

The
Northern
Woman

Volume

2

Issue 2



EDITORIAL POLICY

The newsletter group, a separate yet supportive group of the Northern Women's Centre, reflects the complexity of the make up of the Northern Women's Centre as a whole.

Being a smaller, unified group, the editorial board of The Northern Woman will attempt, through collective, creative and thought provoking comments, to respond to, and express (through a consensus of opinion) their reactions to, various articles, letters, and timely topics of interest.

Through such a policy it is hoped that The Northern Woman will become a tool for women to develop an increased understanding of their situation and forces affecting their lives.



EDITORIAL

We are devoting this issue to children--our most valuable resource. We hope you will enjoy our efforts, and that you will respond by writing to us expressing your opinions.

Perhaps an accurate measure of a society's level of awareness could be its approach to the raising of children and the care afforded them. In 1959, the U.N. General Assembly adopted and proclaimed a Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The first article states explicitly that:

WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION WHATSOEVER, all children shall be entitled to these rights without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status whether of tirsself or of tir family (see page for a discussion of the new pronouns).

Some of these rights are:

- special protection to enable children to develop fully in all aspects of life
- the right to a name and nationality
- social security, adequate nutrition, housing and medical services
- special care, treatment and education for handicapped children whether the condition be physical, mental or social
- love, understanding, security in the family and society, with particular care given to those children without a family or to those without adequate means of support
- full and equal opportunity in education, play and recreation
- the child in all circumstances shall be among the first to receive protection and relief
- protection against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation, and shall not be the subject of traffic in any form
- protection from all discrimination and brought up in a spirit of friendship among peoples and with the right to live in peace

Even a brief glance at the policies of different countries shows that all children are not permitted these rights. For example, in North America, it often appears as though children are produced in order to have a never-ending supply of naive, trusting minds which large corporations can train (via television) to be consumers of

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of cereals, smarties and Mattel toys.

In many countries, children still spend their entire lives being victims of sexism, poverty, racism and war--seldom experiencing anything but hunger, confusion and fear. But some nations take great pride in the potential of their children and see to it that every child, regardless of race, sex or status of birth, receives the highest quality nutrition, day care, education and recreation. Such is the ideal--what we are striving for--where the burden of a child's care is not placed solely on individual parents, where the state too recognizes its responsibility to the future generation. We have a long way to go! Women and men throughout history have struggled to make their lives better--adults are able to recognize their oppression, and ultimately fight against it. Children do not have the power to fight, they are inevitably the victims.

We sometimes delude ourselves into thinking that only other countries victimize the children. We forget about the children of poor families who cannot complete their education because they must get jobs to help support a large family, the native children in the North who must eat mercury poisoned fish while the government "studies the problem", or even the female children who are "career counselled" into becoming nurses or teachers while their brothers become doctors and principals.

For many countries since 1949, June 1 has been celebrated as International Day for Children. On this day, women and men all over the world who are conscious of their responsibility to defend the rights and happiness of children, come together to evaluate the progress made to date and map out plans for future struggles.

The Women's International Democratic Federation, in 1965, expressed the hope that "everywhere on earth, International Children's Day will become a day of struggle for children's rights. Let us insist on an end to all aggression of peoples. Let us fight for disarmament, understanding and peace, because our children need peace as flowers need light."

Perhaps we in Thunder Bay could make this June 1 a very special day by expanding the activities which have traditionally been carried on by such organizations as the Congress of Canadian Women. We could examine carefully the questions of universal free day care, sex-role stereotyping in schools, the fate of children in other countries, responsibility for child-rearing in the family, nutrition, children and advertising, and many other child-related issues. Women and men interested in working on such a project should contact us at the Northern Women's Centre, 2nd Floor, F.W. Y.M.C.A., 622-3989.

Letter to the Editor

Children: The Victims of War.

We have heard much lately about the victims of the war in VietNam. The children were flown out of VietNam, their country, by (as President Ford put it) a Mission of Mercy.

We must examine this situation carefully, from the perspective of the children who are being brought to countries such as Canada and ask ourselves why this has happened and what consequences it will have.

First of all there is the matter of children being used as political footballs. All of a sudden, the welfare of these children has become of primary importance but where was all the concern when American Planes were bombing North VietNam and Cambodia? Surely there were children in those countries whose lives were endangered, who were orphaned by the war. Where was the Mission of Mercy then? Where are the missions of mercy for the people of Chili who are being imprisoned and tortured by the military dictatorship or the 1500 Haitians who are presently in Canada living in fear of being deported back to their own country where they will be imprisoned or killed?

And what of the fate of children who will be adopted by Canadians, Americans, or Australians? It goes without saying that these people must be concerned and loving people but we have many so-called

"unadoptables" (children of mixed blood or handicapped in some way) in our own country that are being passed over now because adopting a Vietnamese child is fashionable. It frightens me just a little to think what will happen to these children when they are no longer "fashionable". Will they be rejected by our society because they are "different"? And what about the rights of these children to be raised in their own culture, in their own language, and with a pride in themselves as Vietnamese. We Canadians, no matter how well meaning we are cannot provide this if we are not part of that culture.

Instead of using the money which governments apparently now have for financing adoptions why not use it for relief in the form of medical and food supplies to children in all areas of Southeast Asia regardless of the government in power.

Furthermore, if the Canadian government is prepared to adopt children who have suffered in the war, then maybe they should also be prepared to stop shipping war materials to the USA which then ships them to Saigon.

If the children of IndoChina had been allowed to determine their own destiny from the beginning perhaps fewer children would be orphans today.

Name withheld, on request.

⁵
Dear Ladies

We would like
to thank you
for letting us

Come to the

Playroom

Rose A Lee Your Friends

CARLS

Heather.

Michael



A CHILD'S BILL⁶ OF RIGHTS

Richard Parson outlines the specific reforms that he considers essential to the true liberation of all children, including his own. From Ms Magazine
March, 1974

1 The Right to Self-Determination. Children should have the right to decide the matters which affect them most directly. This is the basic right upon which all others depend. Children are now treated as the private property of their parents on the assumption that it is the parents' right and responsibility to control the life of the child. The achievement of children's rights, however, would reduce the need for this control and bring about an end to the double standard of morals and behavior for adults and children.

2 The Right to Alternative Home Environments. Self-determining children should be able to choose from among a variety of arrangements: residences operated by children, child exchange programs, 24-hour child-care centers, and various kinds of schools and employment opportunities. Parents are not always good for their children some people estimate that as many as 4 million children are abused annually in the United States, and that a half million children run away each year.

3 The Right to Responsive Design. Society must accommodate itself to children's size and to their need for safe space. To keep them in their place, we now force children to cope with a world that is either not built to fit them, or is actually designed against them. If the environment were less dangerous for children, there would be less need for constant control and supervision of children by adults.

4 The Right to Information. A child must have the right to all information ordinarily available to adults--including, and perhaps especially, information that makes adults uncomfortable.

5 The Right to Educate Oneself. Children should be free to design their own education, choosing from among many options the kinds of learning experiences they want, including the option not to attend any kind of school. Compulsory education must be abolished because the enforced threatening quality of education in North America has taught children to hate school, to hate the subject matter, and tragically, to hate themselves. Children are programmed, tracked, and certified in a process of stamping out standardized educated products acceptable to the university military, business and industry, and community. Education can change only through the the achievement of new rights for those exploited and oppressed by it--the children themselves.

6 The Right to Freedom from Physical Punishment. Children should live free of physical threat from those who are larger and more powerful than they. Corporal punishment is used impulsively and cruelly in the home, arbitrarily in the school, and sadistically in penal institutions. It does not belong in our repertoire of responses to children.

cont'd

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The Right to Sexual Freedom. Children should have the right to conduct their sexual lives with no more restriction than adults. Sexual freedom for children must include the right to information about sex, the right to nonsexist education, and the right to all sexual activities that are legal among consenting adults. In fact, children will be best protected from sexual abuse when they have the right to refuse--but they are now trained not to refuse adults, to accept all forms of physical affection, and to mistrust their own reactions to people. They are denied any information about their own sexuality or that of others. We keep them innocent and ignorant and then worry that they will not be able to resist sexual approaches.

8
The Right to Economic Power. Children should have the right to work, to acquire and manage money, to receive equal pay for equal work, to choose trade apprenticeship as an alternative to school, to gain promotion to leadership positions, to own property, to develop a credit record, to enter into binding contracts, to engage in enterprise, to obtain guaranteed support apart from the family, to achieve financial independence.

9
The Right to Political Power. Children should have the vote and be included in the decision-making process. Eighty million children in the United States need the right to vote because adults do not vote in their behalf. At present they are no one's constituency and legislation reflects that lack of representation. To become a constituency they must have the right to vote.

10
The Right to Justice. Children must have the guarantee of a fair trial with due process of law, an advocate to protect their rights against the parents as well as the system, and a uniform standard of detention. Every year a million children get into trouble with the law. One out of every nine children will go through the juvenile court system before the age of 18. At any given time about one hundred thousand children are in some kind of jail. Some are held illegally, many have not committed any kind of crime, most have done nothing that would be considered a crime if done by an adult, and none has been given a fair trial with due process of law. The juvenile justice system was designed to protect children from the harsh treatment of the adult justice system--but it is more unfair, more arbitrary, and more cruel.



"Let's play house -- I'll be the wife and you be the male chauvinist pig . . ."

reports

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WOMEN'S CENTRE CONFERENCE

For the first time, on Feb. 28, March 1st and 2nd, 1975, in Thunder Bay Ont., 85 women from women's and native women's centres from across Canada met to discuss the possibility of forming a federation for communication and mutual support. Every province in Can. was represented.

The idea, however, of forming a federation was rejected by the 47 voting delegates on the basis that such action would be too premature, and might be damaging to bring this hierarchical structure and defined image upon ourselves before we require such a vast mechanism.

The following are a list of motions which were CARRIED:

- (a) That there be established an Internal National Communications Network between Women's Centres
- (b) That the Clearinghouse for Feminist Media investigate the need for an archival resource centre and be asked to collect material and be responsive to Women's Centres
- (c) That we support the Feminist News Service
- (d) That as a temporary measure each centre regionally and or culturally affiliated, appoint a liason person to form an emergency phone link
- (e) That an annual general meeting be held next year at which time we will discuss the communications network
- (f) That we strongly support regional and cultural affiliations for those centres wishing it

HOW THE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WORKS

It is for Emergency only. The originator of an emergency call contacts their regional Liason Centre, who will in turn contact the nearest Liason Centre, which in

some cases maybe on either side. This contact will continue across the country.

Each liason Centre then makes a collect call to every Women's Centre in its area, but the call must not be accepted hang-up and phone back the Liason Centre for the message. This divides up the costs of the calls between individual Centres.

Any Centre responding to an Emergency call must supply feedback to the Centre originating the call concerning the specifics of any action that they have taken. The originator of the Emergency action must then correlate the feedback and inform the Liason Centres of the results, they will in turn inform the Centres within their region...GOT THAT????



On the eve of International Women's Day, March 7, a message was relayed across the country from St. John's Newfoundland to Victoria, B.C., to test the Emergency network.

FROM THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE LOG BOOK

March 7, 1975

.. Two telephone calls from Ottawa, one in French and one in English, with the following message:

Ahnee! Le reseau Nellie est bien in vie et va de lavant. Legalite pour nos sosurs.

Ahnee! Network Nellie is alive and well and marching forward. Equality for our sisters. Happy Birthday to our Emergency Telephone Linkup! Happy International Women's Day.

This message was passed by us to the Liason Centre west of us, Winnipeg, and to our area Centres or contacts in North Bay, Kenora, Nipigon, Dryden, Stouffville, Atikokan and Geraldton.

If there are any other Centres or contacts who wish to be a part of Network Nellie, please contact us, if you are in Northern Ontario.

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WEEKEND SEMINARS IN NIPIGON

On March 14 and 15th, a core group of about seven women organized a two-day seminar in Nipigon with the intention of growth for women, awareness of International Women's Year, and sisterhood with other women.

The weekend started off with an excellent talk on Women in History by Jeannette Johnson, followed by a question and answer period. The evening ended with a wine and cheese social.

The next morning the women reassembled to hear a talk on nutrition by Barbara Lalonde followed by a talk and demonstration by E. Sittlinger on making a gluten substitute meat recipe. Cary Hansen spoke on health foods. Sita followed with a talk on ideas behind Yoga, and followed this with a Yoga demonstration.

After lunch, the women reassembled to hear a panel discussion. Lillian Wolter introduced each member before they talked about their experiences of being a female participant in their field of work. Present were Mary Tomlinson who spoke about Women In Law, Ms Lindsay, who talked about women in administration, Maureen Harvey on Creative Homemakers, Sister Gays, on women in the Church, Grace Resus on women in politics and L. Kruger, who spoke on women in the O.P.P. force. The women broke off into discussion groups and returned later to have their group leaders report on ideas brought out in their discussions. An evident lack of time prevented the discussion groups from pursuing interesting and exciting discussions.

The discussion groups broke off and the women went into individual workshops. They were comprised of

- a) Cancer film on self breast-examination
- b) Cardiac resuscitation demonstration
- c) Display from the Bookstop, Thunder Bay
- d) Local Library display
- e) Northern Women's Centre (Thunder Bay) display
- f) Art Club display
- g) Arts and Crafts by the local Craft Guild
- h) Funkins by June Jeeffreys

- i) Teacher's Federation Films on 'Sports and Women'
- j) Nutrition film and display
- k) Yoga workshop
- l) Daily exercise routine for women

In the evening, a supper was held at the United Church basement with Lisa Bengtsson and Estella Friedlander as guest speakers.

Free day care was available. Both wine and cheese and dinner were subsidized in order to make them available for all interested women.

Over the two-day period, 123 women signed our guest book, including some guests from Thunder Bay and Geraldton.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

ATTENTION: Need has already been established for a Rape Crisis Centre. We have dealt with several cases but with the opening of the harbor this summer more volunteers are urgently needed to deal with potential cases.

Volunteers are needed now for driving, counselling and handling the telephone on a rotating basis. When enough volunteers are available a training workshop will be offered to introduce you to the legalities, socializations, basic interactions, and simple telephone procedures.

Presently we are operating only from 9 AM to 5 PM but with your help we can make this a 24 hour service.

