

Northern Woman of Journal



Volume 3

Issue 5

"Hera"

Greek Goddess for Women's Rights

5/1/77

Heard

to high school women

This issue was planned for high school women. We sent a letter to local high school guidance counsellors asking that they let women in their schools know that the Northern Woman's Journal wanted creative writing from high school women to publish in the paper. We received about 15 responses, most of it was poetry or short stories. One woman wrote an article describing her feelings of isolation and boredom.

We would like to hear more from high school women about their everyday lives. We know that, according to "creative writing" standards, everyday life is not considered to be exciting material on which you base a short story. The classic essay assignment, "What I did on my summer vacation", usually results in stories of moonlight canoe rides, trips to exotic countries, or everyday experiences embellished to the point of fantasy. No one wants to admit that many life experiences are painful, boring, lonely, scary or confusing.

On looking back, we feel that asking each other the following questions, and talking with women friends about the conclusions, might have helped dispel some of the confusing, lonely feelings and led to changes that would make for a more fulfilling life. This process is called "consciousness-raising" and is a method that has been developed by women in their struggle for liberation.

What position does lack of money put me in? Why can I not be financially independent? What kind of jobs are available to me? What kind of jobs are available to boys?

How many women are in machine shop classes? How many boys take home economics? What are the differences between arts, technical and commercial courses? Why do these differences exist?

Do guidance counsellors encourage women to break from traditional roles, and take courses that will lead to decent paying jobs?

Who controls the school? Who is the principal? the vice principal? Who's on the school board? Are they men or women? How much money do they make?

How much money is available for physical education? How much of it goes to men's sports, how much to women's sports? Why is there "men's" and "women's" sports? Is self defense available for women?

How many books on women's liberation are available in the school library?

What do I learn about women who have fought for their rights in the past? How many books, or paragraphs in books, describe women's role in history?

Are there dress codes at school? Are they imposed by the school or self-imposed? What kind of pressure results from following these standards?

Does anyone question the status quo, the way things are? How are they treated - by me? by other students? by teachers? Do I get the feeling it's not o.k. to ask questions or challenge the status quo?

What do I do so that boys will like me?

What do I want from relationships with boys? What do I get? If there's a difference in what I want and what I get, why does it happen this way?

What happens to women who get pregnant?

What do I know about my own sexuality? Where did I learn it? Is information freely available at school? Is masturbation, intercourse, orgasm, birth control, lesbianism or abortion discussed in sex education class?

Who decides some women are sluts while others are good girls - the kind a man would like to marry? Why are there these kinds of differences between women?

How do I get along with women friends? Do I get support from women? Do I see other women as a threat? Is my best friend a woman? Will I drop her for a boyfriend? Has this happened to me?

Are there any women I look to as an example? Who are they? What do they do?

What is the attitude to women's liberation? What do boys say? teachers? principal? father? mother? other women?

TOWARDS CHANGE

Talk with other women. Discuss problems. Learn to like and trust each other. Build solidarity.

Learn and understand who holds power. Begin challenging them if what's happening is not in your interest as women. Do it together!

Study. Read about women's history. Read about Women's Liberation. Read the Northern Woman's Journal.

Talk with women who have some experience fighting for their rights. Ask your mother, your grandmother, your women teachers. Come to Woman's Place, 316 Bay Street and talk with women there.

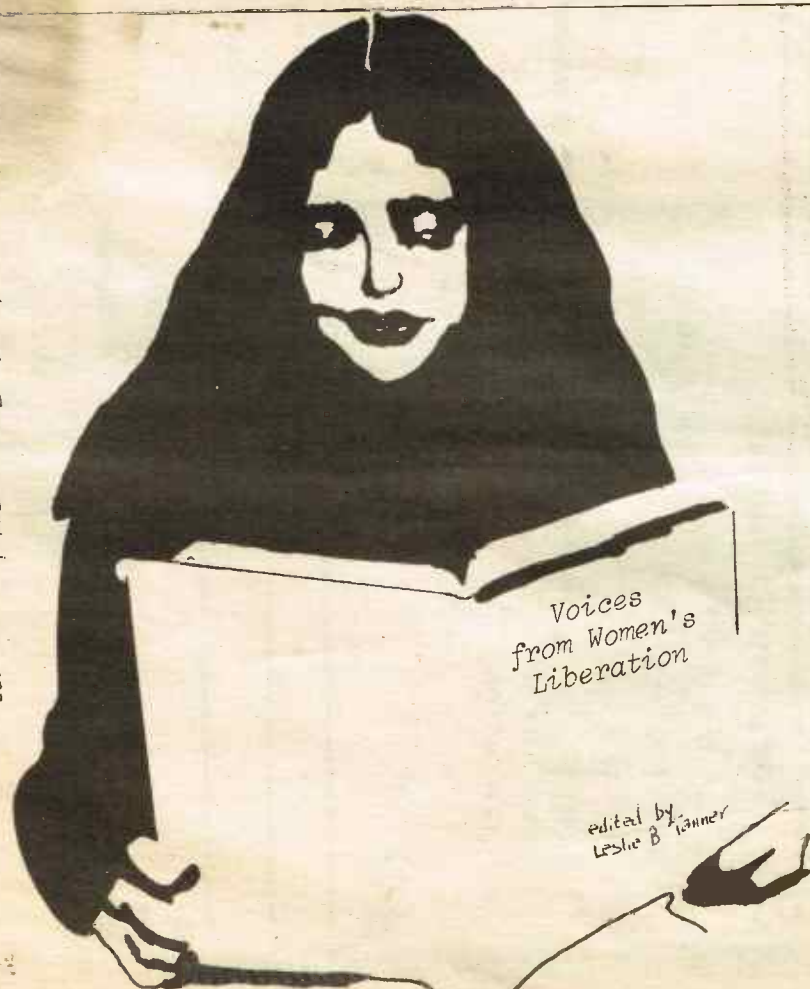
Find out what resources are available to you - through the library, local women's centre, community college, university, local Y - use them!

Get in shape. Build your strength and learn to defend yourself.

readings in women's liberation

The following books may be available at the local libraries, Confederation College (if not, see Lynne in the Women's Studies Dept.) or the University library. They can be bought from, or ordered through, Co-op Bookstore, 182 Algoma St. S.

THE SECOND SEX by Simone de Beauvoir
THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE by Betty Friedan
THE DIALECTIC OF SEX by Shulamith Firestone
SEXUAL POLITICS by Kate Millet
VOICES FROM WOMEN'S LIBERATION, edited by Leslie B. Tanner
SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL, edited by Robin Morgan
RADICAL FEMINISM, edited by Koedt, Levine & Rapone
FEMINIST REVOLUTION, Redstockings, P.O. Box 413, New Paltz
New York, 12561
WOMEN'S ESTATE by Juliet Mitchell
AGAINST OUR WILL by Susan Brownmiller
WOMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD by Sheila Rowbotham



-graphic from New Woman's Survival Catalogue, pg. 122

From High School Women...

ONE WOMAN'S STRUGGLE

"Ah, to be young again!" That's almost become a cliché among those in the over-forty age bracket- even those in their mid-thirties utter it wistfully on occasion. I listen to them and wonder "Don't they remember?" and think that they must have either become senile or mellow with astonishing speed.

I noticed a book recently which reminded me of the above exclamation. The book was called Why Am I So Miserable If These Are The Best Years Of My Life? and the morose-looking young woman on the cover, not to mention the title - caught my eye.

I picked up the book, flipped through it, and put it down again. I'm sure that it will help many young women make decisions regarding their lives, but it doesn't have the answers that I'm searching for.

You see, it's rather difficult to explain. School is a major reason for many of my frustrations and (until now) hidden resentments. I'm a high school student, approaching sixteen (anxiously) and, to put it bluntly, fed up with school.

Why? If I were a typical student I suppose I wouldn't be. I'm not a troublemaker and my assignments are handed in and returned with A-pluses attached. So what's the problem? Well, there are a number of things. I'm bored. I've learned more on my own through the wonderful world of books than from school, so most of my classroom time is spent daydreaming and/or gazing out the window.

So why not take some courses at different grade levels? I tried that, but they couldn't work it out with my timetable - I wanted too much, or something...

Then there's the teachers. In high school, there are two types of teachers - the wimps and the bullies. This year I was blessed with exactly four of each. Needless to say, they aren't helping me grow or develop as a person at all, and place all sorts of unnecessary restrictions and punishments on those who try to be individuals.

Finally I come to the students, who comprise the bulk of the population at the massive institution where six hours of my life are wasted five days a week. I could, at this point, viciously flay my peers, describe in graphic detail how they've mocked and ridiculed me, how they've considered me a radical because I'm a feminist, how they hurl insults and torment me. But I'm not going to do that. It would be futile, seeing as how they're so puerile, immature and so sadly unaware. Most of them reached their peak at about age eleven anyway.

But anyone who doesn't succumb to the whole teen culture bit - swooning over the likes of Peter Frampton and Kiss - has to be prepared for a backlash. You pay the price for individuality.

Their rejection doesn't matter, since my peers are not my friends. I'm just ten steps ahead of them, in terms of values, perceptions,

goals and even the books that I read. Education should be a very individual thing, and right now, the system is just too judgemental to let that be so.

Now you may shake your head, saying that I've grown up too fast (which people have told me countless times) and I can see that, in a way, that's true. But I can't go back - and I certainly don't want to.

I know that there are going to be days filled with loneliness and depression (which I feel is inevitable no matter who you are) but I've already experienced that, both in and out of school, and know how to cope with it.

I thought long and hard about this situation for some time, and eventually decided that I don't like the way the teachers and students are reacting towards me, and that I have to find an alternative method of education. They think that I'm weird ...or at least very, very strange. I don't need that attitude perpetually surrounding and stifling me. I just don't need that.

So, until June, my time in the classroom will continue to be spent gazing longingly out the window. And I know that the best years of my life are still to come and they will, they will. Eventually.

by Athena Caine
Thunder Bay



MISTER ON THE RADIO

Hey mister, on the radio,
I want you to know,
Someone's very sad today.
Why don't you play
a couple of sad songs?
Not too short or long.
Because I'm so blue
I'm leaving it to you

To bring back my smile to my face
For I lost it some place.
Where? I don't know,
But some time ago.
When I stop playing the radio
Yes mister, the good old radio.

Well, mister, you're doing real fine
I got to say you're so kind.
I really got to hand it to you,
You sure help someone blue.
Oh, last of all,
Thanks for taking my call,
And for "Someone, save my life tonight."
Thanks again and good night.

