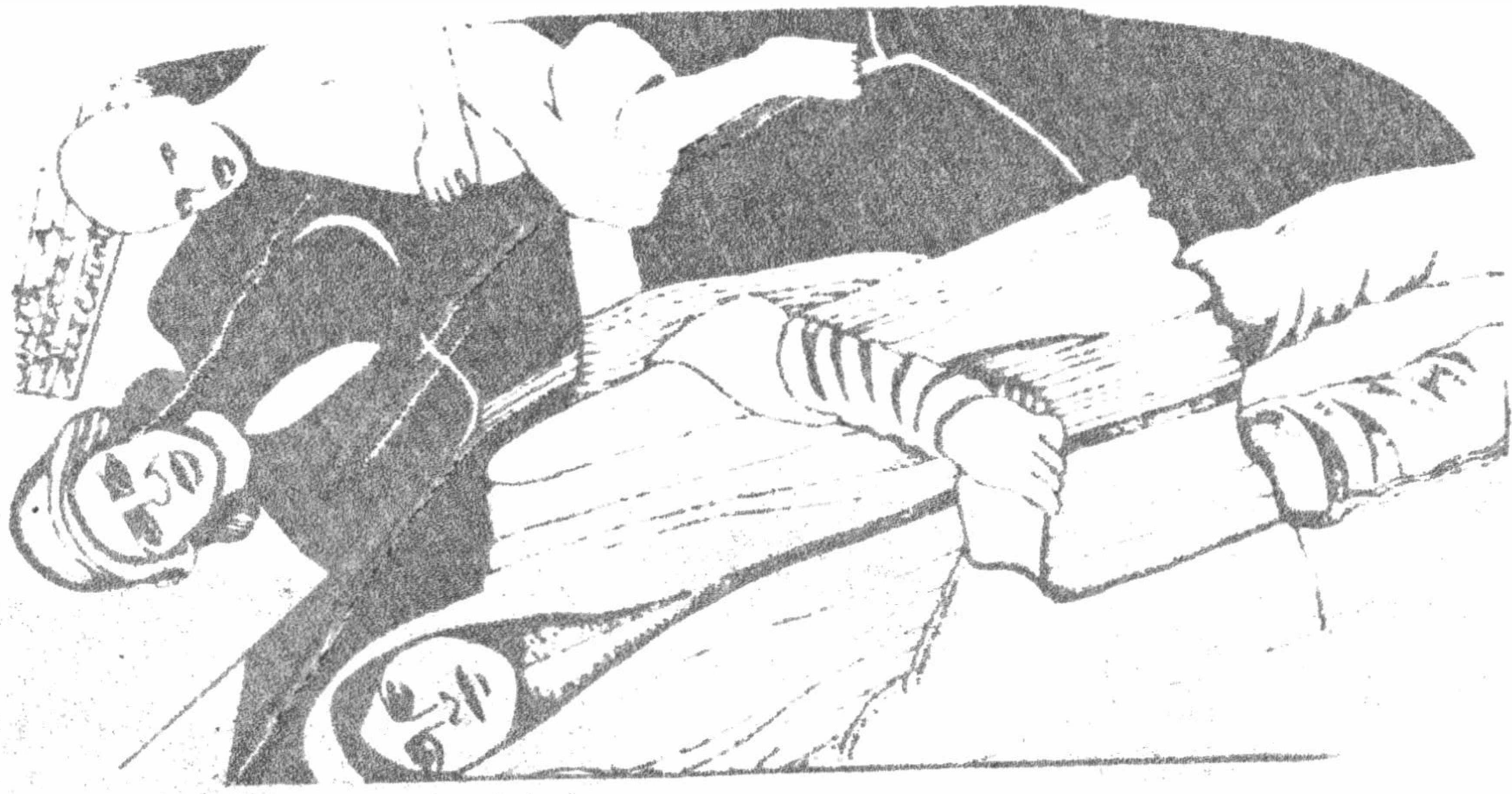
graphic by Jean Vallon





# **WOMEN'S CENTER MEETINGS**

**Thursdays, 4:00  
Peabody Lounge**





# UMO WOMEN'S CENTER

Our major goal is to educate the UMO community and the greater community on women's issues. We do this by being:

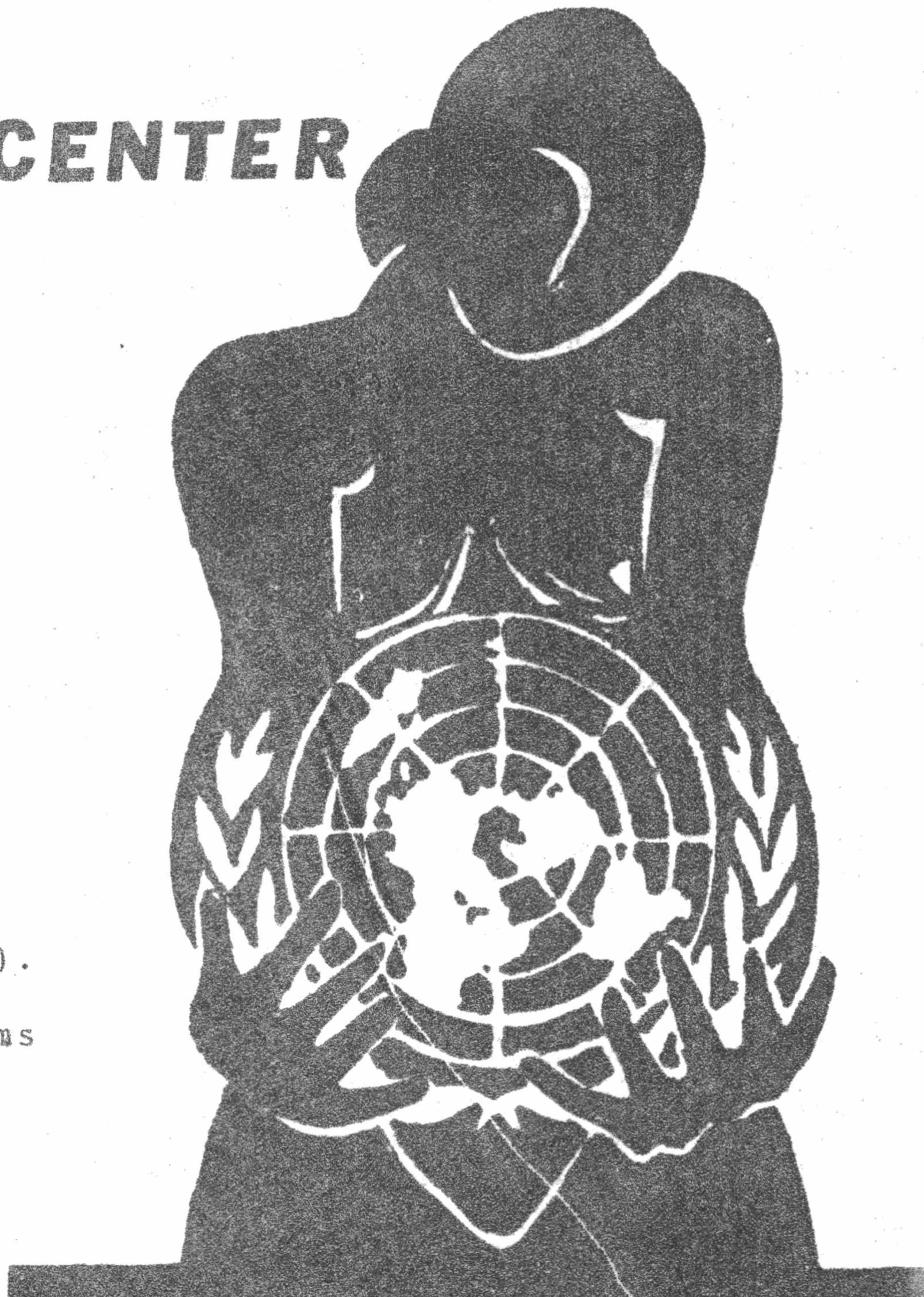
1. A resource center
  - A) Women's library
  - B) Extensive files on women's issues
  - C) Periodicals/newsletters
  - D) We're presently compiling bibliographies on topics related to women's issues.
2. A programming group
  - A) Speakers
  - B) Films
  - C) Debates
  - D) Symposiums (organizing our own and co-sponsoring others).
3. A Community Service Group
  - A) Educating (all of our programs and resource material, plus presentations to classes and other campus groups).
  - B) Focus on Women ( a weekly program sponsored by FOCUS and the UMO Women's Center).
  - C) Assisting Spruce Run with fundraisers
  - D) Purchasing films for the campus film library.
  - E) Newsletter
  - F) Population Control Fund  
(Coordinator appointed by us)

All of our resources are available to the public. We have weekly business meetings on Thursdays at 4:00 in the Peabody Lounge. Also, bi-weekly evening potluck/discussion groups are held.

The UMO Women's Center is a student group, coming under the SCSC of the UMO Student Government, and receiving funding from the Student Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the UMO Women's Center; they are the views of the authors only!



## Population Control Fund

The Population Control Fund provides UMO students interest free loans to cover the cost of an abortion. The PCF, a subcommittee of the UMO Women's Center was created to ensure that all students were granted their Constitutional right to elect to terminate a pregnancy. Current hospital costs are prohibitive; a woman often cannot financially afford to exercise her legal right to an abortion.

The Population Control Fund has provided abortion loans to 155 people since 1971. UMO students (male and female) are eligible to receive a PCF loan. All information is kept strictly confidential. Persons requiring assistance or further information, please contact Sandy Caron at the UMO Women's Center, 581-2261.