The Rape Crisis Phone Number is 623-1463 and should be used only for a crisis.

To volunteer your help please contact the Northern Women's Centre at 622-3989.

THE BUTTON

In spite of much publicity regarding the government's spending for International Women's Year, many women are still not aware of the reasons behind the refusal of most women to wear the "Why Not" button.

As far back as last July women's groups and individuals, were questioning the spending of \$500,000 and the hiring of a male dominated firm (Ronalds-Reynolds) for the publicity campaign. The campaign was endorsed by Health and Welfare minister Marc Lalonde, who is also the minister responsible for women's programs.

The whole campaign is geared around a cute catch-phrase 'Why Not'. (Why not let women be a bit more equal, what have we got to lose? etc.)

On Dec. 18, 1974, a protest was sent to the Federal Government as a result of Northwestern Ontario IWY seminar which unanimously adopted the following resolution: 'Whereas we protest the funding of an image oriented promotional campaign and whereas we cannot accept the slogan 'Why Not?', which we feel is negative, ambiguous, frivolous and offensive and whereas we see no need for a large administrative budget THEREFORE be it resolved that this seminar express our objection to the Federal Government.- and further we would strongly recommend, instead of allocating money for conferences, and advertising, that the Federal Government use these resources to fund the campaigns and projects by the women in various provinces and regions.'

The Toronto Globe and Mail (Jan 25, 1975 quotes Prime Minister Trudeau's sexist comments which were made after being questioned about criticism by two women Liberals--"thats the trouble with ladies, they bitch after the fact". ("Thats the trouble with prime ministers--they don't get their facts straight".)

The principle issue is why were women not, asked. International Women's Year is for women. We have not been asked how we thought funds should be spent--we have been told. Why not cancel the advertising campaign; use the money thus saved to provide day care or scholarships for women to become doctors, lawyers, administrators, even---advertising executives? WHY NOT.

"WHY NOT"

OUR RIGHTS!

Women Unite
on **May 10th!**

1. Equal pay for work of equal value
2. Universal access to quality childcare
3. Equal rights in marriage & property law
4. Safe effective birth control for all
5. Remove abortion from the Criminal Code
6. Free Dr. Henry Morgentaler

MEMO FROM MAY 10th MARCH COMMITTEE
c/oYWCA, 80 WOODLAWN AVE. E., TORONTO

Dear Friends,

In an effort to ensure that International Women's Year does not turn out to be all talk and no action...we have chosen to concentrate on these five major issues. Only united action will show the government of this country the strength and support of the women's movement and emphasize the issues which women believe require action both locally and nationally. We urge you to organize a march or other action in your area for May 10th or to band together with other groups for a regional demonstration.

In early February two local women and two women from out of town met and pooled their resources (financial and otherwise) to open a club in Thunder Bay. It was really a first for Thunder Bay as the club membership is open only to Lesbian women and Homosexual men. It opened officially the weekend of International Women's Day (March 7,8) which, whether it was coincidental or not, seemed like a great time for it to happen. Gay people in this city, prior to this, had no other place where they could go and feel safe, comfortable and relaxed about expressing their sexuality - even through dancing - with the person or people they chose to be with.

Membership is closed to prevent the entry of any curiosity seekers and to protect the anonymity of the clientele. New people can come in if they can satisfy the people at the door that they are "sympathetic" towards the objectives of the club.

For the present the weekend is the most active time at the club. Friday night there are coffee-houses and the managers are trying to establish a weekly program for this time which hopefully will include live entertainment, films and speakers. Every Saturday night there is a dance held and they've managed to obtain liquor licences, making it possible for beer and alcohol to be served.

"If you want higher consciousness
I'll tell you what to do.
You got to talk to a woman
Get her to talk to you.
You got to build you a union
and make it strong
And if we all stick together
girls it won't be long..."

Tentative plans are being made now to offer activities from Sunday to Thursday ranging from dancing lessons to sports (floor hockey, badminton, Judo lessons) and card games (ie. Bridge). New suggestions for activities are always welcome.

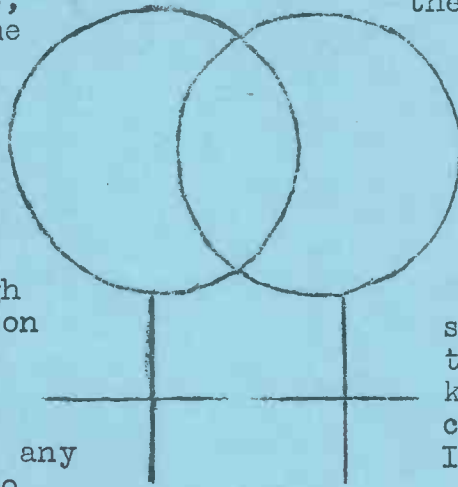
It's been rather slow-moving up to this point as some people still seem to feel reluctant to offer their support. The manage-

ment was pretty close to the point of being totally discouraged until a sister from out of town visited one weekend and left a note in the suggestion box saying "TO THE GREAT GODDESS: Thank those sisters who worked to get this place together and keep those friends and coins coming."

It was a great lift.

So to all those brothers and sisters interested, COME OUT!!!...for friendship, support and fun.

For any further enquiries as to location of the club (it can't be public for obvious reasons) or any other questions or concerns, contact the Northern Women's Centre at 622-3989 and one of the people there will put you in touch with someone who can answer your questions.



(Women's Music Network
Women's Wax Works, 1974)

See Dick Run, See Jane Sit

LAKEHEAD BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON SEX ROLE STEREOTYPING

This committee is finally of the ground -- committee members are.. Dawn St. Amant, John Halet, Joan Halonen, Stan Dromisky, Iher Kozyra, Diane Fawcett, Hugh Cook, Jean Robinson, Susan Garrett, Ed Prinzelaar, Ruth Cunningham, Lewy Smith.

The first priority of this committee is to become aware of the extent of sexism in areas of the school system such as, textbooks, staffing practises, curriculum, special education, classroom practises and physical education.

I AM DEAD,
BUT YOU ARE MY SON,
YOU WILL DISCOVER WHY WE EXIST.

I DIE,
BUT YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER,
YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH
TO OTHER DREAMERS...

Read at a display of the National
Museum of Man and the Natural
Sciences - - Ottawa



Boys fix things



Girls need things fixed

TEN FORTY-THREE,
IN EXACTLY TWO MINUTES
I'LL RING THE
FIRST BELL AND
THEY'LL ALL
STAND STILL!



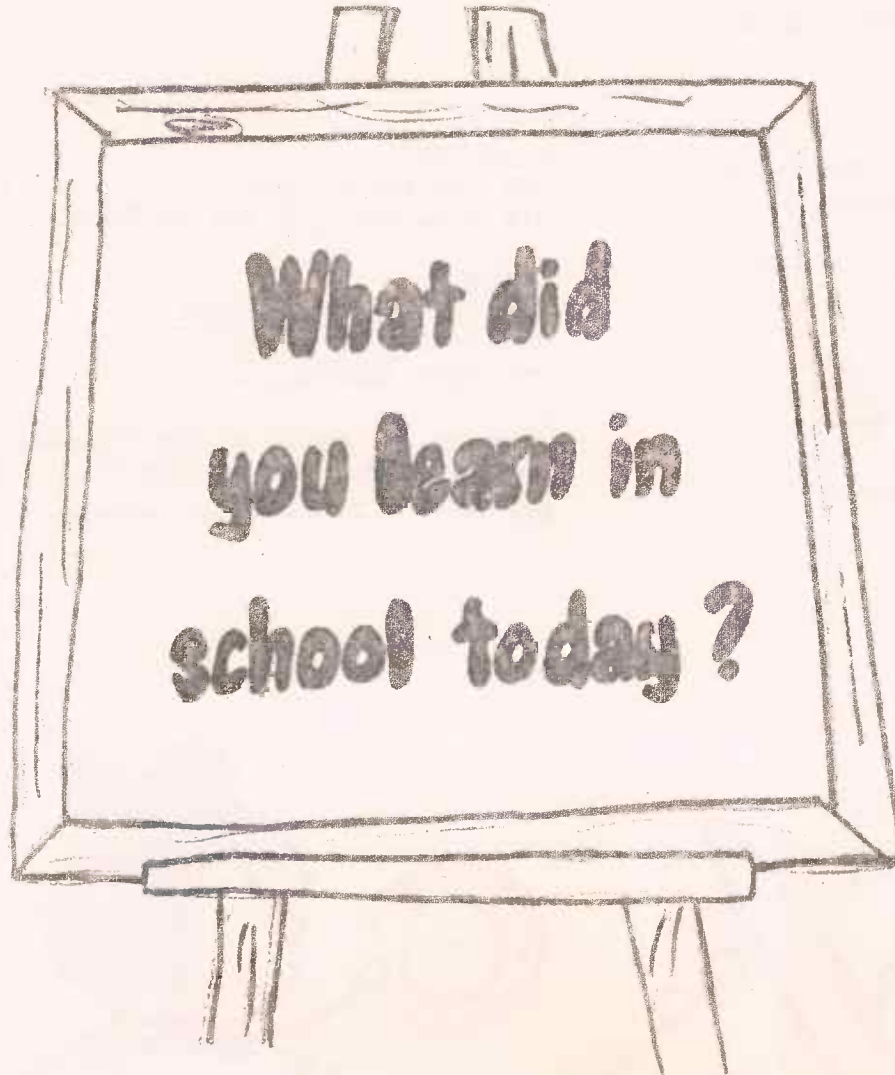
ALL THAT IS EXCEPT
YOUR POTENTIAL DEVIATE!
YOUR FLEDGLING REBEL!
YOUR INCIPIENT
BOAT-ROCKER!



THEY'LL TRY TO
MOVE ALL RIGHT.
THEY'LL HAVE
TO LEARN THE
HARD WAY
NOT TO MOVE!



SO I'LL
SCREAM
AT 'EM
AND
TAKE
THEIR
NAMES, AND
GIVE THEM FIVE
DETENTIONS AND
EXTRA HOMEWORK!
NEXT TIME THEY
WON'T MOVE AF-
TER THE FIRST BELL!



What did
you learn in
school today?

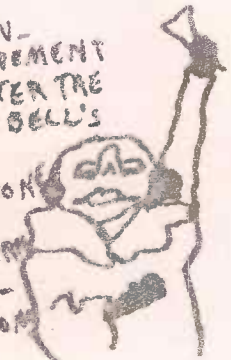
BECAUSE WHEN THEY'VE
LEARNED NOT TO QUESTION
THE FIRST BELL,
THEY'LL LEARN
NOT TO QUESTION
THEIR TEXTS,
THEIR TEACHERS,
THEIR COURSES,
THEIR EXAMINATIONS!



THEY'LL
GROW UP
TO ACCEPT
TAXES
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENTS, INSUR-
ANCE! WAR! MAN ON
THE MOON! POLITICAL
SPEECHES! TELEVISION
COMMERCIALS! FUNERALS!

FROM THE BAY LAKE BOOK
BY VICKI BREITBART

NON-
MOVEMENT
AFTER THE
FIRST BELL'S
THE
BACKBONE
OF
WESTERN
CIVILI-
ZATION



The Second Sex, Junior Division

By ELIZABETH FISHER

We live in a sexist society. Almost from birth we are indoctrinated with the notion of male superiority and female inferiority, male rights and female duties. It is in the earliest years that children form images of their worth, their future roles, the conscious and unconscious expectations placed upon them. Investigating books for young children in book stores and libraries I found an almost incredible conspiracy of conditioning. Boys' achievement drive is encouraged; girls' is cut off. Boys are brought up to express themselves; girls to please. The general image of the female ranges from dull to degrading to invisible.

Since females comprise 51 per cent of the population of the United States, one would expect them to be equally represented in the world of picture books. On the contrary they vary between 20 and 30 per cent. There were five times as many males in the titles as there were females, four times as many boys, men, or male animals pictured as there were females. In special displays the situation was even worse. The fantasy worlds of Maurice Sendak and Dr. Seuss are almost entirely male. The three major prizewinners for this year, displayed together on a table at Brentano's, were all about males: "Sounder" about a black boy by William Armstrong, "A Day of Pleasure" by I. B. Singer, and "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble" by William Steig. Where are all the missing females? Have they been exposed to the elements, as with primitive tribes? Or are they sequestered behind walls, as in Southern Italy or the Near East?

This preponderance of males is not limited to humans. Animals in books are male for the most part. Elephants, bears, lions, tigers are males or, as in the Babar books, isolated females are shown in the company of a majority of males. In the veld it is the female lion who does all the work; in the picture-book world she doesn't exist. There are some books about female animals, and an occasional reference

obviously, are female. Hens, too. In "Rosie's Walk" by Pat Hutchins a hen walks unscathed and unnoticed through all kinds of dangers—re-enforcing the stereotype that nothing ever happens to she's. Sylvia the Sloth is the heroine of a not unpleasing book. Somehow the female animals tend to be those whose names are synonyms of derogation. Petunia the Goose, Frances the Badger — I suspect the choice of these animals reflects the low esteem in which women are held. A rhinoceros is male, a hippopotamus female. Leo Lionni's snail in "The Biggest House in the World" is a he who has a father but no mother, in clear contravention of biology.

Only in Noah's Ark does Biblical authority enforce equal representation for males and females. Except for Random House's "Pop-up Noah," which has eliminated Mrs. Noah and does not show the animals in equal distribution on the cover — males have a slight edge of course. The wives of Ham, Shem and Japheth, present in the Old Testament, were missing from all three children's versions I examined. Things have come to a pretty pass when one has to go to the Old Testament for an upgrading of the female.

It should be mentioned that folk tales tend to treat women somewhat better than do books with contemporary settings. Possibly this is because the former are often based on themes of come-uppance and vindication of the underdog, spontaneous products of wish fulfillment and the unconscious, while the latter are written to please or to sell. After all, although Hansel comes up with the device of dropping pebbles so that he and Gretel can find their way home, it is Gretel who disposes of the witch by pushing her into the oven. Wives are smarter than their husbands, and women make fools of the powerful. The folk tales reflect a pre-industrial culture where, though women may not have had equality, they did play vital functioning roles. They were not consuming or sexual objects, justified

all too often defines them. They were producers who functioned in agriculture and home industries such as spinning and weaving, who worked side by side with their men. Evidently the folk tales survive because they have certain psychological validities.