Colleen Aube
Thunder Bay

Although the memory of you
still lingers on my mind,
The teardrops and the rainbows
of the past are left behind.
On that golden stairway -
you brought me to the top...
I didn't seem to realize
our Love must someday stop.
Now there is another
who has captured all your heart..
The confusion and the turmoil
is tearing me apart.
I remember being with you;
all the good times that we had,
Now you're with the other
and that can only make me sad.
My feelings now are dreary,
my tears are bleak as rain.
Happiness is like the sunshine
if we chance to love again.
Yes, it's been a while but
my yearning just won't end,
I've surrendered to you everything,
my lover and my friend.
Tomorrow is another day,
I'll try my best to cope -
I'm always looking, always searching,
For where there's Love there's Hope.

Lori Christensen
Geraldton Highschool

And the children of the world shall live;
They stand for innocence and purity.
Their hands and minds have not yet touched
Upon the reality and ways of the world.
Let them grow and understanding will flourish
Let them live and there will be LOVE.

Lori Christensen
Geraldton Highschool

GIANT STEPS

Canada has always been my home, and I am very fond of it, but it is not where I would choose to live. These may sound like traitor's words, but they are not. I am not a true "woman's libber". I am more old-fashioned. I do believe in careers for women, but for me they are secondary matters. I like to be treated as a woman. I have travelled widely over our beautiful country, but nowhere have I found a place to fulfill my needs. Canada does not satisfy me. I believe I have found a place that does.

I am not totally informed on European life, and I have not spent a great deal of time there -- only one week in southern Spain, but of all the places I have been, it satisfies me the most. I love their way of living, their style and warmth, and I suit their environment. So, when I am capable of doing so, I plan to move lock, stock and barrel to Costa de la Sol.

I also have plans of becoming a journalist. Writing is my pet and I enjoy taking proper care of it. Essays in school do not "turn me off" as they do others; I enjoy them. Joining journalism and Spain together would be the culmination of all my dreams. I intend to do everything possible to make this happen. I also realize the problems involved in "creating happiness" but am preparing for them. Courses in French and Spanish are on the agenda, and obtaining a post as journalist to establish myself.

These may be exaggerated dreams for such a young person, but I feel the time to start is when you are young, not wait until it is too late. I do not feel that mine is an impossible case. The power of prayer and faith goes a long way in solving impossible cases. I shall leave things in the hands of God and trust.

Linda Longe
Lakewood Highschool
Kenora, Ontario

Memories

The old woman sat on the doorstep,
Her head hanging limply on her breast,
The closed, cobweb face disclosed nothing
Of the memories revolving in her mind.

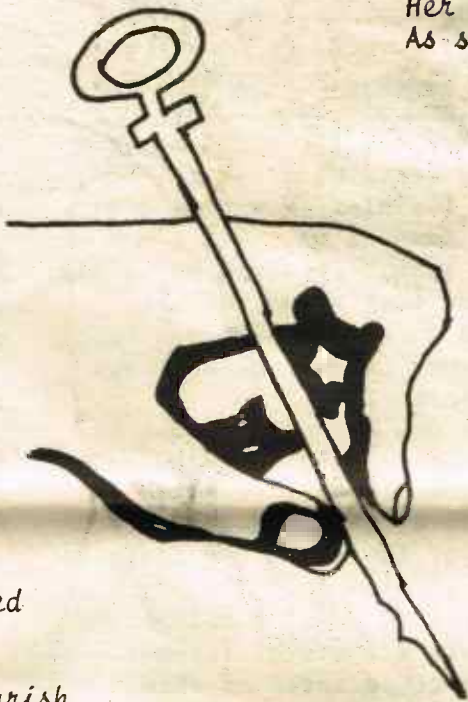
Of afternoon walks in the park
With her latest beau,
Mama and Papa walked sedately behind
Supposedly unsuspecting of the glances of love.

When the anticipated day had arrived at last,
Papa was nervous, and Mama anxious,
The sun shone brilliantly above
As she walked down the flower-strewn aisle.

When the foreseeable notice was answered
And the uniform adjusted to fit,
Final goodbyes were said
Amid tears of parting and dread.

Lists of survivors were read out
In front of the old court house.
"Where was his name?
Why doesn't he read out his name?"
"Hey lady, you all right?"
The voice jerked her back to reality,
Her wrinkled hand brushed away a few stray tears
As she nodded and turned to go into the empty house.

Cathy Metcalfe
Long Bow Lake



A NIGHT WALK

The waves were slapping upon
the shore
The tourist lay on the sand
A small breeze blew about the trees
As to overcome the land.

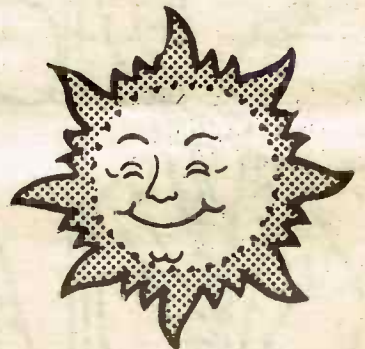
The sun went down to hide itself
When the moon popped up to show
Its beautiful rays of moonlight
Which glow and glow and glow.

Jackie Durocher
Grade 9
Geraldton Highschool

Spring

The smell of the earth,
running water,
frogs singing in the swamp,
pussy willows,
returning birds,
bikes,
and dirty children,
all herald the
end of winter
and
rebirth.

Nancy Fumerton
Dryden Highschool



My mind's eye views
 Deeds of past days
 When life seemed simpler
 And summers longer:
 Last year - the year,
 A wasted worthless while
 Hampered by feelings
 Of dreams and naiveté;
 Yearning for the unknown -
 Pulsating with every breath
 And misguided step,
 Emotions lapping out
 To communicate with others.
 Please understand me,
 Can't you sense my longing?
 Supply me with answers
 For all of my questions -
 Yet I don't really want to know.
 Come closer - back away
 Love me - hate me
 Help me - hinder me
 Do you really know me?
 They say they do -
 But they don't.
 Like an iceberg
 You see only part:
 What lies beneath
 Is of more significance
 And is for you to uncover.
 Belligerent rebel with
 Swelling anger and fear,
 Yet so unaware of
 The world and it's workings.
 We weren't then
 We won't be tomorrow
 We are NOW!
 My mind's eye comforts
 My restless soul
 Projecting images
 On a blank, barren screen
 I call my memory;
 Recalling my past,
 Surviving today,
 Forseeing my future.
 But do I really foresee?
 Our time will come
 To set our sights on
 Claiming our lives
 Inheriting our world from
 Dead worn out once-upon-a-times.
 My mind's eye evaluates today:
 Cynical, sarcastic reality -
 But is it real?
 Harsh glass and steel city,
 Precision knife-edged sophisticate.
 Is it worthy? Is it real?
 Struggling to find ourselves
 Shuffling through a deck of
 Experienced Establishment -
 Values now outdated
 Where are we?
 Are we any closer or further to our goal?
 What goal?
 Was there a reason behind this race of madness?
 My mind's eye views
 Deeds of past days
 When life seemed simpler
 And summers longer:
 And now have we improved?
 Were not the past days of childhood better?
 Or did we not know better?
 Are we expected to gracefully use
 Our adolescent days to suddenly evolve
 From optimistic carefree childhood
 To worrisome burdened hypocritical adulthood?
 Was this to be done easily?
 Our values exploited
 Morals challenged
 Virtues defied
 Stumbling in the dark
 We feel confused;
 What values?
 What morals?
 What virtues?
 Did we ever have any at all?
 Perhaps lessons should be given.....

Susan Reid Age 16
 Hammarskjold Highschool

ON AN AUTUMN EVENING

The tall pines
 yielding
 to the wind.
 Dancing,
 nodding,
 and talking
 in groups.
 Silhouetted
 against
 an evening sky.

Nancy Fumerton
 Dryden Highschool



A POEM WITH NO TITLE

There within my mind
 lies a corner all my own
 to gaze at passers-by
 but still be all alone.
 If my conscious mind could feel
 I'm certain it would say
 leave me here alone, please go away
 If my life depended on a friend
 one succeeding after the other
 they would bring me to the end.
 Those who have forsaken me
 plus those who didn't care
 never felt my presence
 their act was a mere air.
 So in my elderly callow subconscious
 let me find my peace
 and mark upon the milestones
 one eternal truce.
 If my mind should drive me crazy
 I wish for you to know -
 I don't want you to know.

Give me quiet.
 Give me light
 just enough to survive.
 Show me grace.
 Show me life
 and the rhapsody of living
 in soliloquy.

Qui va là dans ma pied-a-terre?
 Is it the alien who means nothing,
 N'est pas?

A meaningless jibberish lurks
 through yonder wall
 stalking my brain
 searching for a hell.
 Let him search.
 Let him labour in vain.
 Let him fall short
 for he shall find no hell
 within the crevices of my being.
 Simply unadulterated peace.

Connie Johnson Age 16
 Hammarskjold Highschool

The present is piling more bricks
 to the great barrier
 that separates
 now from then.

Too great for any human to scale
 it mocks mortal me
 as I glimpse the past
 mirrored in old peoples' eyes
 and ask in futile earnestness
 "can I get there from here?"

But then
 a pebble of childhood truth
 falls from the wall
 stonily reminding me:
 Alice never did go back down the rabbit hole.

Alma Byzewski
 Fort Frances Highschool
 from TUESDAY NIGHT

The Sexual Revolution

This article on the Sexual Revolution was done by Eve Pykerman and Fiona Karlstad.

In this paper, we will be examining certain changes in attitudes and roles in terms of sexual relationships and will begin by asking: What is the role of a woman in the sex act? and Is the woman entitled to an equal mutual interest and joy in this act? Simple questions? Perhaps, at first glance, but throughout history wherever we can trace the feelings and ideas on this matter and the resultant conduct, we find discord, conflict and anguish.

Throughout Nature every act of sexual union is preceded by a process of courtship. There is a sound physiological reason for this courtship, for in the act of wooing and being wooed, the psychic excitement gradually generated in the brains of the two partners acts as a stimulant to arouse into full activity the mechanism which ensures sexual union...

The evolution of society, however, tended to overlay and sometimes even suppress these natural tendencies.

It is conceivable that the forceful suppression of women's inordinate sexual demands was a prerequisite to the dawn of every modern civilization and almost every living culture...Not until these drives were gradually brought under control by rigidly enforced social codes could... modern civilized man emerge...the strength of the drive determines the force required to suppress it.