Sandy Caron



# Referrals for Women -

## Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

1. Alcoholics Anonymous, 43 Illinois Ave., Bangor 942-2015
2. Bangor Halfway House (a group home for male alcoholics) 319 State, Bangor 947-3711
3. Eastern Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 103 Texas Ave, Bangor 947-6367
4. Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, Alcohol Institute 947-3711
5. The Bangor Halfway House (a group home for female alcoholics) Bangor 947-1108
6. UMO Alcohol Awareness Program, David Lee, Coordinator, 123 Hancock, Orono 581-7712
7. UMO Student Counseling Center, Cutler Health Center & Fernald Hall UMO 581-7128 or 79

## Child Care

1. Children's Center, 115 College Avenue, UMO, Orono 581-2251
2. Creative Corners Nursery School, Indiana Avenue, Bangor, 942-9800

## Counseling Centers

1. Dial HELP, (24 hour telephone crisis line) 947-6143
2. The Counseling Center, 43 Illinois Avenue, Bangor 947-0366
3. UMO Student Counseling Center, Fernald Hall 581-7936 /Cutler Health Center 581-7128

## Domestic Violence

1. Spruce Run Association, 189 Exchange St., Bangor 947-0496 or 945-5102 (For women experiencing psychological or physical abuse; individual and group counseling)
2. Womencare/Aegis Association (Crisis sheltering, crisis counseling, information and referral) 24 hours: 564-2016 564-8360 564-8354 876-3727

## Political Organizations

1. National Organization for Women (NOW), 23 March Street, Bangor 942-2830
2. Maine Women's Lobby, Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

Rape Rape Crisis Center, 43 Illinois Avenue, Bangor, 942-7442

## WOMEN'S HEALTH

### Abortion

1. Family Planning/Planned Parenthood Division, 262 Harlow St. Bangor 947-6931
2. Population Control Fund, Contact the Women's Center, UMO, Orono 581-2261

Birth Control Family Planning/Planned Parenthood Div. Bangor 947-6931

Cancer Cancer Hot Line 1-800-428-0113

### Homosexuality

1. Dignity/Maine, P.O. Box 7021, Lewiston, Maine 04240
2. Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford Street, Portland, Maine 04130
3. Maine Lesbians Feminists, P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915
4. Northern Lambda Nord, Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736
5. Wilde Stein Club (For UMO Gays and Lesbians) UMO, Orono, Maine 581-2261



## Referral Sources (con't)

### Pregnancy

1. Birthline, (pregnancy counseling) 1-800-452-8748
2. St. Andre Home (group home for unwed mothers) 87 Ohio St. Bangor 945-5021
3. UMO Cutler Health Center 581-7511

### Sexuality

1. Peer Sexuality Program - volunteer peer counselors 581-7712
2. Family Planning, 262 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 947-6931

### Veneral Disease

1. Bangor Public Health Department, 73 Harlow Street, Bangor 947-0341 ex. 227 or 228
2. Dial HELP (24 hour crisis telephone line) 947-6143



### Washington D.C. Representatives' and Senators' Addresses

Senator Bill Cohen  
251 Dirksen

Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator George Mitchell  
145 Russell  
Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington D.C. 20510

Representative Olympia Snowe  
130 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Representative David Emery  
2437 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515



# Non-Traditional Mother

Since there is no formal organization of non-traditional student-mothers, this roving reporter table-topped in the Memorial Union, each time being introduced in order to get another "friend of a friend" who was also a student and mother. Clearly, there is a large amount of informal and necessary networking among non-traditional student parents!

When asked about problems of older student/mothers, most women answered in three broad categories: time, money, and energy. Not one found the combination easy; all were glad that they were in school. Many of the women were single or divorced, and some were on AFDC; in an attempt to re-gain skills for the job market. The lack of child care facilities on this campus, especially of the drop-in sort, was seen as a major hurdle.

The academic experience of these women varied greatly by department. The liberal arts, in general; art, sociology in particular, were the most flexible women-students, in dealing with the problems of the student-mother. "Coming back to school as an adult is easier.... You just have to go to your professors one-to-one and explain your situation, even if your face turns beet red!" explained one art major. This woman said that if her kids were sick, or if she had trouble with baby sitters, she was easily able to work out her problems with her professors.

Two women, one in forestry, another in business, said they both knew of arbitrary professors who would not grant extensions in any case, no matter what! This can be a real problem when kids have the mumps or chicken pox; these illnesses can keep the kids out of school for about ten days. In these cases, many students traded baby-sitting with one another. I was touched when someone offered to sit for me (I had met this woman ten minutes previously).

All students felt that they wanted to pull equal weight as the average 19-year old student, but as one science major stated, "I don't ever want to use my kids as an excuse, but the fact is they do get sick. When I have to take care of them and miss

a class or lab, it's not the same as a fraternity jock recovering from a hang-over missing the same class." Many science majors worried that the mere mention of the existence of their children will devalue them in the eyes of their advisors, and stamp them with the work of "housewife" instead of "serious student."

Science majors found less flexibility in their department; one found night exams a real problem. Since this mother received AFDC, the money to hire a babysitter for a three hour exam constituted a real problem. She was hesitant to complain about this policy, since she was the only woman in a large class.

I asked Dr. Lee in the Electrical Engineering Department about this policy, "Any professor here would give the exam at a different time for any single parent, male or female, in this situation. It's not a matter of arbitrariness, it's just that few engineering students are parents, and this type of problem has not come up before."

But the problem is not always that simple! Another student, whose child had had a cold and was fairly well, (but not well enough to return to day care - that is, symptom-free for 24 hours) wondered whether or not to take kids to labs or recitations. This is a real problem, since this may prejudice professors in viewing the students as "incompetent" or "housewifey," rather than seriously trying not to miss another class.

Generally, the science students I spoke to, felt more awkward about having to ask for any special treatment, and they were often worried about jeopardizing their status in the eyes of their professors.

In order to survive, non-traditional student-mothers must, of necessity, form a one-to-one relationship with their professors. I found that nearly all students worked well ahead of schedule, in case their child should get sick. Since many of these students also juggled with working a part-time job, their time management skills would make a corporate manager reel in envy! The lack of day care on campus was universally bemoaned, and the fact that what day care exists is limited from 8-5.

Many wished that there was Health Insurance coverage for dependents, and that Cutler Health Center treated dependents.



# Feminist Gift Ideas

A gift certificate (\$5.00 minimum) from "Equality Products," a woman-owned-and-operated business selling items from buttons and bumper stickers to mugs and totebags (43 items in all) with 215 feminist slogans. The catalogue is fun in itself! Write to: Equality Products, 1554 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40205, or call toll-free 1-800-626-5893.

A subscription to a feminist magazine/newsletter. These range from Ms. to Mother Jones to Off our Backs. Specific topics include women's health, art, and women's studies.

Biographies of inspiring women are varied, and are especially good as role-models for teen-agers. These vary as much as the women themselves, from art (Georgia O'Keeffe) to film stars (Katherine Hepburn), writers, or scientists.

Women's music makes a great gift. There are several companies that deal primarily in women's music. Check them out!

An ERA t-shirt is probably the best means of visual support to push for ratification of the Era before the June deadline. The Women's Center is currently selling blue, beige, and yellow t-shirts with the slogan, "ERA - The battle's not over" on them. They are available for \$5.50 from the UMO Women's Center.

The bible of the Women's Health movement is the Boston Women's Health Collective's Our Bodies, Ourselves. This is available at most bookstores, or at Penquis Cap family planning on Harlow Street in Bangor at cost (about \$2.50).

A low-cost guide to non-sexist child rearing is Right from the Start, by Selma Greenberg. While not as in depth as some works, this is probably one of the best complete practical guides for the price. Highly recommended! It is published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 1979, and sells for \$4.95 paperback.

For the big spender is the fantastic blue print for raising children today. Growin Up Free: Raising your child in the 80's must be the most comprehensive and authoritative work on non-sexist child rearing to date. Letty Cottin Pogrebin, a founder, editor and writer for Ms. magazine has based this work on her 8 years of research in this area. Published in 1980 by McGraw Hill, the hardback sells for \$15.95.

These are just a few suggestions; the possibilities are endless. Be aware, especially when buying for children not to fall into buying subtly sexist toys or games (or overtly sexist ones, for that matter!)