In the more modern downgrading of the female, not only are animals generally male, but personifications of the inanimate—machines, boats, engines, tractors, trains, automobiles—are almost invariably so. In life, ships are she's; in picture books—Little Toot, Max's boat Max in "Where the Wild Things Are" — I have yet to come across one that was not a he. Automobiles, at least in France where the Citroen D. S. 19 (déesse—goddess) is highly admired, are often thought of as feminine, but not by picture-book authors and illustrators. One exception to the masculinity of machines was written back in 1939 when Virginia Lee Burton created Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel Mary Anne.

This marked absence of the female applies even more strongly to books about blacks. Analogies between racism and sexism date back before the 19th century: both Mary Wollstonecraft and Thomas Paine compare black slavery to female slavery. In this country the woman's rights movement of the 19th century grew out of the Abolitionist movement, as today's Women's Liberation Movement relates to the Civil Rights Movement. History repeats itself. Just as black men achieved enfranchisement long before black or white women, so in the picture-book world have blacks achieved integration with whites and representation for themselves without a corresponding integration for the female, black or white. One of the earliest (Continued on Page 2)

Miss Fisher is a writer and the editor of *Aphra*, a feminist magazine.

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efforts in this direction was Jerrold Beim's "Swimming Hole" about black and white boys swimming together, and since then there have been a spate of books about blacks and whites and about blacks alone. But the only picture book I found about a black girl was Jacob Lawrence's "Harriet and the Promised Land" based on Harriet Tubman's life. Ezra Jack Keats has done several picture books about small boys, and a recent one of his, "A Letter to Amy," does bring in a girl, but in a token and not altogether flattering way. Peter is bringing Amy a letter to invite her, the only girl, to his birthday party, when he bumps into her accidentally. Amy runs away in tears. Later, the other boys say, "Ugh! A girl at the party!" but she comes anyway. One little girl can make it in a group of boys, from Robin Hood's Maid Marian on down through the centuries, but she'd better know her place.

Virginia Woolf pointed out that throughout literature women were generally shown only in relation to men, and this is still true in the picture-book world. Friendship between boys is much touted; friendship between boys and girls is frequent; but friendship between girls gets less attention, though surely this is a norm in life. The frequent depiction of one girl in a group of boys would seem to represent wish fulfillment for girls as well as boys. A boy is considered unmanly in a group of females, but a girl who achieves acceptance in a group of boys has evidently raised herself, the exception that proves the rule of general female inferiority.

Since there are so few females in the picture-book world, one would think they'd be very busy, but such is not the case. What they do is highly limited; more to the point is the sheer unreality of what they do not do. They do not drive cars. Though children see their mothers driving all the time, not a single description or picture of a woman driver could I find. In the world today women are executives, jockeys, stockbrokers, taxidriviers, steelworkers, in picture books these are nonexistent.

Little girls in picture books tend to be passive, though sometimes manipulative. They walk, read, or dream. They seldom ride bicycles; if they do, it is seated behind a boy as in "Tree Is Nice" by Janice Udry. Dr. Seuss's "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," when I came across a little girl sailing

Shulevitz, I was overwhelmed with gratefulness. And the same might be said for my responses to Suzuki Beane and Eloise, both of whom are presented as highly exceptional.

Though there have been women doctors in this country for over a hundred years, and pediatrics is one of their preferred specialties, there is not a single woman doctor to be found. Women are nurses, librarians, teachers—but the principal is always male. They have emotions; they get angry; they disagree; they smile; they approve or disapprove; they want to please. What they do not do is act. Boys do; girls are—a highly artificial and unsatisfactory dichotomy.

In a country where over 40 per cent of the women work, I know of only one picture book about working mothers, Eve Merriam's "Mommies at Work." But it wasn't in stock in any of the book stores I visited. However, while commendable—there are Mommies who split atoms, build bridges, direct TV shows, who are dancers, teachers, writers and doctors—it is also highly apologetic. The end, "all Mommies loving the best of all to be your very own Mommy and coming home to you," (my italics) gives it away. We don't feel the need to say about Daddy that he loves his children more than his work. Couldn't Mommy matter-of-factly like working and baby, too, as I'm sure many do?

No boys and girls must get the message—it's all right to work, but only if your work is subordinated to your role as mother. What does it matter that that will last twenty years and the rest of your life may well be spent as supernumerary, doing some kind of busy work? Or semitrained and at the bottom of the labor heap? This is the kind of contradiction that produces guilt and neurotic conflicts in mothers, fathers, and children, instead of the simple sharing we could achieve if men and women were taught to expand their roles.

A few other books, selected not entirely at random, will show some of the methods by which children are indoctrinated at an early age with stereotypes about male activity and female passivity, male involvement with things, women's with emotions, male dominance and female subordination. "A Tree Is Nice" by Janice Udry, illustrated by Marc Simont, shows a boy and a girl in a field. The boy is sitting on the grass, and the girl is

high up in a tree balancing while a girl is on the ground watching. Successive pages show a boy fishing, a boy rolling in leaves, and another holding a rake, while a big girl leading a small boy walks by. Then a double-page spread with a huge tree in the center pictures seven boys and three girls. One of the latter is on the ground, helping a little boy up into the tree; the other two are on low limbs close in to the main trunk. The boys are shown adventuring, one hanging from a rope, the other five climbing way out or high up. Other pictures show a boy drawing in the sand, a boy in a tree, and boys planting trees. Note that there are 19 boys pictured to eight girls.

Another seemingly innocent book is William Steig's "CDB," a clever pun-puzzle book with pictures captioned by dialogue in letters. This is a funny book but implicit attitudes about girls and women are revealed. There are twice as many pictures of boys as girls in the book, and the girls tend to be passive or helpers. When they do anything, they do it badly or are discomfited. A boy is shown on skates; the girl has fallen down. A girl turns a somersault, but it doesn't agree with her, she is dizzy. A girl dancing in a field of flowers is an exception and, giddy from the unusual activity, she is in ecstasy. There are angry females, several of them, but no angry males. Male work is respected; a boy tells a man writing at a desk, "If you're busy, I'll run away." Women are never shown in this context; they are at everybody's service. A woman tells fortunes—the supernatural has offered one of the few exciting outlets for women down through the ages, and witches and still making it, in and out of the Women's Liberation Movement.

One of the worst offenders in this brainwashing about roles and expectations has, perhaps, the most influence—Richard Scarry. His "Best Word Book Ever" is a big illustrated dictionary with the Scarry trademark, humanized animals, demonstrating meanings and activities. Scarry's male-female divisions are scarifying: many more males, naturally, but they really do get to do everything. Toys, for example, are defined by showing 13 male animals playing with

at toy soldiers and electric trains. Two female animals play with a tea set and a doll in the Scarry orchestra, out of 28 animals playing instruments, the two females were assigned those drawing-room clichés, the piano and the harp. The percentage in the New York Philharmonic is no better, but at least there the women play cello and bass viol. Many pages had only males as protagonists, but the one page which showed only women was . . . what else? "In the Kitchen." The most infuriating page was entitled "Things We Do." Males in Scarry's book world dig, build, break, push, pull and do 15 other active things, including eat. The only two things females do are watch and sit.

What kind of world will a little girl educated on Scarry expect to grow into? It's a meager, thankless, and unrewarding prospect. No wonder both boys and girls identify with the boy's role in life.

Particularly sad is the realization that these books are perpetrated by women as well as men—women authors, illustrators and children's book editors. There are very good reasons why women so often "fawn like the spaniel." The phrase is Mary Wollstonecraft's—but isn't it about time we stopped? It's true that till now men have had all the power, and in a world steeped in patriarchy, women internalize the notion of female inferiority and transmit it to the next generation, perpetuating the cycle. But awareness is upon us. The task of bringing women up to full human status is not going to be easy. To start here, however, at the earliest years, should bring results.

Protests about the retrograde situation have already risen in the Women's Liberation Movement, including an article in the first issue of *Women: A Journal of Liberation*. Women active in the movement are writing new children's books. A conference is planned to educate children's book editors. Several groups have protested primary-school textbooks and "Sesame Street" to some effect. The quarterly *Aphra* dedicates part of each issue to feminist criticism of various aspects of our culture, with articles on child-care books and children's television in prospect. As the movement grows, so will the protests. Editors and authors now, head on, than be forced into it or bypassed later on

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PARENTS ANONYMOUS

Parents Anonymous is a self-help group of parents who offer immediate relief to other parents who feel they are abusing or neglecting their children. We offer a telephone service (heart line) to the troubled parents. Through this they can release their frustrations, anger and tempers over the telephone rather than on their children.

Our basic concept is that parents helping each other to help themselves can use the continuous communication through the telephone and the meetings to try to change our habits on a day to day basis.

Parents Anonymous is a non-profit group, completely autonomous and all services are free.

Our basic rules of privacy and confidentiality are strictly followed.

In Parents Anonymous we owe our allegiance solely to ourselves, to our children and to the effectiveness of our service. Hopefully, our efforts will be beneficial to ourselves and our children.

Our primary objective is the rehabilitation of damaged relationships between parents and children. This will be done by instilling within the parents the strength and self-confidence to re-channel our destructive attitudes and actions into constructive ones by changing our habits on a day to day basis.

Parents are welcome to attend closed meetings every Monday at 8:00 PM. If you are interested call 683-3220 after 6:00PM, Monday to Friday.

"IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE THERE ARE SEVERAL STRONG, WELL-ORGANIZED ANTIABORTION LOBBIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN FETUSES, WHY ISN'T THERE EVEN ONE CITIZEN LOBBY CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING LIVING HUMAN BEINGS THAT SUFFER IN SILENCE AND QUITE OFTEN ARE SLOWLY TORTURED UNTIL THEY FINALLY DIE?" Doris Anderson
Editor Chatelaine

**Can spank,
not strike, ^{S.M.} Jan 7/75
husband told**

KINGHORN, Scotland (Reuter) — Alexander Rattlay was fined \$11.50 for hitting his wife's face—but he could have smacked her bottom with impunity, a magistrate here said.

Magistrate George MacKay told Rattlay, 26, "It is a well-known fact that you can strike your wife's bottom if you wish, but you must not strike her on the face."

"I believe that reasonable chastisement should be the duty of every husband if his wife misbehaves," he said.

BUT I LOVE HIM

But I love him
Her beaten face against his chest
But I love him
Her pain chills the air
Don't take the baby please
Please
Please
but I love him
It's your fault, you wouldn't
listen - - - you asked for it
you deserve this punishment
of being my wife - - -
mother
woman, our sister
but I love him
Come I say, I want
to help
please
please
please
but I love him!
I hope they come and get their
kid soon
I don't want to get involved

by Estelle after a long hard day's work

REPORT: N.W.O. International
Women's Year Co-ordinating Council-
March 22nd, 1975

If you are not already aware, N.W.O. has a council to co-ordinate projects for I.W.Y. in Northwestern Ontario. This council evolved out of the seminar held in Thunder Bay in Nov. 1974. On the following page is a map which represents the communities that the council is attempting to involve. Presently the majority of communities are represented on the council and constant attempts are being made to involve all of N.W.O.

The Council meets on a monthly basis here in Thunder Bay on a Saturday from 10:00 - 5:00 at Confederation College. The purpose of these meetings is to draw together the communities in N.W.O. in an effort to

- identify area concerns and needs
- actions necessary to meet such needs
- the role that the council can play in meeting such needs

The major project now underway is the I.W.Y. Travelling Caravan. This project's starting date is May 1st and will continue until mid-September on a \$10,000.00 budget. The \$10,000.00 was a grant received from the Secretary of State, Women's programs-I.W.Y. Provincial Funding. This travelling caravan will carry information on:

Health care, Legal concerns of women and children, Women in the work force, Sex-role stereotyping, Education and much, much more.

Watch For Us....

We will be visiting you.

For further information please contact the I.W.Y. Council at P.O. BOX 314, THUNDER BAY F, Ontario.

A second project now underway is the Crisis Housing for women and children. Tentative houses (2) are being investigated. City Council has been most responsive. Hopefully the two houses (in co-operation with the Ministry of Community and Social Services) will be underway before long. For more information write to Mary Tomlinson C/O I.W.Y. Council.

A third project now underway is the History of Pioneer Women of N.W.O. A committee has been formed and is headed by Mickey Murray who also can be contacted c/o I.W.Y. Council. GET INVOLVED.

A fourth project underway is the compiling of an "Information Booklet" listing all women's groups in N.W.O. and the functions and services that they provide within their respective communities. If you are involved in a Women's Group and wish to be involved in this project please contact the I.W.Y. Council.

The next meeting to take place is on April 26th. If you have any issues or concerns that you feel should be brought up at this meeting please write to us ahead of time.

The purpose of the N.W.O. International Women's Year Co-ordinating Council is to be a voice of women and women's concerns. We offer our support and would like to encourage your participation.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR is for ALL people.

LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Women's Teachers Federation held a Women in Politics conference April 23 at the Royal Edward Hotel. Kay Sigurjonsson addressed over 200 women, and the one man in attendance.

She said it matters not if women are making progress in the media, management or any other traditionally male occupations. The advances are insignificant if the final outcome or policies are determined by men. Nationally, politics affect every cause that women are fighting for.

Ms. Sigurjonsson has been approached by three of the existing parties to run for office, but very frankly, the "boys club" atmosphere of the House is not for her. Hopefully, other women who can tolerate the boredom, bickering and pettyness of the members, will not let this deter them from becoming involved. We need more women in the House who will support women's issues and who have a good grasp of the overall needs of the Nation.

Women who do not wish to run for office can still take political action said Ms. Sigurjonsson. Women have political clout that is not being used: petitions and letters are tools for lobbying and for applying pressure to government.

After the speech, the participants assembled in smaller groups for discussion. Women were urged not to let this evening be the end of their interest in politics.

A Women in Politics questionnaire was distributed by the Northwestern Ontario I.W.Y. Co-ordinating Council, this being one of their priorities. The questionnaire is designed to assist the Federation to plan another programme as soon as possible; hopefully before the next election.

GET INVOLVED, write the Council, Box 314, T.B.F., or phone 622-3989.