On the basis of social, economic and legal developments which were established as the conditions of a developing civilization, new moral, spiritual and religious forces were generated, based on rules of exterior order, giving men power over women's souls as well as their bodies. All through history legislators, priests, philosophers, writers and scientists have striven to show that the subordinate position of woman is willed in heaven and advantageous on earth.

*The female is a female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities; we should regard the female nature as afflicted with a natural defectiveness.*⁴

St. Thomas for his part pronounced woman to be an "imperfect" man, an "incidental" being; while the first among the blessings which Plato thanked the gods for was that he had been born free, not enslaved, the second, a man, not a woman. The result was that directly and indirectly the legal, economic and erotic rights of women were all but non-existent.

Freud has described the "envy of the penis" as an essential component of the feminine psychology. Freud's view of women was that they are not whole human beings, but mutilated males who long all their lives for a penis and must struggle to reconcile themselves to its lack. To be sure, in the Victorian Age when everything was permitted to man and everything was forbidden to women, a sen-

sible woman could only realize the privileges a penis could bring and by deduction desire one. Freud observed psychological structures without ever questioning their social context, but given his cultural prejudices we can hardly have expected him to make such an examination. But Freud was only one of a large cast of 19th century male experts on female sexuality, all of whom concluded that women are very close to being asexual. Dr. William Acton, the Victorian English sexologist, decided that

*The best mothers, wives and managers of households know little or nothing of sexual indulgences. Love of home, children and domestic duties are the only passions they feel.*⁵

while Dr. Isaac Brown was performing numerous clitoridectomies on women to prevent the sexual excitement which, he was convinced, caused "insanities", "hysteria" and other diseases.⁶ Monogamy and home existed for the benefit and protection of women. But while women were absolutely confined to the home, men were free to exercise their erotic activities outside the home. The sexual order thus established had an unnatural and repressive influence on the erotic aspect of women's



sexual life.

Although there have always been female rebels in history, conditions never before existed to enable women to effectively and collectively overthrow their oppressive roles. It was not until the Industrial Revolution when women began to leave the home and enter the labour force that things began to change slowly. But from the very beginning, their simple demands for justice and finally the vote were met with violence, being viewed as a serious threat to the established (male) order. After a prolonged and frequently bitter struggle, women did win the battle

but lost the larger campaign. Certainly, they had the vote, but those who had fought for our civil rights remained very conservative on questions of female sexuality. Women's political consciousness became anesthetized by the "myth of emancipation" for the next fifty years. If women were still unhappy with their lot, it was their problem. After all, they had gotten what they wanted, hadn't they? What more could they ask for? Emancipation became a private responsibility: salvation was personal, not political. With the thirties, came the Depression. In the forties, there was another world war to think about. Women had substantial jobs for the first time in decades - they were genuinely needed by society. And, if women were sexually frustrated, they had Kinsey to look to. He laid to rest the belief that women got no pleasure at all from sex. The marriage manual craze that followed him assumed that a lifetime of psychological destruction could, with the aid of a book, be remedied, thus ensuring the right of a woman to her sexual birthright to orgasm - provided it was vaginal and so long as their orgasms were simultaneous. (Contrary to the most elementary common sense, which shows the clitoris as the source of orgasm men had invented that a woman's orgasm must be transferred from the clitoris to the vagina. Nobody would ever have thought of asking men to transfer their orgasm from the penis to the scrotum.) But the effect of these manuals ran counter to their purpose. Sex was made so mechanized, detached and intellectual that it was robbed of sensuality. Man became a spectator of his own sexual experience. There was a swing from repression to preoccupation with the orgasm resulting in new pressures on the woman to perform; witness the manuals' endorsement of the desirability of vaginal orgasm.

With the fifties came the first long stretch of peace and affluence. As anthropologists have shown, women's sexual response is culturally conditioned and the political conservatism of the fifties was echoed in a social conservatism which stressed a Victorian ideal of the woman's life: a full womb and selfless devotion to husband and family. With the end of the war the average age at marriage declined, the average size of families went up and the suburban migration began in earnest. In her book, *The Feminine Mystique*, Freidan documents the stifling creative motherhood cycle and its devastating effect on women and the families.⁷ Young girls of all ages dreamed of escaping the dull homes of their mothers through *Teenage Romance*. We saw adolescent boys growing up begging for sexual crumbs from girls frightened for their "reputations". The parked car, perhaps the one prop that best characterized the passions of this decade, became an urgent necessity. But girls were taught that since they needed sex less, it was their res-

possibility to impose sexual restraints and they were so busy setting limits and holding off that they never got a chance to explore their own. They were continually selecting actions and repressing erotic impulses in order to conform to what was acceptable. As this bleak decade came to an end, social developments emerged which were to make a rebirth of the women's struggle inevitable: the large influx of women into the labour market, suburban life and marriage was turning sour, and a growing civil rights movement was sweeping the continent. Traditional political ideologies and cultural myths, sexual mores and roles with them, began to disintegrate in an explosion of protest.

The sixties is remembered as a decade of liberation. Masters and Johnson published *Human sexual Response*, a massive clinical study of the physiology of sex. Briefly and simply, their conclusions about the female orgasm are: (1) anatomically all orgasms are centred in the clitoris (2) women are naturally multiorgasmic (3) women's orgasms vary in intensity and (4) there is an infinite variety in female sexual response in terms of intensity and duration of orgasms. They wrote "With orgasmic physiology established the human female now has an undeniable opportunity to develop realistically her own sexual responses." With the advent of the Pill and other birth control methods, women were also no longer at the continual

mercy of biology. They could enter into sexual relations without the accompanying fear of pregnancy. What else was needed to make their sexual liberation a reality?

Men travelled to Europe, joined political movements, went to University. We witnessed the growth of the "love generation". Liberated men with a new lifestyle who needed women who could keep up. But there was no place for women there either. Although sexual mores may have appeared to have changed, it amounted to no more than lip service. If a woman asked for some commitment in return, she was labelled as "uptight" and told she should strive to be more "independent". Women couldn't register fast enough for all kinds of courses - ceramics, weaving, psych. and lit. courses - anything to get off his back. Women were still reluctant to organize around their own issue and thus they fell once again into the trap of the "private" solution, which as often as it was art or academia was the "bag" of radical politics. Radical politics gave every woman the chance to do her own thing, but the sexual class system existed everywhere and the old double-standards were expressed just as succinctly there. Stokely Carmichael once said, "The only position for women in revolution is prone."⁹ This left women in a bewildering dilemma: were they to remain in a movement which allowed them only to exist as silently submissive bedmates or would they refuse to accept a subordinate status. It became clear that if women were to establish the right to self-deter-

mination it would not/could not be within that framework. As Robin Morgan said, "Goodbye to Hip Culture and the so-called Sexual Revolution which has functioned towards women's freedom as did the Reconstruction towards former slaves - reinstated oppression by another name."¹⁰

The result has been the growth of a new women's movement and the creation of a variety of organizations which have facilitated the critical examination of the institutions controlling their lives. Ranging in politics from reform to revolution, the movement has produced critiques of almost every segment of North American society, and constructed an ideology that rejects every hallowed cultural assumption about the nature and role of women. However, the sexual problems of our society will never be dealt with effectively until there is real and unfeigned equality between men and women. This equality does not imply that women adopt certain male characteristics. There must be a conscious effort made by all men and women to examine the quality of their life, for sexuality today, if it is to be fully enjoyed by both, is the one drive that demands recognition of its values: cooperation, spontaneity, openness, sharing, sensitivity, trust and freedom. If prolonged pleasures and meaning are to be drawn from sexuality these values must accompany the lover who seeks them.

When that understanding and recognition become apparent, then we will know that the Sexual Revolution has indeed come to pass.

References available upon request at the Northern Woman Journal Office.

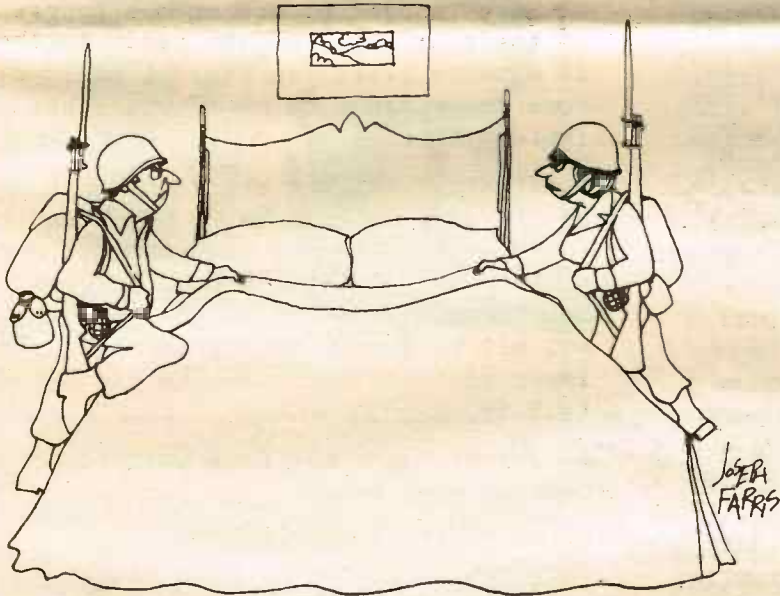
further reading on sexuality

OUR BODIES OURSELVES by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, \$5.95 at Co-op Bookstore.

THE HITE REPORT by Shere Hite, \$2.75 at most grocery and book stores. MUST reading!

LIBERATING MASTURBATION by Betty Dodson. Send \$4.00 to Betty Dodson, P.O. Box 1933, New York, N.Y. 10001.

FOR YOURSELF: THE FULFILLMENT OF FEMALE SEXUALITY by Lonnie Garfield Barbach. \$3.95. Order through Co-op Bookstore.



◆◆◆◆◆ TEENAGE WOMEN: EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY ◆◆◆◆◆

When I was in high school, I had no doubts about my future. I would marry a kind and handsome man - he didn't have to be rich because I knew love was most important, not money. My husband and I would have beautiful, clever children. I would be a young, attractive, fun-loving mother to these children. The picture of my future family was a conglomerate of all the ads I see daily which depict clean, healthy, happy families. And, oh yes, a career. This career would enable me to support myself until I married, and would be one to which I could return when my children no longer needed me at home.

Now for the realities. I did become one of the 8 in 10 women who

marry. I did become one of the 8 in 10 women who have children. And I also became one of the mothers who work outside the home. In fact, 3/4 of Canadian women hold jobs for 21 years or longer.

For many reasons, women remain in the labour force for extended periods of time. One income may not be sufficient to support a young family. The demands on a 35 year old woman, whose children are all in school, may not be challenging enough. Divorce or widowhood may leave a young mother to her own resources.