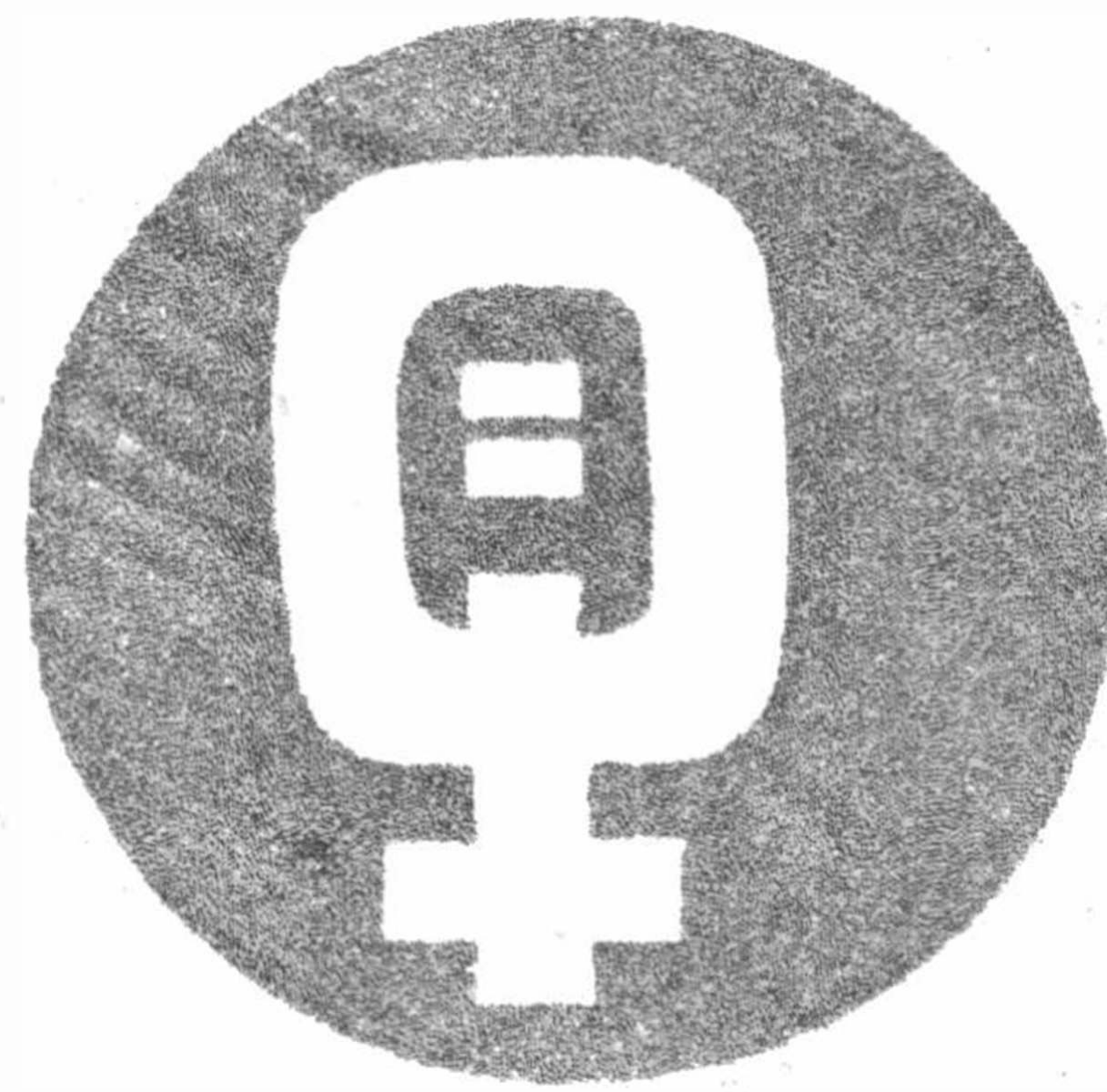


## SPECIAL GIFTS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL LITTLE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU  
NEED A GIFT? YOU MAY WANT TO WRITE TO THE  
FOLLOWING ADDRESSES TO GET THE LATEST LISTINGS OF  
ANTISEXIST, ANTIRACIST CHILDREN'S BOOKS. WHETHER  
YOU HAVE YOUNGER SISTERS OR BROTHERS, NIECES OR  
NEPHEWS, CHILDREN OR YOUR OWN OR FRIENDS WHO  
HAPPEN TO BE SMALL IN SIZE THEY WILL FIND A WIDE  
VARIETY OF CHOICES UPON WHICH TO BUILD IMAGES  
OF THEMSELVES IN THESE NEW BOOKS.

LOLLIPOP POWER INC.  
P.O. BOX 1171  
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. 27514

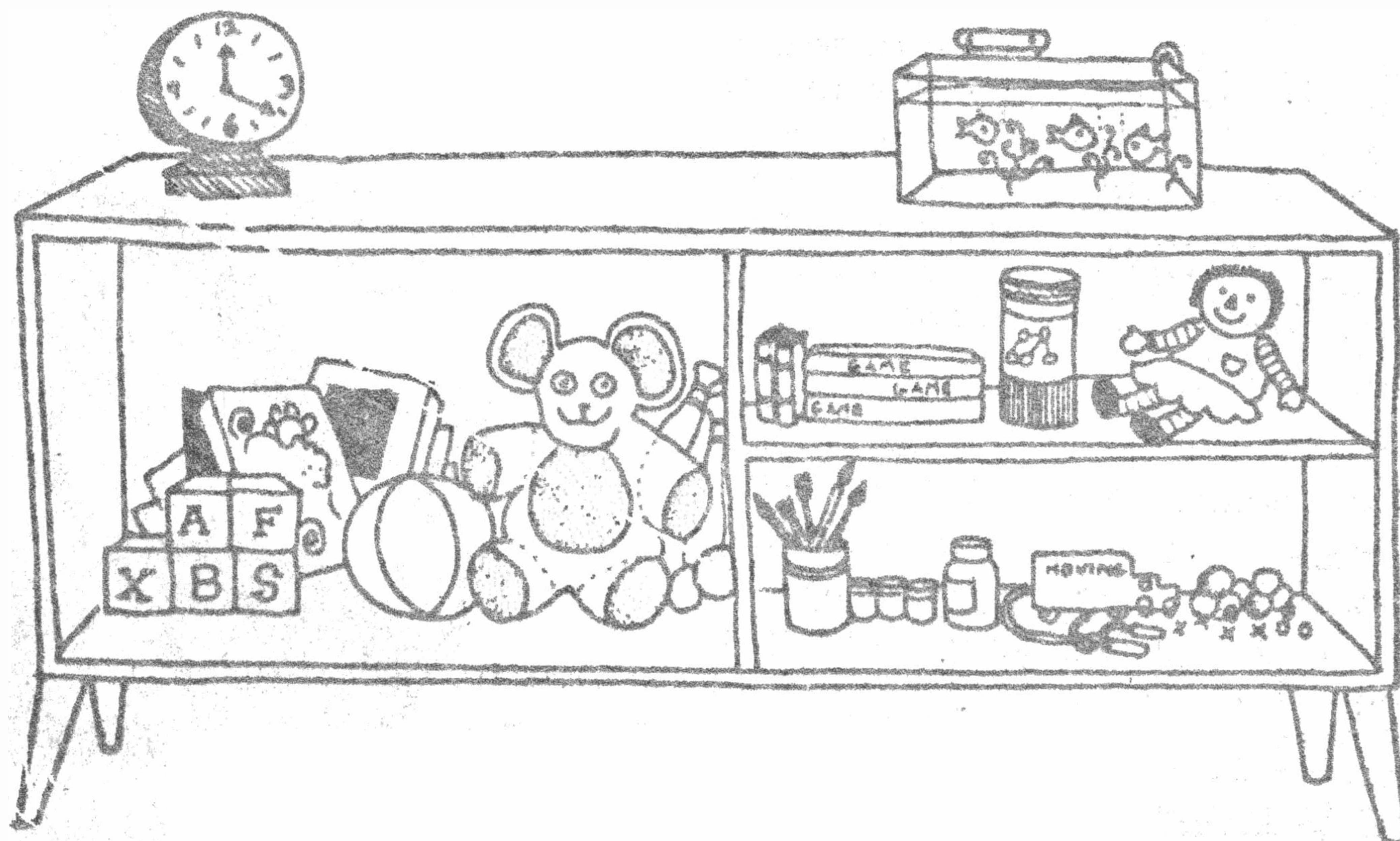
NEW SEED PRESS  
P.O. BOX 3016  
STANFORD, CONN. 94305



JOYFUL WORLD  
468 BELVEDERE ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

FEMINIST PRESS  
BOX 334  
OLD WESTBURY, N.Y. 11568

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN  
c/o 879 DOUGLAS ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114





# WOMEN'S POETRY ...

## The Housewife Poems

I At the Doctors  
Stop  
You cannot heal  
this wound.  
It comes from slicing apples.  
And sometimes  
it is the only way  
I know I am alive.

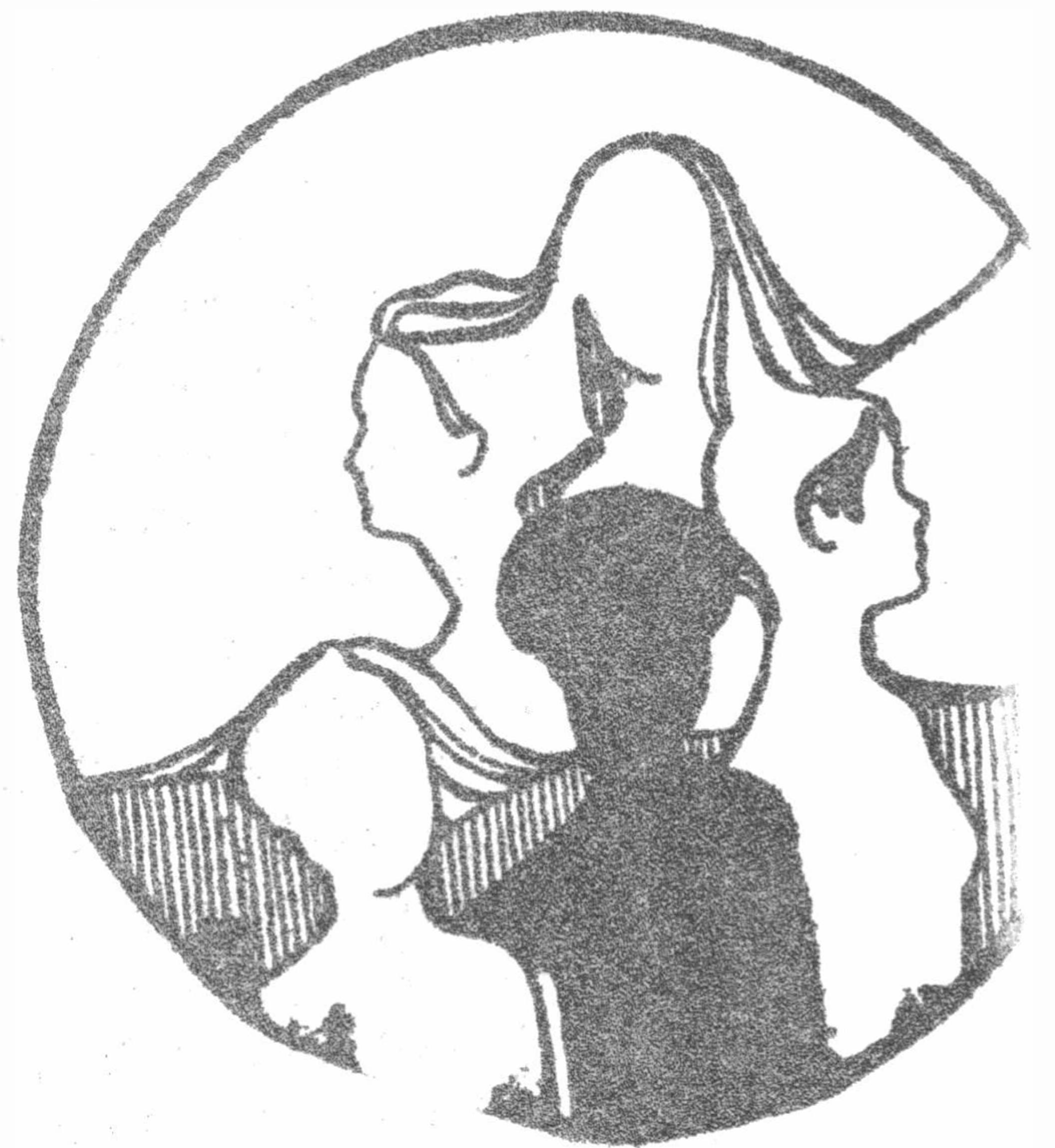
### II The Cocktail Party

Don't spill your drunken guts to me  
I won't see  
I won't listen  
or worse  
I will feel sorry  
wrap my long maternal tentacles about you  
and you will drown