CONGRATULATIONS Ruth Cook on winning the handcrafted afghan we raffled recently. The rest of you make arrangements to buy tickets on the next one; we'll draw for it June 12 at the Policy Meeting.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The following is a letter which was sent to women throughout the region:

On March 1st and 2nd approximately 70 representatives from various Women's Centres from across Canada met in Thunder Bay for a two day conference. We are sending along a report of this conference compiled by Kitchener/Waterloo Women's Place.

The importance of developing strong regional communication as a 'first step' to a country-wide communications network was realized and so we are contacting you in the hope that you will be willing to take on the responsibility of contact person for women in your community who are now organized or who may some day organize around concerns of women. If you cannot be our 'contact person', please let us know and/or refer us to another woman.

We will attempt to share with you information about our activities (our newsletter is one source), as well as whatever information that we receive via the nationwide communications network dubbed Network Nellie (after Nellie McClung set up at the Women's Centres conference.

Hopefully, you will devote some of your energy in keeping us informed of events, attitudes and concerns of women in your community. Who knows, someday soon we might get together in the district for our own regional conference. Anyone want to plan this?

Happy International Women's Year.

In strength and sisterhood,

Estella Friedlander
Northern Women's Centre

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TELEVISION MAKES ATTORNEY-
GENERAL SICK--US TOO

In a Chronicle-Journal article recently, Attorney-General, John Clement, was quoted as saying, "I watch less television these days because I'm frankly sickened by what I see". He was referring to the violence to which we are all subjected. Even shows whose format was once fairly bland have been revised to cater to the ever-escalating demand for murder and destruction-- shows like Adam 12 and Kung Fu for instance. Unfortunately, the viewing audience includes very young and impressionable children. John Clement stated, "There are more murders in a few hours of prime time television than there are in Toronto in a year." Further, he estimated that the average 15-year old has seen more than 13,000 killings on television. How does this affect our children?

Researchers have shown that children are affected by filmed aggression. When the situation permits, they often model specific aspects of the behaviour they watched. For instance, children who watched films of an adult who kicked and jumped on a life-size, inflatable doll, very often imitated the specific actions when given the actual doll. There were similar effects even when the films featured cartoon characters; the effects were more dramatic if the filmed aggressors were male, and if they were rewarded for their behaviour, or if they were not punished.

On television, the aggressors are most often male, and very often they are supposedly the "good guys" who reap considerable rewards.

cont'd

WHEN I WAS A CHILD I PLAYED WITH THE
BOYS

when I was a child
I played with the boys
and (because I was only a girl)
they made me
be
the Indians

my name was Fox Women
and they hunted me
like dogs

my name was
White Bird
and I flew to escape them

my name was Last Star
the last of my people

my name was Sunset
for they caught me
and burned me

my name was Won't Talk
for I never
betrayed us

time after time
the boys shot me down
and I came back
Red Witch
wild and chanting
came back
Ghost Dance
came back
Bad Dream
came back
Can't Forget
and Crazy-With-Grief

I know where they went
those boys with their guns
they're still hunting Indians
look
you can see, their names are
Spills Blood
and Kills-Without-Mercy

from Ms Magazine by Mary Mackey
1975

Attorney-General (cont'd)

And what about the victims of all this aggression? Although it seems as though every group is victimized on television, we are very concerned about how women are so often assaulted and brutalized. Our children notⁿ learn that aggression is statistically normal, but also that the recipients of this aggression are too often female. (If you doubt this, just count the number of times women are hit or thrown about on your television screen.)

The values of our society are learned by children not only through parental guidance and example. The media also presents a picture of our culture and our values. What are the values our children see on television? They see that brutal and assaultive behaviour is often respected and rewarded.

It all helps to perpetuate the "macho" image of males, and it pushes us further down the road of dehumanization.



CHILDREN IN MARRIAGE

When one suggests that children can be raised outside of marriage, the audience looks horrified, as if such unmarried parents would be inflicting pain deliberately on their children. Indeed, the notion that children should be raised within the nuclear family structure is so reinforced that one wonders if children raised in a group family before the institution of monogamous marriage came into being felt vaguely uncomfortable; or if two people have children within marriage for the sheer gratification of knowing they're "doing the right thing."

That wondering must be done either facetiously or naively, for the nuclear family provides an unhealthy atmosphere in which to raise children. Undoubtable there are unpleasant alternatives, but to suggest that marriage provides the best environment is the result of narrow thinking. Possibilities for non-restricting, joyous and creative child-rearing exist, but for the most part, outside of marriage as it is structured today.

Why must the raising of a child be limited to two people, and within that relationship, narrowed almost exclusively to the biological mother? Nebulous questions are raised about the child's need for "security". However it has frequently been pointed out by the most conservative of "experts" that children in a family are much better off if their father participates in active, positive ways in the children's lives. This suggests that another person can benefit the child's growth immensely. Why can the child not have the benefit of inter-reaction with several adults, and non-biological brothers and sisters? Why should this create feelings of insecurity, when before the development of increased mobility and suburban sprawl with its "little boxes" made for the nuclear family unit, the "extended" family produced unneurotic children, probably more happy than those of today.

If a child had other adults besides its parents to turn to when troubled; if it had other people it could relate to maturely and responsibly; if it had playmates when it needed them, yet privacy if so desired, there would be no "generation gap"--the irrecon-

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ailable alienation of the child from parents. The generation gap is only the direct result of children raised within the uncommunicative atmosphere of the nuclear family.

Let us examine the relationship of the child to the parent in a nuclear family. A child is with its mother and only its mother for most of its waking hours. When its father comes home from work, he is too tired to appreciate his child, and its mother is tired of its company; crying and constantly fulfilling its needs, so it is put to bed, its crying ignored as much as possible.

"(A married woman's) child is too much cared for, too diligently regarded during the day and, when her husband returns from work, soon banished from the adult world to his bed, so that Daddy can relax. The Oedipal situation which is always duplicated in marriage is now intensified to a degree which Freud would have found appalling. Father is very really a rival and a stranger. During the day the child may be bullied as often as patted; what

The seeds of sex role playing and male chauvinism start early and are planted in subtle ways. Parents may do this without even realising they are contributing to the perpetuation of this bullshit. The child will want to repeat those actions you acknowledge with your approval, spoken or otherwise, and will try to repress those reactions for which you show disapproval or which you ignore. If you only express pride in your son being big, tough, loud and aggressive, and refuse to acknowledge that he is also, like all small children, sensitive and gets his feelings hurt easily, you will make him ashamed of his sensitivity and react to hurt feelings by becoming super-obnoxious and bullying. Or he may start to withdraw. Little boys should be exposed to dolls, pretty objects and attractive clothes, just as little girls should be exposed to toy cars, mechanical toys, and blue jeans.

Pedestal
February 1971

is certain is that there has been too much attention from one person who is entirely at his disposal. The intimacy between mother and child is not sustaining and healthy. The child learns to exploit his mother's accessibility, badgering her with question and demands which are not of any real consequence to him..blackmailing her into buying sweets and carrying him. Dependence does not mean love!" 10

If women weren't conditioned to think that the problems of "post-partum blues", "housewife syndrome", and resentment towards her children and husband were their own fault instead of the "situations" the "situation" would change, and motherhood could allow true fulfillment. A woman is a human being before she is female, and thus her need for growth, intellectual stimulation and the company of adults doesn't cease with the event of pregnancy.

Georgina Garrett

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism
s/he learns to condemn,
If a child lives with hostility
s/he learns to fight,
If a child lives with ridicule
s/he learns to be shy,
If a child lives with shame
s/he learns to feel guilty,
If a child lives with tolerance
s/he learns to be patient,
If a child lives with encouragement
s/he learns confidence,
If a child lives with praise
s/he learns to appreciate,
If a child lives with fairness
s/he learns justice,
If a child lives with security
s/he learns to have faith,
If a child lives with approval
s/he learns to like her/himself,
If a child lives with acceptance
and friendship
s/he learns to find love in the
world.

Page 11, New Breed, Dec.'74, Jan '75

THERE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO SWALLOWED A LIE...



There was a young woman who swallowed a lie,
We all know why she swallowed that lie,
Perhaps she'll die.

There was a young woman who swallowed a rule,
live to serve others, she learned it in school.
She swallowed the rule to hold up the lie....perhaps she'll die.

There was a young woman who swallowed some fluff,
Lipstick & candy & power & puff.
She swallowed the fluff to sweeten the rule,
She swallowed the rule to hold up the lie,
We all know why she swallowed that lie.....
Perhaps she'll die.



There was a young woman who swallowed
a line.
"I like 'em dumb, baby, you suit me fine."
She swallowed the line to tie to the fluff.
She swallowed the fluff to sweeten the rule,
She swallowed the rule to hold up the lie....
Perhaps she'll die.

There was a young woman who swallowed a pill.
Might have said no but she hadn't the will.
She swallowed the pill to go with the line,
She swallowed the line to tie up the fluff.
She swallowed the fluff to sweeten the rule.
She swallowed the rule to hold up the lie.....
Perhaps she'll die.

There was a young woman who swallowed a ring.
Looked like a princess & felt like a thing.
She swallowed the ring to make up for the pill.
..... etc Perhaps she'll die.





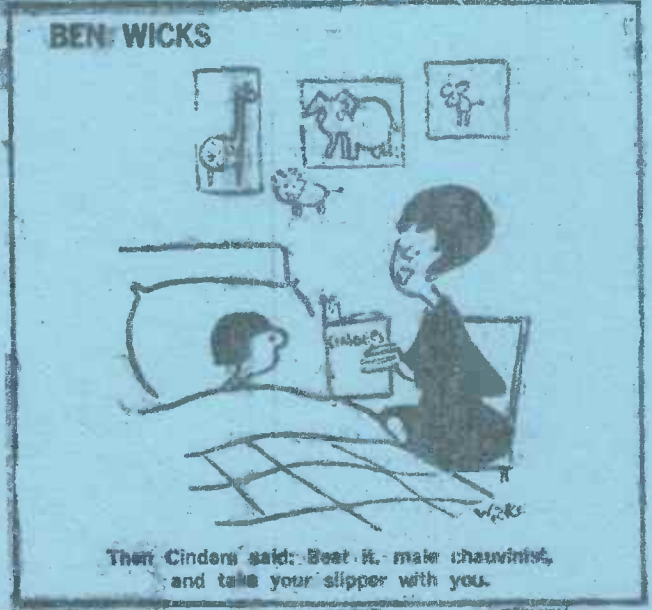
There was a young woman who swallowed
 some Spock.
 'Stay at home, mother, take care of
 the flock'
 She swallowed the Spock
 to go with the ring etc

One day this young woman woke up & said
 I've swallowed so much
 That I wish I were dead.
 I swallowed the Spock..... etc

She ran to her sister,
 it wasn't too late.
 to be liberated -- regurgitate.
 She threw up the Spock,
 She threw up the ring, looked like
 a princess & felt like a thing.
 She threw up the pill,
 and she threw up the line.
 'I like 'em dumb baby, you suit me fine!'



She threw up the fluff & she threw up the rule.
 'Live to serve others,' she learned it in school.
 And at last she threw up the lie,
 We all know why she threw up that lie.....
 She will not die.



Then Cinders said: Beat it, male chauvinist,
 and take your slipper with you.

Today, as I tuned to Somerset on TV, I heard a male actor say to the actress who plays his wife something which went like this: "you have to stay home with our (as yet unborn) child. He deserves your fullest love and attention. Psychologists have proven that the mother is necessary and that even the first few weeks are critical." Unfortunately, the line about psychologists is largely believed to be true--even by psychologists. But this is changing, and women's liberation should help to hasten the process.

The man who is to be held most responsible for the belief that the natural mother is the single most important element in the child's life is Dr. John Bowlby. He has written books on the subject and was supported by a body as influential as the World Health Organization. Most of his work was done in the 1950's and later researchers have attempted to support his questionable assumptions. Most research is complicated by factors other than just the mother-child relationship, and the conclusions just don't hold water.

Bowlby believes that the mother-child relationship is essential for the child's mental health. The effects of separation (particularly before the age of 5) are extensive and irreversible. According to him, the children are sad, apprehensive and dull; they suffer from insomnia and lack of appetite; and they evidence withdrawal from social interaction. These children are also more likely to be delinquents. You must realize however, that all the children he studied were raised in institutions or their separation from Mom occurred because they had been hospitalized.

Bowlby did not take into account any of the other factors which would affect these children. For example,

one child he studied had been hospitalized for 9 months, and the parents had not been allowed to visit ever. Bowlby did not take this into account, nor did he mention the effects of the illness itself, or the kind of care the child received in the hospital (how much was it played with, talked to, etc.) The only thing Bowlby felt inclined to talk about was the mother-child separation! A blind eye has always been turned to the other factors in the study of institutionalized children. These children may have lost their parents through death, they may have been beaten and taken away from their parents, or any other of a number of reasons. Yet all their problems are suggested to be a result of mother-child separation.

The proof for the conclusions is often full of holes. One study showed that 54% of 500 delinquents studied had full time mothers, and 46% had working mothers. These numbers suggest full time mothers have a greater chance of raising delinquents, but the researchers concluded that working women were in some way responsible for delinquency! When in doubt, blame the mother!

There are many ways in which children may be raised in groups, so that individual women need not assume the full burden of responsibility, and so that each woman need not duplicate on her own, the work done by every other woman. In socialist countries where the children are the responsibility of the collective, in the kibbutzim of Israel, and in our own day care centres, such a situation exists. More people are looking at these forms of child care in a new light, and are beginning to write of the possible benefits for both mother and child.

The prevailing attitude regarding motherhood is designed to keep women at home, and off the labour market--except in times of war and national emergency. When we are no longer needed, we're sent packing back to our kitchens. Dr. Bowlby (remember him?) believed women are responsible for providing their children with constant attention day and night, 7 days a week, and 365 days in the year. If the child must be hospitalized, maybe the mother should go too! Thus the psychology profession has worked to keep women tied to the home and their children.

Instead of looking at just the mother-child relationship, we should be looking at all the things which help children to grow. We should look at things like paternal deprivation (one study showed that paternal deprivation occurred 5 times more often among an Ontario reform school population than did maternal deprivation); also the need for adult models of either sex; consistency in child care; the individual differences and needs with which each of us is born, and how we can best meet those needs; the kind of handling and the amount of handling and stimulation each child needs.

The emphasis should be on how we can best raise children--what kinds of things are important and necessary. The emphasis should not be on the mother-child relationship alone.