Many careers which women have traditionally chosen (like secretarial) pay less and have lower status than jobs chosen by men. Women who do

jobs which require no skill training or education often earn even less.

Today, career planning is important for all women - whether they intend to marry; to take time off to raise children, or whatever.

A game which is useful in illustrating practical life choices is called Wheel of Fortune. It gives high school women a chance to think over alternative life styles, to think beyond the present to the future. It involves one or two periods of class time for about five days.

Dave Morris, a counsellor at Lakeview has reviewed the game and is interested in sharing it with some students. For more information about the game, contact him.

SELF-DEFENSE

Attacks on women, especially rape, are continuing to increase. Any woman is a potential victim. How we look or dress, our age, our occupation or economic condition does not protect us. As rapists continue to escape legal sanction for their crimes the threat to all women grows. Self-defense training for women is growing in popularity and availability for this reason.

Some common reactions about self-defense:

1. It takes long and strenuous training.
2. It may make a woman overestimate her physical capabilities.
3. Resisting an attack may only enrage an assailant and cause more serious injury.

I'd like to comment first on the body awareness women have been conditioned to have and then look specifically at each point above.

Most women have never had access to activities that test their physical abilities and develop realistic physical integrity. Traditionally girls and women have not been encouraged (or allowed) to participate in body contact sports or playful roughhousing. We have had little or no emphasis placed on developing activities that keep us physically fit. We've learned that men (our brothers, friends, spouses) are supposed to protect us. Aggression is punished in girls and we are shamed for being unfeminine. We've been told to "help" never to "hurt" others. This type of conditioning has announced us to the world as "easy victims". It has denied women the opportunity to develop the confidence in their bodies essential for physical and psychological well-being and personal safety.



-Photo by Peggy Smith-

Regarding the three points above:
1. Self-defense training need not be long or strenuous. Self-defense is not the same as competence in a martial art (karate, judo, etc.) Self-defense does not aim at making someone a skilled fighter. Its aim is to teach a few basic defense techniques which can help you counter an attack long enough to run. "Distance is the great equalizer" in any confrontation. An additional benefit can be an increased awareness of general fitness which can be the incentive for a regular exercise program.

2. Self-defense training can provide the means for developing a more realistic estimate of physical capacity. Practice, not lack of it, develops both competence and evaluation.

3. Self-defence techniques aim at giving you the chance to get away. There is never a guarantee that submission will prevent injury. However, in any situation the woman facing attack is the best judge of whether resisting will increase or decrease her chance of escape. Only you can decide that if you are attacked. Self-defense training develops quick responses which give you the advantage of surprise in an attack and let you get away. When there appears to be no opportunity to run or if an assailant is armed, you have to rely on your own judgement. But self-defense training does increase the alternative available to someone who is being assaulted.

Consider these facts:

1. A rapist doesn't expect a woman to resist; he especially doesn't expect her to resist effectively. He wouldn't risk the attack if he did. He relies on the "fact" that women are physically inferior.
2. In countering an attack, surprise and speed are the best weapons. Since the rapist doesn't expect resistance the woman has the advantage in using these weapons.
3. Most men rely on pure strength or the threat of it to overpower a woman, not on skilled fighting techniques.

This all means that it is our lack of training and confidence, not any physical inferiority, that is our biggest disadvantage in an attack.

It is this increased confidence in our bodies (coupled with some basic techniques) which is the main benefit of self-defence training. A woman whose demeanor indicates physical competence is less likely to be chosen as a target than the woman who looks weak and passive. When confronted with an assault, the woman whose first actions indicate confidence and effectiveness is more likely to make an assailant consider finding an easier target. Most rapists want to prove their "power" not risk losing it.

LEARNING SELF-DEFENSE

The best way to learn is to enroll in a self-defense course. These are available locally through

Parks and Recreation
YM-YWCA
Confederation College

Courses normally run one night a week for 6 - 8 weeks. An excellent book is

Self-Defense for Women
by Jerrold Offstein
(available at the Mary Black Library or order through a local bookstore)

SOME BASICS IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

1. If there is any chance that people might hear you, yell "FIRE". This is more effective than "Help".
2. A sharp clear yell (eg. HUT!) coming right from the diaphragm can startle an assailant. Practice this!



In addition to attracting attention and distracting the assailant, a yell is a physical energizer for you. The oxygen breathed in after a loud lung-clearing yell helps you utilize the adrenelin that the body produces when faced with a threatening situation. The yell takes practice. If you can't bring yourself to practice in your home or yard (due to reactions from others) practice it while riding in a car. It's not as good because you should be standing up, but it's better than no practice.

3. If you decide to carry a weapon, (and opinion on this is quite divided)
 - a. it must be immediately available, not in a purse or clothing pockets covered up by a coat.
 - b. it should not be something easily taken away and used against you.
 - c. know how to use it.

4. Some common objects (keys, umbrella, books) can be used as weapons. Use keys to scrape across an attacker's face or jab them in his face. Don't swing with a book or umbrella - get a firm hold on it with both hands and jab it at the assailant's face (jab with the corner of a book). A lighted cigarette can be smashed in the attacker's face.

5. Women typically are much stronger in the legs than in the arms. KICK! If someone grabs you from behind, come down hard with your heel on his instep. YELL as you do it. RUN!

6. If attacked from the front, kick to the shin or knee hard. Men tend to naturally protect the groin so a kick to the leg may be more effective and isn't as likely to throw you off balance. Kick fast and don't leave your leg out where he can grab it.

7. Jab up under his nose with the heel of your hand.

8. Don't flail your arms around. They can be grabbed. Make fists and keep them close to your body unless you are punching with them.

9. Maintain eye contact with the assailant. This lets you know what he is doing and can, in itself, indicate confidence.

These are only a very limited number of suggestions and are no substitute for a good course in self-defense.

The threat of rape has been used throughout history to control women and restrict their freedom, even within their own communities. What are our options? We can retreat into our own homes (though many rapes occur in the vicim's home) OR we can educate ourselves and our friends (male and female) and the public in general about rape; we can support local rape centres; we can do everything possible to demand law reform and the demythologizing of rape.

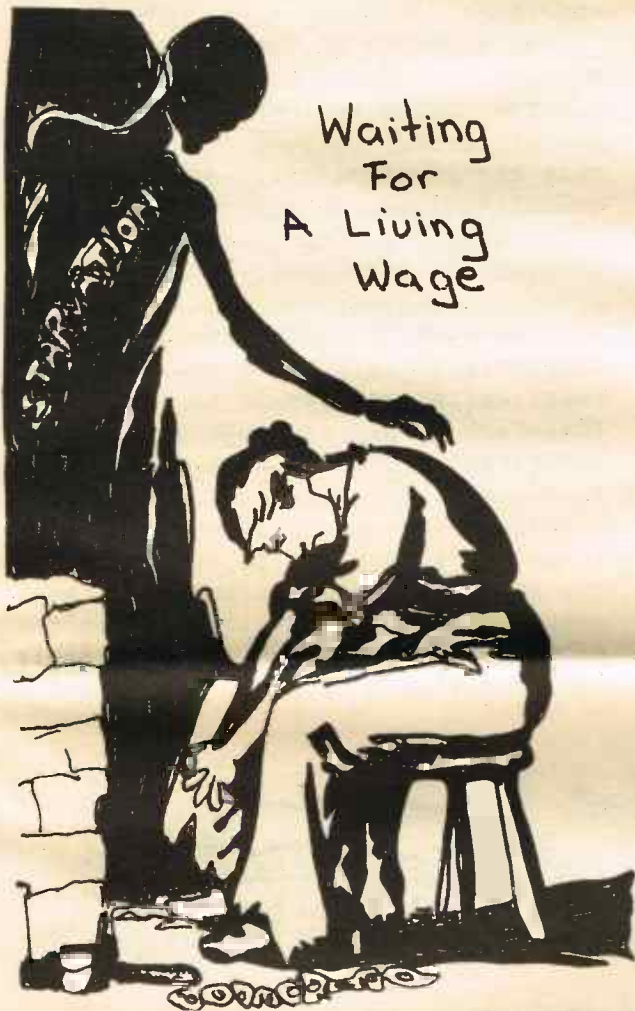
Rape and Sexual Assault Collective

AN EXPLANATION OF FEMINISM

There are some to whom the word "feminist" automatically gives rise to negative feelings. I believe this is because of a misunderstanding of what feminism involves.

Feminism demands only what most individuals already value - freedom and equality. It holds that women should be free to develop and direct their own lives according to their unique potentials, without restrictions placed on their opportunities; that they should have at least equal opportunities with men.

The most common objections to feminism are 1) women do not deserve full freedom and equality because they are somehow inferior to men and 2) women already have freedom and equality.



The first claim assumes what has never been proven - that men and women have different psychological traits that make women unfit for certain "male" activities. Women by this theory are seen as naturally passive, submissive, and emotional and men as naturally aggressive, dominant and logical. In fact, most modern social scientists see the social environment as the main force in determining our personalities. Some cultures exist where what we view as the traditional male and female roles have been completely reversed (see M. Mead - Sex and Temperament), implying that it is culture rather than inborn traits that determine one's social role. Moreover, under the old theory of women as innately inferior it would be most difficult to explain the women who have succeeded in a "man's world" - they would have to be viewed as "unnatural"! It is most likely that such women have somehow escaped the social conditioning that encourages girls to be passive and dependent.

The second objection to feminism, that women already possess freedom and equality, is in essence denying the existence of sexism. But sexism does exist and affects us virtually from the day we are born. Studies have shown that we consciously or unconsciously treat the sexes differently - encouraging boys to be aggressive, competitive and independent and girls to be passive, "sweet" and dependent. Books, toys clothing - all reinforce these stereotypes. This sexist conditioning results in the different aspirations; boys want a career, girls want a husband and children.



The issue is not that homemaking is an inferior role, but that in spite of their unique identities almost half of the population ends up in the same role.

The sexist conditioning and the attitudes it gives rise to are evident also in our social institutions. There are many examples of women who have been subjected to sexist treatment in employment, law, education, health care... More and more these discriminatory practices are being recognized and rectified but no one can truthfully claim that women are already free and equal with men.