### III Old Friends

Lizzie  
my old child hood friend  
is having a baby.  
We used to play horses  
in the Civil War Fort.  
She was always the stallion  
wild and strange.  
While I hid in the thicket  
with noviates to the game  
But it is Lizzie who now hides  
in suburban home  
with swollen belly  
while I still wonder about daydreams.  
And I wonder  
Is it that I never took the chance  
or never played the game?

ced



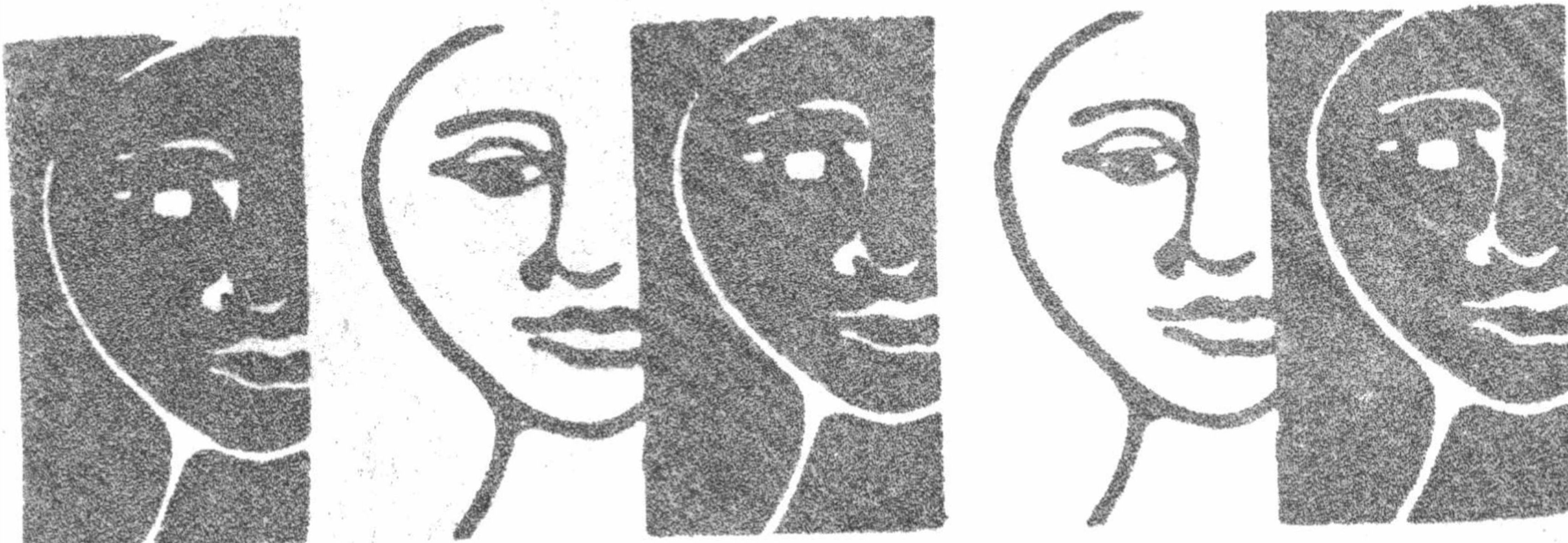
### Miscarriage

It was leaving.  
before I knew I had been inhabite  
strange  
like a bewildered guest  
ill-treated.

I should have thought  
to be filled  
with Madonna prescience

Or sharply reminded  
of hostess duties  
by sickness or strange craving.

But instead only silent passing  
No note of rebuke  
Only perplexed solitude.





# continued...

## Death Poems

### 1

She prods the crow with a stick  
fascinated. then angry  
that its spilled organs tell her  
Death  
The ants are already performing their  
salvage work  
And her six year old feet  
kick it into the gutter



### II

In the Smithsonian,  
there is a wall of drawers.  
in each a skeleton,  
each the remnant of a human life.  
There are thousands  
all dissected, weighed and measured.  
All taken from ancient graveyards  
in the name of science.  
I too was there to analyze-  
At first my stomach crawled,  
But after a week  
I too ate lunch next to the skull  
With two-thousand -year-old brain surgery  
There were seven neat holes in it  
Each carved out with a file-  
the man had survived the first six procedures,  
only the last did not heal.  
There was a specimen  
Who (Which?), I was never sure whether  
these bones were ...people,  
died of cancer,  
The bones were beautiful,  
adorned with fine polished holes  
A carved human ivory.  
She too, died of cancer that summer  
trying to be dissected by doctors  
She too was ~~lost~~ her life.  
her face was ~~lost~~ected until  
a grotesque mockery of human life.  
Sometimes it was hard to separate her from those  
drawers on the wall.





## continued...

### III

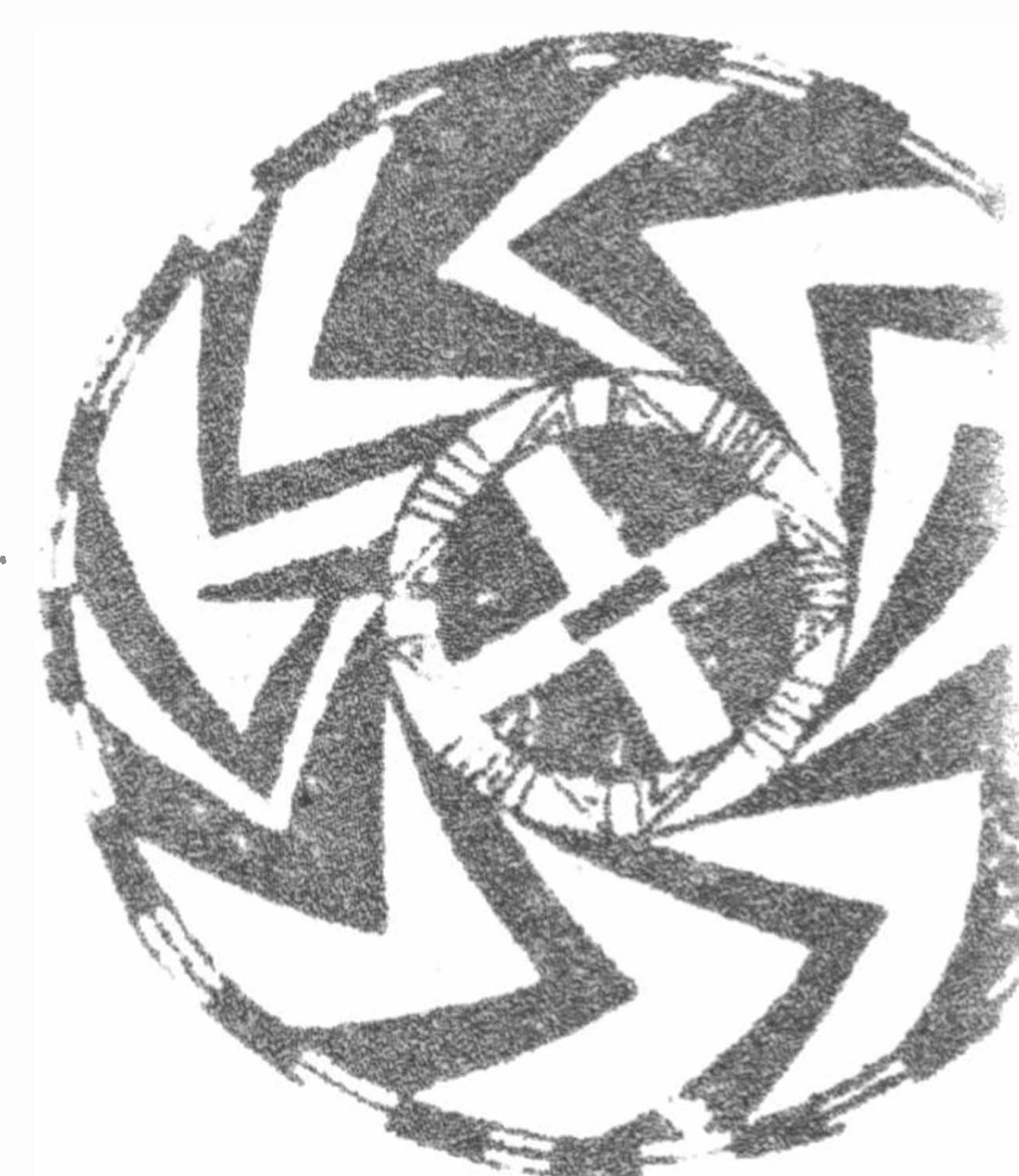
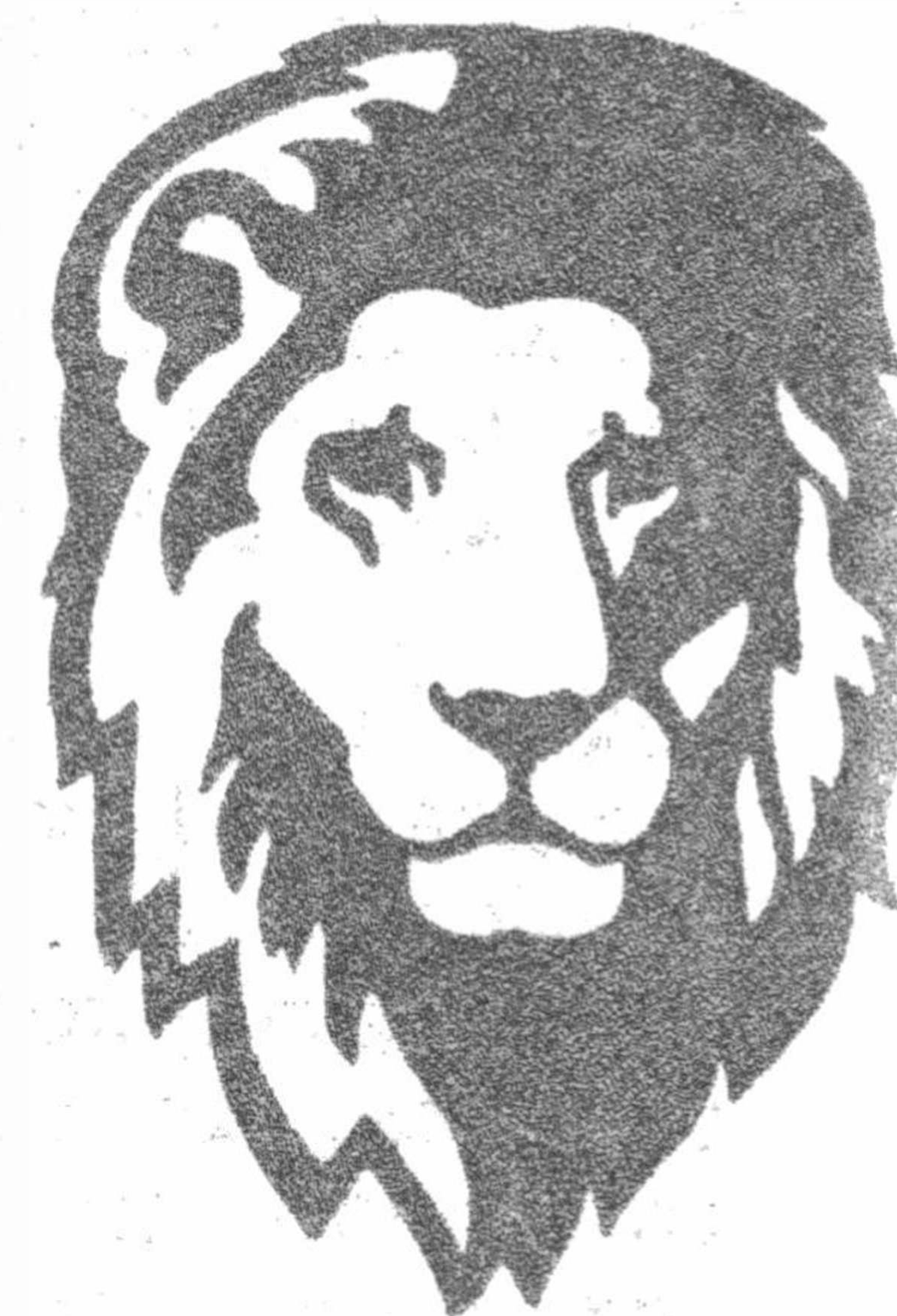
I expect it will be years before  
death finds me.  
But still, it frightens me that  
I might die alone,  
that I might be hidden in one of those  
drawers.  
I will be pushed towards old age-  
fighting the transition to  
"that nice lady"  
Still, I cannot win,  
In giving birth, I will only  
be shoved ahead a generation.  
Prodded towards death by  
"Mom" and "Grandma"