Women are beginning to question whether or not motherhood must mean a never-ending round of diapers, dinners and dishes. A lot of us believe many of these job-jobs can be socialized (taken off our hands). The question is, "how many" and "how can we do it". For instance, we might have government-run cafeterias, laundries and child care centres. The cost would be minimal and the service excellent.

In China, where the children are the responsibility of the Collective they are taught among other values to care for each other. The focus is on co-operation. What is important is that the goals of child care are made very clear to everyone involved. What are the goals in our system? In our children, we stress an out-dated concept of masculinity and femininity which incorporates to varying degrees, aggressiveness, competition and emotionality. If we all work together, maybe we can come up with something which gives Canada's children a truly equal chance to grow and learn.

Our present system of day care is haphazard and over-burdened. How can we, as women, feel really free to choose a career, when it must be at the expense of our children? When will the alternative be worth having?

I believe it is possible once we have excellent day care available to everyone. For this to happen, we must exert pressure on the people in power to divert money and energy to this area.

Come to Women's Centre and help us write a brief to government. Call up the Social Planning Council-- they have put together a survey which is supposed to identify the needs of our community with regard to day care. Write to your local MP and tell him if you're dissatisfied with existing facilities.

Women's Right to Choose

In conjunction with a cross - Canada Day of Protest, a workshop and demonstration took place, here, in Thunder Bay, on Saturday, April 12th. The message of these events was Abortion Law Repeal and the release of Dr. Morgentaler.

Centering on the issue of morality, Jacqui Beauregard considered such questions as: Is abortion murder? Will it lead to euthanasia or loss of respect for life? and Will it become another method of Birth Control? The concensus reached by the 30 -40 people in attendance was that morality is a personal concern and that legislation over individual morality is insulting, unjust and unnecessary.

The effective analogy of a fetus to a blueprint, used by Jacqui, pointed out the argument for early abortion. The longer the delay in termination of pregnancy the more developed is the blueprint for life.

Quality of life or humanity was also considered. The decision to abort an unwanted pregnancy shows more respect for life than the alternative of an unwanted, unplanned pregnancy which brings pain, both emotional and physical to the woman involved as well as an unwanted child.

As well as chairing the workshop, Valerie Packota discussed the legalities of abortion-- the ineffectiveness of present legislation because of inconsistent application and vague interpretation of the definition of "health".

The argument which suggests that a woman would use abortion as a method of birth control implies that women are irresponsible and need legislation to control them lest they run out and have

numerous abortions as pregnancy occurs. We feel that there are very few women who really like the idea of abortion, but the need to be allowed the last resort alternative of abortion makes the "right to choose" approach necessary.

Also on the agenda at Saturday's workshop was a discussion of the Dr. Morgentaler case. Quebec Court of Appeals overturned a Montreal jury verdict acquitting Dr. Morgentaler. An appeal by Dr. Morgentaler to the Supreme Court of Canada resulted in his being sentenced to 18 months in Bordeaux Prison. Dr. Morgentaler is a reformist, in favor of repeal of abortion law. Acting on his personal conscience, Dr. Morgentaler performed abortions on his patients, acting in accord with their needs and in their best medical interests.

Otto Lang has chosen to ignore cross Canada protest to repeal abortion laws and release Dr. Morgentaler. Dr. Morgentaler has been awarded the American Humanist of the Year Award, and Women's Groups all over the States are boycotting Canadian goods and vacations until Dr. Morgentaler is released.

The demonstration which followed the workshop marched through downtown Thunder Bay South to City Hall. Placards included such phrases as, "My Uterus, My Decision", "Repeal Section 251" and "fight, fight, abortion is our right". Public interest was generally favourable, with some onlookers joining the protest group in dispensing information handouts.

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Women's Right to Choose (cont'd)

Demonstrators moved do downtown Thunder Bay North to continue the protest.

April 12th was considered a National Day of Mourning for Dr. Henry Morgentaler, for all women who suffered and died at the hands of butcher abortionists, and for the death of the Canadian Bill of Rights.

LABOURING

UNDER

A MIS-

CONCEPTION

LEGALIZE ALL

ABORTION

NOW!



Illustration Copyrighted 1970

Women's Rights Now

FREE TO BE...YOU AND ME

1972 Bell Records, available on loan from THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE

This joyous album of songs and stories for children and other people gives the movement toward true equality between the sexes a gentle push in the direction of the future.

The concepts of Free To Be..are the essence of peoples liberation.

WILLIAM'S DOLL, IT'S ALRIGHT TO CRY, PARENTS ARE PEOPLE, ATLANTA, to name a few of the pieces, help us to recognize that the new male and female image will emerge in coming generations if children can be freed from the stereotypes of the past that have been taken seriously for centuries.

The new father burps his baby, and the new mother has other interests besides her young child, but parents as a team remain solidly basic.

Frankly..both hate housecleaning, but women may now say so, and doing the chores together is recommended.

FREE TO BE..YOU AND ME is a courageous first attempt at breaking new ground in areas of concern to children and adults alike. It starts from a base line of respect for the right of all human beings to be themselves without too much concern for what boys do as boys, or girls as girls. By raising doubts about traditional restrictive models for men and women alike, the record opens up for children the happy vista that all individuals, male or female, are people above all.

WHEN I
GROW
UP...

Children's Books Available from the NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE LIBRARY

The Sheep Book by Carman Good Year. The story of a farmer and her sheep.

Joshua's Day by Sandra Lucas Surowiecki. Joshua learns to cope with anger at his day care centre.

Exactly Like Me by Lynn Phillips. A lively story about an independent girl who is proud of what she is.

Did You Ever. A rhyme which invites children to try out a variety of activities.

Martin's Father A young boy and his father engage in play and household activities together.

Jo, Flo, & Yolanda. The story of triplets who reveal their individuality.

Carlotta and the Scientist. A penguin sidetracks to adventure on her way to gather fish for her husband and baby.

Grown-Ups Cry Too. For all ages.

Nothing But a Dog by Bobbi Katz.

Boys and Girls, Girls and Boys by Eve Mirriam.

The Double Mirror, The Mushrooming House and I'm a Child of the City by Esther Sokolov Fine.

Inalooosik and the Grizzly Bear. (from the O.I.S.E. Women's Kit)

Mandy and the Flying Map by Beverley Allinson

Fresh Fish and Chips by Jan Andrews

If you would like your own copy of any of these books, inquire at the Women's Centre. We have the ordering addresses and respective prices. Most are under \$2.00

DAY CARE

Is there a need for more day care in Thunder Bay? The Lakehead Social Planning Council conducted a survey during July and August of 1974 and concluded 'YES', more child care services are greatly needed. Many respondents expressed great concern over the inadequate, unsatisfactory arrangements they found necessary to make, due to a lack of quality day care.

Based on the results of the survey, the L.S.P.C. presented a number of recommendations to the City, community agencies and school boards, urging them to work either directly or co-operatively in order to:

- 1) expand municipal day nursery facilities.
- 2) provide infant care, and investigate the possibility of associating a centre with Senior Citizens facilities.
- 3) allocate space in all new apartment and housing developments for child care.
- 4) operate one day care centre 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- 5) provide before and after school and lunch hour programs.
- 6) provide emergency service.
- 7) provide subsidies for home-makers service.
- 8) hire a Child Care Co-ordinator, to maintain a reference for all available child care services.
- 9) advertise existing services.
- 10) provide a service for students and staff of Confederation College and Lakehead University.
- 11) provide child care programs in places of employment.

Response by the City has been quite favorable and plans for '76 include:

- 2 additional municipal day care centres,
- a day care centre associated with Grandview Lodge, Home for the Aged,
- 1 additional Private Home Day Care Supervisor,
- a child care co-ordinator,
- 2 after-school programs, rn by Parks and Recreation.

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce has formed a Child Day Care Committee to investigate employer responsibility in child care as well as allocation of space in new housing and apartment developments for child care.

Both Boards of Education will be distributing a questionnaire via the students, to obtain specific data on the need for lunch hour and after school programs.

A Handbook of Available Services for Children is presently being compiled, and should be available by the end of June.

For further information, contact Kate Sikerbol at the Lakehead Social Planning Council, 995 Memorial Avenue, 344-1841.

The Feminist News Service has announced its existence and will attempt to present women's news without the traditional biases of other media groups. Ten regional representatives will contribute material via the Waterloo headquarters. This bilingual news agency is currently seeking donations. Anyone interested in learning about the service, or wanting to subscribe, contact Women's Centre.

Northern Women's Centre
P.O. Box 314
Thunder Bay, Ont.
March 21, 1975

Prime Minister Trudeau:
All Members of Parliament:

We believe that a realistic approach should be taken towards one half the population of Canada. We have heard that nothing should hold back women from achieving their full potential. We are now wondering whether government statements regarding women are really concerned with the issues or whether they are solely propaganda distributed across Canada because it is International Women's Year. It is time for action, not words.

If women are to take a meaningful place in Canada then all aspects of women must be considered. Women are only as strong as their youngest child. Lack of day care cannot help but limit the options open to women. One cannot think about choices open to women without considering their children.

We strongly advocate increasing tax deductible child care cost from \$500 per child to a minimum of \$1,200 per child. \$1,200 is the very minimum that a family might spend in caring for one child when both parents are not at home.

Fathers, in exceptional cases, may claim the child care deduction. We believe however, that if this deduction is not open to all fathers, as well as the mother, it is a form of sexual discrimination which contravenes the Canadian Bill of Rights. Since either parent is allowed to pay income tax on government child allowances then tax deductible child care costs should also be able to be claimed by either parent, when both form a functioning family unit.

At present, only a working parent may claim these deductible expenses, the parent who is a student should not be penalized. By disallowing this privilege to student parents, the pattern of low paying jobs may be re-enforced, as many parents would not be able to pay both high tuition fees and child care costs. Such action on the government's part may be considered to be irresponsible as valuable minds are not able to receive necessary training in order for them to make the best possible contribution to their community. In this way, the government by their 19th century practices, are contributing to the "Brain Drain."

The woman who stays home to rear her children is doing a valuable job to her country. She is raising young citizens who will eventually interact within their community. She has had the difficult task of transforming self-gratifying infants into socially responsible adults. In spite of her arduous and formidable task, she receives very little compensation or encouragement from her society. We strongly advocate that such mothers who remain home with their children should receive all Canada Pension Plan and Unemployment Insurance contributions from the beginning of the last trimester of pregnancy (or when she leaves work) until her child is a least 2 years of age (or until she returns to the work force.)

Only by such measures will all Canadian citizens maintain a sense of pride in themselves as human beings, and as Canadians.

The force of the woman's vote can topple irresponsible and uncaring governments or can strengthen encouraging governments. The power of our vote potential has been too long ignored. We are no longer prepared to allow members of parliament with unrealistic views of women to rule Canada with 19th century attitudes. It is time to write 20th century social laws and convention on the statute books.

Jenny Beck

(This petition is presently in circulation. Please collect as many signatures as possible, on the reverse side, and return to the Northern Women's Centre.)

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION FOR THE FOLLOWING;

1. THAT TAX DEDUCTABLE CHILD CARE COSTS SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$500. PER YEAR PER CHILD TO A MINIMUM OF \$1,200. A YEAR PER CHILD;
2. THAT THIS TAX EXEMPTION SHOULD BE ALLOWABLE TO EITHER FATHER OR MOTHER;
3. THAT THIS EXEMPTION SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE CLAIMED BY PARENTS WHO ARE STUDENTS AS WELL AS SALARIED PARENTS;
4. THAT SUCH MOTHERS WHO REMAIN HOME WITH THEIR CHILDREN SHOULD RECEIVE ALL CANADA PENSION PLAN AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAME

ADDRESS

Kids Freak On Food Additives

Soft drinks and hamburgers, the delight of millions of American children may have hidden side-effects. Dr. Ben Feingold, a San Francisco allergy specialist, has discovered that many stand-bys of the American diet may actually be causing hyperactivity in children.

By eliminating the chemical preservatives and coloring commonly found in processed foods, Feingold has learned that he can often cure some kinds of hyperactivity--a nervous condition which makes it difficult to concentrate.

Hyperkinesia--or hyperactivity-- is no small problem. A California study which estimates that in the past 10 to 12 years the incidence of hyperactivity and learning difficulties rose from 2% to an average of 20-25% and in some cases, 40% of the entire school population.

The research linking food additives to behavior is still not conclusive, but Feingold's work is already attracting attention from educators and psychologists throughout the country. Many believe that at least some hyperactive behavior is the result of allergic reactions to the additives.

If initial studies prove correct, a synthetics free diet may, for many children, become an alternative to present methods of drug treatment. As many as 80% of the several million children now given drugs like Ritalin (a behavior modifier), amphetamines (commonly known as "speed"), or tranquilizers to control their behavior may be able to stop simply by restricting their diets to natural foods.

Feingold points out that drug treatment is not a cure for hyperactivity, but only serves to mask the problem. And yet, he conservatively estimates that nationally at least two million of the approximately five million children labelled hyperactive are given drugs, but receive no other kind of therapy or treatment. One school official in Yolo County, Calif., says that nearly 16% of

the children in his school are being given behavior modifying drugs.

In the past five or six years, he says he has treated approximately one hundred hyperactive cases. Many of these children often characterized in early infancy as "crib rockers" and described later as "frenetic" or exhibiting compulsive behavior like beating their heads against walls--had already been put on drugs.

Ritalin or amphetamines make adults more active. But they slow hyperactive children down. The scientific explanation of this phenomenon is still conjectural.

In about 80% of the cases in which the children had already been put on drugs, Feingold found out that once the children had been put on a diet which cut out artificial food colorings and flavorings, it was possible to completely discontinue the drugs without adverse behavioral reactions. On the same diet, about 50-60% of the hyperactive children not already on drugs returned to normal.

Why are food additives so all pervasive in our food? Simple. The more additives, "the higher the potential profit-margin," writes Food Engineering, a leading trade journal.

The nation's top food, drug and chemical corporations have developed synthetic additives into over a \$500 million a year business, churning out close to a billion pounds of them in 1970. Additives cut manufacturing costs. Cakes that once needed eggs and butter need only tiny amounts of synthetic flavoring and coloring and emulsifier. Fruit juices no longer need fruit. And often the price of those "convenience foods" is more, even though the cost of producing them is less.