Often the motive of those who object to feminism is fear - men fear relinquishing their power and having to compete with women (and perhaps losing); women fear giving up old secure roles and facing new choices. The fear is understandable but unjustified. In the end both men and women benefit from feminist policies. In fact, what feminists want is human liberation - freedom of an individual to develop and direct his or her own life according to his or her potential, not restricted by faulty assumptions about their "proper place".

by Leslie Campbell

ROCK

There's something that, deep down, Rock doesn't like and the something is woman. True enough most of the song lyrics in rock 'n roll deal with a relationship between the two sexes that can vaguely be called love...rock is a notably male dominated enterprise, and many of its men, in their attitudes and in their music, reflect an anti-femaleness that is downright nasty...

Song lyrics are a revealing place to start. You can make the case that, roughly speaking, rock's song writers fit women into their lyrics in two frequently overlapping styles. In the first, the idealized approach women become the projected partners in a mystical, perfect relationship, something romantic in an impossible Eighteenth Century mood... But the trouble with most idealized love lyrics crafted by musicians less skillful than Dylan or Hardin, is that: 1) their sheer unreality places women in a position of passive objectivity they can't particularly care for and 2) they are, in any event, often a cover for the writer's own plastic emotions.

The songs in the second style of lyric writing take a much more basic approach to women. They lay it on the line. What does a woman need? A man's loving. And what is a woman? A sexual object.

*This girl tasted love as tender
as the gentle dawn...
And on that sweet and velvet
night
A child had died; a woman had
been born.*

The view of the bed as the instant source of maturity for women gives way in literally thousands of songs to a more brutalizing approach to the sex act.

Both lyric styles - idealized romance and nitty-gritty sex - confine women to a sexual role. No rock writer, in fact, sees women in any other context, as mothers or as friends (of men or of other women) or as workers or simply as people. Women in rock are objects per se, non-human, gratification sources

that are in a real sense interchangeable with fast cars, faster drugs and musical highs.

Curiously, none of the successful women inside the rock world bothers to speak out against this dreary state of song writing. Grace Slick, for instance, joins her fellow members of the Jefferson Airplane, all male, in calling for a revolution in the streets, but she is utterly silent on the subject of Women's Liberation, which is surely an essential, to her, cause to bear arms.

But then isn't it all predictable? Isn't the entire rock movement fiercely middle class? And it's there, among the middle class housewives, that women, so the feminists tell us, are the most in chains. It all fits together.

Pedestal, excerpts from an article in the Toronto Globe and Mail by Jack Batten

KEEPING WOMEN OUT OF PAID LABOUR — PART 3

History attests to the real basis for the division of labour in the work force, and it has little to do with natural abilities or inclinations. Tracing women's work history we see that "women's jobs" became defined as either jobs men didn't want to work at, finding them boring and drudgeful and lacking advancement or jobs which opened up to women because men were scarce, especially during war times, and which they managed to keep a foothold on.

In the 1880's telephone operators were men. They were soon replaced by women, supposedly because men didn't do well. Actually, there were many better work opportunities for men around. They didn't need to put up with confined, disciplined personal service. Telephone company jobs were among the few around for women and they took them, and did well, and for less pay than men.

The same thing happened in the clerical field. When the typewriter was first invented, men alone operated it; it was then said to be too complicated for women to handle. But as soon as men were able to move up and out of the clerical field and it became available to women, women easily "caught on" to this complicated machine (did they ever!)

During the Civil War when men were away, women entered the teaching field in large numbers. They continued to increase their numbers in this field chiefly because of the dual pay scale which made it cheaper to hire women teachers. Women also became sales clerks during this time. Storekeepers hired women due to the shortage of men. It is not natural ability that's the reason for the existence of segregation into "men's jobs" and "women's jobs" and the lower pay and status accorded to "women's jobs". Yet everywhere it would seem that natural ability is used as the explanation.

The liberals do not claim the continuing segregation patterns are due to nature; they say they're due to tradition and education. But what does tradition mean, except "things have always been that way". We're "programmed from birth into employment patterns" is the way they put it, and proceed through life learning our appropriate "sex roles" dictated by society through training or "conditioning". Women, for example, become nurses, secretaries, teachers, because they learn that is what they're supposed to be, that is what they see other women working at, that's how women are pictured in the books and in the media; and men become doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. for the same reasons. Traditional work patterns just perpetuate themselves.

But nurses, secretaries and teachers make less money than doctors, lawyers and engineers. So the "roles" women "learn" obviously don't benefit them in the same way as "roles" that men "learn". "Sex roles are oppressive" the liberals say, and their future elaboration, that they are equally oppressive both to men and women, obliterates the idea that one group is benefitting and the other is not. Neither is bene-

fitting, they say. Women might think they have it tough being continually on the bottom, but men supposedly have it just as tough being continually on the top.

The fact that women have been restricted from men's jobs, yet men have never been restricted from women's jobs, further challenges the liberal theory that "sex roles" are equally oppressive. Why were restrictions imposed on men's jobs in the first place, if this orderly division of labour were absorbed so obediently through our training? Are women after all so stupid that they'll keep proliferating in fields that are lower-paying and less important just because society says it's their place, their role, it's what they've always done, it's traditional and they think they should keep on doing it?

The third possible explanation, and the truest one, for continuing sex segregation of the labour force, is discrimination. Discrimination in the form of overt or covert restrictions of women from men's jobs, is one way of keeping women out of men's jobs; but for segregation to be truly effective it is necessary for the power structure not only to keep women out of men's jobs but to make sure women's jobs remain defined as the low-paying, low status, relatively powerless ones. For example, if women were suddenly to get equal access into medical schools and women doctors became commonplace, we might then see a situation similar to what happened in the Soviet Union, where a majority of women are doctors and so being a doctor is neither prestigious nor high-paying. If women are going to move into high-paying, high status fields, then either their numbers have to be kept to token levels so as not to disrupt the basic imbalance of power, or if large numbers of women "move in" the field must then subsequently become low-paying and low status. This is the whole point of segregation.

Women are discriminated against, which means that although they are qualified for certain jobs, they have a hard time getting those jobs. Women's unemployment rate is always a good deal higher than men's and would probably double if you were to count all the women who are housewives but would want to work if they could find a good job. This sets up a vicious cycle for women, of either not being hired because they're women, or being hired because they are women and can be paid less. If women move into a field, they're going to be paid less than male workers. If their numbers are kept to a minimum the overall pay scale of that occupation will not be affected. If, however, large numbers come into the field, then naturally since their salaries are lower, the field will become low-paying. Men leave both because they have more opportunities elsewhere and because the general salary range is driven down as well as the prestige of the work. Such is what happened in the case of telephone operators, bank clerks, teachers, and with the doctors in the Soviet Union.

Such are the cyclic manipulations of women workers which dictate the

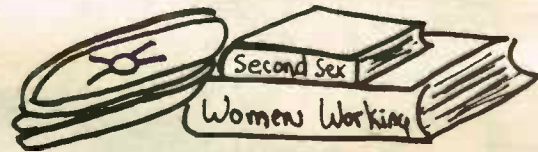
types of job we hold and enforce segregation.

LIBERAL FALLACIES

Liberals recognize that job restrictions both overt and covert exist, they talk about quotas at length and the discrimination which abounds, but they also suggest it is women themselves who are the major obstacles to getting into men's jobs. Women accept limited and damaging self-concepts, accompanied by low aspirations and lack of self-identity and women have difficulty throwing off their "sex roles" they say; women aren't interested in moving into men's fields.

Your general view of women's adequacy or inadequacy is essential to how you see the discrimination issue. Because if you look at women as being equal right now to men, just as adequate and just as qualified, then you know the full significance of discrimination.

Granted it is an overwhelming outrageous experience to "look at" the discrimination against women in the labour force, to "see" and understand that the great majority of women are qualified, capable workers who are being kept out of better jobs, kept down in mediocre jobs, shuffled around into dead end jobs, and all for the benefit of the few in whose interests it is to keep women powerless. So outrageous is it in fact that many people will not see it. The effect of the liberal theory that women have been "socialized", "conditioned" and "brainwashed" is to soften this view, to dissipate the injustices of discrimination by suggesting that all that much isn't going on, part of it is women's fault for not being qualified.



WOMEN ARE TRYING

Liberals say that women are not trying to get better jobs. But before we even consider the validity of such propositions, let me ask "Is trying for a woman the same as trying for a man?"

In order to qualify for a doctoral program a woman student must try for an A average, a man must try for a C. Women college students on the average get less financial aid than men, and since many families won't support women going to college, with some even still objecting, more of a try is required from a woman.

Once in a male dominated field it seems it's even harder to survive. A woman scientist working in the lab said "I was told not to expect favours just because I was a woman in a male dominated field. And yet every male I worked with expected favours of me because I was a woman in a male dominated field. This ranged from expecting me to clean up after them, to keep smiling as it kept the atmosphere of the lab jovial, to sex... The drain of energy needed constantly to fight these pressures make a woman lose interest, and confidence in her ability to work."

Cont'd page 11

If you're going to get into judging whether women try hard enough to advance or not, then what you must first prove is that what you're asking women to try is equal to what you're asking men to try. If it's not equal and you're asking for a more enormous try from women, then you're discriminating. Nowhere in all this talk of trying is there the recognition that women are up against a lot more than men, that women are in fact facing discrimination.

Not only must we be excellent at our work but we must also constantly be battling the forces of discrimination which try to keep us down. To suggest that when we don't make this enormous try we are damaged, or that our position in the labour force is then our fault, is both illogical and anti-feminist. Trying for women is battling discrimination; trying for men is just trying. But despite this, women tried anyway. They tried and they battled discrimination.

All the jobs we see around and don't see any women in, women have tried for...have even at one time or another filled and filled well, but they have been pushed out. If women are not represented in these fields at this particular time in history, it's because strong efforts are being made to keep us out. And we're always trying to get back in.

In 1918 women became street car conductors and ticket agents. Railway companies allowed women to work at these kinds of jobs because they could not secure a sufficient number of men. It was a real opportunity for women since the pay was good; they were being paid the same as men. But we were kicked out!

Come World War II, women tried again. During the war, necessity, plus the fact that women were proving to be as capable as men in many industries, eventually opened all industries to women. Their numbers increased from 13 million in 1940 to over 19 million at the peak of the war.

Women worked as mechanics, in the aircraft engine plants assembling airplanes, in the munitions factories, in the trucking industry, on the assembly line in automobile plants; suddenly they were perfectly qualified and competent. A government survey in fact showed that women could perform four-fifths of the almost 3,000 occupations studied.

Women were working at good jobs at higher wages than ever before. But we were kicked out!

Within one month after the war ended, over 600,000 women lost their jobs outright, and without much explanation. Although unions recalled "that women had done men's jobs during the war with 100% efficiency" such jobs were now re-designated as men's jobs and not suitable to women...the very same work which weeks earlier women had done adequately. Certain female classifications were changed to male classifications in order to exclude women. Protective legislation, which was suspended during the war to permit women in men's jobs temporarily, was reinstated.