### IIII.

The day I watched my grandmother die  
It terrified me to see how much a child she had become.  
Her withered limbs,  
curled up  
fetus-like  
her soft whimpers, closed eyes  
and all the umbilical tubes  
which fed her.  
She stared up sometimes  
uncomprehending  
As if her whole life of  
mortal experience  
had given her no calmness,  
no reception  
for Death.

### V.

My father is afraid of death.  
I can tell.  
He cannot sleep sometimes for days-  
His nerves are raw-  
It's not the work pressure,  
but all the things he must get done-  
I think age suddenly just struck him-  
not that he was old, but that his friends had begun to die.  
His failing body terrifies him.  
Sometimes, he walks slower  
Not to save energy, but to watch,  
to give me his distilled advice.  
I worry him, too.  
He is careful now,  
To stop for those moments, those discussions.  
My mother thinks he's crazy.  
I think I understand.  
He wants to leave his closet tidy.  
His rush now is for all those small things,  
the fulfilling ones, which give him peace-





## continued...

Miss Sarah T. Brown was snuffed out like a candle wick  
pressed into wax, laid to rest  
as her smoke wafted and curled about a room.  
She had no time to open the window for escape  
leap into her mother's poppy encrusted garden  
or to evaporate between the cherry leaves  
"Stay out of my garden! Stay out of my air!"

Which cat sucked her lips for baby's breath?  
Which demon lover pushed and pushed  
her twenty-two years into the flower bed?  
She had no time to leave my room  
to writher on my poppy bed  
to garland her entrails on my cherry tree  
"Stay out of my garden! Stay out of my air!"



Dying in eighteen-forty was a dismal business.  
One was expected to die on cue  
at the earliest dramatic convenience.  
Sarah T. Brown had excellent instructions from a lover  
who practised dying in the cherry tree  
and who rehearsed several exits after making love under my cherry tree.

Now I lie upon the poppies in the garden bed  
I have a lover who does no rejoicing at death  
or feels no need for sacrifice upon the limbs of my cherry tree.  
We do not weep for a waken consumation  
to seal us under an inch of ground  
to knead us into the poppy bed, to twist us into a wooden cat.  
Adrift in the garden. Adrift in the air.

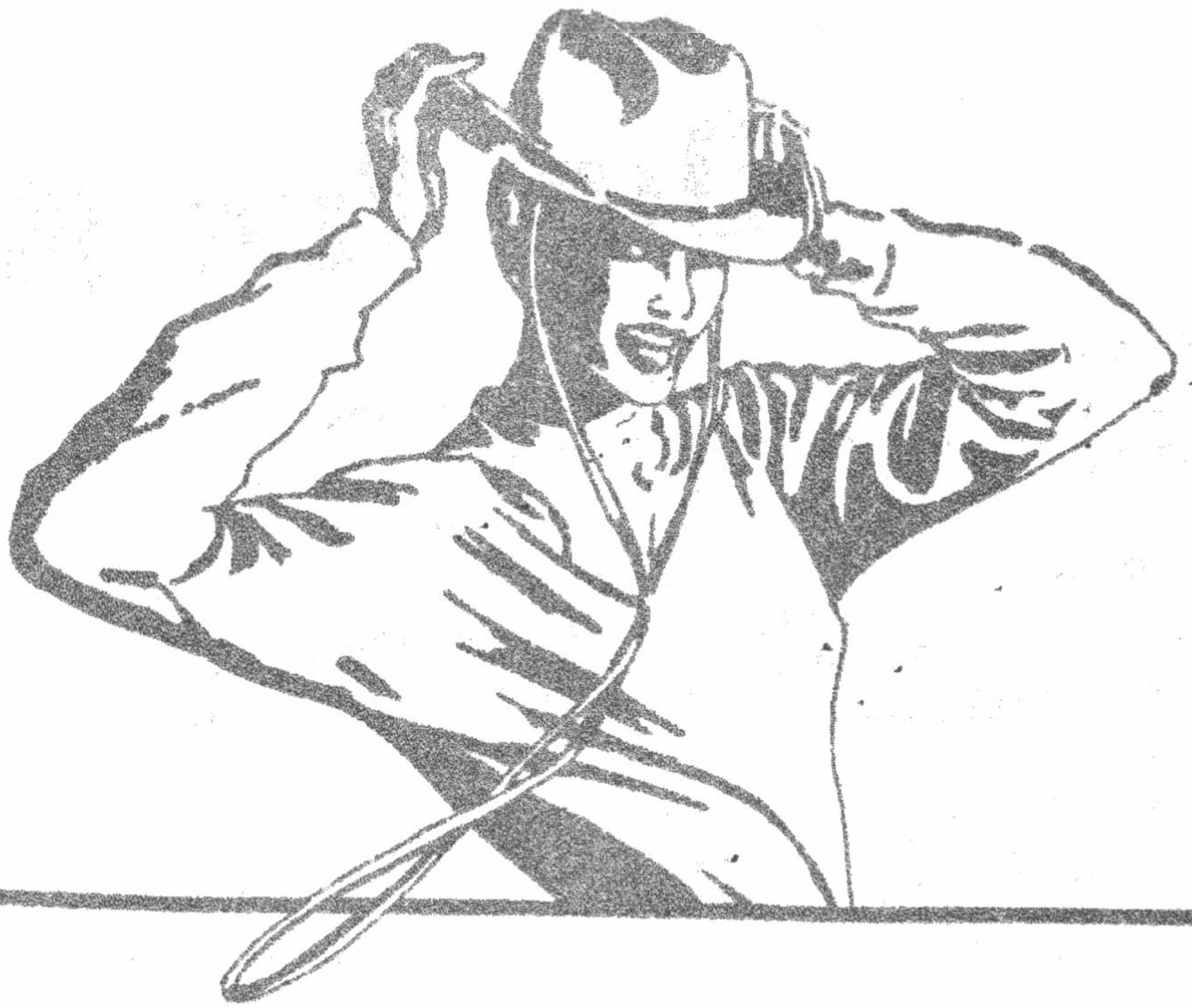
Laurie Lynn Estes





# Enough Said

send us YOUR  
"enough saids"



**CATCH US WITH  
OUR  
JEANS DOWN!**

Ladies, now is your chance

## **The Bounty Taverne Bikini Contest**

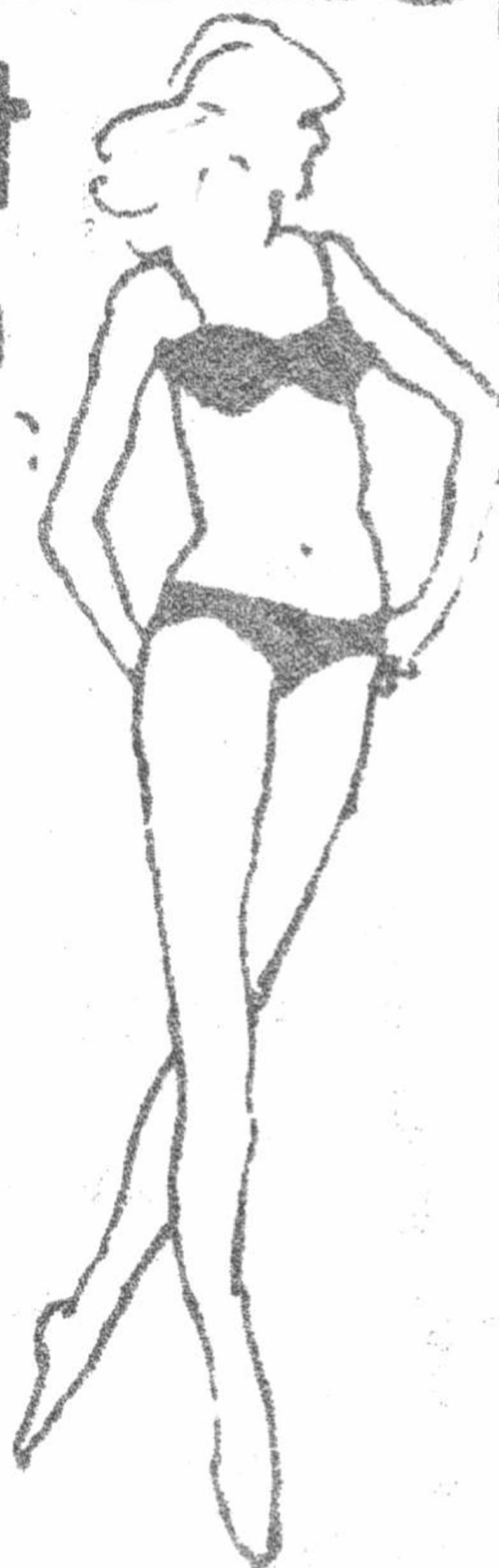
Wednesday, October 7th

First prize \$100"

Second prize \$50

Third prize \$25

Ladies come in and sign up  
evenings.