An average child's breakfast is loaded with non-essential flavors and colors added to entice the child. Then the conscientious and concerned parent gives the child vitamins, usually chewable, which are also loaded with additives.

Feingold notes that over the last 10 years, the increase in the profitability of producing flavors and soft drinks parallels the increased incidence of hyperactivity and learning difficulties among school children.

her-self Nov. 1974

Scandale at The Dumpling Shop

At the behest of several irate American mothers, we recently paid a visit to one of New York's largest toy stores, The Dumpling Shop, to inspect their new line of baby-dolls this being the source and object of the petition.

"It is quite unspeakable," wrote Mrs. Leyton-Reims of Westchester. "My club is taking action. May we count on you?"

It is, of course, a bit off the track for a freethought magazine like our Realist to become involved in controversy of this sort. Still, what's the use of it all if you can't take a stand occasionally, at least on matters of cultural importance. After all, these are serious times--East and West locked in dynamic struggle, our own culture faltering, indeed at times floundering, in a sea of cynicism and failing beliefs, youth desperately seeking values--so that it was with a heavy heart that we came away from The Dumpling Shop, after having seen the item in question, namely; the so-called Little Cathy Curse Doll--Complete with Teeny Tampons.

This "doll", we were blandly assured by the management, is merely a "logical follow-up" on last season's highly successful Tina Tiny Tears--The Naughty Nappy Doll ("She Cries Real Tears and Wets Her Beddy). Whether or not it is a "logical follow-up" is, at least in our opinion, not the principal issue, at hand; the principal issue is that of taste, or responsibility, and of common decency.

On these three counts we judge both The Dumpling Shop and the manufactures of the Little Cathy Curse Doll to be in serious default. The lavish arrangements for the display of this so-called doll occupy a prominent section of The Dumpling Shop's smart fourth floor. Stretched overhead is a huge colorful circle-like banner which features a happy little girl holding the doll and exclaiming crossly: "Why, Cathy Curse, I do believe you're staining! I think you'd better have fresh panties and a teeny tampon!"

Certainly it would be naive in the extreme to raise shrill and pious protest

against the simple abstraction of material greed and commercial exploitation which daily confront us--these are part and parcel of the system, dues of the freedom club and cheap at the price. Surely, however, we do have a right to ask: have we really so depleted exploitation that it has come to this? And moreover, where then is it to end? One is forced to wonder, even to speculate with dread, What next? Little Victor Vomit? Little Katy Ka-Ka? Don Diarrhea? Sill Sammy Shoot-Off?!!!

No, we cannot, will not, buy it. Our answer to Mrs. Leyton-Reims: Yes, you may indeed count on us. Our presses and our staff stand ready to shoulder a man-size burden in carrying your cause forward, which by our light, is also the cause of every right-thinking parent throughout this grand land.

Evergreen Review



ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

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Being an unmarried mother I was interested in reading an article in Weekend Magazine Vol. 23, No. 21, 26th May 1973, 'Children Who Aren't'.

After reading over the position I had put my natural born son in, first let me share some of the comments with you.

'Children Who Aren't' speaks about illegitimate children, or children who are born outside a legal marriage.

"In Canada, Legitimacy Acts in all provinces sort, grade and label children with no more feeling than in the grading of hogs or eggs. To be graded as legitimate, one's parents must have been, or believed they had been, legally married, or have had the marriage annulled. Adopted children also qualify. All other children are unlawful."

"If Emily (an illegitimate child) had been born in New Zealand or Denmark or Bolivia, Sweden, or a host of other countries with updated laws, she wouldn't have been exposed to such emotional or financial indignities (contesting a will). In those places the legal concept of illegitimacy has been eliminated, and all children are equal before the law, regardless of the conditions of their birth. In the US, recent court decisions have held that such discriminations against children is unconstitutional."

In a ruling where a relative made provision for "my sister's child, Rodney" the judge agreed Rodney should not inherit; "Obviously" he said in effect, "Aunt Marion didn't know Rodney was illegitimate, if she had she most certainly would have said 'my sister's illegitimate child, Rodney'; and had she known the boy was illegitimate she might well not have left her money to him!"

"Since the nobility had trouble keeping bloodlines pure, it was decided that to preserve the order of inheritance those born outside of wedlock should be considered to be 'nobody's child.' This basic premise was reaffirmed in Canada as recently as the 30s, when the courts used as precedent a case from 1742 where the judge reasoned, "I know of no case that con-

siders bastards the children of anyone." The courts recognize that the law is out of harmony with present-day social policy, but they feel it is their duty to interpret the law, not make it."

Some countries like New Zealand and Norway, give all children equal rights without distinctions and regardless of legitimacy.

In 1967 the United Nations adopted, as a basic human right, the principle that every person, once his filiation has been established, shall have the same legal status as a person born in wedlock. Five years later, Canada still has not accepted this basic creed. Canada ranks among the unjust and the barbaric with respect to legitimacy laws."

The above, as mentioned, were from an article by Frances Porteus; after reading I found that I was in an unusual position, being the mother (unmarried) of one natural born child and one adopted child. I sought legal advice. I was given a legal paper to read and quote from it, the following:

"A bastard or illegitimate child is one born out of lawful wedlock. The legal position of the illegitimate child was, under the common law, very different and more restricted than that of the legitimate child.

At common law an illegitimate is nullius filius (the son of nobody) and cannot therefore, be ascendants or collaterals (cannot lawfully inherit from father). Statute law has, however, changed this to a large degree. (This sounds good but is, in fact, very complicated, as the child can only claim if paternity has been proved and if there is now widow or lawful issue.)

At common law an illegitimate is nullius filius and, therefore, ascendants or collaterals cannot inherit from him--his only heirs are the heirs to his body. This position has been completely reversed by statute as both the Intestate Succession Act and the Wills Act declare an illegitimate child to be treated as if he were the legitimate child of his mother."

In my case then it is clear that my natural born child is labelled as the

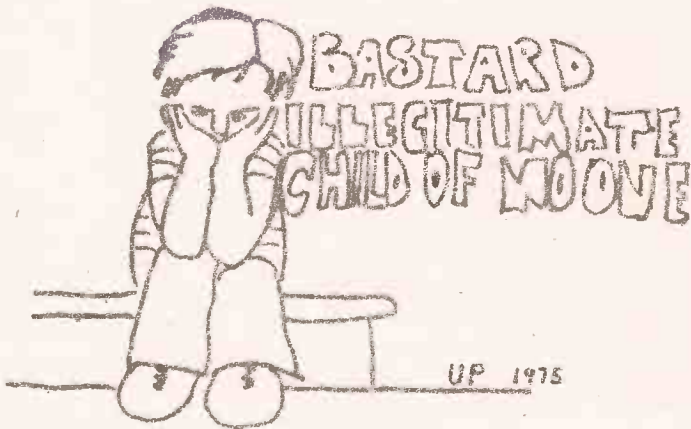
35

'son of nobody' is this too the state of my adopted child? Apparently not: "An illegitimate child becomes legitimate when he is adopted, Section 60(1) of the Child Welfare Act. states that for all purposes an adopted child becomes upon adoption the child of the adopting parent and the adopting parent becomes the parent of the child as if the child has been born to that parent in lawful wedlock."

Therefore my second child is legitimate; a simple solution then, I adopt my natural born child and thereby legitimize him. Not so easy, armed with all this information I approached a social worker at our local branch of Health and Social Development, she was completely sympathetic and offered to approach the judge who handles Adoption hearings. The answer came recently; while he was familiar with my case (having granted my first application for adoption) he had never heard of such a thing--a mother adopting her own child in order to legitimize him!!! To which I reply. You may never have heard of this procedure before, but it is perfectly legal, for the obvious and following reason;

"The effect of legitimation is clear the child becomes legitimate from birth "for all purposes" or "for all purposes of the law of the Provinces." (notable exception s.7 Legitimacy Act)"

JRS UP Lethbridge Alberta (A Women's Place Publication)



WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN WORTH? The case for universal, free day care

There is an ever-increasing demand for day care. Each of the two municipal centres in Thunder Bay have waiting lists of approximately 100 persons. Parents are generally dissatisfied with both the quantity and quality of existing day care.

One possible solution is to open up day care centres along the cost-cutting principles of Colonel Sanders and Ronald McDonald. In Canada, where we feel health care is not an area where huge profits should be made, should we not protect child care also?

When corners are cut, it will be at the expense of our children: their meals, poorly paid staff, huge adult/child ratios, minimal toys and equipment. True, we can always legislate against really bad conditions, but the laws will only set minimal standards. One way we can ensure optimal conditions is to have our government take care of child care. Then we can look after the best interests of our children, free of the profit motive. And we can make child care available to everyone--not just the people who can afford it.

In New York, in June 1970, there was a conference for business executives entitled "Profit possibilities in Day Care". We must move quickly to prevent such a free-for-all when it is the development and education of our children which is at stake.

Another solution is to have companies offer child care to their employees. One danger here is that the companies can offer such services as fringe benefits, with a view to getting unpaid overtime, rotation shift work and fewer demands for raises/promotions. Again, if the government assumes the responsibility, we can avoid this problem.

Demand of your federal MP that he work to get us universal, free day care.

WHY BOYCOTT KRAFTCO?

Our aim in launching this boycott is to put the National Farmers Union into a position to bargain collectively on behalf of our dairy producers, for a price on the milk they ship, just as workers in a trade union bargain for their wages.

We have picked Kraft to boycott because it is the corporation that dominates the field. If we can get it to the bargaining table we will have made a breakthrough that can be broadened to the rest of the industry.

We decided upon a boycott after years of frustration with few results.

We started out with good arguments. We approached the Canadian Dairy Commission, the Ontario Milk Commission and the Ontario Milk Marketing Board with facts and figures to show that milk shippers weren't being paid enough and that the dairy industry could afford to pay more out of the enormous profits taken from processing our milk. We received polite hearings and nothing more.

We learned through this and other experiences that these marketing agencies, which are supposed to be for the benefit of the farmers, are nothing more than fronts and agencies for the big monopolies.

We asked Kraft to meet with us but they turned us down cold.

So we set up a picket line around a Kraft plant and received tremendous support from the truckers who refused to cross our line. However, they were threatened by the company agent, the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, and we were threatened with an injunction so we took our pickets off. Even though we won a pay increase, it isn't enough.

It seemed our only alternative, short of holding our milk, was this boycott.

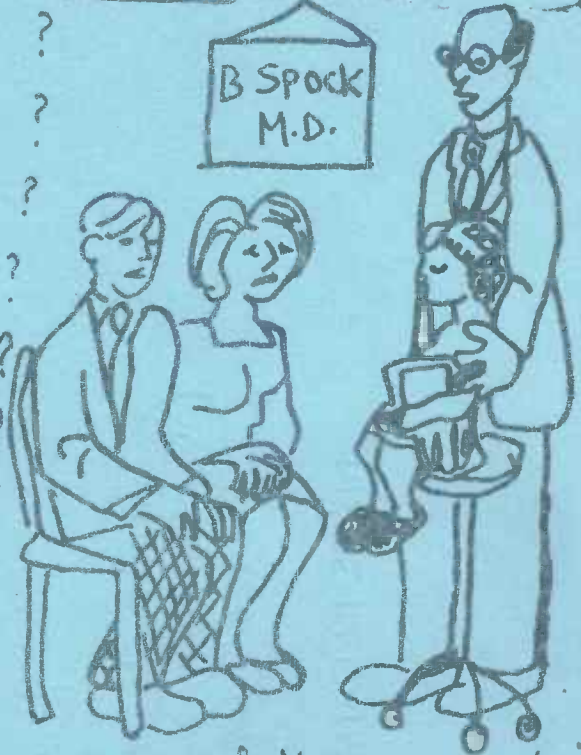
Please support it.

Thanks, The Men and Women of the National Farmers Union

Do you promise to, free of monetary or other remuneration, to honour, obey, wash, cook, clean, cherish, be faithful, meek, willing, helpful, quiet, raise his children, keep his house, tend his bodily needs etc.



B Spock M.D.



"If you follow my advice we may have caught it in time. Teach her to cook and clean-- --"

Vancouver Women's

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A FABULOUS CHILD'S STORY

Once upon a time, a baby named X was born. This baby was named X so that nobody could tell whether it was a boy or a girl. Its parents could tell, of course, but they couldn't tell anybody else. They couldn't even tell Baby X, at first.

You see, it was all part of a very important Secret Scientific Xperiment, known officially as Project Baby X. The smartest scientists had set up the Xperiment at a cost of Xactly 23 billion dollars and 72 cents, which might seem like a lot for just one baby, even a very important Xperimental baby. But when you remember the prices of things like strained carrots and stuffed bunnies, and popcorn for the movies and booster shots for camp, let alone 28 shiny quarters from the tooth fairy, you begin to see how it adds up.

Also, long before Baby X was born, all those scientists had to be paid to work out the details of the Xperiment, and to write the Official Instruction Manual for Baby X's parents and, most important of all, to find the right set of parents to bring up Baby X. These parents had to be selected very carefully. Thousands of volunteers had to take thousands of tests and answer thousands of tricky questions. Almost everybody failed because, it turned out, almost everybody really wanted either a baby boy or a baby girl, and not Baby X at all. Also, almost everybody was afraid that a Baby X would be a lot more trouble than a boy or a girl. (They were probably right, the scientists admitted, but Baby X needed parents who wouldn't mind the Xtra trouble.)

There were families with grandparents named Milton and Agatha, who didn't see why the baby couldn't be named Milton and Agatha, instead of X, even if it was an X. There were families with aunts who insisted on knitting tiny dresses and uncles who insisted on sending tiny baseball mitts. Worst of all, there were families that already had other children who couldn't be trusted to keep the secret. Certainly not if they knew the secret was worth 23 billion dollars and 72 cents-and all you had to do was take one little peek at Baby X in the bathtub to know if it was a boy or a girl.

But, finally, the scientists found the Joneses, who really wanted to raise an X more than any other kind of baby-no-matter how much trouble it would be. Ms. and Mr. Jones had to promise they would take equal turns caring for X, and feeding it, and singing it lullabies. And they had to promise never to hire any baby-sitter. The government scientists knew perfectly well that a baby-sitter would probably peek at X in the bathtub, too.