Women who weren't pushed out or laid off were reshuffled into women's jobs. Women who tried to resist this reshuffling were denied unemployment compensation if they refused jobs at

lower rates of pay than they had been earning. And so if women had jobs at all at the end of the war, they were not essentially different from the types of jobs they had before the war.

But this is past history, right? Wrong. In 1974, a survey of 84 industries showed that 50 of them employed no women in starting blue-collar work. The employers said - are you ready - "Women aren't trying for this kind of work". Meanwhile a women's group reported it had to stage a long, cold, overnight vigil just to get 22 women as applicants for an apprenticeship program in blue-collar jobs.

Before 1973, the first year the Police Dept., at the instigation of women, began hiring women in any number, women police officers were barely visible. Yet when the barriers were lifted, the quotas and other discriminatory criteria, women swarmed into police work, quickly raising the number in New York from the quota level of 350 to 618.

We have performed in every area. We are, in fact, sick to death of having to prove our qualifications. Our history, past and present, attests to them and to our ever-present discrimination, the real culprit behind such accusations.



"I want a voluntary overtime agreement, too."

WOMEN ARE ALREADY QUALIFIED.

Let's just look at some facts about women workers. A woman college graduate working in the labour force is making less money than men high-school drop-outs...are you going to accuse her of being unqualified?

Not only are women PhD's available and not being utilized, ie. not only is there an adequate pool, but looking at the facts, it seems like it's a very selective, highly qualified pool. Just consider for a second - 44% of women entering freshman year across the country had B+ or better average compared with 38% of the men. Add to that the fact that only 54% of women enter college as compared to 67% of the men and only 29% of those in college go on to graduate school compared to 44% of the men - this tougher selection process, points out that by the time a woman finishes her PhD, she is probably better qualified than a man, since

she had to hurdle more barriers. If this is so, then why isn't every woman PhD not only employed, but employed at a salary and status position commensurate with such training and perseverance?

Qualified women are available; businesses and government, like the colleges and universities have only to hire them.

THE SELECT FEW

Qualifications are what is being talked about and not the more obvious issue of discrimination because in effect liberals in the Women's Movement don't believe women on the whole are qualified any more than the male power structure does. We've seen the contradictory position they take on the discriminatory issue, stating that it is indeed the problem then undercutting it by focusing on women's "socialized", "conditioned" behaviour, which then turns out to be the problem. Behind this contradictory stance lies, I think, the liberal position on discrimination and explains why they've fought discrimination at all.

What the liberal position amounts to is that some women, a small select few, are qualified, but most women are not.

It seems if you fight every obstacle placed in your way and manage to make it in some sense, like the tokens, that's the test that you're qualified. All the rest of us, however, who can't surmount the incredible odds, who cannot get around the barriers, prove we were never qualified to begin with and hence discrimination does not apply to us.

Some women, the small select few, have apparently overcome their conditioning, and because they're so qualified they are the ones the discrimination issue must apply to. But who are these small select few? They are token women.

UNDERSUPPLY OF QUALITY?

In line with this view that there are large numbers of unqualified women milling about in the labour force and only a handful of highly qualified women, liberals can't fathom why society would be discriminatory against a select few. This has to do with their basic assumption that society as it's presently constituted is being run for the benefit of all, for the common good; that the smart are on the top, and the stupid are on the bottom; that the present system needs and wants quality and excellence. They see no problem here of vested interests contending with the common good and have no recognition (analysis) that vested interests exist.

Not to understand the basic structure of society is not to understand oppression. Women are oppressed in this society not because men can't understand our capabilities or see what we have to offer, but because they have the power to see what they want to see, to use what they want to use, to makethings as advantageous for themselves as possible. What class you came from decides your excellence; what sex you are decides what will be recognized. You don't educate away vested interests and the privileges men receive by exploiting women. They'll get their token women, but tokens can be replaced whenever it's thought expedient.



Cont'd on page 12

mother somehow more noble than the unwilling perpetrating our function as merely carriers of the royal seed. The rising role of women who see themselves as more, comes under a tremendous pressure to return to the birthing stool. The old saying "Keep her barefoot and pregnant" still holds true, and what better way to preserve that status than having other women in whatever guise to reinforce it.

Abortion is only one of the sad realities of our life and times. Battered children, children dying of neglect and hunger, rape, incest, a growing obscenity, rising suicide rates among the young, drugs, delinquency, promiscuity (a search for love) all point to the ridiculous statement "There is no such thing as an unwanted child". The Alliance for Life have a point and cannot be faulted for making it, but the maternal instinct cannot be legislated and an early termination in a pregnancy that is unwanted, unsought and emotionally revolting is a humane response to the reality that exists. That women are sufficiently responsible to make that decision has now been recognized in the very bastion of oppressive thought is a signal that the time is past when we can decide a question of individual conscience.

Gert Beadle

Pro-choice is NOT Pro-Abortion

Consider how you did, would or might feel if you were pregnant. Is it from birth control or sterilization failure? Is it from a lack of knowledge of effective contraceptives? Whatever the reason, as a woman you have the right to decide to bear and rear the child, give this child up for adoption or approach a therapeutic abortion committee if one exists in your locality.



H.S. Woman on pro-choice

The following letter was sent to Donna Shaw and Julie Fels. It was written by a highschool student from a local high school.

I want to thank you very much for your presentation at our school. I, and a majority of the class found your talk very enlightening. The following day the "Right to Life" Organization gave their presentation and it was found by many in the class including myself, to be sensationalistic and in poor taste. I was anti-abortion but now I am pro-choice. I believe this is the only humane way to deal with the issue of abortion. Thank you for helping me see it in another light.

(Name withheld)

WAITRESSES' ACTION COMMITTEE

The tourist industry has been complaining recently about its falling profits, which it attributes in part to the "exorbitant" wages of individual workers. The Ontario government, ever sympathetic to industries' crises, is said to be considering raising the differential between the standard minimum wage and the minimum wage for workers earning tips in hotels and restaurants from the present 15¢ to 50¢ an hour!

The majority of minimum wage workers and workers in the tourist industry are women. Once again, women are being asked to bear the cost of industry's crisis. But just as when the federal government froze the Family Allowance last year, and the local governments tried to shut down Nellie's Women's Hostel in the autumn, women are refusing to make any further sacrifice to "help out the government".

Waitresses from the Wages for Housework Campaign, along with other waitresses, have formed the Waitresses' Action Committee, and with many supporters, are demanding an end to all minimum wage differentials and wages for all the hidden work that waitresses now do for free (setting-up time, cleaning uniforms, etc.). We are sending a brief to the Ministries of Labour and Industry and Tourism to protest the government and tourist industry's plans to take money out of our pockets and put more work on our backs.

For more information, contact:

Ellen Agger
Waitresses' Action Committee
112 Spruce St.
Toronto, Ontario

TO THE NORTHERN WOMAN REGIONAL

JOURNAL RE: PLEA TO OMBUDSMAN

I thought you might find it interesting to know about replies I received after writing to the people I had about my situation. I enclose copies of all letters I received in reply - not much to encourage anyone, and very little help anywhere! I do have a copy of the book mentioned - Law Reform Commission Report - and I imagine one could be obtained for anyone requesting it. Fortunately, since I wrote the article you printed, I have obtained a job I had hoped for and am now working full time. However, as far as a proper settlement, I have received none - a very discouraging situation, and no foreseeable one to come!

Yours very truly,
Lillian Turner

Lillian Turner received replies from The Law Reform Commission in Ottawa, The Law Reform Commission of British Columbia, The Ontario Ombudsman, and the Law Society of B.C. Each in his own way told her 1) she must look elsewhere for help 2) it was not within their jurisdiction 3) they were aware of the injustice 4) they were sorry. Well, we're sorry too, Lillian, sorry that the poor old wheel of justice is such a sorry thing. Thank you for sharing your experience with us and congratulations on finding work.

MALE REACTION

One of the evaluation reports emerging from the Working Women's Conference contained a personal reaction from a male educator. Although he found himself outnumbered and overwhelmed, his comments hold a grain of encouragement that we as women appreciate. His frank admission that he was not always aware what his wife was saying to him and then to find himself among 200 women who sounded exactly like her, must have been a terrifying experience. "As that great gap between the male and female experience" came home to him and in his own words the enormity of the job we have before us was revealed, he felt depressed. That depression is a hopeful sign. We however, cannot afford to be depressed. The gap between the thinking of the sexes has always been apparent to us. We have struggled singly and collectively to be understood, to play our full part in equal participation. The days of the stoic repository of male thinking is coming to an end. This calls for celebration not depression.

Cont'd from page 11

Liberals are in error about the structure of this society as they are about the amount of qualified, adequate women that are being discriminated against. It is the essence of discrimination that female excellence is not wanted, is not seen, found threatening; not that it is there. The huge number of discrimination cases being brought by women before the courts challenges this view of the select few, as any perusal of the facts about women workers challenges the fact that we don't have the qualifications.

Liberals see a society where quality is scarce and urge women to get qualified. Yet qualifications abound, Caroline Bird pointed out in an article entitled "The Job Market: The Class of '73 Need Not Apply" that there was a surplus of college graduates for the present job market, tremendous in fact that the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education warned that during the 1970's there will be about 3 million more graduates than there will be jobs traditionally requiring a college degree. There is always a need for certain basic skills, but beyond that level, since that level is adequately being met, it is not a question of qualifications or quality. It is a question of goals. And if your goal is keeping your privileged position, rather than opening your eyes to excellence then logically the "out" group can never qualify. Women are one of the "out" groups. The fact is that there is an over-supply of power to use people's abilities, all people's abilities, for a better society and not exploit them. The problem is organizing society to utilize all the quality and still get the hard work done. Male supremacy and capitalism prevent this from happening.

THE END

bits & pieces

COMMUNITY LAW PROGRAM

The Community Law Program, as a special project, is planning a public legal education Caravan which will visit various communities in Northern Ontario this summer. The Caravan project is designed to accomplish its aim of public legal education through 1) the presentation of forums, public meetings and seminars on a variety of legal topics 2) the distribution of copies of legal publications directed to the layperson; and 3) the screening of videotapes and films on various legal subjects.