You'll save  
\$6 to \$8  
on every  
*chic* by h.i.s  
jean in stock!

MAINE CAMPUS: October 6, 1981

**Ward Bros.**  
BANGOR MALL

MAINE CAMPUS: October 8, 1981.

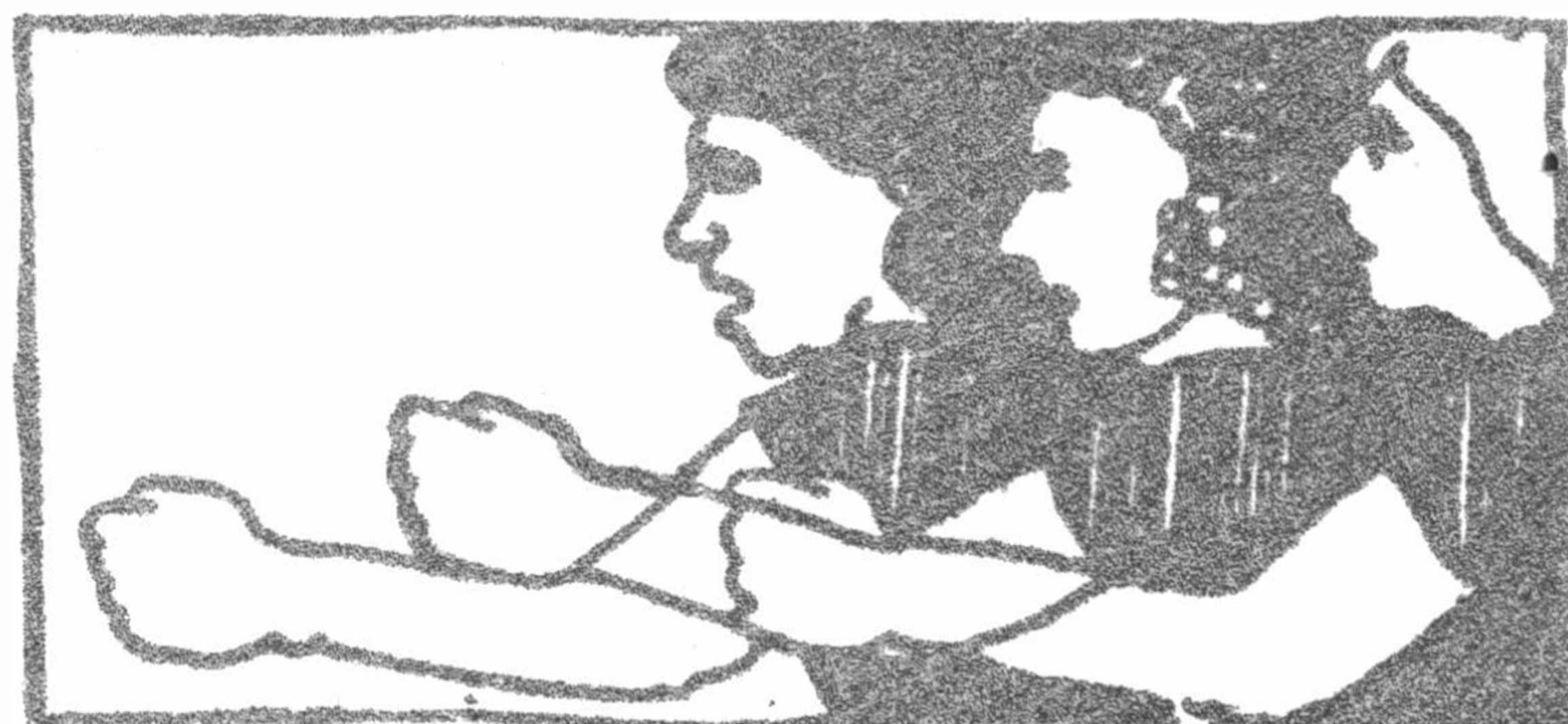


# DID YOU KNOW...

1. Nearly 9 out of 10 women employed in the US report unwanted attentions on the job.
2. The Portland Rape Crisis Center reports that 90% of its clients are assaulted by men they know.
3. The movie "Deep Throat" cost \$25,000 to produce; it grossed \$50,000,000.
4. As you read this, an estimated 30 million women in the world are suffering the results of genital mutilation.
5. For every Mc Donald's restaurant in the USA, there are 3 to 4 pornography shops.
6. In Maine, a husband cannot be charged with the rape of his wife, even if he has intercourse with her against her will or by threat of death.
7. Women earn, on the average, only 59 cents to every dollar men earn.
8. The average male high school dropout today earns \$1,600 more a year than female college grads.
9. Divorce rates now exceed 40%.
10. FBI estimates that there are 50,000 to 250,000 women and children raped in the US each year.
11. 79% of poor people in the US are women and children.
12. Breast cancer strikes 1 out of every 13 women, yet survival rates have not improved since 1930.
13. Congressional reports revealed that 250,000 unnecessary hysterectomies were performed last year; 1 out of every 3 hysterectomies was unnecessary.

"The fear of sexual assault is a special fear; its intensity can be likened to the male fear of castration."

- Germaine Greer



"What was the defendant wearing?"  
That was Mr. Freeman's lawyer

"I don't know."

"You mean to say this man raped you and you don't know what he was wearing? He snickered as if I had raped Mr. Freeman."

"Do you know if you were raped?"

- Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

I heard a woman say she wanted to make art about her incest fantasies.

She spoke about the eroticism and excitement of incest.

I saw in my mind a vision of incest as my reality.

I remembered the years of not sleeping and nights upon nights of socking myself in the stomach to prevent pregnancy. Incest is not erotic, or exciting, or a fantasy for a child. It is a nightmare.

Aegis, summer/autumn 1980 pp43.



"EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX."



THAT'S THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

DISGUSTING.



WHAT'S DISGUSTING?

THE LANGUAGE! WHAT HAS THIS COUNTRY COME TO WHEN A WORD LIKE "SEX" GETS INTO THE CONSTITUTION?



YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO "SEX" IN THE CONSTITUTION, YOU KNOW WHAT GOES IN NEXT? PORNO PICTURES!



AND THERE GOES THE CONSTITUTION.

© 1971 JIM FEIFFE

WHAT IF THE WORD "SEX" IS CHANGED TO "GENDER"?

IT STILL REFERS TO WOMEN DOESN'T IT?



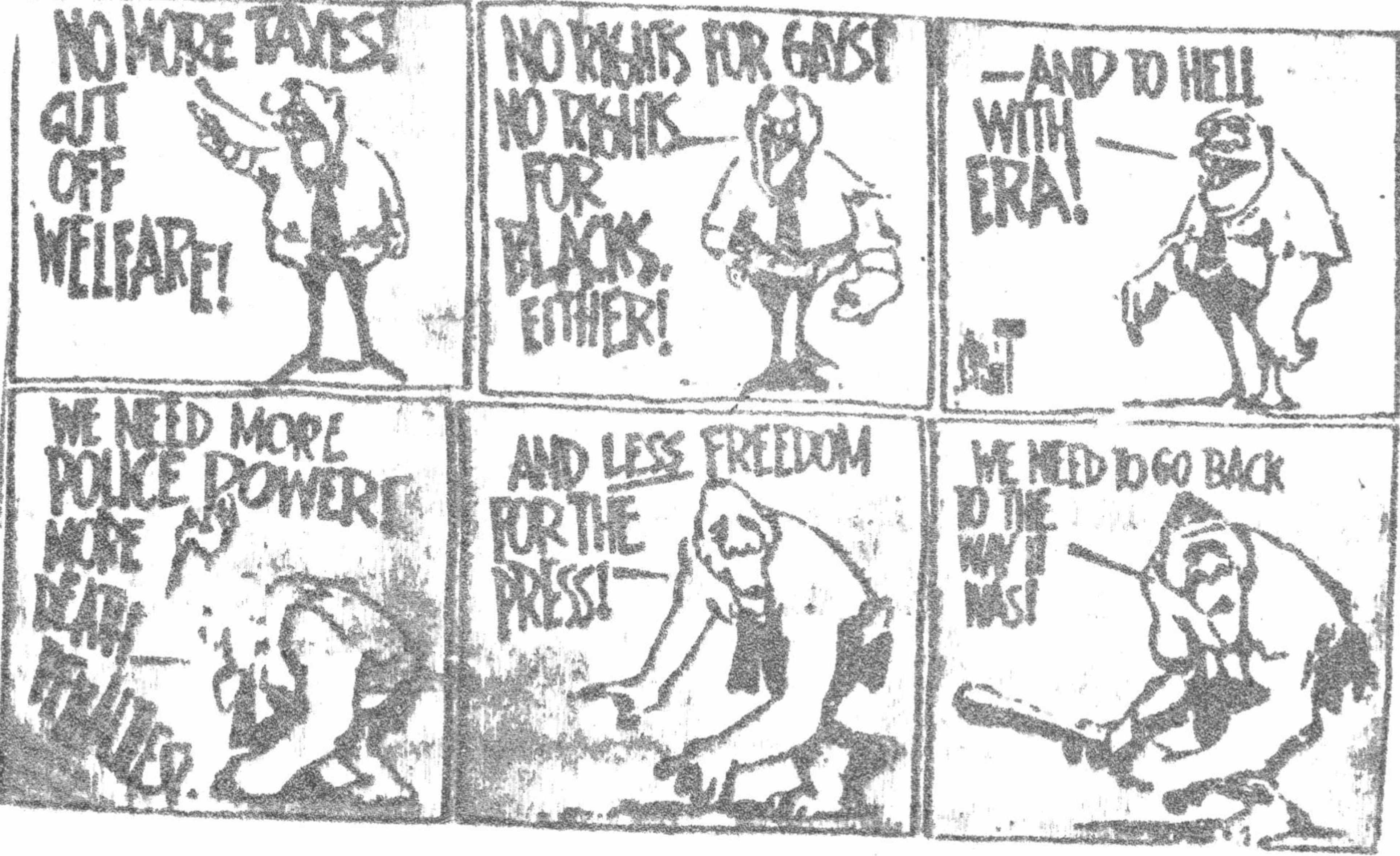
UH HUH.