The day the Joneses brought their baby home, lots of friends and relatives came over to see it. None of them knew about the secret Xperiment, though. So the first thing they asked was what kind of a baby X was. When the Joneses smiled and said, "It's an X!" nobody knew what to say. They couldn't say, "Look at her cute little dimples!" And they couldn't say, "Look at his husky little biceps!" And they couldn't even say just plain "kitchy'coo." In fact, they all thought the Joneses were playing some kind of rude joke.

But, of course, the Joneses were not joking. "It's an X" was absolutely all they would say. And that made the friends and relatives very angry. The relatives all felt embarrassed about having an X in the family. "People will think there is something wrong with it!" others whispered back.

"Nonsense!" the Joneses told them all cheerfully. "What could possibly be wrong with this perfectly adorable X?"

Nobody could answer that, except Baby X, who had just finished its bottle. Baby X's answer was a loud, satisfied burp.



By the time X grew big enough to play with other children, the Joneses' troubles had grown bigger, too. Once a little girl grabbed X's shovel in the sandbox, and zonked X on the head with it. "Now, now, Tracy," the little girl's mother began to scold, "little girls mustn't hit little--" and she turned to ask X, "Are you a little boy or a little girl, dear?"

Mr. Jones, who was sitting nearby, held his breath and crossed his fingers. X smiled politely at the lady, even though X's head had never been zonked so hard in its life. "I'm a little X, X replied.

"You're a what?" the lady exclaimed angrily. "You're a little b-r-a-t, you mean!"

"But little girls mustn't hit little Xes, either!" said X, retrieving the shovel with another polite smile. "What good does hitting do anyway?"

X's father, who was still holding his breath, finally let it out, uncrossed his fingers, and grinned back at X.

And at their next secret Project Baby X meeting, the scientists grinned, too.

But then it was time for X to start school. The Joneses were really worried about this, because school was even more full of rules for boys and girls, and there were no rules for Xes. The teacher would tell boys to form one line, and girls to form another line. There would be boys' games and girls' games, and boys' secrets and girls' secrets. The school library would have a list of recommended books for girls, and a different list of books for boys. There would even be a bathroom marked BOYS and another one marked GIRLS. Pretty soon boys and girls would hardly talk to each other. What could happen to poor little X?

The Joneses spent weeks consulting their Instruction Manual (there were 249½ pages of advice under "First Day of School") and attending urgent special conferences with the smart scientists of Project Baby X.

The scientists had to make sure that X's mother had taught X how to throw and catch a ball properly, and that X's father had been sure to teach X what to serve at a doll's tea party. X had to know how to shoot marbles and how to jump rope and, most of all, what to say when the Other Children asked whether X was a Boy or a Girl.

Finally, X was ready. The Joneses helped X button on a nice new pair of red-and-white checked overalls, and sharpened six pencils for X's nice new pencil box, and marked X's name clearly on all the books in its nice new bookbag. X brushed its teeth and combed its hair, which just about covered its ears, and remembered to put a napkin in its lunchbox.

The Joneses had asked X's teacher if the class could line up alphabetically, instead of forming separate lines for boys and girls. And they had asked if X could use the principal's bathroom, because it wasn't marked anything except BATHROOM. X's teacher promised to take care of all those problems. But nobody could help X with the biggest problem of all--Other Children.

Nobody in X's class had ever known an X before. What would they think? How would X make friends?

You couldn't tell what X was by studying its clothes--overalls don't even button right-to-left, like girls' clothes, or left-to-right, like boys' clothes. And you couldn't guess whether X had a girl's short haircut or a boy's long haircut. And it was very hard to tell by the games X liked to play. Either X played ball very well for a girl, or else X played house very well for a boy.



Clearly, nothing at all was wrong. Nevertheless, none of the relatives felt comfortable about buying a present for a Baby X. The cousins who sent the baby a tiny football helmet would not come and visit any more. And the neighbors who sent a pink-flowered romper suit pulled their shades down when the Joneses passed their house.

The Official Instruction Manual had warned the new parents that this would happen, so they didn't fret about it. Besides, they were too busy with Baby X and the hundreds of different Exercises for treating it properly.

Ms. and Mr. Jones had to be Xtra careful about how they played with little X. They knew that if they kept bouncing it up in the air and saying how strong and active it was they'd be treating it more like a boy than an X. But if all they did was cuddle it and kiss it and tell it how sweet and dainty it was, they'd be treating it more like a girl than an X.

On page 1,654 of the Official Instruction Manual, the scientists prescribed, "plenty of bouncing and plenty of cuddling, both. X ought to be strong and sweet and active. Forget about dainty altogether."

Meanwhile, the Joneses were worrying about other problems. Toys for instance. And clothes. On his first shopping trip, Mr. Jones told the store clerk, "I need some clothes and toys for my new baby." The clerk smiled and said, "Well, is it a boy or a girl?" "It's an X, Mr. Jones said, smiling back. But the clerk got red in the face and said huffily, "In that case, I'm afraid I can't help you, sir." So Mr. Jones wandered up and down the aisles trying to find what X needed. But everything in the store was piled up in sections marked "Boys" or "Girls." There were "Boys pyjamas" and "Girls underwear" and "Boys fire engines" and "Girls housekeeping sets." Mr. Jones went home without buying anything for X. That night he and Ms. Jones consulted page 2,326 of the Official Instruction Manual. "Buy plenty of everything!" it said firmly.

So they bought plenty of sturdy blue pyjamas in the Boys department and cheerful flowered underwear in the Girls Department. And they bought all kinds of toys. A boy doll that made pee-pee and cried "Pa-pa." And a girl doll that talked in three languages and said, "I am the President of General Motors." They also bought a story book about a brave princess who rescued a handsome prince from his ivory tower, and another one about a sister and brother who grew up to be a baseball star and a ballet star, and you had to guess which was which.

The head scientists of Project Baby X checked all their purchases and told them to keep up the good work. They also reminded the Joneses to see page 4,629 of the Manual where it said, "Never make Baby X feel embarrassed or ashamed about what it wants to play with. And if X gets dirty climbing rocks, never say "Nice little Xes don't get dirty climbing rocks."

Likewise, it said, "If X falls down and cries, never say "Brave little Xes don't cry." Because, of course, nice little Xes do get dirty, and brave little Xes do cry. No matter how dirty X gets, or how hard it cries, don't worry. It's all part of the Xperiment."

Whenever the Joneses pushed Baby X's stroller in the park, smiling strangers would come over and coo, "is that a boy or a girl?" The Joneses would smile back and say, "It's an X." The strangers would stop smiling then and walk away.



Some of the children tried to find out by asking X tricky questions, like "Who's your favorite sports star?" That was easy. X had two favorite sports stars; a girl jockey named Robyn Smith and a boy archery champion named Robin Hood. Then they asked, "What's your favorite TV program?" And that was even easier. X's favorite TV program was "Lassie," which stars a girl dog played by a boy dog.

When X said that its favorite toy was a doll, everyone decided that X must be a girl. But then X said that the doll was really a robot, and that X had computerized it, and that it was programmed to bake fudge brownies and then clean up the kitchen. After X told them that, the other children gave up guessing what X was. All they knew was they'd sure like to see X's doll.

After school, X wanted to play with the other children. "How about shooting some baskets in the gym?" X asked the girls. But all they did was make faces and giggle.

"How about weaving some baskets in the arts and crafts room?" X asked the boys. But they all made faces and giggled behind X's back, too.

That night, Ms. and Mr. Jones asked X how things had gone at school. X told them sadly that the lessons were okay, but otherwise school was a terrible place for an X. It seemed as if Other Children would never want an X for a friend.

Once more, the Joneses reached for their Instruction Manual. Under "Other Children," they found the following message; "What did you Xpect? Other Children have to obey all the silly boy-girl roles, because their parents taught them to. Lucky X-- you don't have to stick to the rules at all! All you have to do is be yourself. P.S. We're not saying it'll be easy."

X liked being itself. But X cried a lot that night, partly because it felt afraid. So X's father held X tight, and cuddled it, and couldn't help crying a little, too. And X's mother cheered them both up by reading an exciting story about an enchanted prince called Sleeping Handsome, who woke up when Princess Charming kissed him.

The next morning, they all felt much better, and little X went back to school with a brave smile and a clean pair of red-and-white checked overalls.

There was a seven-letter-word spelling bee in class that day. And a seven-lap-boys' relay race in the gym. And a seven-layer-cake baking contest in the girls' kitchen corner. X won the spelling bee. X also won the relay race. And X almost won the baking contest, except it forgot to light the oven. Which only proves that nobody's perfect. One of the Other Children noticed something else, too. He said; "Winning or losing doesn't seem to count to X. X seems to have fun being good at boys' skills and girls' skills." Come to think of it, said another one of the Other Children, "maybe X is having twice as much fun as we are!"

So after school that day, the girl who beat X at the baking contest gave X a big slice of her prizewinning cake. And the boy X beat in the relay race asked X to race home.

From then on, some really funny things began to happen. Susie, who sat next to X in class, suddenly refused to wear pink dresses to school any more. She insisted on wearing red-and-white checked overalls--just like X's. Overalls, she told her parents, were much better for climbing monkey bars.

Then Jim, the class football nut, started wheeling his little sister's doll carriage around the football field. He'd put on his entire football uniform, except for the helmet. Then he'd put the helmet in the carriage, lovingly tucked under an old set of shoulder pads. Then he'd start jogging around the field, pushing the carriage and singing "Rock-abye Baby" to his football helmet. He told his family that X did the same thing, so it must be okay. After all, X was now the team's star quarterback.

4

Susie's parents were horrified by her behavior, and Jim's parents were worried sick about his. But the worst came when the twins, Joe and Peggy, decided to share everything with each other. Peggy used Joe's hockey skates, and his microscope, and took half his newspaper route. Joe used Peggy's needle-point kit, and her cookbooks, and took two of her three baby-sitting jobs. Peggy started running the lawn mower, and Joe started running the vacuum cleaner.

Their parents weren't one bit pleased with Peggy's wonderful biology experiments, or with Joe's terrific needlepoint pillows. They didn't care that Peggy mowed the lawn better, and that Joe vacuumed the carpet better. In fact, they were furious. It's all that little X's fault, they agreed. Just because X doesn't know what it is, or what it's supposed to be, it wants to get everybody else mixed up, too!

Peggy and Joe were forbidden to play with X any more. So was Susie, and then Jim and then all the Other Children. But it was too late; the Other Children stayed mixed up and happy and free, and refused to go back to the way they'd been before X.

Finally, Joe and Peggy's parents decided to call an emergency meeting of the school's Parents' Association, to discuss "The X Problem." They sent a report to the principal stating that X was a 'disruptive influence.' They demanded immediate action. The Joneses, they said, should be forced to tell whether X was a boy or a girl. And then X should be forced to behave like whichever it was. If the Joneses refused to tell the Parents' Association said, then X must take an Xamination. The school psychiatrist must Xamine it physically and mentally, and issue a full report. If X's test showed it was a boy, it would have to obey all the boys' rules. If it proved to be a girl, X would have to obey all the girls' rules.

And if X turned out to be some kind of mixed-up misfit, then X should be Xpelled from the school. Immediately!

The principal was very upset. Disruptive influence? Mixed-up misfit? But X was an Xcellent student. All the teachers said it was a delight to have X in their classes. X was president of the student council. X had won first prize in the talent show, and second prize in the art show, and honorable mention in the science fair, and six athletic events on field day, including the potato race.

Nevertheless, insisted the Parents' Association, X is a Problem Child. X is the biggest Problem Child we have ever seen!

So the principal reluctantly notified X's parents that numerous complaints about X's behavior had come to the school's attention. And that after the psychiatrist's Xamination, the school would decide what to do about X.

The Joneses reported this at once to the scientists, who referred them to page 85,798 of the Instruction Manual. "Sooner or later," it said, "X will have to be Xamined by a psychiatrist. This may be the only way any of us will know for sure whether X is mixed up or whether everyone else is."

The night before X was to be Xamined, the Joneses tried not to let X see how worried they were. "What if-?" Mr. Jones would say. And Ms. Jones would reply, "No use worrying."

X just smiled at them both, and hugged them hard and didn't say much of anything. X was thinking, What if-? And then X thought; No use worrying.

At xactly 9 o'clock the next day, X reported to the school psychiatrist's office. The principal, along with a committee from the Parents' Association, X's teacher, X's classmates, and Ms. and Mr. Jones, waited in the hall outside. Nobody knew the details of the tests X was to be given, but everybody knew they'd be very hard, and that they'd reveal Xactly what everyone wanted to know about X, but were afraid to ask.



It was terribly quiet in the hall. Almost spooky. Once in a while, they would hear a strange noise inside the room. There were buzzes. And a beep or two. And several bells. An occasional light would flash under the door. The Joneses thought it was a white light, but the principal thought it was blue. Two or three children swore it was either yellow or green. And the Parents' Committee missed it completely.

Through it all, you could hear the psychiatrist's low voice, asking hundreds of questions, and X's higher voice, answering hundreds of answers.

The whole thing took so long that everyone knew it must be the most complete X-amination anyone had ever had to take. Poor X, the Joneses thought. Serves X right, the Parents' Committee thought. I wouldn't like to be in X's overalls right now, the children thought.

At last, the door opened. Everyone crowded around to hear the results. X didn't look any different; in fact, X was smiling. But the psychiatrist looked terrible. He looked as if he was crying! "What happened?" everyone began shouting. Had X done something disgraceful? "I wouldn't be a bit surprised!" muttered Peggy and Joe's parents. "Did X flunk the whole test?" cried Susie's parents. "Or just the most important part?" wailed Jim's parents.

"Oh, dear," sighed Mrs. Jones. "Oh, dear," sighed Ms. Jones. "Sssh," ssshed the principal. "The psychiatrist is trying to speak."

Wiping his eyes and clearing his throat, the psychiatrist began, in a hoarse whisper. "In my opinion," he whispered-you could tell he must be very upset-"in my opinion young X here-". "Yes? Yes?" shouted a parent impatiently. "Sssh! ssshed the principal. "Young Sssh here, I mean young X," said the doctor, frowning, "is just about"-

"Just about what? Let's have it!" shouted another parent. "...just about the least mixed-up child I've ever Xamined!" said the psychiatrist.

"Yay for X!" yelled one of the children. And then the others began yelling, too. Clapping and cheering and jumping up and down.