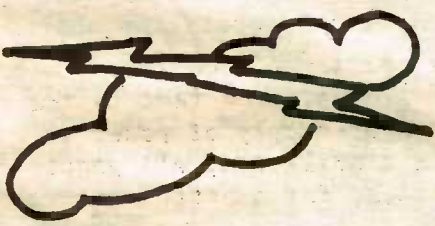
The Community Law Program Caravan will be in Thunder Bay tentatively on June 12 - 15th. Watch for further announcements in the local media.

THUNDER CLAP



Photo by Cheryl Smith

Barb Coombs, Marj Doggett, Margie Marshall, Debbie French and Cheryl Brunet made history in April as the first women's team to enter and win the North Central Region First Aid Competition at the Ministry of Natural Resources. They did it with the help of seven women who came forward to act as casualties. The team went on to win the Thunder Bay first aid competition.



THUNDER BOLT

To the promoters who brought a PLAYBOY playmate-of-the-month to Thunder Bay for display at the Antique Car Show.

COMING CHANGES

The women presently working on the paper - Thyra Digby, Noreen Lavoie, Sharron Lund, Eve Pykerman, Donna Shaw, Peggy Smith and Lynne Thornburg - would like to build a stronger collective and a better newspaper. We are going to begin discussions to re-evaluate the goals of the paper and find better ways of working together.

The following questions will give you an idea of the direction our discussions will be taking.

- What is a collective?
- What is feminism?
- What does each individual want the paper to be?
- How can we reach more women?
- Is government funding hampering or helping us?
- What problems have women working on the paper experienced?
- What criticisms do readers have?

We invite our readers to send in criticism and feedback about the paper, and constructive suggestions for change.

Any woman who is interested in working on the paper and would like to be part of the discussions defining our future direction should call the office at 345-5841 for further information.

THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE, for reasonable rates, will produce copies of notices, announcements, etc. We retain the right to refuse work from groups affiliated with a political party.



Fight Male Chauvinist Piglets!

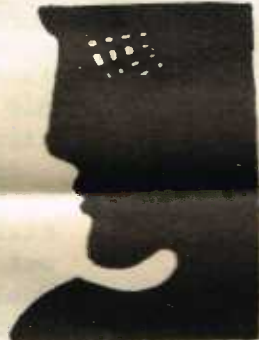
Fed up with little squealers? High School Women's Liberation is a pamphlet with 20 articles by and for young women which will help raise your consciousness. It's only \$1.25 from Youth Liberation, 2007 Washtenaw Ave., Dept. W, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104.

NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION

The Credit Union has now moved into Women's Place at 316 Bay St. Our office is bright and attractive and you are welcome to share our pleasure in it. It will be open officially on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Thursday nights from 7 - 9 PM. Our phone number is 345-7802.

As of May 9th, we have 87 members and deposits of over \$8,000. Loans are available and application may be made at our office at 316 Bay St. A general membership meeting is planned for June 6 at 8 pm. Members and those who are interested are invited to attend.

We are looking for an assistant treasurer; anyone with bookkeeping experience or an interest in learning please contact us.



THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP AND RECORD CENTRE

182 S. Algoma Str.
Phone: 345-8912
Open: 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
Monday to Saturday

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SMITH CLINIC	344-2471
CRISIS HOUSING	623-2711
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION	475-1693
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS	475-1691
MUNICIPAL DAY CARE	344-3922
FREE CLINIC	344-0727

A POEM

The Piano
it plays some haunting notes
and tells me not to talk
and when i look
i see your eyes closed
and i am tired of this constant aching
in come the violins
and i begin to cry
the guitar is a bastard
who drives me night and day
he tells me when to make love
and who with
he beats me
come to me in the hospital
let me go back there
don't come to me sometime
i need you tomorrow
blond curls from the psychiatric ward
screams in the morning
the 21 day salute
take me in
the piano
sounds so sad
the only drum beat
is a cymbal

Deirdre Namill
Thunder Bay

QUOTATIONS FROM THE BADGLEY REPORT

AN ILLUSION

"the procedure provided in the Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortion is in practice illusory for many Canadian women." p. 141

SOCIAL COSTS AND DISCRIMINATION

"a substantial number of single mothers who had unwanted pregnancies had low incomes and many lived in poverty. Because they were less well educated and less familiar with the workings of health services a number of these women would have preferred to have had an abortion, if they had known how to proceed." p. 175

EXCLUSION OF SMALL HOSPITALS

"Hospitals whose medical staff consists of three or fewer physicians are in practice ineligible to establish therapeutic abortion committees." p. 86

ACCESS IN SMALL CENTRES

"In this small community of less than 25,000 people, the Right to Life group is very vocal. It intimidates local physicians with phone calls in the middle of the night. Hence, few physicians are willing to perform the operation, so that patients are referred to larger metropolitan centres."

DELAY AND COMPLICATIONS

"The major factor contributing to the delay by most women obtaining abortions in Canadian hospitals occurred after an initial consultation had been made with a physician. An average interval of eight weeks between the initial medical consultation and the performance of the abortion procedure not only extended considerably the length of gestation, but increased the risk of associated health complications." p. 19

BIRTH CONTROL FAILURE

"47.3% of the women who had had abortions in the national patient survey reported they were using birth control at the time of conception of the present pregnancy." They "can be considered to be seeking an abortion as a result of a contraceptive failure." p. 352

ILLEGAL ABORTION

"It is estimated that 46,096 Canadian women between the ages of 15 to 49 years have had illegal abortion. This estimate excludes women who have attempted self-induction or had abortions in the United States." p. 71

For more information about Freedom of Choice contact CARAL at Box 527 Stn. Z, Toronto, Ontario M5N 2Z6

every child
a wanted child,
every mother
a willing mother.

EXCERPTS FROM THE C.A.R.A.L. CRITIQUE ON THE BAGLEY REPORT

The Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law Report abounds with evidence that the law is not working. In 1976 there were 1,348 civilian hospitals in operation; 789 of these were excluded from eligibility to establish abortion committees, either by the Provincial Government, because of their religious affiliation, or because they did not have a large enough medical staff to conform to the requirements of the law itself. Of the remaining 559 eligible hospitals only 271 of them (48.5%) had established therapeutic abortion committees. In 1974 the figure was 265 hospitals with abortions committees; and 46 of those reported doing no abortions.

There were "sharp regional disparities in the accessibility of the abortions procedure". In British Columbia there was one abortion committee for every 10,000 women; in Quebec there was one committee for every 96,000 women. In 1976 two out of five Canadians did not live in communities served by hospitals eligible to establish therapeutic abortions committees.

After the initial visit with a physician, Canadian women were faced with "an average interval of 8.0 weeks until the induced abortion operation was done."

In 1975, 9,627 Canadian women were forced to go to the United States to obtain an abortion; seven out of eight of them indicated they would have preferred to have an abortion in Canada had it been available to them.

Since the C.O.A.L. Report has been tabled, Mr. Basford, the present Minister of Justice has announced, with considerable relief, that the Federal Government was going to begin discussions with the Provinces to find ways of bringing about a more equitable interpretation of the law.

In his initial response to the C.O.A.L. Report, the present Federal Minister of Justice does not appear to be as dogmatically opposed to freedom of choice as was his predecessor Otto Lang. Indeed, in his promise to consult with the Provinces about making abortion services more equitable under the existing law, he might even be called sympathetic to the plight of unwillingly pregnant women. But the record of the Federal Government's treatment of Henry Morgentaler is still fresh in the minds of physicians and hospital administrators for them to be persuaded to interpret this law more liberally. The government is obviously fearful of the political power of those opposed to freedom of choice in abortion, and appears to be prepared to go to any lengths to avoid a parliamentary debate; hence the "don't do as I do, do as I say" approach to the Provinces. But if Canadians are expected to get behind Federal Government in its attempts to keep this country together, are we not entitled to a higher calibre of leadership than it is presently showing in the abortion issue?

abortion:
a woman's
right
to
choose!

From time to time in the last year we have found it necessary to reaffirm our position as supporters of free choice in matters that concern the individual as against legislated forced pregnancy. In view of impending debate in our parliament and the blanket coverage afforded to the forces that see this question as a test of their own superior morality, we have a duty to speak on behalf of all those women who see another view to this very important and sadly inflammatory subject. The last freedom granted is that which removes us from the perimeters of someone else's reasoned judgement. All the high-sounding phrases, all the cold statistics to support that judgement will not remove from it the arrogance of the Ego that demands subjugation to a minority view that is based on unrealistic interpretations of the times and mores of our society.

Abortion is not the kind of thing that anyone approaches lightly. The inference that either a doctor or a patient approaches it in the spirit of a romp for simple gain or off-hand convenience is a myth. There is no question that more emphasis on family planning, better methods of birth control and better counselling for the young would manifest itself in lower incidence. These are the things that need all our attention. To think we can simply legislate a reality out of existence shows only our head in the sand, our "stop the clock" mentality. A willing mother is a loving mother. She contributes healthy, loving children to this society. Abortion will play no part in her life style. An unwilling mother, cemented into playing a role she has no talent for, provides us with the product of her discontent or in desperation aborts herself or puts herself into the hands of incompetent people. Here is the traffic and the first thing we have to face up to is abortion is with us; it always has been. The old weapons of shame and guilt and retribution from the almighty are obsolete. We have seen power and wealth send millions to their death, and flourish in the exercise; it just won't wash anymore. We have made the willing

cont'd pg 12

Decade Council in Fort Frances

The Decade Council had a long, but very rewarding trip to Fort Frances. Nine of the Council members travelled there on May 7 to meet with women of Fort Frances and the surrounding area who had recently formed their own council to work on issues of concern to them.

Joan Packota gave a brief history of the Decade Council, and then sub-committee representatives reported on the activities of their respective groups. Highlights of some of the reports appear on this page.

REPORT - FAMILY PROPERTY LAW

Joan Packota brought everyone up-to-date on Family Property Law Reform. With the election approaching, these bills have all died on the order papers. However, Joan reviewed some of the highlights of the last bill presented to the legislature (Bill 6).

REPORT - HOMEMAKERS' ACTION COMMITTEE

Florence Richard reported that they have had a founding meeting, and have set certain goals: 1) preparing a brief on Old Age Security benefits to widows (at present a widow can receive the benefits at age 60 if her husband received OAS, but this is stopped if he dies before she turns 65); 2) researching the issue of Canada Pension Plan for non-wage earning spouses; and 3) researching the question of a guaranteed income for all people.

REPORT - EQUAL PAY COMMITTEE

Mickey Murray and Thyra Digby spoke on how successful the Working Women's Conference had been. The Committee is presently working on a booklet summarizing how the conference was organized, what happened in the workshops, excerpts of keynote speeches, and the resolutions which were passed.