TOO DIRTY.



FEIFFE

C  
O  
M  
I  
X





# STOP

the Human Life Amendment NOW!!

Before the Government takes away your human rights!

Are you aware of the amendment in Congress right NOW?- the Human Life Amendment- if passed, it would immediately stop all abortions and it would outlaw many popular birth control methods.

The H.L.A. states:

"Section 1. With respect to life, the word person as used in this article and the Fifth and Fourteenth articles\* of the Amendment to the Constitution to the United States applies to all human beings irrespective of age, health, and function or condition of dependence, including their biological development.

Section 2. No unborn person shall be deprived of life by any person; provided however, that nothing in this article shall prohibit a law permitting only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of a mother.

Section 3. The Congress and the several states have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

\*Under the 14th Amendment, states are prohibited from depriving any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. "

Passage of this bill will affect YOUR LIFE! All abortions will be forbidden by law, since fertilized eggs are now considered persons, entitled to Constitutional protection. All persons who obtain an abortion or self-abort could be prosecuted for murder! Miscarriages would be criminally investigated. Rape and incest victims would be, by law, forced to carry a pregnancy to full term. Abortion of a fetus diagnosed as having a congenital disorder or a birth defect would be illegal. All types of birth control that prevent fertilized eggs from attaching to the uterus (thereby denying it the right to life) would be banned from sale also.

This amendment is supported by right-wing congressmen and the Moral Majority. Many of these people advocate elimination of sex education programs, research projects on sex, shelters for battered women, and day care centers. Isn't this an attempt to force women BACK into the kitchen, out of the work force? Passage of this amendment would allow government to interfere with everyone's right to planned parenthood; the United States Government, not YOU, would decide whether you want, when you want, and how many, children you would want to have.

We urge you to voice your opposition- Write now to your Senator at the Senate office Building, Washington DC, 20510.

The Human Life Amendment could control our reproductive and sexual choices----our lives

-Helen Cochrane, Laura Stockford, Jolie Woodburn



con't

### The Hatch Amendment

Senator Orrin C. Hatch (R, Utah) is currently drafting a proposal for a bill that would grant Congress and the States authority to regulate or prohibit abortion. This bill requires only a simple majority for passage, unlike the HIA which would need a two-thirds' majority of each house.

Hatch stated that hearings on his proposal will begin in late 1981, but he predicts that the subcommittees will not finish work until 1982.

People are optimistic about this bill's passage, as it would finally get the abortion bill out of the federal courts. Members formerly opposed to outlawing abortions, may vote for this particular amendment.

Jane Wells Schooley, Vice-President of N.O.W., stated that, "This is an attempt to regulate a procedure medically necessary, economically necessary, and personally necessary." She claims that, "No Constitutional amendment, no matter how it is worded, will, stop abortion."

Ann E. Williams

**EEO**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

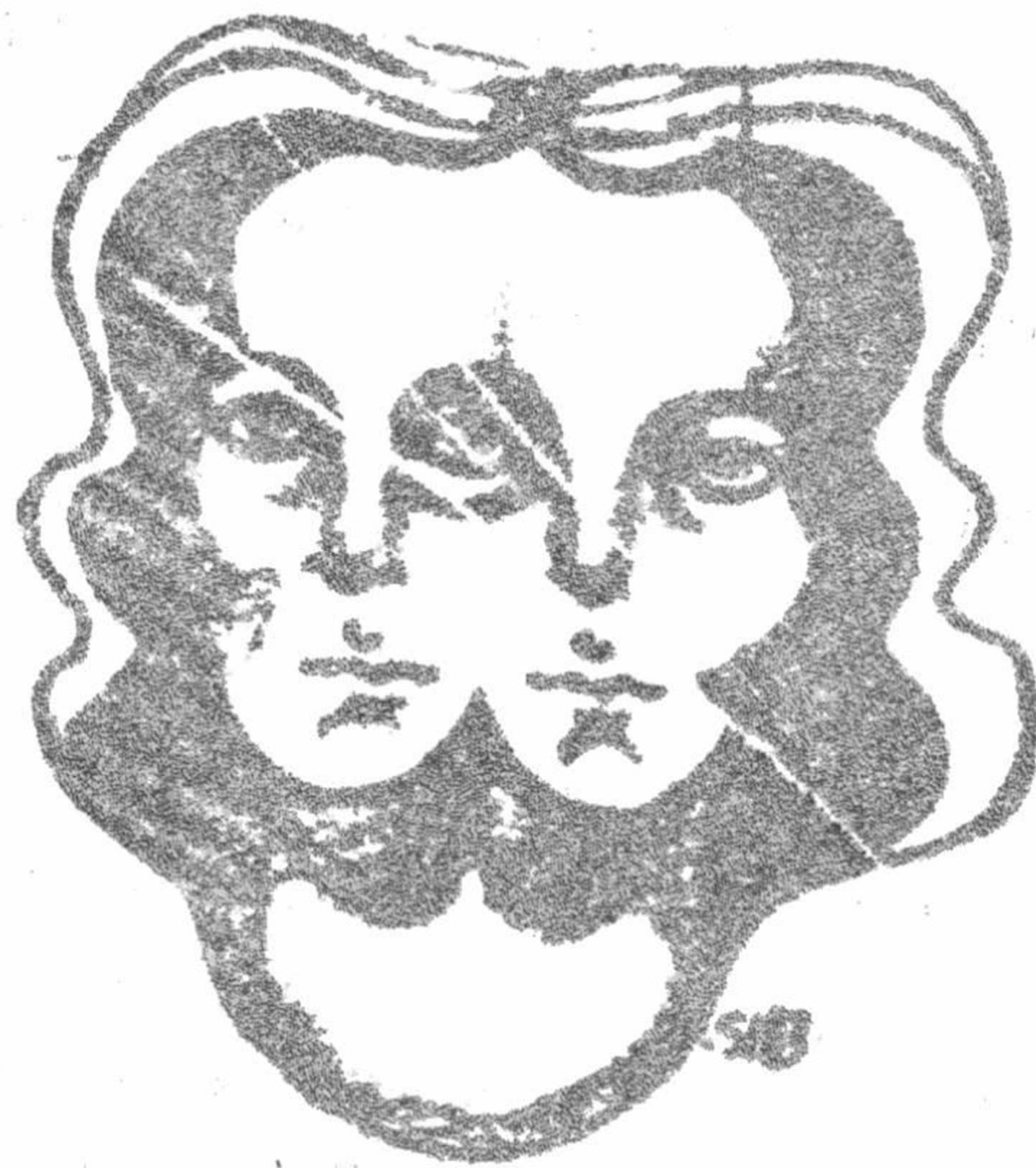
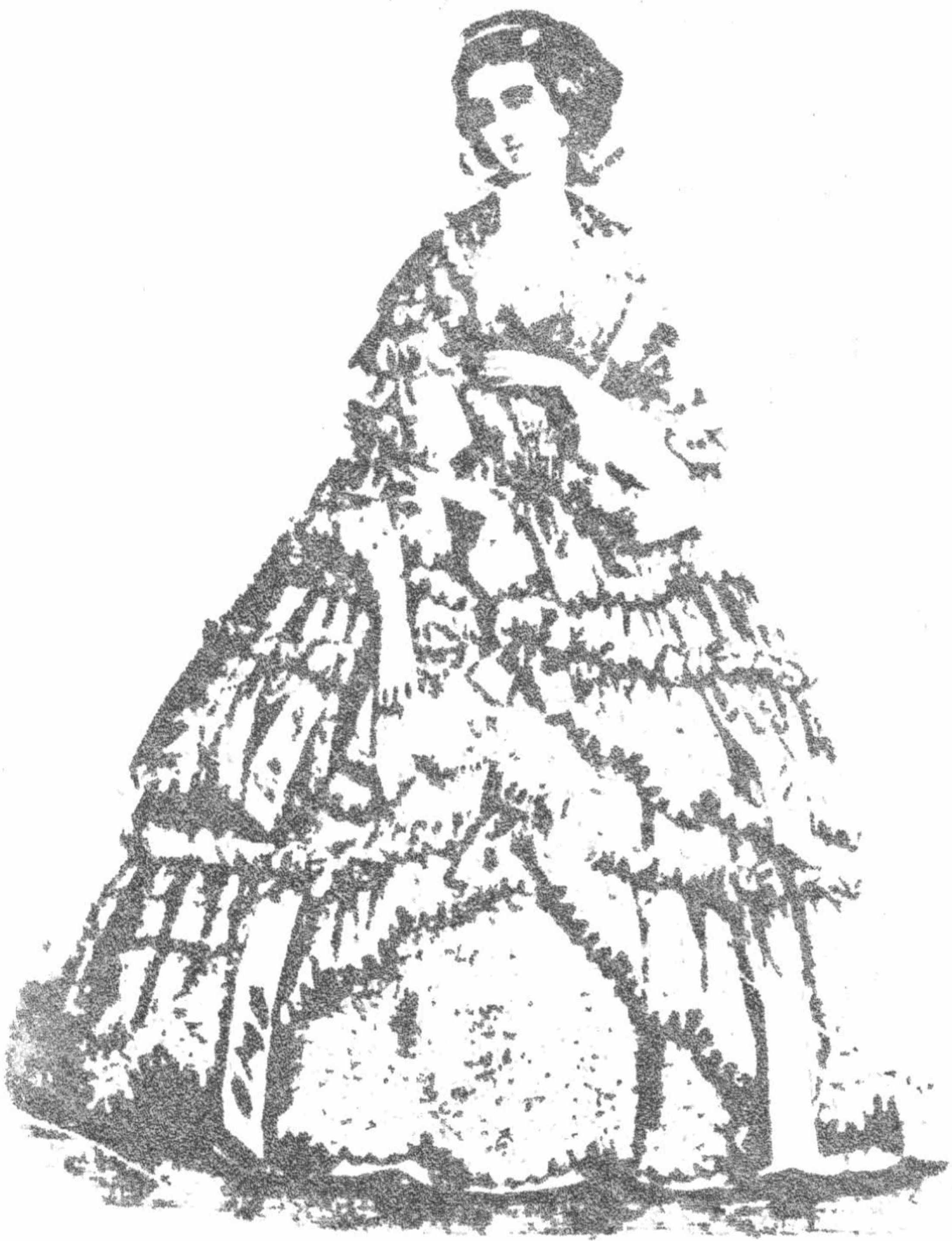
JoAnn Fritsche, Director  
259 Aubert Hall, UMO