"SSSH!" SSShed the principal, but nobody did. The Parents' Committee was angry and bewildered. How could X have passed the whole Xamination? Didn't X have an identity problem? Wasn't X mixed up at all? Wasn't X any kind of a misfit? How could it not be, when it didn't even know what it was? And why was the psychiatrist crying?

Actually, he had stopped crying and was smiling politely through his tears. "Don't you see?" he said. "I'm crying because it's wonderful! X has absolutely no identity problem! X isn't one bit mixed up! As for being a misfit--ridiculous! X knows perfectly well what it is! Don't you, X?" The doctor winked. X winked back.

"But what is X?" shrieked Peggy and Joe's parents. "We still want to know!"

"Ah, yes," said the doctor, winking again. "Well, don't worry. You'll all know one of these days. And you won't need me to tell you."

"What? What does he mean?" some of the parents grumbled suspiciously.

Susie and Peggy and Joe all answered at once. "He means that by the time X's sex matters, it won't be a secret any more!"

With that, the doctor began to push through the crowd toward X's parents. "How do you do," he said, somewhat stiffly. And then he reached out to hug them both. "if I ever have an X of my own," he whispered, "I sure hope you'll lend me your instruction manual."



Needless to say, the Joneses were very happy. The Project Baby X scientists were rather pleased, too. So were Susie, Jim, Peggy, Joe, and all the Other Children. The Parents' Association wasn't, but they had promised to accept the psychiatrist's report, and not make any more trouble. They even invited Ms. and Mr. Jones to become honorary members, which they did.

Later that day, all X's friends put on their red-and-white checked overalls and went over to see X. They found X in the back yard, playing with a very tiny baby that none of them had ever seen before. The baby was wearing very tiny red-and-white checked overalls.

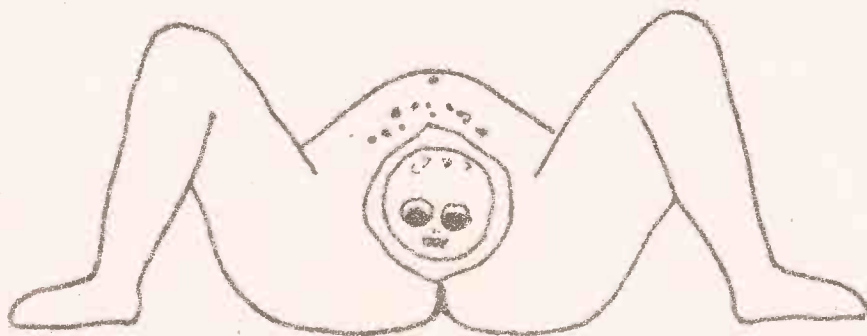
"How do you like our new baby?" X asked the Other Children proudly.

"It's got cute dimples," said Jim.

"It's got husky biceps, too," said Susie.

"What kind of baby is it?" asked Joe and Peggy.

X frowned at them. "Can't you tell?" Then X broke into a big, mischievous grin. "It's a Y!"



THE ABOVE GRAPHIC APPEARS
IN "THE TRUE STORY OF HOW
BABIES ARE MADE"

THE HUMAN PRONOUN

TE (PRONOUNCED LIKE TEA)
= HE OR SHE (NOMINATIVE)

TES = HIS OR HER
(POSSESSIVE)

TIF (RHYMES WITH HER)
= HIM OR HER (OBJECTIVE)

FROM THE BOOK "THE LIBERATED
MAN" BY WARREN FARRELL

THE HUMAN PRONOUNS ARE ONLY USED IN PLACE OF A PRONOUN THAT COULD BE REFERRING TO EITHER A MAN OR WOMAN. (A PERSON GETS WHAT HE DESERVES" BECOMES "A PERSON GETS WHAT TE DESERVES".) BUT A REFERENCE TO A SPECIFIC MAN OR THE MALE GENDER STAYS THE SAME (E.G., "A LIBERATED MAN IS SECURE WITHIN HIMSELF" WOULD NOT CHANGE.)

Thunderclap

Mary Tomlinson who has worked so hard to get emergency housing for women in crisis. The city-owned houses on Tarbutt Street have been made available, \$11,700 has been allocated to the project and the city is co-operating all down the line. (Anyone who is interested in helping to organize and maintain the Shelter should contact Mary through the Women's Centre.

&

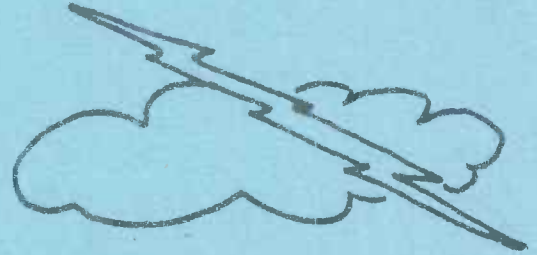
Keir Thornburg, for being born in the first month of International Women's Year!

Thunderbolt

To Mr. Shewchuk, banquet manager for the Royal Edward Hotel, for perpetuating the stereotyped, false image of a 'women libber'.

Mr. Shewchuk was overheard spouting off, during the I.W.Y. Women's Centres Conference held at the Royal Edward Hotel, about the braless, intimidating, jean-wearing females that invaded the hotel for the weekend. During his derogatory comments, the woman involved in the 'conversation' with him, asked with trepidation, if they were all from Thunder Bay--and sighed with relief at his reply, that no, they were from all across Canada.

To protect your eyeballs from further strain, Mr. Shewchuk, not to mention the hotel's 'reputation', perhaps we will choose another hotel for our next conference.

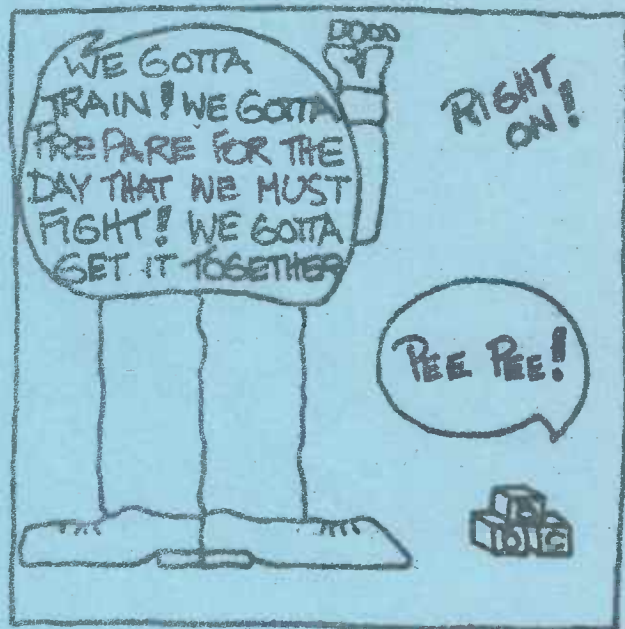
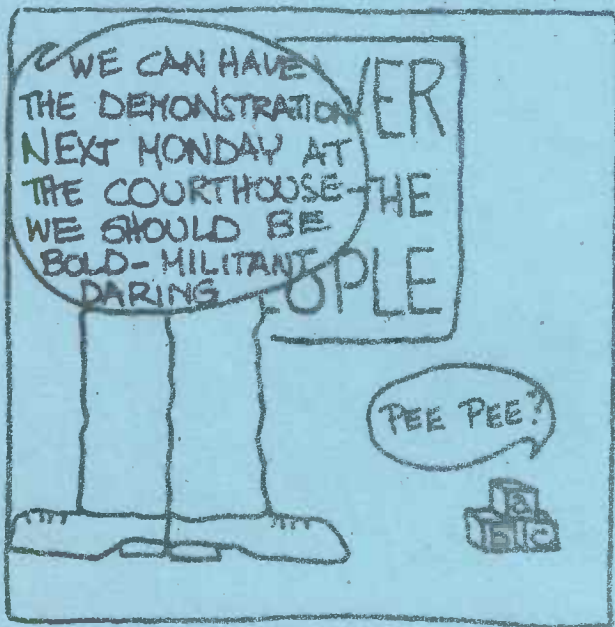


And you can get all this to Dawn Hasset who is

THE NITTY GRITTY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT
or
why there are so few women in the struggle

WHO'S GOT THE TIME!?!

FIGHT FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FREE QUALITY CHILD CARE AND JOINT
RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME!!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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IN PROCESS

May 1st Policy meeting at 8PM

The format of the general meeting has been changed. Every 2nd Thursday will be used for educational meetings. Speakers and/or films will be available for these evenings.

Alternate Thursdays the Policy Committee will meet. This committee is made up of 14 women who are making all the decisions for the centre. Anyone wishing to have a voice is welcome.

May 8th Education night. The topic for tonight is Sexual Stereotyping. 8PM.

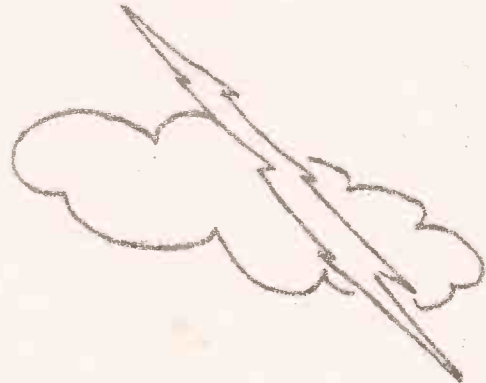
May 9th Final date for submission of resume for job vacancy at the Centre.

Job opens May 19th and lasts approximately 1 month.

May 18th General Collective Meeting at the Centre. Picnic Child Care will be provided by Dan George and Bob Mc Gowan.

May 22nd Education night at 8 PM. Ruth Cunningham will speak on the Status Of Women Council.

May 31st Flea Market at Fort William Gardens. Donations of white elephant items, books, records, plants, crafts and children's clothes are welcome. Phone the centre for collection of these items.



A thunderclap to Diane Bauman who has made a work of art in wood to commemorate International Women's Year--it's the dove symbol with the ♀ and = signs incorporated.

And to Craig Bauman for the handcrafted wooden truck which sure gets a lot of use in the children's room!

Welcome to Noreen Lavoie who has joined the full time staff at the Centre--she must be out of her mind to take the job! And are we glad she is.

Congratulations to Estella Friedlander who has been hired by the Privy Council work with their Travelling Caravan throughout Northern Ontario. We couldn't be better represented. Good luck Estella.

POETRY

BY GERT BEADLE

Mother

A thousand poems
 are written to
 perpetuate the myth of you.
 Cast in bronze
 or carved in stone
 that tender, twisted
 Smile is known
 to bare the head
 And bow the knee
 in reverence or agony.
 Fount of wisdom
 Seat of power
 testing, testing every hour
 that silken web.
 So gently does she
 lay responsibility
 for martyrdom
 upon her progeny.
 They fight the rising bile
 that calls for flight
 and guiltily accept
 the spider's bite.
 The love that will not let the young go
 belong to God.
 It was not meant
 to fetter or possess
 The faith that spurs
 the crippled bird to flite
 returns it safely to the nest
 for rest.

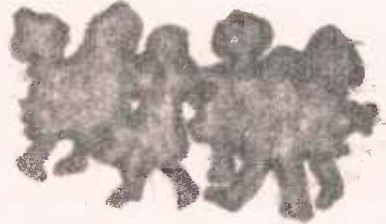
G.B.

MOMMA



Playing God

I feel like God when mixing dough,
 obsessed with yeast and oleo
 however dead to human eyes
 I know this dough has got to rise.
 And I shall mould it tenderly
 into the shape that pleases me.
 Little loaves to go with fishes
 crusty ones for cheese and wine,
 curley buns in curley dishes
 saffron hued and cardamom.
 Call the children in, it's dark
 bring the stranger in the park,
 Bring them all in from the rain,
 Mother's playing God again.



Jimmy

He was shy, big of eye
 so polite
 A little man his Mother said
 going to be just like
 his Dad.
 So pressed, so clean, he muttered
 but I wanted jeans,
 Ah, lover, that was just a fad-
 some childish whim
 that you had, look at Dad
 Don't you want to be like him?
 you look so grown up,
 so trim in shirt and tie
 If you were like some other kids
 I think I'd die.
 I looked at Dad and saw no help
 he had already sold his scalp.
 Hurry Jim Say good-bye
 grow up fast before you die
 For if you don't it's very sad
 you're going to be just like your Dad.

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

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NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

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DUE TO A RAPIDLY INCREASING MAILING LIST AND LIMITED FUNDS, WE FIND WE WILL HAVE TO DISCONTINUE SENDING COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER TO THOSE OF YOU RECEIVING COMPLIMENTARY COPIES.

PLEASE RESPOND BY MAILING THE \$2.00 SUBSCRIPTION FEE, OR INDICATE BY LETTER OR PHONE, THAT YOU WISH TO REMAIN ON THE MAILING LIST.

PLANS FOR CHANGING THE FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE UNDER WAY ENABLING US TO PRODUCE A LIGHTER WEIGHT, EASIER TO READ (no staples), MORE INFORMATIVE VERSION OF THE NORTHERN WOMAN.

PLEASE SUPPORT US. DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOMED.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBSCRIBED, THANK YOU, AND PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE.

CHILD EYES

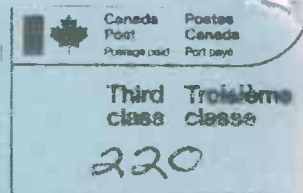
These child eyes measure young
the shifting shape of love
and in their secret place
they light the sacred fires
and paint bold arrows on their face.
Small savage circumstance has made
a naked warrior with a blade
wedging the first stone
in the barricade.

Bert

"THE RICH BREWER WHOSE BUSINESS IT IS TO ENCOURAGE DRINKING, IS OFTEN THE LARGER GIVER TO THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, AND IS OFTEN EXTOLLED FOR HIS LAVISH GENEROSITY: AND SOMETIMES WHEN WOMEN THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS THEY ARE STRUCK BY THE ABSURDITY OF A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS ONE MAN OR A BODY OF MEN TO ROB A CHILD OF HIS FATHER'S LOVE AND CARE ALL YEAR, AND THEN GIVES HIM A STUFFED DOG AND A LITTLE RED SLEIGH AT CHRISTMAS AND CALLS IT CHARITY."

Nellie McClung
In Times Like These
1915, reprinted 1972

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