Julie Fels served as a resource person on the Day Care issue. Fort Frances women are particularly concerned about establishing Day Care. Several years ago the Business and Professional Women's Club presented a brief to the local Council but nothing happened. Several groups wanted to try again. Julie informed them of the Regional Conference on Day Care scheduled for June 10 - 12 and suggested they attend.

Fort Frances women were also greatly concerned about teenagers there who have no planned activities. There is a bylaw against teens gathering in groups (loitering). It was reported that four local teenagers were trying to get something started and they had held a coffee house recently. It was suggested that the women's group support the activities developed and provide help if needed.

The women continued their conversations over coffee and a snack. The meeting adjourned with an invitation from the Fort Frances women to participate in a social later that evening. Billets were provided for those women who needed them, and the Council women began the return trip to Thunder Bay the following morning.

SEX EDUCATION GREAT IN THEORY BUT WHERE IS IT?

The following is a letter to the editor of the Globe and Mail, Feb. '77

I am a Grade 13 high school student and so was interested to learn that we have reached an era of enlightenment and freedom in the teaching of sex education. According to Bob Gladish, health and physical education director for Toronto Board of Education, "through role playing, discussion and film, students are now taught about things like personal identification in the belief that if people are sure of themselves they don't need to be promiscuous."

I'm delighted to learn this, but I'd like to know exactly where all these "sophisticated family planning" courses are being offered. Certainly not at my school, where the only course that vaguely resembles the one you describe is a Physical Education option which in practice is only available to a limited number of senior students. Nor are these confident, "sure of themselves" students present in great droves, either. Most of my peers are confused about, and pressured into, sexual activity, in spite of the advice of such competent teachers as the one who urged all young women to remain virgins until marriage, but did not give the same advice to young men.



Then in Dick Beddoes' column, I read that school trustee Dan Leckie tells us it is immigrant parents who are largely to blame for the poor school reception of Birth Control Week. Try explaining that to my principal, who through dealing with a predominantly WASP community, is persuaded he will be charged with encouraging promiscuity if he allows an informational display in the school. Surely uptight Anglo-Saxon Canadians can bear the responsibility...significantly ones such as Messrs. Leckie and Gladish who insist on diffusing the issue.

It makes me darn mad to read about all the great things that are happening in high school when they don't seem to be happening at my school, or at any of the schools my friends attend. Fatuous comments such as those made by Mr. Leckie and Mr. Gladish misinform parents, many of whom have handed over the responsibility of sex education to the schools.

Toronto Board of Education policy looks great on paper. When will it be implemented in the schools?

Susan Wright
Toronto

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Joan Farrow, a delegate from the Decade Council to the National Action Committee annual conference and lobby held March 18-21 in Ottawa sends this report.

Over 200 women met in the Skyline Hotel to attend the NAC conference and lobby. From the Maritimes to B.C. and Alaska, the delegates represented over a million members of this energetic women's action group.

Judge Nancy Morrisson was one of the key speakers. Humorous and intelligent, she made a point to reach every woman there and left us with many helpful suggestions.

Kay Macpherson, now president of NAC, when asked by the media when we were going to take a stand on abortion said "1972 - Am I making myself clear?" She stated while many members were not entirely in agreement on the abortion issue, the majority favour the "Free Choice" option. We must let Marc Lalonde know how we feel about the Bagely Report. The effort is small when we consider its importance to ourselves, our friends and our daughters. The lobby on Monday was well organized and stimulating and left me in awe of the collective determination.



"I warned you they really don't like being dragged and conked on the head."

GIRLS WILL BE WOMEN

Book Review from Status of Women News.

In their growing awareness of themselves, today's girls appear to have attained the objectives of many feminists. In their own words young Canadian women declare their liberation and their willingness to assume the responsibilities of free and active citizens. They are remarkably non-belligerent, and admirably self-assured.

In sensitive, articulate poetry and prose these 6 - 18 year-olds set forth their views. They especially recognize the importance of caring about human beings - old and young, rich and poor, male and female.

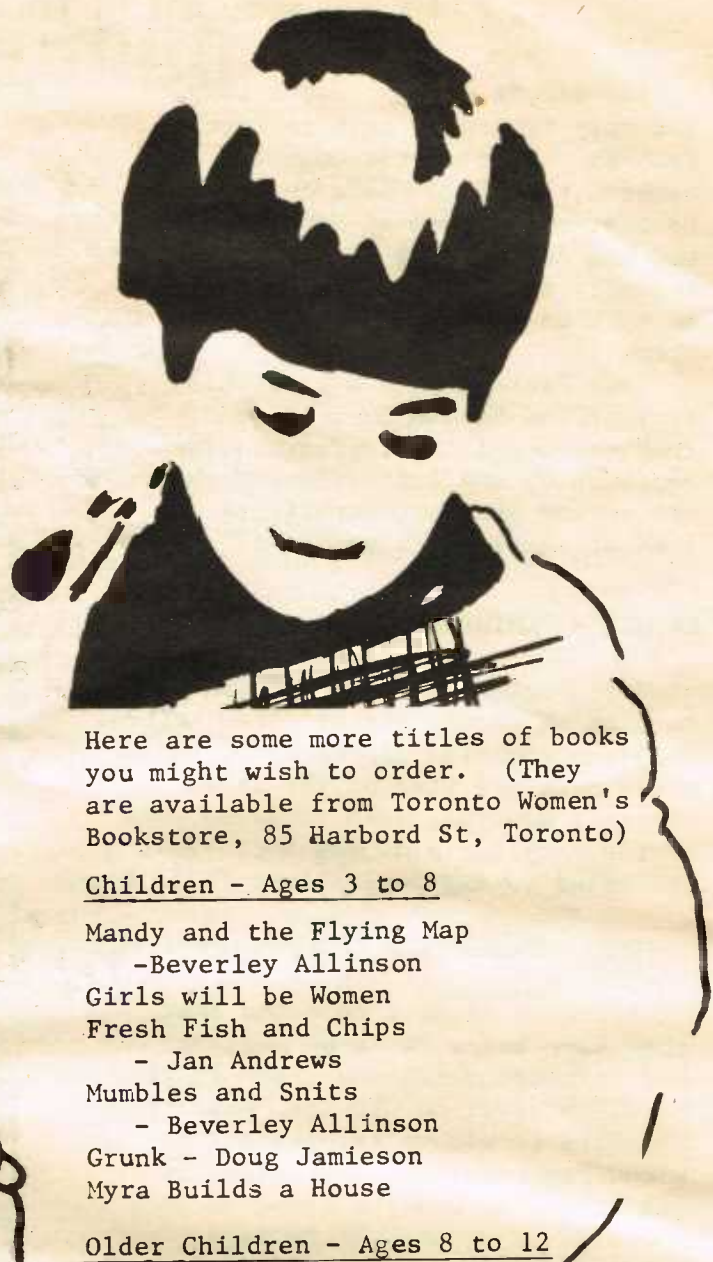
These poems and essays by and about young women cover the wide range of joys and concerns which are part of growing up in today's world. The serious responsibility of becoming a woman is contrasted with its bitter sweet counterpoint of loving, losing and learning. They write of the age-old search for the meaning of life as well as their perceptions of contemporary problems that beg for personal and global understanding.

Readers of GIRLS WILL BE WOMEN will be left with the feeling that their world may well be a more humane place if these concerned young women are free to make their fullest contribution.

Edited by Betty Nickerson
Available from ALL ABOUT US
Box 1985, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R1

DAY CARE NEWS

The 3rd Annual Regional Day Care Conference is being held in Dryden on June 10, 11 & 12, under the sponsorship of the Lakehead Social Planning Council, AECEO - Thunder Bay Branch, Confederation College and Dryden Day Care Centre, with funding assistance from Secretary of State, Thunder Bay. All those interested in the care and education of young children are invited to attend. Please contact LSPC at 623-7071 or Dryden Day Care Centre at 223-5724 for further information.



Here are some more titles of books you might wish to order. (They are available from Toronto Women's Bookstore, 85 Harbord St, Toronto)

Children - Ages 3 to 8

- Mandy and the Flying Map
- Beverley Allinson
- Girls will be Women
Fresh Fish and Chips
- Jan Andrews
- Mumbles and Snits
- Beverley Allinson
- Grunk - Doug Jamieson
- Myra Builds a House

Older Children - Ages 8 to 12

- Heroine of Long Point
- Leslie Benham
- Cockoo Tree - Joan Aiken
- Charlotte's Web - E.B. White
- Blue Castle - Montgomery
- It's not Always a Game.
- Judy's Journey - Lois Lenske

my dog is a plumber

by Dan Greenburg

My dog is a plumber, he must be a boy.
Although I must tell you his favourite toy
Is a little play stove with pans and with pots
Which he really must like, 'cause he plays with it lots.
So perhaps he's a girl, which kind of makes sense,
Since he can't throw a ball and he can't climb a fence.
But neither can Dad, and I know *he's* a man,
And Mom is a woman, and *she* drives a van.
Maybe the problem is in trying to tell
Just what someone is by what they do well.



from FREE TO BE... YOU AND ME
Published by McGraw-Hill Book Company

JOY

Joy is on Wimen's Day
Joy is today
Joy is a beautiful thing
Joy is just like a wonderful perfume
Joy is on every face

by Tania Shaw
Age 8

Woman's Place

WOMEN SHARE

Housed in a spacious building five groups of women share resources, equipment, skills, and a common concern for the needs of women.

To help facilitate this harmonious working and socializing relationship, delegates from each group regularly participate on the management committee, (photo).

Also pictured is part of the working area. To the right is a comfortable living room and a separate credit union office. Of course there is a kitchen, very large.

A warm invitation is extended to all women to drop in to see our new Women's Place.

WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE
-organization in progress

NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION

Tues. & Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. 7-9 p.m. Ph. 345-7802

Photo by Peggy Smith



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. evng - org. in progress
Ph. 345-7802

NORTHERN WOMAN REGIONAL JOURNAL

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ph. 345-5841

THUNDER BAY RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

McKellar Hosp., Box 47
Ph. 623-3220 (answering service)

CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON CRISIS HOUSING FOR WOMEN

-organization in progress

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People Who Did This Issue: Thyra, Eve, Gert, Pat, Noreen, Lynn, Donna, Peggy, Sharon, Marg - Graphic on Cover done by Sue Reid of Hammarskjold

HAVE YOU MOVED? PLEASE LET US KNOW. (We must pay return postage to keep up our mailing list)

Want to get involved? Call 345-5841 weekdays
 Free to single-parent families
 Free to senior citizens

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