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1. Information about equal opportunity laws protecting student employees off and on campus.
2. Information about laws forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion or age.
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4. Investigation and complaint resolution for students concerned about sex, race, age, or handicap discrimination.
5. Information and complaint resolution for students or employees concerned about sexual harassment.
6. Women in science booklet; career/job information regarding opportunities in science and engineering.
7. Women and curriculum project: toward elimination of sex bias in textbooks, lectures, reading lists, etc.
8. Material on women's issues for term papers.
9. Assistance in organizing leadership and development programs for women.

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!







# ERA - update

BY: Sandy Gardner

Did you know that:

The median income of a female college graduate is approximately equal to that of a male with an 8th grade education.

Some states still follow common law practices which hold that household goods purchased by both spouses during marriage belong only to the husband.

Women on the average are paid 59 cents for every dollar paid to men, a wage gap that has widened over the last 20 years. For Black women, this 59 cents shrinks to 54 cents, and for Hispanic women, to 49 cents.

Only 12% of all lawyers and judges, 15% of chemists and 11% of physicians are women, but 93% of all bank tellers, 99% of all secretaries and 97% of registered nurses are female.

Almost one in every three female headed families is poor, compared to only one in 18 families headed by men. In fact, last year the U.S. National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity predicted that by the year 2000 the poor population will be composed entirely of women and children.

As this brief sampling of facts and figures indicates, American women have yet to achieve equal opportunity under the law. While it's true that over the last decade women have won many rights via Congressional action (e.g. Title IX, Equal Pay Act), it's also true that these rights have not been adequately enforced.

However, even with adequate enforcement, contemporary legislation would not ensure equality for women. Because these rights are based upon laws enacted by Congress, they can be repealed by Congress. Recent efforts to weaken Title IX legislation and to repeal the Equal Credit Opportunity Act highlight the precarious nature of these rights so many of us have come to take for granted. Given the conservative political atmosphere in Washington and the present Administration's emphasis upon

deregulation, a Constitutional Amendment is the only way to guarantee that the rights women have won will not be the target of massive repeals and programmatic cut-backs. Now, more than ever, we need the Equal Rights Amendment.

Quite simply, the Equal Rights Amendment states that 1) Equality of rights shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex, 2) The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article, and 3) This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

With the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution, equal rights and opportunity for women will be fundamental law, as much a part of our system as the right to vote and freedom of the press. As a consequence, the issue of equality will be beyond the reach of fluctuations in the political balance of the Congress or the philosophy of a particular Administration. In short, we will finally have a clear constitutional basis for overturning dozens of state laws that fail to give equal treatment to women and men.

Support for the Equal Rights Amendment is strong and broadly based. Public opinion polls show Americans favor the ERA 2-1. In addition, the Amendment has the endorsement of more than 200 organizations including the United Steelworkers of America, American Bar Association, AFL-CIO, United Methodist Church, Girl Scouts of America, National Coalition of American Nurses, and the American Veterans Committee.

However, if we want the American ideal of equality to become reality, we had better get busy. In order for the ERA to become part of our Constitution, it must be ratified in 3 more states by June, 1982.

To meet this deadline, a nationwide lobbying effort has been initiated by NOW. To aid in this effort, the UMO Women's Center will be having a table in the Union monthly with information on ERA, petitions, and more. Watch for it!



**it could happen...**

## **Save Title IX!**

Imagine, if you will, the following.

You are a woman about to set out on one of the most exciting adventures of your life, you are going to college. After applying to your favorite school, UMO, you are notified of your acceptance to that university but find, to your surprise, that some of your female friends were not accepted. When asked, they themselves don't seem to understand why they were not accepted. This seems odd and a bit unfair to you, but off you go to UMO. Upon arrival more disturbing things begin to happen. First you find out your financial aid has been denied because there were men who needed it as much as you. Then, when you visit the women's gym, you find highly inadequate equipment and facilities with which to work. You eventually decide to work out in the men's gym since the equipment is so much nicer. All too soon it is time for your first class at UMO. You find to your dismay that the professor is terribly sexist in his remarks and totally inconsiderate and unaware of the needs of his female students. When you whisper some of your discontent to the woman sitting behind you, she merely whispers back, "grin and bear it, there's nothing we can do about it now." The last straw for you is when you discover that the male administrators, staff, and faculty at your university highly outnumber their female counterparts. You decide it is time to leave UMO.

Sound crazy, extreme, probable? Perhaps, but it is possible. The above situation could become a reality for many women if Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education, is either destroyed or severely weakened, the goal Title IX's opponents

have been working toward for some time now.

To counteract their measures, the National Women's Student Coalition has declared October 5-9, 1981 as NATIONAL TITLE IX AWARENESS WEEK and we, the UMO Women's Center, wish to act as UMO's connection to that coalition and this important issue.

It would seem some background information about Title IX is warranted at this time. Title IX was passed by Congress and signed by President Nixon in 1972. It prohibits sex discrimination in areas such as admissions, educational programs, recruitment, scholarship and financial aid, housing, health benefits, and athletics. The preamble of Title IX states:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis on sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Therefore, Title IX protects all female and male students, staff, administrator, and faculty from discrimination based on sex. As far as enforcement is concerned, the ultimate punishment which can be levied upon a noncomplying college or university, is the withholding of federal funds.

The following are some ways the Reagan Administration and certain individuals aim to weaken this most important and necessary law. One measure is S. 1361, a bill introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (RUT). The purpose of the Hatch bill is to amend Title IX in a manner that will weaken the intent of the law. Hatch proposes to:

- 1) Redefine federal financial assistance to exclude most federally financed student aid for higher education. (This provision would exempt the major source of federal assistance to virtually all colleges and universities).
- 2) Redefine beneficiaries from "persons" to "students", thereby eliminating Title IX coverage of teachers, administrators, and other staff.
- 3) Require that the particular program or activity in which discrimination is alleged (i.e. athletics) directly receive the federal funds. (At present no segment of a college or university can discriminate



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if that institution receives any type of federal funds. The intent of the Hatch bill is to reduce the ability of the Department of Education to enforce compliance under Title IX. If these amendments were to pass, Title IX's effectiveness would be seriously eroded.

Other moves to destroy or weaken Title IX include:

1) The Family Protection Act, a bill (H.R. 3955 and S. 131) which, among other conservative measures, calls for the repeal of Title IX.

2) The Reagan Administration via the Dept. of Education is considering a complete rewrite of the Title IX regulations. This move could accomplish all the objectives of the Hatch bill by administrative action alone.

3) Secretary of Education Bell has proposed revoking his department's longstanding regulations barring sex discrimination in employment at schools and universities.

4) Vice-President Bush, chair of the Task Force on Regulatory Relief, has identified the intercollegiate athletic policy to Title IX as one of the many regulations slated for review. This could mean the possible end to some important gains made in equalizing female and male athletics.

Needless to say, there is work to be done by those of us who believe that sex equity in education and in many other areas is not something to be taken for granted. If the women and men of this campus want to be treated equally in all areas of their education, they've got to fight for it and the battle's just begun. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff arm yourselves. There are things we can do to prevent the current administration from denying us the rights we were born with. Write or call Senator Cohen, Senator Mitchell and Congresswoman Snowe. Let them know who you are, what you think, and that you are a voter and will remember this issue at the polls. Don't let this opportunity affect the history of sex equity in education pass by.

REACTO

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(The Women's Center wishes to acknowledge Laura Orr and Donna Brownsey of the National Women's Leadership Network for their invaluable information.)

## now we have HOPE

On November 21, 1981, in response to the three showings of the X-rated movie, Debbie Does Dallas, a new group was formed on campus. Although not a recognized student group, Humans Opposed to Pornography, not Erotica or HOPE plans to remain alert to any other films or the like that portray sexuality in inhuman, oppressive manners. As one HOPE member said, "We stand ready to mobilize if we feel there needs to be education on the important differences between pornography and erotica."

As HOPE sees it, the differences between these two views of human sexuality is that while erotica shows sexuality and sensuality in the context of EQUAL rela-

tionships, pornography shows these human needs expressed in UNEQUAL and OPPRESSIVE power relationships. For the most part, these relationships involve powerful men and weak, stupid women. HOPE sees this as being damaging to both men and women and their self-images. HOPE staged a guerilla theatre outside English/Math to get across to people entering the movie that this was not a good thing to see or support monetarily. Just how successful the group was in their efforts remains to be seen. At any rate, this is one woman who is glad to see both men and women confronting this important issue.

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